

The transmission of love requires a materialisation in the form of a written artefact. Following Niklas Luhmann, love can be understood as a code of communication requiring a medium that he defines as informed material, e.g. an inscribed object. One obvious example is the love letter that might be seen as a handwritten artefact through which a lover expresses his or her affection. Since a letter serves to bridge a physical distance or substitute for an absence, the material quality of the letter is of particular importance. In addition to letters, numerous other forms of materialisation and inscription are used to convey emotions: one might think of love locks, testaments, farewell letters, carvings in bark, dedications, autographs, funerary spaces, poetry albums, friendship books or forms of ostentatious affective expression as in tattoos as inscriptions on the human body.

The workshop will hence focus on written artefacts that are supposed to express love for another person. We deliberately leave the concept of love open, as it encompasses diverse meanings in different cultures and epochs; instead, we focus on practices that are intended to communicate love by inscribing a material object. We want to explore if written artefacts, through their various forms of inscribed materiality, are historically, culturally or gender-specifically bound to certain practices, and represent closeness to a loved person.

Rather than deciding whether an emotion expressed in an artefact corresponds to a “real” emotion, we want to analyse to what extent the expression of love is linked to certain practices of material authentication: this raises the question of the originality of the written artefact, which is particularly revealing when compared in a global perspective.



Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures
University of Hamburg
Warburgstraße 26
20354 Hamburg



Prof. Dr. Daniel Fliege
University of Hamburg
Institut für Romanistik
Von-Melle-Park 6
20146 Hamburg
daniel.fliege@uni-hamburg.de

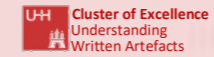
Dr. Jenny Körber
University of Hamburg
Arbeitsbereich Europäische Geschichte
Von-Melle-Park 6
20146 Hamburg
Jenny.koerber@uni-hamburg.de



PD Dr. Annika Nickenig
Freie Universität Berlin
Institut für Romanische Philologie
Habelschwerdter Allee 45
14195 Berlin

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INSCRIBING LOVE

The Materialisation of Affects in a Global Perspective

Workshop organized by
Daniel Fliege, Jenny Körber
and Annika Nickenig

30th Sept. – 2nd Oct. 2024
University of Hamburg

PROGRAMME

Monday, 30th September

2:00 Introduction

Contexts of Prison and War

2:30 Leyla Sophie Gleissner
"Komm Herzensschatzi". Inscription and Interpellation in Emma Hauck's 1909 Letters

3:15 Coffee break

3:45 Claudia Pimentel
Beyond "Bordered" Love

4:30 Maddalena Casarini
"Les graffitis amoureux". Love Engravings on Prison Walls in Jean Genet's Novels

6:00 Reception

Tuesday, 1st October

Evidence of Love in Space

9:00 Leah Mascia
Echoes of Love From the Lands of Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt: Tracing Evidence Through Archaeological, Papyrological, and Epigraphic Sources

9:45 Katherine Dauge-Roth
Physical Graffiti: Inscribing Love on Bark, Stone, and Skin in the Seventeenth Century French Pastoral Novel

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Ceri Houlbrook
Unlocking the Love-Lock

11:45 Peera Panarut
Inscribing Royal Love. Inscriptions of Love from the Royal Cemetery of Bangkok

12:30 Lunch break

The Love Letter

2:00 Jonathan Gibson
Convention, Incident and Rhetoric in the Materiality of Early Modern English Love Letters

2:45 Eike Großmann
"Writing your First Love Letter": Social Practices of Inscribing Love in Early Modern Japan

3:30 Coffee break

4:00 Piera Mazzaglia
Materiality and Performativity of Love's Expressions in 19th Unpublished Love Letters written by Everyday Lovers

4:45 Eva Wyss
Love Letters and Beyond: Insights from the Koblenz and Darmstadt Love Letter Archive

7:00 Dinner

Wednesday, 2nd October

Love, Bodies and Communication

9:00 Ya'ara Gil-Glazer
All we need is love and peace: The public relationship of John Lennon and Yoko Ono in photographs, performance, and songs' lyrics

9:45 Jungyoon Yang
Feigned Love in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Wedding Booklets

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Janine Droese
Expressing love through albums. Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's albums for Cécile Mendelssohn Bartholdy, née Jeanrenaud, and the singer Jenny Lind

11:45 Camilla Skovbjerg Paldam
From Letter Box to Inbox. Changes and Constancies in the 20th and 21st Century Love Communication

12:30 Final discussion