

Desiring Sex and Longing for Love: A Culture's Dilemma

Love

Prof. William Jankowiak

17:30-19:00, 2nd June, 2014, Room 301, Building 10, Sophia University

“No culture is ever completely successful, or satisfied, with its synthesis or reconciliation of love and sex, though every culture is compelled to attempt one. No matter how socially humane, politically enlightened, spiritually attuned or technologically adapted, failure is the name of the game. Dissatisfaction to some degree is everywhere, since societies rarely, if ever, can have both. Its dissonance sounds in all spheres of culture.

Evolutionary theory is relentless in documenting the sex link differences in erotic perception and behavior, while virtually silent in its examination of emotional intimacy. In this talk I will explore the human pair bond from the other side of the equation - emotional intimacy. Specifically I will argue that the love in all its variations has a consistent theme: it is dyadic or it is nothing. Moreover, the universality of the human pair bond is evident in the rise of favorite wife or husband in polygynous family systems. This strongly suggests that humans are more emotionally monogamous than they are sexually monogamous. The talk will provide numerous examples of how different cultures and personalities have strived to contend with the dueling forces of love and sex.”

William Jankowiak is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is author of *Sex, Death and Hierarchy in a Chinese City: An Anthropological Account* (1993) and editor of *Romantic Passion: A Universal Experience?* (1995), *Intimacies: Between Love and Sex* (2008), (with Dan Bradburd) *Stimulating Trade: Drugs, Labor and Expansion* (2003), and (with Jiemin Bao) *Polygynous Societies Around the Globe*.

In addition to numerous academic publications on Chinese society and cross-cultural topics, he has written for “The World and I” and “Natural History” and has given interviews to Time, Newsweek, ABC Primetime, History Channel, Sister Wives, and other popular media. His current research projects include an ethnography of a Mormon Polygamous community and a restudy of Hohhot, Inner Mongolia. (<http://2hzaurtpu.site.aplus.net/faculty07.asp>)

Lecture in English / No prior registration necessary