

The Future of Relationships

Abstract

Intimate relationships of various kinds play important roles in our lives. From romantic relationships and close friendships to relationships with colleagues and neighbors, they affect our well-being and the structure of our lives in profound ways. There have been many attempts to reimagine societies by focusing on changes to the public sphere: to how we work, how society is structured, and how we will be governed. Less attention has been directed to changes in our intimate relationships. This workshop aims to explore the future of relationships of all forms - including friendship, family life, romantic relationships, collegiality, etc. - as well as the broader ethical and political challenges they raise. For instance, what does good intimacy look like? What social, legal, cultural, or personal changes are required to promote its achievement? How are we currently being held-back? What are some underexplored ways in which the value of relationships that are important in people's lives come into conflict with broader ethical and/or political values? How should we and a range of institutions address these potential tensions?

We invite proposals of no more than 500 words, for a presentation of approximately 30 minutes, to engage with a host of ethical and political questions around the future of relationships. Here is a non-exclusive list of some indicative themes:

Possible topics

- Intimacy online
- Intimacy and augmented reality
- Chatbots and intimacy: therapy, love and Digital Duplicates
- Robots: sex, love, friendship
- Fertility technologies
- Social norms of intimacy: e.g. amatonormativity, sex-negativity etc.
- Relationship styles: relationship anarchy, polyamory, aromanticism
- Relationship ideals: love, friendship, collegiality
- Intimate practices: consent, communication, designing relationships
- Alternatives to/abolition of the family
- Intimacy and architecture: cities and buildings; schools, prisons, workplaces
- Intimacy and fantasy: BDSM, imaginary friendships, porn
- Paying for intimacy
- The role of the state in relationships
- The role of religion in relationships
- Methodology: Ideal vs. non ideal approaches to intimacy
- Spousal/partner hiring at the workplace
- The ethics of risky relationships
- Justice and limits of permissible partiality
- Justice and the ethics of procreation
- The ethics of rationally reinforcing unjust norms in relationships
- The ethics of subversive relationships
- Feminist perspectives on monogamy/non-monogamy

We actively welcome in-progress work and seek to foster a friendly and collaborative environment. PhD students, post-docs, and ECR are especially welcome. We are also receptive to interdisciplinary explorations of these ideas, provided they are accessible to the non-specialist.

Please email your abstract to futureofrelationships@gmail.com by June 1st.

We will notify successful applicants by June 10th. If you are a graduate student, MANCEPT has a small number of fee-waiver bursaries for which you can apply after acceptance (the deadline is June 28th).

Wednesday 4th September	
11:00-12:30	Registration
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:00	Welcome Speech
14:00-16:00	<p>Session 1</p> <p><i>Vasti Calitz</i>: What Does Friendship Become When it is At the Centre of Intimate Life?</p> <p><i>Youngbin Yoon</i>: Regarding Friends and Significant Others</p>
16:00-16:30	Tea and Coffee Break
16:30-17:30	<p>Session 1 (continued)</p> <p><i>Christopher Bousquet</i>: The Gig Economy, De-Skilling, and Working-Class Loneliness</p>
17:45-19:00	Wine Reception
19:30	Conference Dinner
Thursday 5th September	
9:30-11:30	<p>Session 2</p> <p><i>Kristin Kauper</i>: Love, Actually? Rethinking Romantic Relationships from an Asexual and Aromantic Perspective</p> <p><i>Matthew Robson</i>: Relationships are not Unions</p>
11:30-12:00	Tea and Coffee Break (optional)
12:00-13:00	<p>Session 2 (continued)</p> <p><i>Brian Berkey and Kritika Maheshwari</i>: The Ethics of Partner Hiring in Academia</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch

14:00-16:00	<p>Session 3</p> <p><i>Perri Sriwannawit: Egalitarian Non-Monogamy</i></p> <p><i>Gah-Kai Leung: Reducing the Costs of Queer Flirting</i></p>
16:00-16:30	Tea and Coffee Break (optional)
16:30-17:30	<p>Session 3 (continued)</p> <p><i>Paloma Morales: What's Wrong with Being Lenient? Leniency, Personal Relationships, and the Value of Neededness</i></p>
<p>Friday 6th September</p>	
9:30-11:30	<p>Session 4</p> <p><i>Rhys Southan: A Future Without Families</i></p> <p><i>Lesley Jamieson: Fantasy, Conflict, and the Value of Non-Parental Love</i></p>
11:30-12:00	Tea and Coffee Break (optional)
12:00-13:00	<p>Session 4 (continued)</p> <p><i>Rebecca Wallbank: The Rationality of Emotions toward AI</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	<p>Session 5</p> <p><i>Andrée-Anne Cormier: Liberalism, Intimate Justice and the Aims of Relationships Education</i></p> <p><i>Megan Huang: Protection or Denial of Love: Cognitive Disability and Affective Injustice</i></p>
16:00-16:30	Tea and Coffee Break (optional)
16:30-17:30	<p>Session 5 (continued)</p> <p><i>Sumeet Patwardhan: Meddlesome Blame for Nonconsensual Sex</i></p>
17:30	End of Conference