International Association for Relationship Research

# Early Career Research Grants to Advance the Science of Love, 2027-2028

The Love Consortium is pleased to announce a competition to fund innovative research on foundational questions about love. This call for proposals is supported by a broader initiative that seeks to understand whether and how love may serve as the basis for ethical behavior and decision-making processes across ages, relationship types, groups, and geographies.

## Areas of Funding

The purpose of the award is to assist early career scholars with costs associated with conducting collaborative and groundbreaking research on love. We recognize that scholars approach the construct of love from many different perspectives and definitions. You may study love as a discrete emotion, a behavior (or set of behaviors), or a virtue, to list a few possibilities.

Whichever perspective you take, the focus should be on the construct of love, operationalized in a way the researcher can measure, observe or manipulate in their research. We do not adopt a single definition because establishing what love is remains part of the empirical work that needs to be done, and a researcher may make the case that an existing measure (e.g., for secondary data analysis) represents the construct of love.

We are particularly invested in fundamental research that would illuminate the role of love in caring connections across relationship types and across the developmental trajectory. It is our belief that such research will lend itself best to deepening our understanding of love in general as well as its ethical implications more specifically.

Deadline to submit: January 15, 2027
Decisions announced by: February 12, 2027
Funding period: May 2027 - April 2028

The Love Consortium intends to award multiple grants of up to $20,000 USD in May 2027. Awardees will be expected to submit quarterly reports of their progress, publish at least one peer-reviewed paper within three years of their funding period, and present their work at an in-person TLC conference in North Carolina in mid-2028 (expenses paid by TLC, separate from the grant itself; some well-reasoned exceptions may apply) and at least one other major disciplinary conference or workshop.

More information about the RFP, including how to apply, can be found here: https://www.theloveconsortium.org/grants.