

The role of feeling in celebration. -- How to study it?

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Feeling is an important ingredient as well as an indicator of success in the field of celebration. In a series of studies (yy 2000 -- 2004) of young adults' celebration habits active party-goers were asked to give a recipe for a good party and an account of failed parties. Among the most important ingredients were: good company, right kind of music, and properly conducted preparations before "going out". Some interviewees underlined the importance of becoming recognised as a dignified and amiable person.

How to study this? According to Raymond Williams feeling is formed as a shred attachment of emotions to material structures; it is a unique way of perceiving materiality which could have been perceived in several other ways as well. Therefore it is justified to speak in plural about "structures of feeling" as Williams does.

Antoine Hennion sees (this) materiality as a network of mediators which make the flow of event possible once the "party-goer" opens the gates for the flow by becoming "actively passive" towards the flow.

A Greimasian semiotic (Greimas & Fontanille) approach to feelings or passions sees them not only as a property of subjects but as properties of discourses as well. In an interview, the feeling is expected to be transmitted by a narrative. The paper will ask, however, is the narrative there already as a precondition for the feeling to become existant?

The paper will also discuss the pro's and con's of these approaches to as well as the prospects for their merging in the study of feeling in the celebration context.