

Emotions:

Are They the Key to Culture?

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The cultural turn in the social sciences centers on meaning. Tools such as identities, codes, narratives, and frames have been deployed to understand human action. But all this work rests on the fact that these carriers are meaningful for people. But how? Meaning is more than mere intelligibility. To understand its resonance, we have to see how emotions of various sorts direct and focus our attention, making us care about some things and not about others.

James M. Jasper is a sociologist best known for his research on theories of culture and politics. Not only is he a specialist on nuclear protest movements from a cultural view (*The Art of Moral Protest*. The University of Chicago Press) but has done in-depth research on energy policies in France, Sweden, and the United States. (*Nuclear Politics*. Princeton University Press) and the role of emotions in politics (*Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements*. University of Chicago Press).

Lecture in English / No registration required

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