Love and Morality

It is commonly thought that love and other affective personal connections are separate from, even in essential tension with, moral requirement, especially as Kantian moral theory understands it. I argue here that the supposed essential tension relies on a idea of love that is defective, or at the least, limited, and that on a more psychologically plausible account of love as a force in human development, the ability to love well and the capacity for moral agency depend on each other. This leads to some interesting ideas about the nature of our moral abilities and about the kind of sensitivity to our psychology a sensible moral theory will show.