Empathic Economies: Affective Labor in Refugee Performance

Lindsay Cummings (Dramatic Arts)

This talk analyzes the production and exchange of affective labor in refugee performance. Drawing on the notion that “feeling labor” is part of the cultural work of performance, Cummings explores how the labor of both performing and spectating is valued, the emotional transactions that occur in the theatre, and how economies of performance function within larger social, monetary, political, and affective economies. In particular, she considers the implications of laboring for empathic understanding when one’s status as a refugee may depend upon a “successful” performance.

Lindsay Cummings is Assistant Professor in the Department of Dramatic Arts at UConn. Her research focuses on theatre for social change, community-based performance, and the politics of affect in 20th and 21st century theatre. This talk comes from her current book project, Empathic Dialogues: Theatre, Performance, and Engagement.

Talk takes place at UCHI, AUSTIN Building 301. Lunch is provided and space is limited. Please contact uchi@uconn.edu or 486-9057 to reserve a seat.