



## Call for Contributions Aro/Ace

The second kuckuck issue of 2026 focuses on asexuality and aromanticism, inviting contributors to broaden the horizons of existing research within cultural anthropology on gender and sexuality to include aro/ace lives, thereby questioning normative understandings of and perspectives on relationships, cohabitation, love, intimacy, and sexuality. Despite increasing efforts in recent years by activists and academics to make aro/ace perspectives more visible, there are many remaining gaps, even within queer-feminist spaces.

The categories asexuality and aromanticism ought not to be understood as rigid or clearly demarcated, but rather as a spectrum consisting of varying and dynamic experiences. While asexual people experience little, infrequent or no sexual attraction, aromantic people experience little, infrequent or no romantic attraction. A person may feel sexual attraction but no romantic attraction; romantic attraction but no sexual attraction; or neither form of attraction to others. The A\*spectrum is diverse, yet romance and sexuality are usually thought of as a unit— aromantic “Aro” is treated as a subordinate component of “Ace” or asexual. Therefore, in this issue, we welcome contributions that deal with aromanticism as an independent phenomenon, as well as asexuality and thus critically examine social constructions of heteronormativity and amatonormativity in capitalist and patriarchal societies.

Against the backdrop of ongoing attacks by right-wing and authoritarian actors on queer people, gender studies, and queer anthropology, emerging aro/ace research has the potential to transform understandings of highly politicized topics – such as gender, intimacy, sexuality, the (nuclear) family, migration (rights of residence and family reunification), housing, care, reproduction, religion, and medicine – thereby challenging associated hierarchies, power structures and discrimination.

We welcome contributions that address these topics from a perspective of engaged scholarship or an activist point of view, especially contributions which take into account intersectional concerns; as well as contributions that provide historical, theoretical, and experiential insights into related topics not mentioned here:

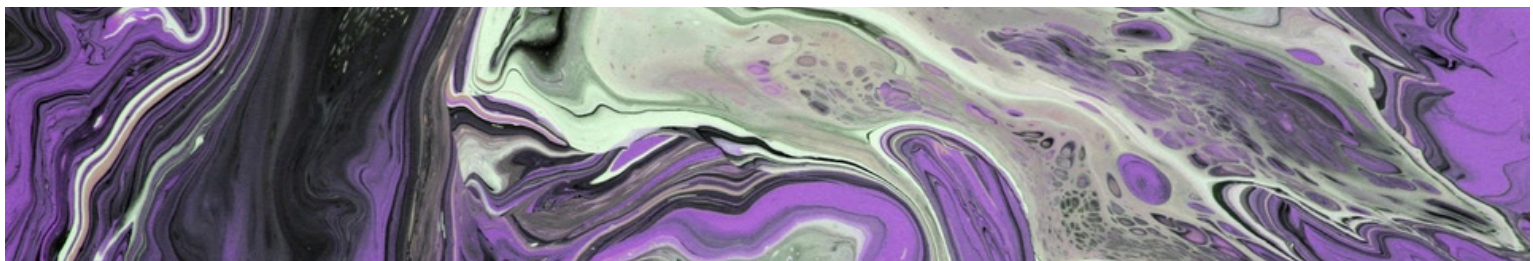
- How do people live aromanticism/asexuality? What forms of relationships exist beyond romantic and sexual intimacy? What social status do they have? How can hierarchies that prioritize romantic/sexual relationships be negotiated, criticized, transformed or abolished?
- How do negotiations of consent, embodiment, closeness, passion and connection take place in everyday aro/ace life?
- What mechanisms of solidarity, in- and exclusion arise within LGBTQIA\* communities and beyond?
- How (a)political are aro/ace lives? What (radical) potential do aro/ace perspectives hold for the study of relationships, cohabitation, gender and sexuality?
- How are asexual and aromantic economies practiced? How can aro/ace-friendly spaces and societies emerge?
- How does amatonormativity solidify and legitimise social and legal discrimination?
- How do aro/ace lives become visible? How are they represented in art, media, popular culture? What symbols do aro/ace discourses employ?
- Which historical approaches to the topics of asexuality and aromanticism exist? Which work is being done with historical materials and archives?

We look forward to receiving **abstracts, ideas and proposals of 150 words** for empirical, conceptual, essayistic, activist and/or artistic contributions as well as a short **biographical note** from the contributor(s) by **February 22nd 2026**, addressed to: [isabella.hesse@univie.ac.at](mailto:isabella.hesse@univie.ac.at), [christina.sternisa@uni-graz.at](mailto:christina.sternisa@uni-graz.at), [tabea.soeregi@uni-graz.at](mailto:tabea.soeregi@uni-graz.at).

The deadline for full submissions is August 2nd, 2026. Contributions should be no longer than 20,000 characters including all references and will go through a collaborative editing process by the kuckuck editorial team.

Further information for authors can be found on the website:  
[https://www.kuckucknotizen.at/kuckuck/index.php/en/preview\\_en/119-info\\_author\\_en](https://www.kuckucknotizen.at/kuckuck/index.php/en/preview_en/119-info_author_en)

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