

The Cluster of Excellence  
**Understanding Written Artefacts**  
At the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)  
cordially invites you to the workshop

**Inscribing Love:  
The Materialisation of Affects  
in a Global Perspective**

Monday, 30 September, 2:00 pm – 5:15 pm CEST

Tuesday, 1 October, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm CEST

Wednesday 2 October, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm CEST

Warburgstraße 26, 20354 Hamburg

Organised by  
Daniel Fliege (Universität Hamburg),  
Jenny Körber (Universität Hamburg) and  
Annika Nickenig (Freie Universität Berlin)

Registration:

<https://www.csmc.uni-hamburg.de/en/register/workshop59>

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.

## Programme

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### Monday, 30 September, 2:00 pm – 5:15 pm

2:00 – 2:30 Introduction

#### Contexts of Prison and War

2:30 – 3:15 Leyla Sophie Gleissner (Paris, France)  
*“Herzenschatzi Komm“. Inscription and Interpellation in Emma Hauck’s 1909 Letters*

3:15 – 3:45 Coffee break

3:45 – 4:30 Claudia Pimentel (Porto, Portugal)  
*Beyond “Bordered” Love*

4:30 – 5:15 Maddalena Casarini (Berlin)  
*“Les graffitis amoureux“. Love Engravings on Prison Walls in Jean Genet’s Novels*

6:00 Reception

### Tuesday, 1 October, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

#### Evidence of Love in Space

9:00 – 9:45 Leah Mascia (Hamburg)  
*Echoes of Love From the Lands of Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt:  
Tracing Evidence Through Archaeological, Papyrological, and Epigraphic Sources*

9:45 – 10:30 Katherine Dauge-Roth (Bowdoin College, US)  
*Tree Encarvings in 17th Century France*

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:45 Ceri Houlbrook (Hertfordshire, UK)

*Unlocking the Love-Lock*

11:45 – 12:30 Peera Panarut (Hamburg)  
Inscribing Royal Love. Inscriptions of Love from the Royal Cemetery of Bangkok

12:30 – 2:00 Lunch break

**The Love Letter**

2:00 – 2:45 Jonathan Gibson (The Open University, UK)  
*Convention, Incident and Rhetoric in the Materiality of Early Modern English Love Letters*

2:45 – 3:30 Eike Großmann (Hamburg)  
*“Writing your First Love Letter”:  
Social Practices of Inscribing Love in Early Modern Japan*

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee break

4:00 – 4:45 Piera Mazzaglia (Gießen, Germany)  
*Materiality and Performativity of Love’s Expressions in 19th Unpublished Love Letters written by Everyday Lovers*

4:45 – 5:30 Eva Wyss (Koblenz, Germany)  
*Materializing Love. Linguistic Variations in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Love Letters*

7:00 Dinner

**Wednesday, 2 October, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**Love, Bodies and Communication**

9:00 – 9:45 Ya’ara Gil-Glazer (Tel Hai College, Israel)  
*Materiality and Performativity of Love’s Expressions in 19th Unpublished Love Letters written by Everyday Lovers*

- 9:45 – 10:30 Jungyoon Yang (Seoul, South Korea)  
*Feigned Love in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Wedding Booklets*
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 11:45 Janine Droese (Hamburg)  
*Vier Alben von Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy an ihm nahestehende Personen*
- 11:45 – 12:30 Camilla Skovbjerg Paldam (Aarhus, Denmark)  
*From Letter Box to Inbox. Changes and Constancies in the 20th and 21st Century  
Love Communication*
- 12:30 – 1:00 Final discussion