This talk considers the shifting, tumultuous, and consequential field of emotions that contemporaries perceived as defining Russian public life during its “revolutionary” age: from the stillborn revolution of 1905, into global war and transnational revolution, through a bloody civil war into the first years of peaceful “socialist construction.” Working-class poetry, public art, appeals, petitions, and memoirs interweave religion, violence, and language in topics ranging from street protests to efforts to create liberated new men and women, including sexually. The methodological concern: how the study of emotion, that most elusive of subjectivities, illuminates experience and expression.

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