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UNIVERSITÄT
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SEIT 1386

**Revolutionary Love:
Reading Alexandra Kollontai, Rosa Luxemburg and Hannah Arendt**

Dr. Agnieszka Gratza

21 – 22 November 2018

Open to PhD candidates from all disciplines, this interdisciplinary seminar will explore writings by three women – Alexandra Kollontai, Rosa Luxemburg and Hannah Arendt – who held unconventional views about love, sexuality, marriage, women's rights, and lived their lives accordingly. Hailing respectively from Russia and Poland, Kollontai (1872-1952) and Luxemburg (1871-1919) were contemporaries and Marxist revolutionaries, but whereas the former lived to a ripe old age, much of it spent in diplomatic exile in Scandinavia, the latter was assassinated in Berlin (the centenary of her death falls early next year). Although not a revolutionary herself, the German-born Arendt (1906-1975) wrote *On Revolution* (1963), a book contrasting the French and American revolutions; her doctoral dissertation, which she completed at the Heidelberg University in 1929, examined the concept of love in the thought of Saint Augustin. Over the course of three half-day sessions we shall read together, out loud, excerpts from letters, novels, theoretical writings and philosophical essays written by each of these figures, and use them as a starting point for a conversation weaving together the proposed themes.

DR. AGNIESZKA GRATZA is a writer and critic whose writings about art, performance and film have appeared in international newspapers, specialist magazines and journals, including *frieze*, *Artforum*, *Flash Art*, *Sight & Sound*, the *Guardian* and the *Financial Times*. She came to cultural journalism from an academic background that encouraged comparative and interdisciplinary approaches. After completing a doctoral thesis on paradoxes in the late Renaissance disciplines (theology, medicine, law, natural and 'practical' philosophy) in Oxford, she was a research fellow at Magdalen College and lecturer in French at the University of Edinburgh and Queen Mary, London. Her more creative writing often stems from live art and performance: in the context of various residencies, she has experimented with dream recall and sustained attention exercises, hosted reading-drinking salons, and made edible artworks using saffron. More recently, she has been exploring swimming as a species of meditation and an aesthetic pursuit.

Course times: 21.11.2018 (10 am – 4.30 pm)

and 22.11.2018 (10 am – 12.30 pm)

Location: to be announced.

Max. 11 participants. Please sign up via email: astrid.wind@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de