

Int. Association of Word and Image Studies: Elective Affinities (Philadelphia, 23-27.9.2005)

Elective Affinities (Philadelphia, 23-27 September, 2005)

International Association of Word and Image Studies:
Elective Affinities

Location: Pennsylvania, United_States

Call for Papers Deadline: 2004-10-01 (in 27 days)

Call for Proposals

International Association of Word and Image Studies: Elective Affinities
Philadelphia, 23-27 September, 2005

The title of the conference has been borrowed from Goethe's 1809 novel *Elective Affinities*. There, the term "elective affinities" is the subject of an energetic debate. A chemical term that was in currency from the late eighteenth century, in the novel it extends to human relationships, both intimate and political. Since this is a novel that foregrounds "mixed media" such as tableaux vivants (i.e. dramatic performances of artworks) and the picturesque garden, the concept of "elective affinities" also has profound implications for the relationship between words and images. Like the alkalis and acids of which Goethe's characters speak, words and images, though apparently opposed, may have a remarkable affinity for one another. At the same time, as one of the protagonists objects, such affinities are problematic, and "are only really interesting when they bring about separations."

The conference will explore word/image interactions in literature and visual arts from a broad historical perspective, and in a variety of national traditions. Discussion will extend to fields such as Political Science, Religious Studies, and History of Science. Please see the conference website for a list of individual descriptions.

IAWIS invites submission of proposals for papers (250-300 words) to affinities@ccat.sas.upenn.edu

The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2004.

Please contact the organiser with any queries.

International Association of Word and Image Studies website:

<http://www.iawis.org>

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Reference:

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Arthist.net, Sep 5, 2004 (accessed May 11, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/26597>>.