

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. 0.58

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



Program

REPRESENTATION

Monday 31st August

Neues Palais, Potsdam

- 9:00 - Welcome & Arrival (Alysée LE DRUILLENEC & Monett REISSIG)
- 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*
- 12:30 - WELCOME LUNCH

Universität Potsdam

- 14:30 - Introduction: *Marrying Methodologies = Productive Unions? Mapping Bonds and Boundaries in Interdisciplinary Cultural History* (Alysée LE DRUILLENEC & Monett REISSIG)
- 15:30 - JENNY MEIER (HU Berlin) & KATHARINA MENDL (University of Applied Arts Vienna): *"Made from one mould..." Ties, Unity and Truth in the Practical Arts of Restoration and Conservation*



TRANSLATION

Tuesday 1st September

Universität Potsdam

- 09:00 - Katherine APOSTOLACUS (Villanova University): *Marriage. Natural Sacrament*
- 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 - 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*
- 12:00 - Alysée LE DRUILLENEC (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne): *Beatus Hermann-Joseph Christophorus, First Example of Mystical Marriage*
- 13:00 - LUNCHBREAK

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 - LUNCHBREAK

Universität POTSDAM

- 14:00 - Alix BUISSET (Université Libre de Bruxelles): *Princely Widows as Cultural Agents. Margaret of Austria, Regent, and Art Patron in Savoy around 1500*
- 15:00 - Pascal FIRGES (Universität Basel): *French Affairs? Marriage, Mistresses, and the Court Society in Early Modern Imagination*
- 16:00 - COFFEE BREAK
- 16:30 - Monett REIBIG (Europa-Universität, Viadrina): *Princely Spouses in the 'Mirror': Beauty, Marital Coherion and Dynastic Fortune in the European Spiegelliteratur*
- 17:30 - Eva SEEMANN (German Historical Institute Paris): *Brides for the Colonies. Migration Projects in the French Atlantic Colonies during the Early Modern Period*

MEDIATION

Thursday, 3rd September

Bode Museum, Berlin

- 10:00 - Curator-Led Tour with Alexander RÖSTEL (Bode Museum)
- 12:30 - LUNCHBREAK

Schloss Charlottenburg, Berlin

- 14:30 - Curator-Led Tour with Jürgen LUH (RECS) & Theresa KHAN (Universität Potsdam)

INTEGRATION

Friday, 4th September

Neues Palais, Potsdam

- 10:00 - Final conclusion with Jürgen LUH (SPSG): *The Palace as a Guest House*
- 12:30 - FAREWELL LUNCH



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 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.

contact: summerschool_marriage26@posteo.eu

**Monday, Tuesday
Wednesday & Friday**

Universität Potsdam

Am Neuen Palais 10, 14469 Postdam
Conferences in Haus 8, R. 0.58

Thursday

Bode Museum

Am Kupfergraben (via Monbijoubücke)
10178 Berlin

Schloss Charlottenburg

Spandauer Damm 20-24, 14059 Berlin



STIFTUNG
PREUSSISCHE SCHLÖSSER UND GÄRTEN
BERLIN-BRANDENBURG



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