

The Archive of Feelings as Research Method

My paper will explore the methodological strategies of my current book, *Depression: A Public Feelings Project*, which combines memoir and critical essay in order to challenge medical understandings of depression as well as customary modes of historicization and ideology critique within cultural studies. I will discuss my own practice of memoir as a form of research method, as well as Saidiya Hartman's critical memoir *Lose Your Mother*, which chronicles her encounter with the archive of slavery in Ghana's slave tourism sites. I will connect these examples to my larger interest in how memoir, testimony, oral history, and other archives of public feeling constitute new forms of qualitative research that address the politics of emotion.

Ann Cvetkovich is Professor of English and 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) and *An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures* (Duke, 2003), which includes oral histories with lesbian AIDS activists. She edited, with Ann Pellegrini, "Public Sentiments," a special issue of *The Scholar and Feminist Online* (www.barnard.edu/sfonline). She is also editor, with Anna-marie Jagose, of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. She is interested in the emotional dimensions of oral history and testimony and has been doing research on Columbia University's September 11, 2001 Oral History and Narrative Memory Project. She is currently working collaboratively on the subject of Public Feelings and writing a book called *Depression: A Public Feelings Project*.