



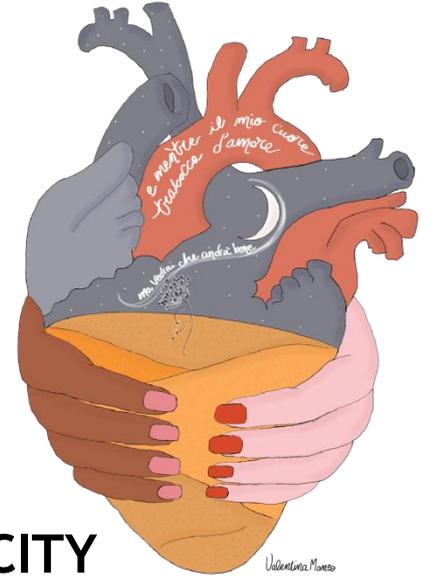
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

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LOVE IN THE DIVERSE CITY

Call for papers

ISA RC21 2020 annual
conference:
“Shaping & Sensing the city.
Power, people, place”

Session n. 52

Antwerp (Belgium)

July 6-8 2020

[https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/
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One of the most profound effects of globalization is that people from everywhere are falling in love with people from everywhere else. Increasing migration worldwide has facilitated the unions of people from different countries, religions, ethnicities and, presumably, cultural backgrounds. Such unions are often celebrated as a sign of integration; however, the classic assimilation theory no longer suffice in tackling the growth of large cities, which are witnessing unprecedented levels of diversity.

Thus, mixed unions may do more than reflect the nature of social boundaries. In urban areas of super-diversity, there is a growing likelihood that multiple and overlapping forms of mixedness will characterize many romantic relationships and it may be that while some ethnic and racial boundaries will remain persistent, others will become more blurred and of diminishing social significance. However, despite the centrality of sexuality to the conduct and continuation of urban life, investigations of intercultural love remain curiously absent from urban studies.

Cities can be seen as roiling maelstroms of affect, love styles and spatially contextualized romantic emotions. Mixed couples and their intimate lives are the focal point at which the different aspects of the globalized world literally become embodied. They define resistance against the state's biopolitical power to control people and become a space of intimate citizenship. At the same time, these relationships may represent a 'quiet revolution' that holds for re-envisioning people's idea of 'us and them', challenging what it means to inhabit multiculturalism in our everyday lives. But how are people inside a family to withstand, negotiate and survive pressures that separate whole worlds from one another?



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HOW TO PRESENT A PAPER FOR SESSION 52:

Abstracts (maximum 250 words) need to be submitted through the conference website via the following weblink:
www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/rc21-sensing-the-city/call-for-papers/submit-your-abstract/

Abstracts which were not submitted through our website cannot be selected for presentation at the conference.

Notification of abstract approval is expected to take place around 15 April 2020

General inquiries can also be directed to Lidia Manzo at lidia.manzo@unimi.it

- first, in order for an intercultural couple to love one another, the two individuals need to meet. Which are their “places of the heart”? Where do they meet in the diverse city? Are these spaces permeable, opened, and available to the dating and mating between natives and migrants? We want to explore these emotional geographies of *mixité* by revealing the ways in which different kinds of places can elicit specific feelings of intercultural love;
- in romantic love, individuals are apt to encounter inequality within their relationships. Yet, how are these disparities experienced? What is the role of local communities? We point to the enduring inequities inherent in the experience of love and difference in our societies and the opportunities or the obstacles that may arise in the urban milieu;
- from a social network perspective, support or opposition from one’s social surrounding affect the course of love over its various developmental stages, including its initiation, maintenance, and termination. Thinking about young people, parental approval to an intercultural romantic relationship remains controversial and deserves more attention;
- what the political consequences of thinking more explicitly about these topics might be?

Keywords

Intercultural Love, Urban Diversity, Emotional Geographies of Mixité, Spatialities of Love, Everyday Multiculturalism

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