

**45th Lecture at the Gramsci Monument, The Bronx, NYC: 14th August 2013**  
**ROMANTIC SHIT**  
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1. Stendhal insists that every woman "starting with the first novel she clandestinely flips open at age fifteen, secretly waits for passionate love"<sup>1</sup> (which should not make us believe that a man is less receptive for romantic love).
2. Ulrich Beck has characterised (the addiction to) love, which he calls the "fundamentalism of modernity", as "religion after religion" and "applied reading of novels".<sup>2</sup>
3. In fact, real love goes hand in hand with a resistance to the romantic convention, which demands quasi-religious contempt of the world from the lovers.
4. This is why Alain Badiou insists that love - instead of being just the experience of the other - is the experience of the world under the conditions of the duality constituted by the encounter.<sup>3</sup>
5. To separate oneself from the "rest of the world" seems to be a constitutive need of the romantic feeling.<sup>4</sup>
6. In order not to indulge in narcissistic world-contempt, the lovers have to claim their singularity in the here and now of a reality, which incessantly endangers this very singularity.
7. Love is aporetic because it exposes the lovers to the conflict of singularity and universality, without the promise of resolvability.
8. Translated into a Baudrillard paraphrase this means: every love which deserves this name loses itself in the universal.<sup>5</sup>

9. As much as love can be defended in its singularity, it also has its share of structuring convention.
10. It articulates this conflict between convention and singularity.
11. The encounter of love is a creative act, because it cannot trust the overcome dispositives including the correlating phantasms.
12. In the conflict of reality and phantasm it is the manifestation of singular universality.

- 1 Stendhal, *Love*, London: Penguin Classics 2010. Translation translator's own.
- 2 Ulrich Beck & Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim, *Das ganz normale Chaos der Liebe*, Frankfurt a. M. 1990, p. 21, 250.
- 3 Alain Badiou, *Conditions*, trans. Steve Corcoran, New York: Continuum Books.
- 4 Vgl. Eva Illouz, *Consuming the Romantic Utopia. Love and the Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*, Berkeley: University of California Press 1997.
- 5 Jean Baudrillard, *Paroxysm. Interviews with Philippe Petit*, trans. Chris Turner, London: Verso Books 1998.