

**KILLING JOY: SARA AHMED, BAD  
FEELINGS, AND ADVISING**

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## WHAT DO EMOTIONS DO?

- Emotions make an impression on us—they are not merely internal (to us or to objects)
- Emotions circulate in spaces
- Emotions are sticky
- Ahmed (2015) refers to these as elements of ‘affective economies’ where emotions are produced, hold value, and shape relations between people and things

## HAPPINESS DUTY (AHMED, 2010)

1. We should be happy.
2. We should want to be happy.
3. We should be made happy by the right things.

## FAILING AT THE HAPPINESS DUTY

- What about those who are not happy?
  - Killjoys—those who cannot get over what is not over
    - Keep returning to the problems that are not over even when others might want to move on
    - Point out the problems that others would prefer to ignore
- Affect aliens
  - Those not made happy by the things that should make one happy
  - Queer Happiness

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN  
ADVISING?

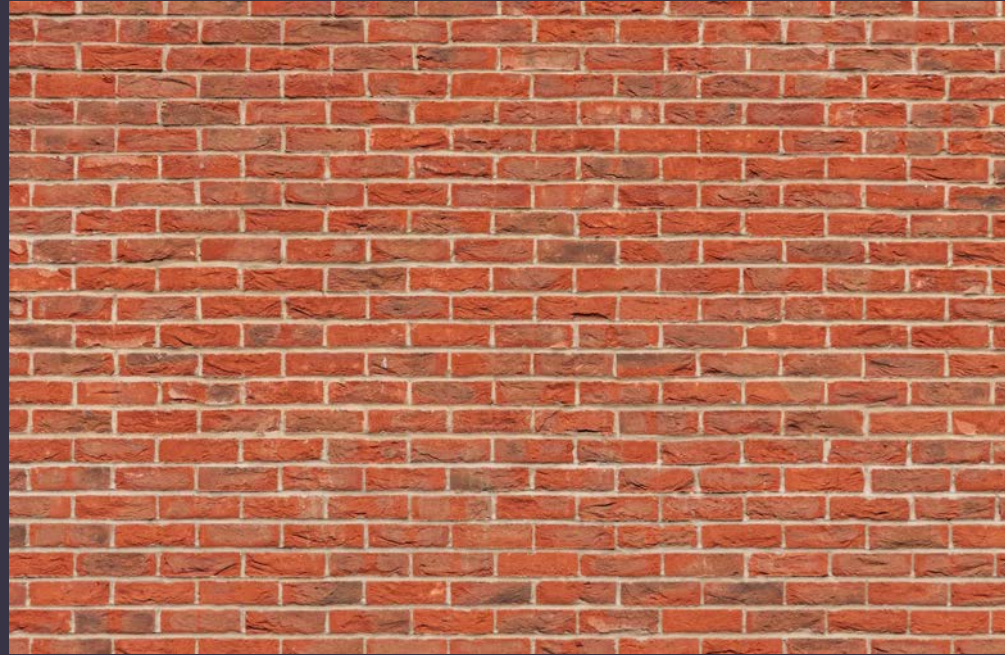
# THE HAPPINESS DUTY IN ADVISING

- The Advising Killjoy
- Affect Aliens
  - Advisors who are not made happy by enrollment numbers, test scores, satisfaction measures because they know about deeper issues that remain unresolved
  - Students who are doing well academically but are unsatisfied with their major because it makes their family happy, but they find it unbearable

## OTHER EMOTIONS

- Love
  - Love for the institution means sacrificing ourselves and our students to preserve it over us
- Shame
  - How do our institutions perform shame in light of injustices as a way of covering over and moving on?

# BRICK WALLS (AHMED, 2012)





## A KILLJOY MAXIM

“Don’t look over it, if you can’t get over it”  
(Ahmed, 2012, p. 187)

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

- Have you ever noticed an emotion circulating through a space? Did it seem “contagious”?
- Have you experienced the happiness duty in your life or work? Do you accept it, or resist it?
- Have you ever been an “affect alien”, not made happy by the right things or made happy by the wrong things?
- Are you a killjoy? Would you like to be?
- What are some other emotions that get used in advising for a particular aim?

## REFERENCES

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