

"How Romantic Love Changes Us"

Ethel Spector Person
Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Columbia University

Thursday, February 11, 1999
4:10 p.m. Calhoun 109

When we think of romantic love we range from idealizing it to feeling downright hostility. In this, we reflect our cultures' preoccupations and prejudices. But, what is overlooked is that romantic love is more often than not an agent of change. Falling in love plays a critical role in the development of the self and in psychological growth. Despite the legitimacy of some of the critiques of love, a brief can and should be made for romantic passion and love.

-Ethel Spector Person

The 1997/98 Warren Center Fellows Program is sponsoring a public lecture on Thursday, February 11, 1999 at 4:10 p.m. in 109 Calhoun by Professor Ethel Spector Person. The lecture is entitled "How Romantic Love Changes Us." Professor Person is a well-known clinician and psychoanalytic educator who is Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytical Training and Research, where she was the Director from 1981 until 1991. She is a Vice-President of the International Psychoanalytic Society.

Professor Person is the author or editor of eight books and over sixty articles. She is best known for her research on sex and gender, her papers on women's issues and on love, and her work on the nature of fantasy. But her major contribution may well be her work on how the culture impacts on the psyche creating what she calls the cultural unconscious. Her recent books include The Sexual Century: Collected Papers on Sex and Gender (forthcoming, Yale University Press), By Force of Fantasy: How We Live our Lives (Basic Books, 1995), and Dreams of Love and Fateful Encounters: The Power of Romantic Love (1988, W.W. Norton).

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