

Guest lecture by Dr. Joel Bordeaux

Taking the Left Hand Path to Tibet: Traditionalism, Tantric Buddhism, and the Question of Conversion in a Post-Satanist Milieu

8 July, 2021

15:00 — 16:00 (CEST)

Livestream from Amsterdam

Join us for a livestream lecture featuring Dr. Joel Bordeaux, research fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies at Leiden University. This is a hybrid event, partially taking place on site at VOX-POP in Amsterdam.

Registration is required. Registration for on-site attendance is no longer possible. To register for the livestream, please email hhpstudentassociation@gmail.com. You will receive a link on the day of the event.

About the lecture:

The Berlin-based Sethian Liberation Movement (SLM) is a self-consciously syncretic New Religious Movement combining Kemetic, Gnostic, and Tantric-inspired practices within the larger rubric of an antinomian, gynocentric ‘Left Hand Path.’ It began in 2002 as a splinter group from the Temple of Set, an occult order which itself broke from the Church of Satan almost 30 years earlier. Zeena Schreck (née LaVey) is the SLM’s High Priestess—a title she held in both of its predecessor organizations as well. At the same time she and her long-term collaborator/ex-husband Nikolas also present themselves as Buddhist teachers within the Tibetan tradition. Drawing on their published works and interviews, this presentation explores the mediating role ideas from the Traditionalist School, particularly the fascist mystic Julius Evola’s writings on Tantra, played in the Schrecks’ reorientation towards Buddhism and interrogates the utility of the concept of ‘conversion’ for understanding this phenomenon, as well as the implications for ‘Western Buddhism’ and ‘Western Esotericism’ as categories of analysis.

Bio:

Joel Bordeaux is a specialist in South Asian religions interested in how political authority, canonical works of literature, and esotericism mediate differences between communities. See his academic profile here: <https://www.iias.asia/profile/joel-bordeaux>

This event has been organized by the HHP Student Association and sponsored by the Center for the History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents (HHP) at the University of Amsterdam.