Rather than being properties of the individual self, emotions are socially produced and deployed in specific cultural contexts, as this collection documents with unusual richness. All the essays show emotions to be a form of thought and knowledge, and a major component of social life—including in the nineteenth century, which attempted to relegate them to a feminine intimate sphere.

The collection ranges across topics such as eighteenth-century sensibility, nineteenth-century concerns with the transmission of emotions, early twentieth-century cinematic affect, and the contemporary mobilization of political emotions including those regarding nonstate national identities. The complexities and effects of emotions are explored in a variety of forms—political rhetoric, literature, personal letters, medical writing, cinema, graphic art, soap opera, journalism, popular music, digital media—with attention paid to broader European and transatlantic implications.

“This impressive collection of essays is set to become a landmark text of the modern period, and its contributors represent the cutting edge of Hispanism, both within Spain and within the Anglo-American critical tradition. This is a timely volume. Emotions are not simply part of the human self, but are provoked, tempered, tolerated, and encouraged by different historical, social, and political situations and circumstances, and this collection is a way of charting a type of sociological as well as psychological history that takes account of local specificity.”

—Alison Sinclair, University of Cambridge, author of Trafficking Knowledge in Early Twentieth-Century Spain: Centres of Exchange and Cultural Imaginaries and Sex and Society in Early Twentieth-Century Spain: Hildegart Rodriguez and the World League for Sexual Reform