

Does sex have any erotic purpose? The greatest philosophers of classical antiquity said no. Halperin examines one of their arguments, which offers a serious challenge to modern interpretations of love, including but not limited to psychoanalytic interpretations, that understand love in sexual terms and that view all erotic desire as an expression of sexuality. He also considers some contemporary gay male writing, which he reads as a singular effort to work through the confusions and the anguish that the modern sexualization of erotic desire has bequeathed to us.

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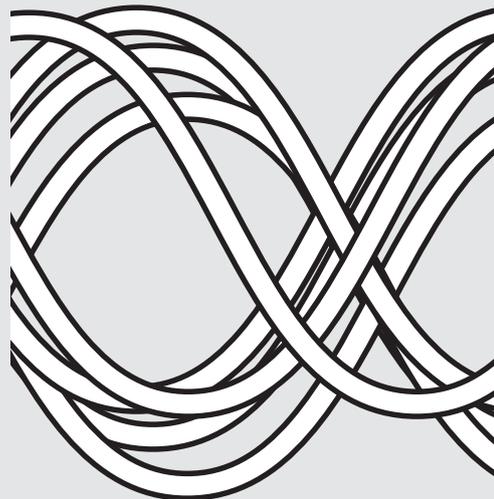
Desire, wandering about and forming assemblages, might be accompanied by serendipity or mate with jouissance or the power of the erotic, even as it fails to reach its presumed aim. Instead of running on a single track, we take desire to be functioning in a multiple manner. We call on desire's serendipity 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**.

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