

Ethnography of Love

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How is contemporary attraction organized?

The answer can be found in personal characteristics such as lust, illusion, fear, greed and trust. When two sets of characteristics intertwine in an intimate relationship, the result is a new typology of love, deeply rooted in realism, materialism and reproduction of past experiences with a new partner.

In the study the process of dating - engagement - marriage - child – took a toll on the emotional closeness of the couple. The process was overvalued while building up closeness undervalued. The more unexpressed words there were, the more distance the partners felt. Those who drew their attention from the public process into their private exchange of experiences, had more satisfactory relationships. Those loyal to the process had lasting yet often unsatisfactory relationships. A three year longitudinal study combines in depth interviews of 50 young adults in Finland, and ethnography of love in an urban setting.