

# FIRE-TENDING: a Holistic Research Exploratorium

Love-Studies Spring Research Semester, 2022 : Love as Fire

FIRE-TENDING is a holistic research exploratorium at La SOURCE Center for Research & Creation.

This spring, we will explore the element of Fire as our 'resident expert' in Love-Studies through collective, intensive, and immersive research with our heads, hearts, and hands.

This is an OPEN CALL for curious, open-minded, depth-seeking, reflective individuals. Lovers of sincerity. Courageous change-makers. Passionate LISTENERS. All persons, of any background, committed to asking powerful, challenging, inspiring, and provocative questions about love - and also people ready to welcome the compassion that is required to carry harmony during the exploration of those questions.

We believe that fostering the many complex and necessary changes in our society will be powerfully served by digging deep into what love means - in belief, in word, in speech and in action - and in its multitude of expressions.

Fire will be our guide in this exploration.

This Spring, come CREATE, SHARE, and LEARN. Together.

For more information about the center, visit [www.la-source.org](http://www.la-source.org)

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\* Required

## 1. Email \*

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### WHAT is La SOURCE Center for Research & Creation?

The first international and interdisciplinary love-studies research center.  
Founded in February of 2021 - in Saint Thégonnec, France (northwest Brittany).  
Coordinated by Elise Goldstein, Remi Confida, Windika Lemerancier & Virginie Michel.

### ...and WHAT are we creating together?

A BOOK! this semester will result in the publication of a Co-Created Book investigating LOVE as it can be understood through fostering FIRE - with our hands (physically & experientially), our hearts (intuitively & relationally), and our heads (analytically & symbolically).

Yes, that's right. This spring YOU could help co-author a wildly inspiring book in the emergent field of Love-Studies.

## ...and WHY fire?

Fire is the primordial gathering place - what better subject could we choose to begin our adventure into collective Love-Studies Research?

Since the beginning, people have come together around the fire for warmth, nourishment, storytelling, song, and for light in the darkness. After the Winter Solstice on December 21, the darkest day of the year, the light will slowly begin to come back. Let's welcome the light together, and learn more about Love through sharing space with Fire.



Introduction

Our little valley... an idyllic setting for Love-Studies Research.



## This all sounds great!...but HOW does all this look concretely?

...and HOW does that look concretely?

### WORKING with our HANDS

Cooperative Construction Projects (20 hours/week) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 8am - 1pm

### CONNECTING with our HEARTS

via tuning-circles, heartstorming sessions, workshops & collective practices (proposed by both coordinators & participants).

### REFLECTING with our HEADS

through collective brainstorming sessions, spontaneous interviews, & independent individual inquiry - always returning to the subject of Love, with Fire as our guide and teacher J all resulting in a co-created book on Love as Fire, to be published before end of Summer 2022.

Participants will have at least two full days and two additional afternoons completely off and unscheduled each week to make space for excursions, relaxation, and reconnection to nature or oneself. Exact workdays & times may fluctuate based on weather conditions. Additionally, participants are asked to assist with the daily life of the community - we all cook 1 collective dinner a week and assist in the cleanliness of shared spaces. This exploratorium is fully funded (if selected, participation is free of charge and includes food & lodging - following a similar exchange structure as WorkAway, WOOFing, or Volunteer-Tourism models).

...and WHO is this for?

8 - 10 RESEARCHERS = [4 coordinators] +  
[4 - 6 collective research participants]

...and Who are we looking for?

Any gender, age, & origin; diverse backgrounds, skills & talents; varied beliefs, practices & experiences...with a strong sense of respect, curiosity, openness, and an intense enjoyment in cooperative construction, connection & reflection.

...and WHERE does this happen?

La SOURCE Center of Research & Creation  
Saint Thégonnec, Brittany - France

...and WHEN? Spring 2022

Block 1 - Sunday Jan. 30 - Saturday Feb. 19

Block 2 - Sunday Mar. 6 - Saturday Mar. 26

Block 3 - Sunday Apr. 3 - Saturday Apr. 23

Participants will be accepted for only one block.

Application and Selection begin December 21, 2021.

If you are being seriously considered as a participant, we will contact you within a week of receiving your application for an interview.



## What is Holistic Research?

Based on the reflection of Satish Kumar in his lecture: Soil, Soul and Society - Holistic Education: Learning with Your Whole Being (available on youtube), we will explore love-studies together through:

OUR HEADS Reflection (putting our \*heads\* together to find insight, exchange ideas, and grow a deeper understanding on our shared subject of study: love)

OUR HEARTS Sharing (opening our \*hearts\* to share our own experiences with the group)

OUR HANDS Co-creation (the cooperative work of hands coming together to build and create)

This research exploratorium is also  
collective (working together),  
intensive (deep, sincere, and passionate), and  
immersive (all residents and coordinators stay on campus, sharing daily life).



## What kind of co-creation projects will I be contributing to?

Projects include:

- Building an outdoor wood-fired kitchen (with bread/pizza cob-oven, rocket stoves, mass-heater, etc.)
- Creating a fire-circle space for story-telling, music-making, and sun-gazing
- Installing a wood-fired sauna & botanical fire bath

... as well as other smaller, ongoing tasks & projects to support our human, animal, vegetal (and mineral!) community members.

AND, of course, the Co-Created BOOK on Love as Fire.

## ...and WHY Collective Construction?

Aside from the great satisfaction of watching the fruits of shared labor ripen into visible form - collective construction provides a ground for many important love-learning opportunities: skill-sharing, cultivating patience, communication, dedication, creativity, resilience, group problem solving, and much more.

As a methodology of research, spending time to create spaces that will hold and harness fire creates an opportunity to intimately understand the needs, behavior, and generosity of fire.

Love is deep, intangible, and vast. Fire is immediate, physical, and concrete - but it is also symbolic.

Constructing homes for fire creates a bridge, a concrete circumstance for asking larger questions about love through fire's intricate world of qualities & associations, for example:

- Does love purify and transform in the same way fire does?
- Fire needs oxygen and fuel to thrive; it breathes and eats - How does love breathe and what does love eat?
- Fire is dangerous if uncontained - is love? Fire creates and destroys - what does love create and destroy?

What do fire and love evoke for you?

## What is the application & selection process like?

Selection of researchers will be made through both the contents of this application and also zoom interviews with the coordination staff of La SOURCE.

Applications open December 21, 2021 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis - APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to ensure a greater likelihood of acceptance to the team.

If you are under consideration as a serious applicant, we will get back to you within 1 week of receiving your application. If you would like to arrive within 1 month from your date of application, please send an email directly to [info@la-source.org](mailto:info@la-source.org) with a subject line of: "SPRING PARTICIPANT APPLICATION - quick review for quick arrival"

## What are accommodations like?

Participants will be housed on campus - a 17th century flax farm that used to produce linen sails for the ships along the nearby coasts. The property itself has a lush and rich landscape - valley, rivers, forest and farmland (almost 5 hectares) - and is positioned between the Les Monts d'Arrée and the Celtic Sea.

As a community and project centered around love, we plan to work hard and play hard. Connection, fun, music, fire circles, foraging walks, game nights, film screenings, beach picnics, wild swimming and forest hikes are all part of the picture.

We are a bilingual project (English & French). We have a big focus on sustainability and ecological harmony (without sacrificing comfort, style, and enjoyment). The area is remarkably beautiful and wild. We have ocean, river and lake swimming nearby. Several small cities and many beautiful villages to explore.

Participants are housed in private or semi-private rooms (some have shared bathrooms) depending on needs and availability. Collective spaces include - the collective kitchen & dining room, the veranda, the library, Space & Time (a practice space for meditation, prayer, yoga, other personal practices and also workshops).

We have one space able to hold couples/families. If you are curious to participate as a couple or family, please include this as a note in your application with details.



For a deeper glimpse into our little campus and the surrounding area, visit for video: <https://vimeo.com/157438976>

2. Are you still with us? \*

Yes, yes, yes. We know it's a lot of reading - but it's really important we're all on the same page.

*Check all that apply.*

Yes, I have read all information written so far, and I understand fully the joyful and intense experience I'm inviting into my life.

You want MORE? Here's a source of inspiration for our Spring 2022 exploratorium - Holistic Education: Learning with Your Whole Being - by Satish Kumar (this is of course \*optional\* viewing, but could offer some insight)



[http://youtube.com/watch?](http://youtube.com/watch?v=nWo1k4jrbgk)

[v=nWo1k4jrbgk](http://youtube.com/watch?v=nWo1k4jrbgk)

Application  
for  
Participation  
as a  
Collective  
Researcher

We call our participants "researchers" because we believe that every being is an expert on love through their own experiences. We define researchers as 'people passionate about questions.' If you are motivated to create, listen, share, and discover - as far as we're concerned - you qualify.

3. Full Name \*

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4. Full Mailing/Residential Address (Street, City, Postal Code, Country) \*

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5. Phone number (with country code) \*

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6. Link to personal or professional projects :

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7. Which block are you applying for? \*

Participants will be accepted for only one block; having said that, feel free to select any blocks for which you might be available.

*Check all that apply.*

- Block 1 : Sunday, January 30 - Saturday, February 19, 2022
- Block 2 : Sunday, March 6 - Saturday, March 26, 2022
- Block 3 : Sunday, April 3 - Saturday, April 23, 2022

8. Reason for applying: \*

Give us an idea of your WHY.

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9. HANDS (what SKILLS or manual experience do you wish to share with the collective?) \*

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10. HEARTS (what personal QUALITIES or values do you wish to share with the collective?) \*

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11. HEADS (what INTERESTS, curiosities or questions do you wish to share with the collective?) \*

(Questions are the core of research. What questions do you have about love?)

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12. Practicalities (don't worry - none of these are 'make-it or break-it', they're just important for us to know for organizational purposes):

Please select all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

- I speak at least some French
- I am a native French speaker
- I speak at least some English
- I am a native English speaker
- I have a driver's license
- I plan to come with a car
- I have already experimented with living in community
- I have some experience working with my hands (in gardening, landscaping, construction, building, DIY, repairs, etc.)
- I have experience with self-development, growing awareness, conscious communication, or other forms of inner inquiry

13. There's a lot that we can't see from words on a screen. Please make us a video (approx. 2 - 5 minutes) of you sharing some thoughts about love - your experiences of love, your questions or curiosity about love, or anything else that will open our eyes to how love looks and feels in your world. Feel free, creative, and open. There is no right or wrong response. This video will not be shared and is for the coordinators only - to be sure that we assemble a harmonious team of researchers. \*

HOW?: Post the link to this video (youtube or vimeo) here. If you prefer to share the video via private message on FaceBook, send as message to us via: <https://www.facebook.com/LaSourceCRC/> (and write "facebook") on the line below.

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14. Anything else you want to let us know (wishes, needs, limits, worries, details - please include any physical or medical concerns as well):

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15. Please verify that you have read and agreed to both requirements (check box of each to signify agreement): \*

*Check all that apply.*

I understand and agree that as a collective researcher I will be required to work within a bilingual team, which will mean potentially working with translation-assistance.

I understand and agree that as a collective researcher I will be responsible for providing or organizing my own health and/or travel insurance and social security coverage.

I understand and agree that as a collective researcher I will be responsible for providing my own means of transportation to and from La SOURCE, and that food and lodging will be provided during my stay.

I understand that La SOURCE is a space for plurality and inclusion; I agree to be accepting and respectful of differences. (We welcome people of all backgrounds with the belief that human diversity is as necessary for society as bio-diversity is for an ecosystem. Diversity of belief is encouraged, and we do everything possible to respect and protect it.)

I understand that La SOURCE is gathering researchers in order to contribute to the co-creation of a book that will be circulated. Some of our brainstorming, heartstorms, circles and exchanges will be audio recorded and transcribed for this book. I am comfortable knowing that I will be a contributor to this book; that my ideas, words and insights will be printed, and that it will always be my choice to either be named or kept anonymous.

**We would LOVE your help in getting the word out there.**

If you know others who might be interested in applying, please send them this link:

<https://forms.gle/jYWS7nhUuQhtYVzWA>

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