

Desire is bound up with structural inequalities and normative violence. Even when it seeks to resist them, it keeps risking to reproduce hierarchies. While taking seriously the power analysis of desire, Engel, Govrin, and Holzhey have organized the lecture series 'Desire's Multiplicity and Serendipity' in order to explore the potentials and limits of desire as a transformative force. They propose to draw on theories asserting desire's multiplicity and to face desire's paradoxes by calling on serendipity, allowing for fortunate errands. Starting the conversation with their different understandings of serendipity and the politics of desire in psychic, social, and structural registers, they wish to engage in a discussion with the public: What are the potentials of happenstance and erring when trying to leave the dis/comfort zone of identity and normative forms of intimacy and sexuality? How can one find openings for queer reconceptualizations of desire?

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Desire, wandering about and forming assemblages, might be accompanied by serendipity or mate with jouissance or the power of the erotic, even as it fails to reach its presumed aim. Instead of running on a single track, we take desire to be functioning in a multiple manner. We call on desire's serendipity to grasp its illogical, contingent modes as a figure of fortunate errands. The lecture series **Desire's Multiplicity and Serendipity** looks for queer reconceptualizations of desire, its cultural articulations and lived realities. The key question is how to get from the critique of desire as a hierarchizing and normalizing force to the heterotopias of desire. What would it mean to understand or experience desire as opening up to alterity, undermining its own involvement in structural inequalities and normative violence?

The Lecture Series **Desire's Multiplicity and Serendipity** is a cooperation between the **Institute for Queer Theory** and the **ICI Berlin**.

DESIRE CONSERVES DESIRE TRANSGRESSES DESIRE

ROUNDTABLE ON THE PARADOXICAL
POLITICS OF DESIRE

WITH A. ENGEL, J. J. GOVRIN,
AND C. HOLZHEY

