

Postmodernism, Culture and Religion 3:

The Politics of Love

April 16–18, 2009

Syracuse Sheraton Conference Center.

Participants:

Jessica Benjamin (New York University)
Hent de Vries (Johns Hopkins University)
Michael Hardt (Duke University)
Amy Hollywood (Harvard University)
Jean-Luc Marion (University of Paris-Sorbonne & University of Chicago)
Ebrahim Moosa (Duke University)
Merold Westphal (Fordham University)
Slavoj Žižek (Birkbeck College, University of London)

The conference was inspired by the following passage from Hardt and Negri:

"People today seem unable to understand love as a political concept...The modern concept of love is almost exclusively limited to the bourgeois couple and the claustrophobic confines of the nuclear family. Love has become a strictly private affair. We need a more generous and more unrestrained conception of love. We need to recuperate the public and political conception of love common to premodern traditions. Christianity and Judaism, for example, both conceive love as a political act that constructs the multitude...There is really nothing necessarily metaphysical about the Christian and Judaic love of God: both God's love of humanity and humanity's love of God are expressed and incarnated in the common material political project of the multitude. We need to recover today this material and political sense of love, a love as strong as death. This does not mean you cannot love your spouse, your mother, and your child. It only means that your love does not end there, that love serves as the basis for our political projects in common and the construction of a new society. Without this love, we are nothing."

— Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri,

Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire
(New York: The Penguin Press, 2004), pp. 351-52.

The conference fee is waived for anyone with an SU ID.

Organizers: Linda Alcoff and Jack Caputo