Towards a Dynamic Systems Approach to Love

Date: April 13, 2011 (Wednesday)
Time: 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 624, Knowles Building, HKU
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The topic of love has puzzled philosophers, poets, writers, laymen, and scientists alike for centuries. Within psychology, numerous models have been proposed to understand love, with the bulk focusing on romantic love; however, some research suggests that romantic love is just part of much larger tapestry of love. Building upon theory from the social, developmental, and cognitive psychological traditions, I propose a dynamic systems approach to love. Through such an approach, the variable, dynamic, and multi-faceted nature of love across domains can be contextualized and understood along universal principles. Two studies are presented that used daily experience methodology to investigate people’s love priorities and experiences of 12 different types of love in the United States and Hong Kong.