

Why emotions are political

# On Sensitivities

MARTHA CLAEYS

Few things seem as personal as our feelings. Yet emotions play a central role in social and political debates, from fears about migration to anger over wars.

In 'On Sensitivities', philosopher and award-winning author Martha Claeys explores the meaning and impact of emotions in our society. In her view, feelings are not irrational counterparts to reason, but an important source of insight. They reveal the values, ideals and expectations we hold dear, and show where these clash with reality.

Claeys succeeds in translating abstract ideas into highly concrete visual imagery.

HUMANISTISCH VERBOND

Emotions can reinforce existing inequalities, but they can also spur resistance, solidarity and change. Using clear examples and avoiding academic jargon, Claeys demonstrates how emotions guide our thoughts and actions. In doing so, she offers a fresh perspective on the role of emotions in our personal lives and in the public arena.



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## AUTHOR

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Martha Claeys (b. 1994) holds a doctorate in philosophy. As a writer and speaker, she explores how people can relate well to each other. She shows that a better understanding of emotions such as pride, anger, and love can bring clarity to ethical dilemmas. Together with Lotte Spreeuwenberg, she hosts the philosophical podcast 'Kluwen'.

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