

## ESOGEN SYMPOSIUM: ESOTERICISM, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

April 16, 2021, 9:00–18:30

Zoom

### 9.00–9.15 WORDS OF WELCOME

### 9.15–10.15 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Chair: Manon Hedenborg White (Södertörn University & University of Amsterdam)

*Christine Ferguson* (University of Stirling). “Rape, Reincarnation, and Cosmic Justice in the Woman’s Occult Romance.”

### 10.15–10.30 BREAK

### 10.30–11.30 BETWIXT, BETWEEN, AND BEYOND: FLUID, QUEER, AND TRANS IDENTITIES

Chair: Kateryna Zorya (Södertörn University)

*Stephanie Shea* (University of Amsterdam). “Exploring the Intersection of Other-than-Human Identities, Gender, and Esotericism.”

*Tove Ekholm-Meurling* (Stockholm University). “Queering the Esoteric: Contemporary Spiritual Strategies against Hetero-Cisnormativity.”

*Brennan Kettelle* (University of Amsterdam). “Beyond the Dark Feminine: Queering Lilith.”

### 11.30–11.45 BREAK

### 11.45–12.45 IN SEARCH OF A PERFECT BEING: ENGINEERING ESOTERIC SEXUALITIES

Chair: Karen Swartz (Åbo Akademi University)

*Fie S H Bakker* (University of Amsterdam). “Love Devoid of Ape-Like Nature: Sex and Diabolic Beasts.”

*John MacMurphy* (University of Amsterdam). “Sex as a Spiritual Practice in Jewish Kabbalah.”

*Jessica Albrecht* (University of Heidelberg). “Isis as Superwoman.”

## 12.45–13.45 LUNCH BREAK

### 13.45–15.05 FEMININITIES AND MASCULINITIES: IMAGINING OTHERS AND ALTERNATIVES

Chair: John MacMurphy (University of Amsterdam)

*Tommy Cowan* (University of Amsterdam). "Sex Enemies -- William Burroughs' Magical Misogyny and the Feminist Dilemma."

*Misha Kakabadze* (University of Amsterdam). "'Queen Bees' and 'Female Astronauts': The Role of Femininity in the Work and Thought of Joseph Beuys."

*Kateryna Zorya* (Södertörn University). "Taming the Runaway Monkey Mind: Gendered Esoteric Practices, Intellect and Happiness."

*Jessica De Fauwe* (University of Amsterdam). "Divine Feminism: Shakti Tantra as a Framework for Contemporary Feminism."

## 15.05–15.15 BREAK

### 15.15–16.15 TRADITION AND TRANSITION: FEMALE AGENCY AND CHANGING ESOTERIC MOVEMENTS

Chair: Stephanie Shea (University of Amsterdam)

*José Leitão* (University of Coimbra). "Gender Bending the Mage: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Portuguese Occult Publishing and the Rise of Female Occult Reading."

*Karen Swartz* (Åbo Academy University). "Women, Authority, and the Anthroposophical Society: The Case of Judith von Halle."

*Philip Deslippe* (University of California, Santa Barbara). "Demographics and Demonization: Women in the Early History of Yoga in America."

## 16.15–16.30 BREAK

### 16.30–17.10 LECTURE

Chair: Christine Ferguson (University of Stirling)

*Manon Hedenborg White* (Södertörn University & University of Amsterdam). "Accessing Female Authority: Women and Gender in Aleister Crowley's Thelema."

## 17.10–17.15 BREAK

### 17.15–17.50 LIGHTNING SESSION

Chair: T.B.A.

*Laura Faith Pramuk* (University of Amsterdam). "Immanent Flesh: Transgressive Corporeality in the Work of Ithell Colquhoun."

*Jayne Phillips* (Freie Universität Berlin). „Holy Heretics & Heathens in the Hills: Ecstatic Trance, Dance and the Feminisation of Magic in the Western Alpine Region of 15th Century Europe.”

*Richard Mason* (University of Amsterdam). “Houses of the Holy: A. E. Waite and his Notion of Secret Tradition.”

17.50–18.20 CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

18.20–18.30 CLOSING REMARKS