

Acknowledging Emotion and Affect in Archival Practice

AAO 2016 Session

Guiding Questions

1. How does [emotional labour](#) play out in your work life? Is it acknowledged? Were you prepared for it as a young professional? Was it even on your radar?
2. How do you deal with loss? (i.e. job loss, budget cuts, death of donors, record destruction, natural disasters)
3. Does your work require you to perform emotional neutrality?¹
4. How do you manage issues of [precarity](#)? What are the emotional implications of job instability? What impact does precarity have on the archival community?
5. Let's talk about the [feeling rules](#) within the Canadian archival community.
6. How does power and privilege feed into emotional labour?
7. So what do we do about it? How do you cope? What has worked for you? What changes would you like to see? How can we fail better?

¹Emotional neutrality is typically defined as communicating without the trace of anger nor humour, often in order to convey authority and status and to emphasize one's role as a representative of an institution. See: Sherianne Shuler and Beverly Davenport Sypher. "Seeking Emotional Labour: When Managing the Heart Enhances the Work Experience," *Management Communication Quarterly* 14:1 (2000): 50-89 and J.A. Morris and D.C. Feldman, "The dimensions, antecedents, and consequences of emotional labor," *Academy of Management Review* 21 (1996): 986-1010.