

Marriage in Premodern Imagination

Art, Gender & Cultural History of an Institution and a Sacrament

Summer School



**AUG 31st - SEPT 4th
2026**

(Mon-Wed & Fri)
Universität Potsdam
Haus 8 : R. 0.56

(Thursday)
**Bode Museum &
Schloss Charlottenburg**
Berlin

Programme

REPRESENTATION

Monday 31st August

Universität Potsdam

9:00 - Welcome & Arrival (Alysée LE DRUILLENEC & Monett REISSIG)

Neues Palais Potsdam

10:00 - Jürgen LUH (RECS): Welcome to Potsdam Palaces and
Gardens & tour with Franziska WINDT (SPSG) : *Guido Reni, Lucca
Giordani and Artemisia Gentileschi on Marriage*

12:00 - LUNCH



REPRESENTATION

Monday 31st August

Universität Potsdam

- 14:00 - Alysée LE DRUILLENEC & Monett REIBIG:
Marrying Methodologies = Productive Unions? Mapping Bonds and Boundaries in Interdisciplinary Cultural History

TRANSLATION

Tuesday 1st September

Universität Potsdam

- 9:00 - Alysée LE DRUILLENEC (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne): *Beatus Hermann-Joseph Christophorus, First Example of Mystical Marriage*
- 10:00 - Martin LOTTERMOSER (TU Dresden): *At Table with Christ. Orthodoxy, Art Patronage and the Ambition of the Cuccina Family for Social Advancement in Veronese's Wedding at Cana*
- 11:00 - Adriana CEKIC (HU Berlin): *Divine Union. Christian and Gnostic Interpretations of Marriage between the Old and New Testament*
- 12:00 - Katherine APOSTOLACUS (Villanova University): *Marriage. Natural Sacrament*
- 13:00 - LUNCH BREAK

Marmorpalais Potsdam

- 14:30 - Curator-Led Tour with Matthias SIMMICH (SPSG)

NEGOTIATION

Wednesday 2nd September

Sanssouci Gardens, Potsdam

- 10:00 - Curator-led Tour with Steffen TERVOOREN (SPSG)
- 12:30 - LUNCH BREAK

Universität POTSDAM

- 14:00 - Monett REIBIG (Europa-Universität, Viadrina): *Princely Spouses in the 'Mirror': Beauty, Marital Cohesion and Dynastic Fortune in Early Modern Spiegelliteratur*
- 15:00 - Pascal FIRGES (Universität Basel): *French Affairs? Marriage, Mistresses, and the Court Society in Early Modern Imagination*



16:00 – COFFEE BREAK

16:30 - Saskia JORDAN (London Courtauld Institute of Art): *In the Middle of the Trousseau: the Christ Child Statue as a Site of Female Agency in Renaissance Marriage*

17:30 - Alix BUISSET (Université Libre de Bruxelles): *Princely Widows as Cultural Agents. Margaret of Austria, Regent, and Art Patron in Savoy around 1500*

MEDIATION

Thursday, 3rd September

Bode Museum, Berlin

10:00 – Curator-Led Tour with Alexander RÖSTEL (Bode Museum)

12:30 – LUNCH BREAK

Schloss Charlottenburg, Berlin

14:00 – Curator-Led Tour with Jürgen LUH (RECS) & Theresa KHAN (Universität Potsdam)

INTEGRATION

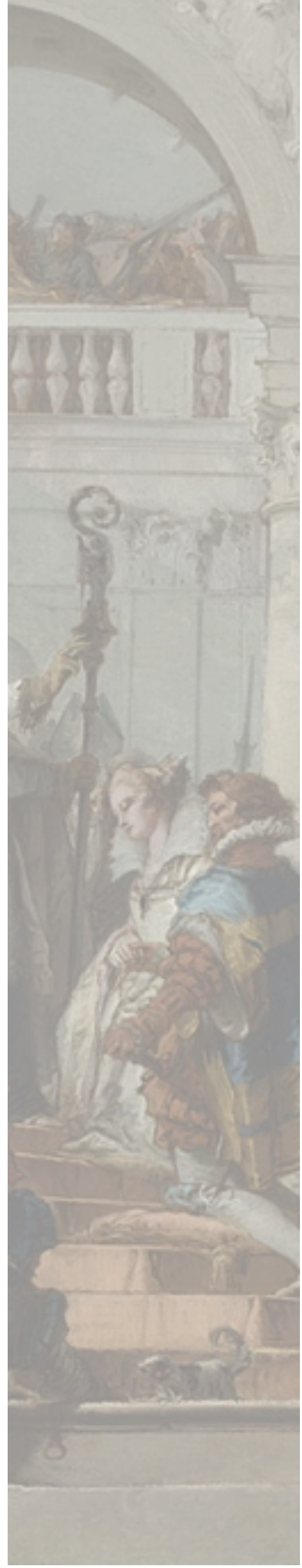
Friday, 4th September

Neues Palais, Potsdam

10:00 – Concluding tour and discussion with Jürgen LUH (SPSG): *The Palace as a Guest House*

Old Palace and Humboldt-Forum Berlin

12:00 – *The Old Craft's Last Tour?* Farewell visit and tour on the Dome of the Berlin Palace / Humboldt Forum with Jenny MEIER (HU Berlin) & Martin VON BÜLOW (Universität für angewandte Kunst, Wien)



Marriage in Premodern Imagination : Art, Cultural & Gender History of an Institution and a Sacrament

Organized by Monett Reißig, Alysée Le Druillenec & Jürgen Luh

In premodern societies, marriage was central to religious, political, and social conflicts and subject to continuous transformation. As a key institution of social order, it regulated property and inheritance through family networks, structured kinship strategies, consolidated social status, and mediated access to resources.

The summer school marks the follow-up to the highly productive event held in Paris in September 2025. Thanks to the Potsdam Research Center Sanssouci's commitment to join our initiative, we are delighted to bring the initiative across the Rhine – both geographically and confessionally, to continue this fruitful exploration of marriage as a complex junction of theology, law, art, and social practice in early modern Europe across the disciplines.

As joint initiative of the Department of Cultural History at the Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), the Art History Department at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and the Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten (SPSG), the event fosters a multidisciplinary approach from different profession areas, convening curators, historians, theologians, art historians, and art restorers. Examining marriage as both a theological construct and a socio-political institution between 1400 and 1800, we will explore how confessionalization and shifts in matrimonial regulation shaped Christian anthropology, legal norms, and cultural practices. A comparative perspective will shed light on specific developments of marriage within Catholic, Lutheran, and Reformed traditions, interrogating tensions between legal and theological norms and social realities. The exploration of nuptial traditions, cultures, rituals, and performativity will further open perspectives on matrimonial unions as means of dynastic consolidation and confessional negotiation.

Beyond its theological and institutional dimensions, marriage has historically operated as a structuring dispositive of social and sexual norms, defining gendered roles and disciplining desire. Drawing on gender studies, church history, theology, and intersectional historiography, the panels and workshops will particularly address gendered power structures and the regulation of bodies, offering new perspectives on marriage as a governing instrument – one assigning specific role to women and framing sexual practices within a broader logic of moral and social order.

The programme combines lectures, discussions, and site visits to locations of religious, artistic, and political significance. The event will be conducted in English, with French and German as auxiliary languages of work and mediation.

further information & registration: reissig@europa-uni.de

**Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Friday**

Universität Potsdam

Am Neuen Palais 10, 14469 Postdam
Conferences in Haus 8, R. 0.56

Thursday

Bode Museum

Am Kupfergraben (via Monbijoubücke)
10178 Berlin

Schloss Charlottenburg

Spandauer Damm 20-24, 14059 Berlin