

A Welcome Note

Dear reader,

Thank you for getting to this volume and joining in. Together now, we will explore some terrains of postsocialist affectivity. Our starting point is intersectional feminism, and along the texts of this volume, we will navigate further into the realms of literary criticism, somaesthetics, theories of nationalism and agency, as well as environmental humanities and postsocialist studies. This volume will take us to the ongoing protests for women's reproductive rights and the sleepy atmospheres of provincial towns, to numbing scenes of the Bucha massacre, global and local dialectics within Eastern Europe, as well as the Latvian pagan traditions and Estonian fiction. The volume enhances the understanding of what post-socialism might feel like and what affects it generates, while addressing its rhizomatic roots, which pass through local and global histories of socialism, communism, neoliberalism, capitalism, nationalism, consumerism, sexism, ageism, etc., as well as exploring its decolonial, environmental, and anti-capitalist potentialities. In various articles, the authors likewise register the postsocialist love-hate for the West, the ambiguities of Eurocentric Western modernity, and neoliberal capitalist rationality in the postsocialist condition, which is understood in a rather broad sense as a new global social and political situation.

The impetus for this volume emerged as a desire to locate postsocialist sceneries in the transnational geographies of affect theories, which so far had primarily focused on exploring Anglo-American contexts or their post-colonial Others. Since both of the editors are also feminists, we were particularly interested in intersectional feminist framings, that would both pay tribute to earlier feminist work on emotions prior to the so-called affective turn (associated with the threshold of the new millennium) and attest to gendered sensitivity, commitment to exploring womxn's embodiment, experience and perspectives, as we all expanding the critical vocabulary and toolkits of contemporary feminist theories. While postsocialist feminism is sometimes presented as a marginalized "little sister" of the transnational

feminist community, oscillating between its socialist and neoliberal displays, the volume attempts to establish a consistent standpoint and cross-disciplinary affinities for addressing some blind spots and filling the gaps in theoretical inquiry and academic debates.

We are thankful to the authors for their contributions and willingness to navigate these wild and unexplored fields with us. Special thanks also to the artist Rasa Jansone for the kind permission to display her hand-cut collage from the series “Three Courses and Dessert on Top” (2020) on the journal’s cover. Its rich layers resonate with the lively hybridity and vibrant abundance of the special issues’ subject. We hope the insights of the volume in its reader will spark curiosity, passion, and hope.

With love,
Jana and Natalia