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Liminality, *Un-Wohl-Gefühle* and the affective turn

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Much scholarship across the range of the social sciences and humanities has concerned itself recently with issues of emotionality and affectivity, and indeed many talk of an *affective turn*. This turn is typically presented as following on from, and indeed critiquing, the textual turn usually associated with post-structuralism and social constructionism. In providing a critical overview of this turn to affect, this paper will suggest that it tends to overlook some of the more disturbing and difficult features associated with a destructuring of affectivity. A more balanced 'psychosocial' account, it will be argued, can be provided by thinking affectivity in relation to the concept of liminality, thereby drawing out the liminal, transitional and paradoxical aspects of many contemporary emotional scenes.

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