

# What is love? (Baby don't hurt me)

## Love as a contested emotion in queer\*feminist literature, art, and activism

Transdisciplinary Workshop and Public Conversation  
 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2025  
 at Aquarium and Mittelpunktbibliothek Karl Liebknecht / Namik Kemal  
 Kottbusser Tor Berlin

Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup>		
12:00-13:00		Arrival & lunch at <b>Aquarium</b>
13:00-13:30		Welcome & introduction
Section I Theory		
13:30-14:10	Zeynep Sandalli	Love beyond patriarchy. Black feminist perspectives on affection, solidarity and flourishing
14:10-14:50	Emma Engdahl & Veronica Flyman	What are we talking about when we talk about love? Implications of social and feminist critique [online]
Coffee break		
Section II Literature		
15:05-15:45	Jele Mensen	A portrait of Roland Barthes' "loving subject" in <i>A Lover's Discourse: Fragments</i>
15:45-16:25	Camilo Del Valle Lattanzio	What is friendship? Rethinking love in queer literature
Coffee break		
16:40-17:20	Elisa Haf	"Tell me you want me" Love as battle for affirmation in Sally Rooney's <i>Conversation with friends</i> (2017) and Naoise Dolan's <i>Exciting Times</i> (2019)
17:20-18:00	Monika Raič	Masculinity as misunderstanding. Lessons of love in José Emilio Pacheco's novella <i>The Pleasure Principle</i>
Dinner break		
19:15		walking to the library <b>Mittelpunktbibliothek</b>
19:30-21:00	<b>Words don't come easy – A conversation about love in queer*feminist literature and life</b> with Omar Kasmani, Phaniel Antwi, Andrea Newerla, Saskia Vogel	

<b>Friday, 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
10:00-10:15		Arrival
<b>Section III Daily Life</b>		
10:15-10:55	Rahil Roodsaz	Enduring love: The political potential of chronicity
10:55-11:35	Manzuma Ahsan	Contentious emotions: Exploring dynamics and challenges in Bangladesh
<b>Coffee break</b>		
11:50-12:30	Lucrezia Perrig	Marrying your best friend or leaving them? What marriage does to friendship in queer relationships
12:30-13:10	Marlene Resch	What's love got to do with it? How co-parenting re-defines "family" beyond the romantic couple relationship
<b>Lunch break</b>		
<b>Section IV Activism</b>		
14:00-14:40	Emma Lakkala	Know thyself! Neoliberal self-government as the new normativity of anti-normative, progressive relationship structures?
14:40-15:20	Rieke Schröder	Love not lust? Shaping desires and identities in LGBTIQ+ refugee support in Berlin and Copenhagen
15:20-16:00	Maria Łusakowska	Julia Fox, heteropessimism, and celibacy: The aftermath of political lesbianism
<b>Coffee break</b>		
16:15-17:00		Final discussion & goodbye

### **Aquarium**

Skalitzer Straße 6  
10999 Berlin

### **Organizing team**

Aletta Diefenbach & Gesa Jessen  
Assistance: Tom Adams & Elisabeth Siegel

### **Info & registration**

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### **Mittelpunktbibliothek Karl Liebknecht / Namik Kemal**

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