



Center for Arab and
Middle Eastern Studies

مركز الدراسات العربية
ودراسات الشرق الأوسط



The Center for Arab & Middle Eastern Studies
American University of Beirut
The Institute Of Social Scienses -Lebanese University
The International Network For Arab Societies Study

Cordially invites you to a hybrid lecture

**Social Love and the critical potential of people.
When the social reality challenges the sociological imagination**

Talk is in English with a summary in Arabic - discussion in English and Arabic

Speakers

Silvia Cataldi

Associate Professor of sociology, Sapienza University of Rome

Gennaro Iorio

Professor of sociology, University of Salerno

Tuesday April 5 | 1-3 PM (GMT2+)

IFI Seminar Room- 4th floor (Green Oval), AUB

Attendance on campus is restricted to those who are vaccinated or have a recent PCR test

You can also join us on this Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91896461387?pwd=Q0FFbCtOOWhidFJGY1FQTHhRVHhwUT09>

Meeting ID: 918 9646 1387

Passcode: 797353

Abstract

For a long time, love has been confined to the private sphere and its social dimension has been overlooked. Instead, love is a force capable of generating social bonds and change in human sociability. While classical sociologists, such as Simmel, Weber and Sorokin supported this idea, sociological schools of thought have long relegated this topic to the intimate and pre-social sphere. Nevertheless, in the last decades contemporary sociological theory and scholars have re-evaluated love as an essential element of public life.

Adopting a sociological perspective, the seminar will be structured in two parts. The first part unveils the concept of social love as a kind of 'Karst River' that flows through the history of sociology, reassessing it as a form criticism by social actors of everyday life. Breaking the logic of instrumentality, calculation and standardization, love enables people to enter in a regime of overabundance which recognizes the irreducibility of the other. In this sense it can be a key element in the promotion of solidarity and recognition in current plural and unequal societies. The second part of the seminar will be devoted to show the results of empirical studies on social love, such as case studies, survey, and also the construction of an innovative World Love Index which aims to measure the level of unconditionality and overabounding present in different countries around the world.

Silvia Cataldi is Associate Professor of sociology at the Department of Psychology of Development and Socialization Processes of Sapienza University of Rome (Italy). Since her PhD, she teaches sociology and research methods at bachelor's and master's degree courses and doctoral school. Her research focuses on methodological aspects of social research, emerging cultural and social identity models, being involved in many European projects. She is board member of the European Sociological Association 20RN Qualitative Methods, and the coordinator of the international research network Social-One. Among her publications she co-edited with Gennaro Iorio two books on social love: *Love at the time of accounting* (2015) and *Culture of Peace* (2016).

Gennaro Iorio is Professor of sociology. He is Director of Department of Political and Social Studies of the University of Salerno (Italy). Expert in the history of sociological thought, he teaches sociology of innovation, common goods, and sustainable development goals at bachelor's and master's degree courses and doctoral school. His research projects include urban resilience and prosociality, empathy between sociology and neuroscience, north-south inequalities and social innovation. For almost twenty years he has been studying social love and has published the first avant-garde books on the subject, such as *Sociology of Love* (2015) now published in three languages: Italian, English and Portuguese.

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