

The Ontology of Love



26-27 April 2019

Conference at the Alison Richard Building,
7 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DT



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



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Convenor

James Bryson (University of Cambridge)

Summary

What is the status of love in the contemporary world? Is it a human fiction or an objective truth? Is love apprehended by reason, or is it a feeling that reason cannot describe? Recent theories of love claim that we cannot know love's ontological status in the contemporary world, nor indeed can we speculate about its future without knowing its past. This event will endeavour to trace love's history in the western philosophical and literary tradition from Plato through late antiquity, the middle ages, and up to and including the modern world.

The conference aims to put philosophers, theologians, literary theorists, intellectual historians and psychologists into conversation with one another, in order to i) re-tell love's story in the history of ideas; ii) to assess the contemporary relevance of this history; iii) and to consider what love's future may hold. This event, therefore, will be divided into two principal parts: the first will trace love's history in the western philosophical and literary traditions, and the second will assess the 'ontology of love' – its metaphysical status - in contemporary thought and discourse.

Acknowledgements



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Supported by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Platonism, Newnham College, and the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Divinity.

Programme

Day 1: Friday 26 April 2019

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.10 **Welcome and Introduction**
James Bryson (University of Cambridge)
- 9.10 - 10.40 **Session 1: Love in the Ancient World**
Chair: James Orr (University of Cambridge)
- Frisbee Sheffield (University of Cambridge)
Reading May with Plato
- Giles Pearson (University of Bristol)
Aristotle on forms of love and times of life
- Daniel Tolan (University of Cambridge)
From True Self to True Desire: Plotinus on Love
- 10.40 - 11.10 Break
- 11.10 - 12.40 **Session 2: Love in Cambridge Platonism**
Chair: Douglas Hedley (University of Cambridge)
- Simone Kotva (University of Cambridge)
Non/human love: theological-ecological fragments
- Marilyn Lewis (University of Bristol)
'Universal and Intellectual love': The Reciprocal Love of God and Rational Beings in the Thought of Henry Hallywell (1641-1703)
- Matthew Leisinger (University of Cambridge)
Ralph Cudworth's Epistemology of Love
- James Bryson (University of Cambridge)
Divine messengers: The role of the passions in Henry More's Philosophy of Love
- 12.40 - 13.40 Lunch

14.00 - 16.00 Session 3: Love and Music – Old Labs, Newnham College*Chair:* Férdia Stone-Davis (University of Cambridge)

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Music as loving practice

Roger Scruton (University of Buckingham)

Love and the lyrical

Music:

- Férdia Stone-Davis (Recorder)
- Kristi Bryson, (Soprano)
- Toby Hession (Piano)

Auf ehernen Mauern...ruht unsrer Hoffnung Zuversicht.....G.P. Telemann
from *Harmonischer Gottesdienst*

Höchster, was ich habe.....J.S. Bach
from *Cantata 39 Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot*

Du bist die Ruh.....Franz Schubert
An die Musik

Kennst du das Land.....Robert Schumann
from *Lieder und Gesänge aus 'Wilhelm Meister'*

Notre Amour.....Gabriel Fauré

Giunse alfin il momento...Deh, vieni non tardar.....W.A. Mozart
from *Le nozze di Figaro*

Despedida.....Roger Scruton
from *Lorca Songs*

16.00 - 17.30 Break**17.30 - 19.00 Keynote Lecture**

Simon May (King's College London)

Love as a promise of ontological rootedness

Day 2: Saturday 27 April 2019

9.00 - 10.30 **Session 4: Romantic Responses - Mysticism, Compassion, and Friendship**
Chair: Douglas Hedley (University of Cambridge)

Hjördis Becker-Lindenthal (University of Cambridge)
Kierkegaard's Understanding of Love: Mystic Repercussions

Adrian Mihai (University of Cambridge)
Schopenhauer: An Ethics of Love and Compassion?

Ian Cooper (University of Kent)
Hegel's Friend - Heidegger's Friend

10.30 - 11.00 Break

11.00 - 12.30 **Session 5: Psychological, Cosmological and Transcendent Love**
Chair: Simon May (King's College London)

Heidi Cobham (University of Sussex)
A re-examination of romantic love

David Leech (University of Bristol)
Cosmopsychic Love

John Cottingham (University of Reading)
Love, transcendence and value

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 15.00 **Session 6: Roots, Death, and Play - Video Recorded Panel**
Chair: John Cottingham (University of Reading)

- Douglas Hedley (University of Cambridge)
- Simon May (King's College London)
- Roger Scruton (University of Buckingham)

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 - 16.30 **Session 7: The Future of Love in a Technophile Age**
Chair: Frisbee Sheffield (University of Cambridge)

- James Orr (University of Cambridge)
- Henry Shevlin (University of Cambridge)

16.30 - 16.45 **Closing and Farewell**

Participants

Convenor

James Bryson

University of Cambridge

Speakers, Performers and Delegates

Alex Assaly

University of Cambridge

Hjördis Becker-Lindenthal

University of Cambridge

Kristi Bryson

Heidi Cobham

University of Sussex

Marcellina Cobham

Ian Cooper

University of Kent

John Cottingham

University of Reading

Douglas Hedley

University of Cambridge

Toby Hession

University of Cambridge

Simone Kotva

University of Cambridge

David Leech

University of Bristol

Matthew Leisinger

University of Cambridge

Marilyn Lewis

University of Bristol

Léa Louchez

University of Cambridge

Simon May

King's College London

Adrian Mihai

University of Cambridge

James Orr

University of Cambridge

Giles Pearson

University of Bristol

Grace Richardson	University of Cambridge
Roger Scruton	University of Buckingham
Sophie Scruton	
Frisbee Sheffield	University of Cambridge
Henry Shevlin	University of Cambridge
Mark Stafford	Pusey House, Oxford
Férdia Stone-Davis	University of Cambridge
Daniel Tolan	University of Cambridge
George Westhaver	Pusey House, Oxford

Welcome to the Alison Richard Building

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Reception: (T) 01223 761000 (E) arbrec@hermes.cam.ac.uk	University Security Contact Telephone Numbers: Security Control Centre 01223 331818 Emergency calls network 101 Emergency calls outside network 01223 767444 Email: security@admin.cam.ac.uk
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If you have any concerns or wish to report an incident, however minor, security will be happy to take your details and act upon the information given.

Fire

This building operates a sounder alarm system and a main atrium fire curtain. When the alarm sounds you must evacuate the building via the wing fire exits. Please make yourself aware of their location and the muster point, which is situated under the Raised Faculty building by the muster sign.

Do not use the lift during an evacuation. If you are in the lift when the alarm sounds the lift will automatically return to the Ground floor where you must exit via the evacuation points.

The fire evacuation points are situated towards the ends of the wings on all floors, with further evacuation routes through the ground floor lobby and Arc cafe. Internal fire evacuation doors will default to open but the final evacuation door from the building will need to be opened by pressing the green release button. During an evacuation, do not use the main stairwell as this route will be closed off by the fire curtain. If you are on the stairs when the alarm sounds make your way to the next floor landing and use the fire escape route on that floor.

First Aid

If you require a First Aider please contact Reception.

The Arc

The Café is operated by Elixir and is open five days a week between 8:30am and 5pm. There is a coffee vending machine in the Law Faculty, which is open on Saturdays from 9am.

Toilets

Men's and women's bathrooms are available on the ground floor. Men's, women's and gender-neutral toilet cubicles are available on all other floors.

Accessible toilets are available on all floors. There are changing facilities available on the ground floor.

Smoking

There are two designated external smoking areas at the Alison Richard Building; one situated at the front of the building, next to the bench furthest from the building where a cigarette bin is provided. The second is at the rear of the building at the end of the crescent seating area furthest from the building, where there is also a cigarette bin. Please only smoke in these designated areas.

About CRASSH

This conference is one of twenty events scheduled as part of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH)'s conference programme during 2018-19.

CRASSH was established at the University of Cambridge in 2001 and is now one of the world's largest interdisciplinary research institutions. The Centre has grown into a vibrant research community of approximately 45 researchers working on 14 major research projects, alongside a programme of research development of over 300 events a year.



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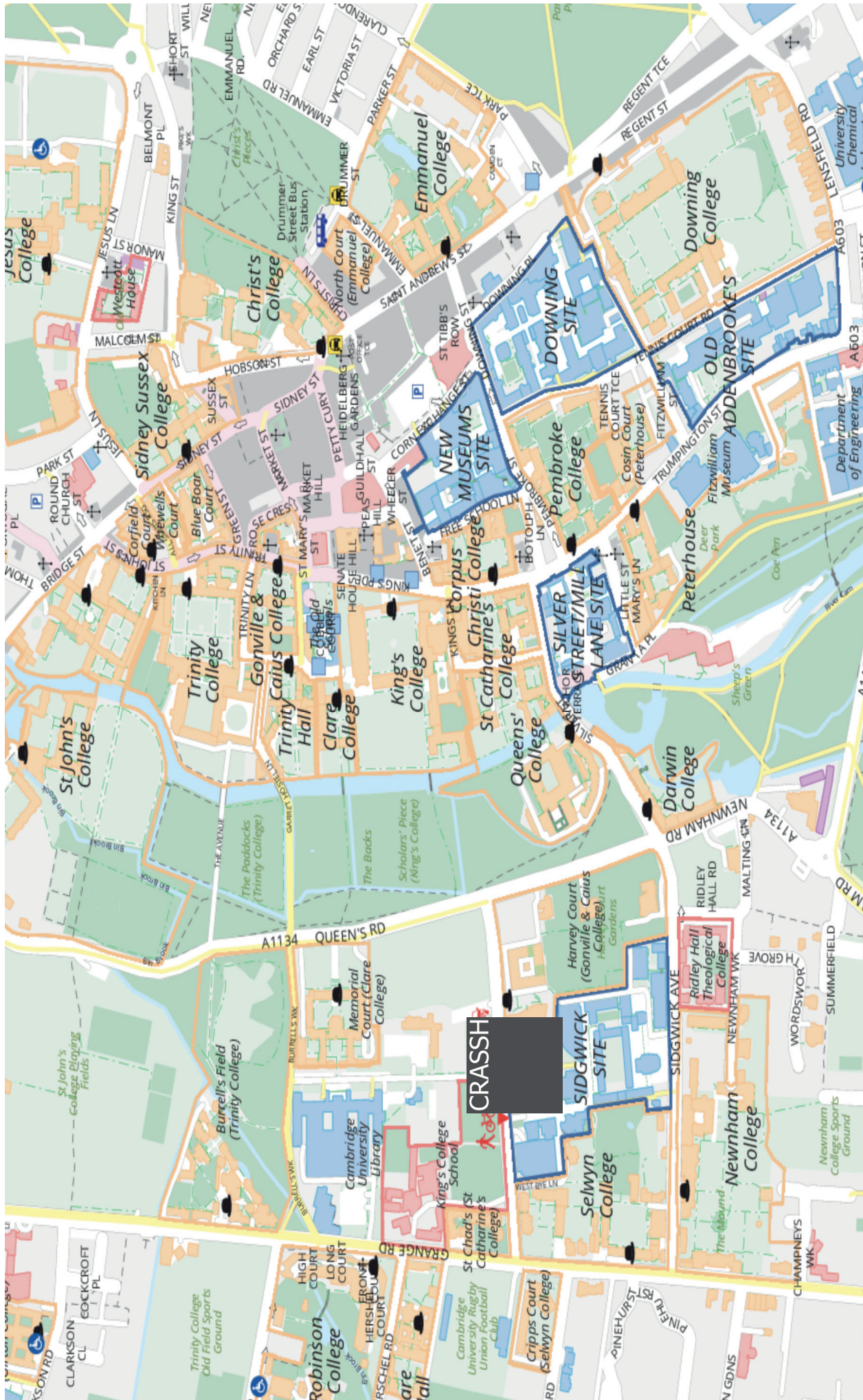
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