



New Fear Vocabulary

Compiled by R. Michael Fisher
Between July to Sept. 6, 2019

“What is fear?” This common question for most everyone who is interested in fear, usually starts the conversation of meaning by searching for a definition. Typically, these days especially, the reductionism of such a definition of fear is usually to say it is an emotion or feeling, then to claim it is found in the amygdala of the brain, and further the scientific approach wants to capture and control and delimit what fear is and what fear isn’t. Such a long traditional and even current approach has always seemed to me to be far too restrictive and distortive of what is going on when humans talk about fear, imagine fear and attempt to manage fear. I and others herein, especially from the field of fearism (i.e., philosophy of fearism), have not been content with the traditional reductionistic approaches to the topic of fear. We have asked larger questions, beyond merely the scientific way of framing the problem of fear, and have found we are better off to be creative and expansive, as well as include the scientific and retractive, and to re-imagine critically the very way humans perceive, conceive and reproduce knowledge-power about fear. “What is fear knowledge?” has been a much more important question in my own research. A new vocabulary is required to tap-in to that exploration.

The use of neologisms (newly created words) is not something everyone approves of, and critics of such ventures may be harsh in their criticisms that such lists like the below are part of creating elitist languages that no one but a small-handful of people can understand. They may question that if Fear Studies is trying to become more known and popular, creating such complicated specialized vocabularies makes it harder to communicate and requires too much effort by non-specialists to grasp easily. True as this is, it is in part understandable as a criticism but it lacks attention to the way knowledge that is growing and evolving must take on an open-ended and exuberant creativity as well. Languages and vocabularies that are only stationary are only limited in what can be thought and imagined. The purpose from the beginning of Desh Subba’s work and R. Michael Fisher’s has been to encourage creative development of ideas, concepts, vocabulary and definitions and meanings regarding the general study of fear and its management. The risk of neologisms still seems worthwhile. It can, with some dedicated effort, produce some really interesting ways to analyze behavior.

70+ terms

The new terms (single-word only) coined specifically by those involved in Fear Studies (e.g., philosophy of fearism)

Fear (RMF, DS) refers to a superclass of order of things in which *Fear* is predominant in shaping near everything; 20+ definitions/meanings (*a la* Subba)

‘fear’ (RMF) refers to the deconstruction and reconstruction of fear itself; one can no longer assume fear as fixed in definition or meaning by reductive *fearimaginaries*, because it is constantly morphing; the emphasis is on postmodern constructivist approaches, holistic-integral approaches, and cultural-political dynamics (e.g., culture of fear) to understanding fear itself from a transdisciplinary (e.g., *fearological*) point of view

'Fear' (RMF) refers to a superclass of order of things in which *'Fear'* is predominating, as in *'Fear'* Matrix

fearagentic (BMK) application of responsibility for causing and/or maintaining fear

fearagency (BMK) of the character of responsibility for causing and/or maintaining fear

fear(analysis) (RMF) a process itself already inherited in living systems to work with fear in a management and/or transformative way; another term for self-regulation of living systems; a way of fear acting as essentially analysis itself and of which can be articulated to lead to a more complex and systematic *fearanalysis*; see also *fearuality*

fearanalysis (RMF) a transdisciplinary methodology focusing on analysis and interventions involving the centrality of fear in systems; one of the branches of *fearology*; see also *FearTalk(s)*

fearanalysand (RMF) the individual (and/or client) who goes into a fearanalysis dyad with a fearanalyst facilitating

fearanalyst (RMF) the facilitator of fearanalysis who invites and takes responsibility for fearanalysis sessions (e.g., see *fearthalks*)

feararch(ic)(al) (BMK) agent of and/or characteristics of a hierarchical instilling of fear in graded layers of intensity, e.g., in a highly *feararchival* bureaucracy

feararchy (BMK) dominating rule by fear as in a hierarchy formation

fearatio (OAK) statistical method specifically applied when attempting societal defearing to know the fear climax level of society.

fearcode (MBE) the rules and regulations guiding the study of fear

fearcourse (DS) where fear is carried and contained *via* discourse patterns

fearcriminology (RMF) the study of the inherent and intimate link between fear and criminology

feardefense (RMF) a type and/or operationalizing of one or more defense mechanisms based on fear

feardis-ease (RMF) process(es) of distress and fear turning into a disabling dis-ease (and/or disease)

feardom (BMK) the condition of being oppressed by fear as in the opposite of freedom

fearthnic (RMF) an individual, group, organization that practices chauvinistic ethnocentric discrimination that intersects with discrimination of race, caste, class based on fear as primary motivation

feargnosis (RMF) a process of analysis and diagnosis, and of intervention, based on the intimate interplay of fear and hypnosis

fearhood (MBE) belonging to the class of fear

feariatric (DS) characteristics of the operations of *feariatry* and/or a *feariatrist*

feariatrist (DS) one who specializes in the study and interventions of *feariatry*

feariatry (DS) the study and/or interventions centralizing fear's role in 'sickness' and especially mental health and wellness domains; analogous to psychiatry

fearical (MBE) characteristically being of a fearful nature

fearification (BMK) the process characteristic to causing fear

fearify (BMK) to cause fear

fearigram (MBE) using drawing or other learning illustrations in fear teaching

fearimaginary (RMF) the totality of what one can imagine and/or is allowed to imagine about the nature and role of fear (and *'fear'*)

fearise (BMK) to fill oneself and/or another with fear; more subtle form of terrorise

fearism (RMF, DS) (1) earliest negative connotation used as a form of oppression based on fear ('fear') as more subtle than terrorism (Fisher and others); (2) a positive connotation, derived from critical literary discourses in the East and situated within the study of and philosophy of fear(ism) based on a *fearist* lens or perspective (Subba and others); philosophy of *fearism*, one of the Subbaian-Fisherian "three pillars," is the newest of post-postmodern philosophies and an extension of the philosophy and agenda of existentialism; dedicated to the focused study of fear and fearism in the most expansive *fearimaginary*

fearism-t (RMF) used like *fearism* (use 1) but with the negative signification of t = toxic form of *fearism* to

refer to the more common Western use of the term with its political and/or ideological sense

fearist(s) (DS) refers to one who practices a fearist perspective on the world and contributes to the philosophy of *fearism* and/or Fear Studies in general; one who qualifies and defends that fear is at the epicenter of importance as cause and effect of all human (and some animal) activities; *fearist perspective* is the most generic approach of the Subbaian-Fisherian “three pillars”

fearcriminalysis (RMF) the specific application of *fearanalysis* to the field of law, law enforcement and criminology

fearcriminology (RMF) the specialist study and interventions of a form of criminology that is centralized on the nature and role of fear in human societies

Fearembler (OAK) The excess individual and collective fear associated with ember months (September-December), especially in the African context

fearepistemic(s) (RMF) of the characteristics of *fearepistemology*

fearepistemology (RMF) the practices and outcomes of special epistemic inquiry centralized on fear

Fearland (RMF) the total landscape-mindscape of the Cultural sphere of oppressive existence that is dominated by fear (and ‘fear’); contra *Fearlessnessland*

fearless (RMF) refers to a state of nondual consciousness, a stage of highly evolved mature human potential and a standpoint theory for studying fear management/education

‘fearlessness’ (RMF) used to indicate a deconstruction and reconstruction is ongoing in what fearlessness means in common usage as well as technical uses; it indicates *fearlessness* is in a process itself in dialectical relationship to fear (and a trialectic: Love-Fearlessness-Fear)

fearlessness (RMF) (sometimes with capital ‘F’) refers to many aspects from ontological, epistemological, ethical, paradigmatic, to behavioral and historical and sociopolitical and spiritual dynamics, of which it is itself a particular rare fear management system (FMS-7, in Fisher’s theory); no one definition or meaning can capture the depth and width of this term, with Fisher having identified at least 15 meanings; the basic notion it indicates is an experience and/or stage of development operating beyond fear-based activity dominating

fearlessnessizing (RMF) the process of deconstructing fear-based realities and structures and replacing them with fearlessness-based ones; analogous to indigenizing

Fearlessnessland (RMF) the total landscape-mindscape of a liberational world; contra *Fearland*

fearmind (RMF) a consciousness state and/or stage of development where fear-based motivations dominate

fearminology (MBE) the study of fear terms

fearobjét (RMF) used in *feariatry* to refer to the fear-object as evocative process not mere object in understanding object relations, the self-mind-object dynamic in mental health and mental illness

fearocopy (OAK) the process for which the human mind gets an impression of fear from its factors

fearocracy (BMK) a bureaucracy dominated by governance with dictatorial mindset and decisions enforced through misuse of fear

fearocrat(ic) (BMK) an agent of and/or characteristics of a *fearocracy*

fearodrome (BMK) a shame/guilt driven syndrome that evokes fear

fearogamist (BMK) one who is *fearified* by the thought of marriage

fearogamy (BMK) a set of practices based on excess fear of marriage

fearography (RMF) a sub-discipline of geography, related closely to emotional geographies but with a specific focus on fear

fearogynist (BMK) individual, group, organization that practices *fearogyny*

fearogyny (BMK) a set of practices based on excess fear of females/women

fearological (RMF) characteristic of the practices and outcomes of *fearology*

fearologics (RMF) the sub-field of study of diverse logic(s) in living systems where fear is central in determining logic(al) systems operations (e.g., particular fear management rationale)

fearologist (RMF) a specialist, professional or amateur, who focuses on the study and applications of fearology

fearology (RMF, DS) the transdisciplinary study of the relationship of fear and life (could include other beings including non-living)—usually, refers to human experience but does not have to be so restricted; serves as one of the “three pillar” technologies or disciplines of practice (with emphasis on taxonomies and classification re: *fearminology*) under the umbrella guidance of the *philosophy of fearism* and/or philosophy of fearlessness; in popular culture it is a negative label for any activity that involves fear-mongering (e.g., being a *fearist*)

fearomenon (DS) the interrelational dynamics of fear and phenomena, e.g. fear/phenomenon

fearonomic(al) (BMK) of the characteristics of *fearonomics*

fearonomics (BMK) the study, theories, ideologies and operations of fear-based economic systems

fearontologic(s) (OAK) of the characteristics of *fearontology*

fearontology (OAK) the practices and outcomes of special ontological inquiry centralized on fear; the ontological foundation of fear

fearorcism (BMK) extreme removal of fear through religious and/or spiritual (magical) practices; analogous to exorcism

fearosis (BMK) the pathological state of chronic excess fear at the base of neurosis and/or psychosis

fearosophical (RMF) operational characteristics of the practice of *fearosophy*

fearosophy (RMF) the general philosophical base that specializes in the study of fear (e.g., *fearism*)

fearosphere (BMK) a place, situation, habitat, environment full of fear-engulfed events

fearotype(s) (ME) are part of a diagnostic taxonomy of several fearotypes (patterns) humans may adopt based on several interactive factors of a person(ality) in relationship to fear reactions and responses

fearpoliticology (RMF) a generic term referring to the study of the inherent and intimate link between fear, the political sphere of social behavior and politics per se

fearpuzzle (MBE) the kind of fear that is difficult to understand (e.g., ‘*fear*’)

fearquantum (DS) used in relation to intensities of the neurological amygdalary fear system in the brain; e.g., function is to look after processing threats and modulating *fearquantum*; a particular quantitative measure of fear.

fearstory (RMF) the study and outcomes of history as seen through a fearist lens

fearthalk(s) (RMF) also FearTalk(s), as a unique method of talking about fear (two or more in conversation) within a conscious *fear(analysis)* set-up or situation, often being recorded on video for further inquiry and learning benefits; see also *fearanalysis*

fearthualize (MBE) making something become fearful; see also *fearise*

fearuality (RMF) the total dynamics, interrelations and development of one’s relationship to fear (and ‘*fear*’); analogous with sexuality or spirituality; see also *fear(analysis)*

fearwork(er) (RMF) refers to the practices of working with fear individually and collectively for the benefit of growth and development; one who participates consciously in this effort (e.g., *fearanalyst, feariatrist, fearist, fearologist*, etc.)

Contributors:

BMK – B. Maria Kumar

DS – Desh Subba

MBE – Michael B. Eneyo

ME – Mark Eales
OAK – Osinakachi Akuma Kalu
RMF – R. Michael Fisher

Ed. Note: If you have created any unique one-word fear terms to add to this list, send them to r.michaelfisher52@gmail.com because in future publications on the expanding Fear Vocabulary your terms may be included.

¹ Kumar, B. M. (2019). Part 1. In B. Maria Kumar, R. Michael Fisher & Desh Subba, *India, a nation of fear and prejudice: Race of the third kind*. Australia: Xlibris, p. 37.