

PROMISING IMAGES OF LOVE

Politics, Religion, Norms, and the Mediatisation of Weddings

Aula B di Filosofia, Via Garibaldi 20, Macerata

Seminar Programme (20 hours)

Concept of the seminar

The seminary consists of three two hours meetings (3 x 2 hours) and a two day conference (day 1: 8.5 hours ; day 2: 5.45 hours). The first meeting introduces to the topic of the conference and in the two meetings after the conference the students present their responses to one of the conference contributions.

Readings uploaded to teams channel

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a1FCqUc00yh8AHI4Mj5xFcNDDuT1fEiArqYW-tFtgIMs1%40thread.tacv2/General?groupId=1dae87aa-8883-4d11-9abe-d47ce9126624&tenantId=1aceb148-a22a-49fb-b0f8-18319c256a74>

Abstract

Weddings are one of the few *rites de passage* that are widely known in different cultures. Weddings are as diverse as each cultural context, they adapt to them, and transform over the course of time. The focus of the international conference “Promising Images of Love” is on the ways in which weddings mediate values that are often highly normative. Norms in this context are understood as guidelines to act by, which express specific values and justify normative acts. Values and norms in wedding practices are numerous, complex und interlinked on several levels notably social, political, cultural, historical, religious, and economic.

The seminar and the conference scrutinizes how wedding practices enclose and reshape different norms and values as well as stereotypes with the intent to highlight the performativity of their mediatisation. Mediatisation in the current approach is understood as the interaction between culture (including religion) and the media in a broad sense that comprises all kinds of artefacts of material and visual culture such as images, films, fashion, and architecture. Mediatisation describes the interaction of these two areas and how they adapt to and transform one other.

The following questions are central to the conference’s focus:

- Which norms and values form the basis of historical and contemporary wedding practices and representations?
- How is gender constructed in wedding practices?



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- Which social, political, cultural, religious, and economic norms and values are expressed in these representations and practices? How do they change adapt and transform over time?
- In what sense is the *rite de passage* a defining element of a wedding?
- How do wedding specialists and political-economic factors influence the performative dimensions of the *rite de passage*?
- What does the future of weddings look like?

Sessions

1 Session: Thursday October 5, 2023, 15.00–17.00

Introduction to cultural dimensions of weddings

- Presentation of programme
- Organisation
- Discussion of “Politics, Religion, Norms, and the Mediatisation of Weddings”

2 Session: Participation in international and interdisciplinary conference 12/13 October 2023

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Politics, Religion, Norms, and the Mediatisation of Weddings

Thursday 12 October, 2023, 9.00–19.00

I Thinking about Politics, Religion, Norms, and the Mediatisation of Weddings

Time	Subject	Speaker
09.00–09.30	Meet and Greet	
09.30–09.50	Welcome Adress	Prof. Dr. John F. McCourt, Rector, university of Macerata/IT Prof. Dr. Roberto Mancini, Head of department of philosophy, university of Macerata/IT



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09.50-10.00	Introduction	PD Dr. Marie-Therese Mäder, Macerata/IT
10.00-10.45	Pre-nuptial Rites in Ancient Greece. A few cases	Prof. Dr. Jessica Piccinini, Macerata/IT
15' Break		
11.00-11.45	Philosophical-Political Dimensions of Marriage as a State Institution	Prof. Dr. Carla Danani, Macerata/IT
5' Break		
11.50-12.35	Normative Discourses of Same Sex Marriage in Germany	Dr. Sabine Exner-Krikorian, Munich/GE
13.00 Lunch		

II Constructing Gender Identities in Wedding Practices

14.30-15.15	Visual Representations of Weddings in the Middle Ages. Reflections of legal, religious and cultural aspects	Dr. Jörg Wettlaufer, Göttingen/GE
5' Break		
15.20-16.05	Wedding, Marriage, Matrimony - Glimpses into Concepts and Images from a Church Historical Perspective.	MA Benedict Bauer, Bochum/GE
15' Break		
16.20-19.00	The Wedding Film: A Gender-Related Subgenre? Introduction, Film Screening, Discussion of ALI'S WEDDING (AUS, 2017, Jeffrey Walker, 110')	Prof. Dr. Daria Pezzoli-Olgiati, Munich/GE



Friday, October 13, 2023, 09.30–16.45

III Normative Wedding Practices

09.30–10.15	Doing Things with Words II. Reflections from a Master of Wedding Ceremony	Prof. Dr. Claudia Paganini, Munich/GE
15' Break		
10.30–11.15	Wedding photography as a cultural practice	Francesco Cardinali, photographer, Ancona/IT
15' Break		
11.30–12.15	Capturing the Most Beautiful Moment: The Mediatisation of Wedding Norms	PD Dr. Marie-Therese Mäder, Macerata/IT
12.30 Lunch		

IV The Future of Weddings

14.00–14.45	The Interreligious Architecture of Wedding Spaces	Prof. Dr. Mariateresa Giammetti, Napoli/IT
15' Break		
15.00–15.45	Weddings, Images, and AI	Prof. Dr. Emanuele Frontoni, Macerata/IT
15' Break		
16.00–16.45	Final Discussion and Outlook	PD Dr. Marie-Therese Mäder, Macerata/IT



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3 Session: Thursday November 2, 2023, 15.00–17.00

Presentations of responses to papers of the conference

Discussion of *ALI'S WEDDING* (AUS, 2017, Jeffrey Walker, 110')

4 Session: Thursday November 9, 2023, 15.00–17.00

Presentations of responses to papers of the conference

Suggested Readings

Engh, Line Cecilie. *The Symbolism of Marriage in Early Christianity and the Latin Middle Ages: Images, Impact, Cognition*. Amsterdam University Press, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9789048537150>.

Hefner, Veronica. „Tuning into fantasy: Motivations to view wedding television and associated romantic beliefs“. *Psychology of Popular Media Culture* 5, Nr. 4 (Oktober 2016): 307–23. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000079>.

Ingraham, Chrys. *White Weddings Romancing Heterosexuality in Popular Culture*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2008.

Lister, Andrew. „Public Reason, Liberal Neutrality, and Marriage“. In *Beyond Same-Sex Marriage: Perspectives on Marital Possibilities*, Ronald C. Den Otter, 103–28. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2016.

Moses, Julia. *Marriage, Law and Modernity: Global Histories*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.



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