

## **The Alphabet of Feeling Bad** **Karin Michalski / Ann Cvetkovich**

The Alphabet of Feeling Bad defines terms from A to Z such as “depression”, but also everyday negative feelings like the impression of being stuck at an impasse, of feeling numb or not able to work, of being overwhelmed by demands, of not being adequate and not getting on, and provides them with a different meaning. Negative feelings are not understood as individual failure or sickness. Rather the question is raised of how these could be collectively sensed as “public feelings” but also politicized in the context of neoliberal working conditions and of homophobia, sexism and racism.

The Alphabet of Feeling Bad is a collaboration between the Berlin-based artist Karin Michalski and the US-based theorist Ann Cvetkovich. It is inspired by the work of Lauren Berlant, Sara Ahmed, Heather Love and Ann Cvetkovich.

*Editor: Elfe Brandenburger*

### **[SWE]**

The Alphabet of Feeling Bad definierar termer från A till Ö, t.ex. "depression", men också vardagliga negativa känslor som intrycket av att vara fast i en återvändsgränd, att känna sig förlamad eller oförmögen att arbeta, att begravas av krav, att inte räcka till och att ge termerna en annan innebörd. Negativa känslor uppfattas inte som individuella misslyckanden eller sjukdom. Snarare uppstår frågan om hur dessa kollektivt skulle kunna kännas som "offentliga känslor", men också politiseras i samband med nyliberala arbetsförhållanden och av homofobi, sexism och rasism.

The Alphabet of Feeling Bad är ett samarbete mellan den Berlinbaserade konstnären Karin Michalski och den USA-baserade teoretiker Ann Cvetkovich. Verket är inspirerat av arbetet av Lauren Berlant, Sara Ahmed, Heather Love och Ann Cvetkovich.

**C is for Capitalism,**  
as in “You might be suffering from Capitalism.”  
But saying that capitalism is the problem  
doesn’t always help me get up in the morning.

### **Karin Michalski [Bio]**

Karin Michalski works as artist, filmmaker and film- and videoart curator in Berlin. She studied Film Directing and Production at the German Film- and Television Academy Berlin (dffb) as well as Journalism and Political Science at the Universities in Mainz and Berlin. With her films and videos such as *The Alphabet of Feeling Bad* (13 min., 2012, produced by the Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, Berlin), *working on it* (50 min., 2008, Co-Director: Sabina Baumann), *Monika M.* (15 min., 2004, produced by 3sat), *women videoletters – a second text on war and globalization* (80 min., 2004, international group video project) and *Pashke and Sofia* (30 min., 2003) she has been invited to numerous international festivals and exhibitions. In 2011 she edited the art magazine *FEELING BAD – queer pleasures, art & politics* with contributions by Renate Lorenz, Ann Cvetkovich, Sabina Baumann, K8 Hardy & Wynne Greenwood, and Dafne Boggeri.

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### **Ann Cvetkovich [Bio]**

Ann Cvetkovich is Ellen Clayton Garwood Centennial Professor of English and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of *Mixed Feelings: Feminism, Mass Culture, and Victorian Sensationalism* (Rutgers, 1992); *An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures* (Duke, 2003); and *Depression: A Public Feeling* (Duke, 2012). She co-edited (with Ann Pellegrini) "Public Sentiments," a special issue of *The Scholar and Feminist Online*, and (with Janet Staiger and Ann Reynolds) *Political Emotions* (Routledge, 2010). She has been coeditor, with Annamarie Jagose, of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. Her current writing projects focus on the current state of LGBTQ archives and the creative use of them by artists to create counterarchives and interventions in public history.

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