



Universidade do Minho

Universidade do Minho

Escola de Letras, Artes e Ciências Humanas

Centro de Estudos Humanísticos



(English version)

XXVIII Colóquio de Outono / 28th Autumn Meetings

19th – 20th November 2026

https://eventos.cehum.elach.uminho.pt/coloquiooutonoamor/index_en.html

Transcultural Narratives and Representations of Love

Recent studies have placed questions of affect and emotion at the centre of humanistic research. Studies on love, in particular, are now based on two complementary orientations—*affect theory* (which historicizes and politicizes the feeling) and *affective science proper* (which considers the empirical, cognitive, and physiological dimensions)—and treat love both as an individual or intimate experience and as a phenomenon that is socially mediated.

Love, being both universal and culturally specific, has also assumed a transcultural and historical plurality, subject to economic, social, and technological changes (including digital media) that reshape how love is narrated and practiced (cyberlove, human-machine relations).

Love is not merely private: it is embedded in ideological formations and emotional communities that mobilize shared values. Feminist, queer, anti-racist, and disability studies have long highlighted affect as something political; love can function both as an instrument of domination and as a resource for critique and solidarity.

In short, the concept of love transcends cultural, linguistic, and temporal boundaries, expressing itself in distinct yet interconnected ways across human societies. From ancient mythologies and classical philosophies to contemporary digital cultures, love has been narrated, theorised, embodied, and performed in forms that reveal both universal impulses and culturally specific meanings.

This 28th edition of the *Colóquio de Outono* (Autumn Meetings) at the University of Minho invites scholars from all backgrounds to explore transcultural narratives and performances of love, from Ancient Civilizations to the 21st Century, with a particular interest in how love is depicted, conceptualized, translated, and enacted across different cultures, time periods, and mediums.

We aim to foster interdisciplinary dialogues that illuminate the intersections of love with identity, power, migration, media, and artistic representation. By examining how love travels—across borders, genres, bodies, and technologies—we seek to understand how it becomes a site of negotiation, resistance, imagination, and transformation.

This conference invites papers and/or panels that interrogate love as a transcultural, historical, and political phenomenon.

We welcome contributions that combine theoretical sophistication with empirical or textual specificity and that address questions such as:

How have concepts and practices of love changed across historical periods and cultural contexts?

In what ways do affect theory and affective science complement or contest one another in the study of love?

- How do gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and coloniality shape representations and performances of love?
- How do migration, diaspora, and transnational media reconfigure intimate bonds and affective communities?
- What are the ethical and political potentials of love—its capacity for emancipation, solidarity, or domination?
- How do new technologies (dating apps, virtual companions, AI) transform the experience and discourse of love?

We particularly encourage interdisciplinary proposals that historicize love, attend to embodied and mediated practices, and expand the canon beyond Western paradigms.

The contributions may come from the following major fields of inquiry:

1. Literary and Cultural Studies

Comparative literature: cross-cultural love narratives

World literature: circulation of love tropes across continents

Classical studies: eros, philia, agape, storge

Medieval and early modern studies: courtly love, mystical love

Postcolonial studies: love under empire, hybridity, resistance

2. Philosophy and Ethics

Philosophical theories of love: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Spinoza, Beauvoir

Affective ethics: care, responsibility, relationality

Transcultural moral philosophy

3. Anthropology and Sociology

Anthropology of emotion: kinship, ritual, marriage, sexuality

Sociology of intimacy: modernity, globalization, digital intimacy

Migration studies: transnational families, diasporic affection

4. Media, Film, and Digital Studies

Love in global cinema

Digital love: dating apps, virtual romance, AI companionship

Transmedia storytelling

5. Gender, Sexuality, and Queer Studies

Queer transcultural love

Feminist theories of love

Intersectional approaches: race, class, disability

6. Performance Studies and Visual Arts

Performances of love: theatre, dance, ritual

Embodied love: gesture, touch, corporeality

Visual cultures: painting, photography, installation

7. Religious and Mythological Studies

Sacred love: divine-human relationships

Mythologies of love: archetypes, cosmologies, transcultural motifs

Possible theoretical Approaches:

A. Affective and Emotion Theory

Love as affect, emotion, attachment, or political force

Authors: Sara Ahmed, Lauren Berlant, Sianne Ngai

B. Transcultural and Postcolonial Theory

Love as translation, creolization, hybridity

Authors: Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak, Édouard Glissant

C. Feminist and Queer Theory

Love as resistance, relationality, queer kinship

Authors: Bell hooks, Judith Butler, Eve Sedgwick

D. Phenomenology and Embodiment

Love as lived experience, gesture, corporeality

Authors: Merleau-Ponty, Judith Butler, Sara Ahmed

E. Narrative Theory and Intermediality

How love is narrated across media and genres

Authors: Gérard Genette, Mieke Bal, Marie-Laure Ryan

F. Performance Theory

Love as enactment, ritual, embodied practice

Authors: Richard Schechner, Diana Taylor

G. Digital and Media Theory

Algorithmic intimacy, mediated affection

Authors: Sherry Turkle, Henry Jenkins

Important **INFOMATION**

Conference **languages**: Portuguese, English, French, Spanish

Please, indicate the language of the presentation in the abstract/proposal.

Paper proposals (for 20 minutes, maximum 200 words), accompanied by a biographical note of no more than 100 words (in Portuguese and English), should be submitted at the site of the Colóquio (<https://eventos.cehum.elach.uminho.pt/coloquiooutonoamor>)

It is planned a **publication** of a peer-reviewed selection of the contributions, which must be written in English. Editorial guidelines and submission dates will be announced after the colloquium.

Important dates:

01/10/2026: Deadline for submitting proposals for 20-minute presentations or panels comprising 3 to 4 presentations.

15/10/2026: Deadline for the notification of acceptance.

31/10/2026: Deadline for registration and fee transfer

14/11/2026: Publication of the final program in the conference site

18 & 19/11/2026: In-person Colloquium (Braga, University of Minho, School of Arts and Humanities, Auditório ELACH)

REGISTRATIO/ENROLLMENT

REGISTRATION	FEE
Members of ELACH/CEHUM (including students)	free
External participants with paper	50 euros
External post-graduation students with paper	25 euros
External participants without paper	30 euros
External students without paper	15 euros

Payment Information

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CONTACTS

Main contacts of the conference:
Mário Matos (matos@elach.uminho.pt)
Jaime Costa (jaco@elach.uminho.pt)
Paula Guimarães (paulag@elach.uminho.pt)
ORGANIZATION

Organizing Committee:

Mário Matos (UM/ELACH/CEHUM/NETCult)
Jaime Costa (UM/ELACH/CEHUM/NETCult)
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