



FACULTEIT DER GEESTESWETENSCHAPPEN
*Afdeling Geschiedenis, Europese Studies &
Religiestudies*

**HISTORY OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY
AND RELATED CURRENTS**

REPORT 2021



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1. General overview

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a deep impact on the activities of the Centre in 2021, even if restrictions at the University of Amsterdam, and generally in the Netherlands, were relatively less strict than in other countries. In the first part of the year (second semester of 2020/2021) teaching was still given via online platforms, but in the second part (first semester of 2021/2022) practically all of it came back to the normal classroom and took place on location. This has sometimes generated extra work to adjust the format of teaching back and forth, but on the whole we can say that things went relatively smooth. On a positive note, our new staff members, Liana Saif and Dylan Burns, have started to teach their courses, and this has also proceeded quite smoothly. They both moved to Amsterdam and have adapted rather quickly to their new working environment. We are all impressed with the energy and commitment they have put into their new tasks. Another positive development is that the numbers of students attending courses taught by HHP staff members seem to be on the rise, so much so that in some cases not all students can be accommodated and some of them have to be put on waiting lists.

We continue to be active on online platforms and social media, and this is enhancing our visibility to increasingly larger, diverse publics. Ninian Nijhuis, responsible for our social media presence, has to be commended for all the work she has done in this respect. A less positive note concerns our website, which unfortunately has not been delivered within the delay anticipated by MIAX and is still not available at the time of writing (6 April 2022).

Our extracurricular activities, such as our Winter/Summer school have continued and have been quite successful. Christian Greer is still collaborating with us on them. They took place in an online format, but we expect to be able to offer an onsite version as well in the Summer of 2022. The HHP student association has also been quite active and has organised some interesting events, such as a lecture with Prof. Andreas Kilcher (ETH Zurich) in November 2021.



2. Staff

As mentioned above, our two new colleagues, Liana and Dylan, have joined us in the course of the year and have started to work with us (see their biographical profiles here below). We are very happy to have them with us and to see them complementing fruitfully our teaching programs and research projects. Apart from them, other persons have joined the group as well in the Autumn of 2021. They are two new PhD candidates, Dell J. Rose and Giulio Dalla Grana (see their bios below). Dell's project is externally funded and focuses on Swedenborgianism and politics in 19th-century Britain. Giulio's project is a joint doctorate involving our university and the University of Turin in Italy. The project focuses on the influence of the Polish mystic Andrzej Towiański on the social and religious landscape of Italy in the second half of the 19th century. Marco Pasi will act as a promotor for both projects, while Wouter Hanegraaff will act as co-supervisor for Dell's project.

In 2021, **Dylan Burns** (PhD, 2011) joined the Centre for the Study of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the University of Amsterdam as Assistant Professor in the History of Esotericism in the Late Antiquity. Dylan's work focuses on ancient Gnosticism, later Greek and early Christian philosophy, and Coptic and Syriac literature. He earned his B.A. (Religion, 2003) at Reed College (Portland, OR), and M.A. (Religious Studies, 2004, cum laude) from the Universiteit van Amsterdam (2004), before pursuing a Ph.D. at Yale University (Religious Studies, 2011). He served as postdoctoral researcher and teacher at the University of Copenhagen (2011–2013, Faculty of Theology), Leipzig University (2013–2015, Egyptology), and the Freie Universität Berlin (2015–2021, Egyptology). From 2013 to 2021, he was Office Manager of the Database and Dictionary of Greek Loanwords in Coptic (DDGLC) project. He is co-managing editor of *Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies* (Brill; 2018–present), and co-chair of the steering committee of the International Society of Biblical Literature's program unit "Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism" (2017–present; served as co-chair at the Annual Meeting 2012–17). Among his publications are: *Apocalypse of the Alien God: Platonism and the Exile of Sethian Gnosticism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014) and *New Antiquities: Transformations of Religion in the New Age and Beyond* (Equinox, 2019), and *Did God Care? Providence, Dualism, and Will in Later Greek and Early Christian Philosophy* (Brill, 2020).

In 2021, **Liana Saif** (PhD, 2012) joined the Centre for the Study of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the University of Amsterdam as Assistant Professor in the History of Esotericism in the Middle Ages. Prior, she was a research associate at the Warburg Institute and the Université Catholique de Louvain, and held the British Academy post-doctoral fellowship at The University of Oxford (St Cross). Saif's work focuses on Islamic esotericism and the occult sciences, with a special interest in the exchange of esoteric and occult knowledge between the Islamic and Latin ecumenes. Her book *The Arabic Influences on Early Modern Occult Philosophy* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2015. She is



currently preparing a long-awaited critical translation from Arabic into English of Maslama b. Qāsim al-Qurṭubī's (d. 964) Ghāyat al-ḥakīm, known in its Latin translation as the Picatrix. She has conducted research on the tenth-century secret brotherhood Ikhwān al-Ṣafā' (The Brethren of Purity), the pseudo-Aristotelian Hermetica, and Jābir ibn Ḥayyān (Geber in Latin). She also worked as a project curator at the British Museum, deepening her interest in the material and artistic manifestations of the occult and the esoteric.

D. J. Rose (1988) studied English, History, and Religion at King University (USA). He completed his MA in Folk Studies from Western Kentucky University in 2015 with a thesis entitled *Our Master's Legacy: Belief and Ritual in Mission De L'Esprit Saint*, about a new religious movement in Québec. His doctoral thesis is entitled "British Swedenborgianism and the Campaign for *Rational* reform in 19th century England: A consideration of Charles Augustus Tulk." It will run from 2022 to 2025, and will take place at the HHP center. This is an external project, funded by the Swedenborg Society (UK).

Giulio Dalla Grana (1991) is pursuing a joint-Ph.D. with the University of Turin (Department of Historical Studies) and the University of Amsterdam (Centre for the History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents). In 2019, he graduated in Political Sciences and International Studies in a double-degree program between the University of Padua and the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. His research interests are mainly focused on the relations between political power and religious authority on the one hand, and on the influence of esoteric traditions on political and religious thought on the other. His doctoral project will have a duration of three years, from October 2020 to December 2023. The project is funded by the University of Turin. His doctoral research is devoted to the Polish mystic Andrzej Towiański (1799-1878) and his Italian disciples. The project investigates the reception of Towiański's religious doctrine by the Roman Catholic Church, and the socio-political contribution of the Italian Towianists in the second half of the nineteenth century.



3. Teaching: courses and levels of participation

2020-2021, 1st semester, block 3

MA

Visions of the Occult, HHP Winter School, 18-29 January 2021 (M. Pasi, P.J. Forshaw, W.J. Hanegraaff, J.C. Greer, M. Hedenborg White). 22 students

2020-2021, 2nd semester, block 4-5

BA

Western Esotericism from the 18th to the 20th Century (M. Pasi). 22 students

MA

Occult Trajectories: Magic and Modernity (M. Pasi), 19 students.

Sufism, Islamic mysticism and Western esotericism (M. Pasi, in collaboration with R. van Leeuwen), 11 students.

2020-2021, 2nd semester, block 6

MA

Visions of the Occult, HHP Summer School, 28 June-9 July 2021 (M. Pasi, J.C. Greer, P.J. Forshaw, W.J. Hanegraaff, D.M. Burns, L.W.I. Saif). 24 students

2021-2022, 1st semester, block 1-2

BA

Secrets of the West 1: Culture and Counterculture before Modernity (W.J. Hanegraaff). 40 students

Secrets of the West 2: Counter and Counterculture in the Modern Period (W.J. Hanegraaff). 34 students

Ancient Mediterranean Esoteric Traditions (D.M. Burns). 18 students

Introduction to Medieval Esotericism (L.W.I. Saif). 24 students

Islam (L.W.I. Saif). 37 students

MA

Platonic Underworlds: Ancient Gnosticism (D.M. Burns). 22 students

Nature and the Supernatural (P.J. Forshaw). 20 students

Spirituality and Religion: Theories, Concepts, and Methods (W.J. Hanegraaff and



M. Pasi). 20 students

Introduction to Western Esotericism and Spirituality (W.J. Hanegraaff). 22 students

Islamic Esotericism and its Medieval Legacies (L.W.I. Saif). 16 students

Islamic Esotericism: From Sufism to the New Age (L.W.I. Saif). 5 students

Extracurricular Research Tutorial: Elementary Greek (D.M. Burns). 7 students.



4. Research

4.1. Research output (academic)

Dylan M. Burns

- “From the ‘Gnostic Dialogues’ to the ‘Apostolic Memoirs’: Literary and Historical Settings of the Nag Hammadi Apocalypses,” in: *Dreams, Visions, Imaginations: Jewish, Christian and Gnostic Views of the World to Come*, ed. by Jens Schröter, Tobias Nicklas, and Armand Puig i Tàrrach, Berlin - New York: De Gruyter, 2021, 341–382.
- “The Hermetic Asclepius’ Middle Platonist Teaching on Fate,” in: *Celebrating A. D. Nock: Choice, Change, and Conversion*, ed. by Robert Matthew Calhoun, James A. Kelhoffer, and Clare Rothschild, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021, 301–320.
- “The Philosophical Contexts of the Providence Doxographies in the Wisdom of Jesus Christ, Eugnostos, and the Tripartite Tractate,” in: *Texts in Context: Essays on Dating and Contextualising Christian Writings of the Second and Early Third Century*, ed. by Joseph Verheyden, Jens Schröter, and Tobias Nicklas, Leuven: Peeters, 2021, 251–271.
- “Providence and Evil,” in: *The Routledge Handbook of Early Christian Philosophy*, ed. by Mark J. Edwards, London: Routledge, 2021, 68–80.
- “Self-Begotten, Not Equal: The Pre-Existence of Christ and the Elect in the Apocryphon of John (NHC, II,1 and par.),” in: *Perspektiven zur Präexistenz im Frühjudentum und im frühen Christentum*, ed. by Jörg Frey, Ruth-Friederike Kunath, and Jens Schröter, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021, 263–280.
- “A New Volume of Perfect Words: M. David Litwa, *Hermetica II: The Excerpts of Stobaeus, Papyrus Fragments, and Ancient Testimonies in an English Translation with Notes and Introductions* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018),” review article in *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* 20:1 (2021), 271–278.
- Review of Jonathan Cahana-Blum, *Wrestling with Archons: Gnosticism as a Critical Theory of Culture*, 2019, in *Journal of Religion* 101:4 (2021), 536–538.
- Review of David Frankfurter, *Christianizing Egypt*, 2017, in *Vigiliae Christianae* 75:1 (2021), 104–112.

Peter J. Forshaw

- “A Necessary Conjunction: Cabala, Magic, and Alchemy in the Theosophy of Heinrich Khunrath (1560-1605)”, in *Innovation in Esotericism from the Renaissance to the Present*, ed. by Georgiana D. Hedesan and Tim Rudbøg, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, 97-134.

Wouter J. Hanegraaff

- Esoterismo Occidental: Guía para perplejos* (Spanish translation of *Western Esotericism: A*



Guide for the Perplexed), Sans Soleil Ediciones 2021.

“Carl August von Eschenmayer and the Somnambulic Soul,” in: Lukas K. Pokorny & Franz Winter (eds.), *The Occult Nineteenth Century: Roots, Developments, and Impact on the Modern World*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan 2021, 15-35.

Review of Antoine Faivre, *De Londres à Saint-Petersbourg: Carl Friedrich Tiemann (1743-1802) aux carrefours des courants illuministes et maçonniques*, in *Aries* 21:1 (2021), 156-158.

Review of Esteban Law, *Das Corpus Hermeticum – Wirkungsgeschichte: Transzendenz, Immanenz, Ethik*, in *Isis* 112:1 (2021), 179-180.

Mriganka Mukhopadhyay

“Occult’s First Foot Soldier in Bengal: Peary Chand Mitra and the Early Theosophical Movement” in: Lukas Pokorny and Franz Winter (eds.), *The Occult Nineteenth Century*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, 269-286.

Review of *The Oxford History of Hinduism: The Goddess*, ed. by Mandakranta Bose, 2018, in *Religious Studies Review* 47, no.4 (2021): 550-550.

Marco Pasi

“Aleister Crowley and Islam”, in: Mark Sedgwick and Francesco Piraino (eds.), *Esoteric Transfers and Constructions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, 151-193.

“The Art of Esoteric Posthumousness”, in: Lukas Pokorny and Franz Winter (eds.), *The Occult Nineteenth Century: Roots, Developments, and Impact on the Modern World*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, 159-176.

Liana Saif

“A Study on Ikhwān al-Ṣafā’s Epistle on Magic, the Longer Version (52b)”, in: Liana Saif, Francesca Leoni, Farouk Yahya and Matthew Melvin-Koushki (eds.), *Islamicate Occult Sciences: Theory and Practice*, Leiden: Brill, 2021, 162-206.

“Introduction”, in: Liana Saif, Francesca Leoni, Farouk Yahya and Matthew Melvin-Koushki (eds.), *Islamicate Occult Sciences: Theory and Practice*, Leiden: Brill, 2021, 1-42. In collaboration with Francesca Leoni.

“‘That I did love the Moor to live with him’: Islam in/and the Study of ‘Western Esotericism’”, in Egil Asprem and Julian Strube (eds.), *New Approaches to the Study of Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, 2021, 67-87.

“Preliminary Study of the Pseudo-Aristotelian Hermetica”, *Al-‘Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā* (Dec. 2021), 20-80.

Islamicate Occult Sciences: Theory and Practice, ed. in collaboration with Francesca Leoni, Farouk Yahya, and Matthew Melvin-Koushki, Leiden: Brill, 2021.



4.2 Other publications

Wouter J. Hanegraaff

“We Imagine Reality into Existence,” *Imagine* www.imaginezine.com

Marco Pasi

“Porsager Lea”, in: *Cosmos Emma Kunz. Eine Visionärin im Dialog mit zeitgenössischer Kunst - Emma Kunz Cosmos. A Visionary in Dialogue with Contemporary Art*, exhibition catalogue, ed. by Yasmin Afschar, Aargauer Kunsthau - Scheidegger & Spiess, Zürich, 2021, 173.

Hedvig Martin-Ahlén

“Spiritual Treasures in Finnish Art”, in: *Approaching Religion*, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2021: *Seekers of the Spiritual Art and Higher Wisdom: Encounters between Art and Esotericism*, 194-196.

5. Public activities

Dylan M. Burns

Interviews and Media Appearances

Interview at [‘Secret History of Western Esotericism’ podcast](#) (interviewer: Earl Fontainelle). Theme: “Providence, Fate, and Dualism in Antiquity”, 2021.

Conference Organization

Organizer (with Luciana Soares Santoprete, Eric Crégheur, George Kamanolis, and Anna van den Kerchove) of the workshop series “Les Platonismes de l’Antiquité tardive: interactions philosophiques et religieuses (Platonisms of Late Antiquity: Philosophical and Religious Interactions,” 2021.

Co-chair (with Prof. Hugo Lundhaug) of the Society of Biblical Literature’s International Meeting program unit “Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism,” 2021.

Invited Lectures

“Aeons, Fullnesses, and Lesser Gods,” collaborative lecture presented with George Karamanolis for the workshop series “Platonisms of Late Antiquity: Philosophical and Religious Interactions,” Paris, December 2021 (via Zoom).

“Which Gnostic Texts did Plotinus Know?” presented to the collaborative project “Platonisms of Late Antiquity: Philosophical and Religious Interactions,” presented to the conference “New Perspectives on the Enneads in the Light of the Debate between Plotinus and the Gnostics,” Paris, June 2021 (via Zoom).



“Gnosticism, Apocalypticism, and Dualism—One More Time,” presented to the eleventh Enoch Seminar, “Apocalypticism: History, Method, and Reception” at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich Congress on Apocalypticism in Antiquity, May 2021 (via Zoom).

“How Full is Your Pleroma? Fullness, Space, and Void in Gnostic Literature,” presented to the workshop “Neoplatonists, Their Contemporaries, and Science” at Utrecht University, March 2021 (via Zoom).

“The Throng of Books of Orpheus,” presented to the webinar “Esoteric Knowledge: Astronomy, Alchemy and Hermetica,” hosted by the Centre for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Oslo, Norway, January 2021.

Conference papers

“Philo of Alexandria’s Transformation of the Stoic Doctrine of Providence,” presented to the Society of Biblical Literature’s 2021 Annual Meeting Philo of Alexandria Seminar, November 2021 (via Zoom).

“Origen of Alexandria on the Oracle to Laius, or: if a god predicts you will do something really bad, is it your fault?,” presented to the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies in Athens, Greece, June 2021 (via Zoom). Revision of paper presented to the undergraduate senior symposium at Reed College, Portland, Oregon, October 2020 (via Zoom).

Giulio Dalla Grana

Conference papers

“Catholic Heterodoxy in Italy: The Case of Towianism”. 18th EASR conference, University of Pisa, 30 August – 03 September 2021.

“From Mazzini to Towiański: Affinities and Divergences of a Religious Revolution”. Conference “Towianizm: Fenomen i dziedzictwo”, University of Warsaw, 28-29 September 2021.

“Heresy, Sectarianism, Mysticism: Towianism and the Roman Catholic Church”. Conference “Katholische Esoterik”, University of Fribourg, 28-30 October 2021.

Peter J. Forshaw

Invited lectures

“The Mage's Images: Heinrich Khunrath's 'Wonder Book' and its Reception from the 17th Century to Modern 'Occulture',” online lecture, Embassy of the Free Mind, 20 May 2021.

“Early Alchemical Image Sequences and the Golden Age of Emblematic Alchemy”, Allard Pierson History of the Book Summer School, 29 July 2021.

“Jung, Alchemy and Psychology”, online Lecture, Philemon Foundation, 19 December 2021.



Media and online activities

Active with Instagram account @petrus.malus to help with HHP social media. (Currently 64,000 followers).

Other activities

Head of Ritman Research Institute: supervising students as Honorary Researchers and as Interns, working on grant application collaborations between HHP and EFM; collaborating on event organization (lectures, tours and exhibitions).

Wouter J. Hanegraaff

Invited lectures

“Imaginary Hermeticism and the Hermetic Imagination,” Winter Lecture Program *Forschungszentrum Gotha der Universität Erfurt*, Zoom, 18 February 2021.

“Reasonably Irrational: Theurgy and the Pathologization of Entheogenic Experience,” Center for the Study of World Religion, Harvard University, Lecture Series “Psychedelics and the Future of Religion,” Zoom, 22 March 2021.

“Final comments,” international workshop *The Fantastic Afterlives of the Holocaust*, Wiener Wiesenthal Institut für Holocaust Studies, Zoom, 16-18 June 2021.

“Noetic Enlightenment and Rebirth in Hermetic Spirituality,” International conference *Intentional Transformative Experiences: Theorizing Self-Cultivation in Religion and Philosophy*, University of Bern, Switzerland, 28 August 2021.

“The Hermetic Ascent to the Ogdoad and the Ennead,” Zoom Conference *The Theory and Practice of Cosmic Ascent: Comparative and Interdisciplinary Approaches*, Irish Research Council / Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland 10 September 2021.

“Hermetic Spirituality and the Historical Imagination,” Hybrid conference *Aegyptiaca Aeterna: Narratives, Topoi and Traces of Memory*, Carl Friedrich von Siemans Foundation, Munich, Germany, 20 September 2021.

“Esotericism and the Sacred after Modernity,” Seminar *Reflections on the Sacred*, Ax:son Johnson Foundation, Sweden, 26 November 2021.

John MacMurphy

Conference papers

“Sex as a Spiritual Practice in Jewish Kabbalah”. SOGEN Symposium, *Esotericism, Gender, and Sexuality*, April 16, 2021, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

“PhD applications and positions” workshop for MA students from the Religious Studies and Western Esotericism program. Hosted by Ulrike Popp-Bair, University of Amsterdam. March 25, 2021.



Hedvig Martin-Ahlén

Invited lecture

“Hilma af Klint and the Problem of Abstract Art”, in: *Mystics and Visionaries: Art and Other Ways of Knowing*, September 2021, Pennsylvania University.

Interviews and Media Appearances

“Myter om Hilma af Klint fortsätter att spridas”, interview, *Dagens Nyheter*, 3-11-2021.

“Myter och verklighet i berättelsen om Hilma af Klint med Hedvig Martin-Ahlén”, podcast, *Stolpe Stories*, October 2021.

“Tänka mot strömmen: Hilma af Klint – Konstnär och medium”, radio-interview, *Sveriges Radio Bildningsbyrå*, June 2021.

Mriganka Mukhopadhyay

Conference organization

Organisational and technical support to NGG (Association for the Study of Religion in the Netherlands) Conference, University of Amsterdam, November 2021.

Organised three panels for the OSAN session at the EASAS conference, University of Vienna, 29 July-1 August 2021.

Participated in various activities of HHP Student Association including PhD Applications Workshop for MA students, February 2021.

Invited Lecture

“Translation, Theosophy, and Global History of Religion”, Department of Religious Studies, University of Vienna, May 20, 2021.

Conference paper

“Despatialization: Offering a New Theoretical Approach for Understanding Occult South Asia”, 26th European Conference of South Asian Studies (ECSAS), University of Vienna, July 2021.

Media and online activities

“Voices from Within”, Part 1 and Part 2, Rejected Religion Podcast, September 2021. URL Part 1: <https://rejected-religion-introductory-episode-1-what-do-i-mean-by.simplecast.com/episodes/rr-pod-e15-p1-mriganka-mukhopadhyay-voices-from-within-an-indian-perspective-on-the-theosophical-society-in-19th-c-calcutta>

URL Part 2: <https://rejected-religion-introductory-episode-1-what-do-i-mean-by.simplecast.com/episodes/rr-pod-e15-p2-mriganka-mukhopadhyay-voices-from-within-an-indian-perspective-on-the-theosophical-society-in-19th-c-calcutta>

“Teaching Theosophy as a University Curriculum”, Video lecture recorded at the



European School of Theosophy, August 2, 2021. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q128MBy4KL0v>

Marco Pasi

Conference Organization

Organisation of the international conference “Religious Dimensions of Nationalism: Interdisciplinary Perspectives”, Cini Foundation, Venice, 21-23 October 2021. In collaboration with Joep Leerssen and Francesco Piraino.

Organisation of the panel “Resilient Esotericism”, for the 18th EASR conference, University of Pisa, 30 August – 3 September 2021. In collaboration with Henrik Bogdan.

Invited lectures

“L’ésotérisme dans l’art contemporain : le cas de la théosophie”. Invited lecture for the conference “Savoirs cachés. Regards scientifiques sur l’ésotérisme”, Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève - Sorbonne, Paris, 16 November 2021.

“Esoteric forms of nationalism in Europe”. Keynote lecture for the 4th CEENASWE Conference (“Occultism and Politics in East-Central Europe”), Czech Academy of Sciences, Vila Lanna, Prague, 28 September 2021.

“Posthumousness and Luigi Pericle’s place in 20th-century esoteric art”. Invited lecture for the workshop “Luigi Pericle: Das Geistige in der Kunst”, organised by Andreas Kilcher (ETH Zürich) in collaboration with the Luigi Pericle Archive, Ascona, 28 August 2021.

“Witchcraft with Capital W: The Magical Art of Chiara Fumai”. Invited lecture for the series “Aesthetic and Scientific Epistemologies of the Occult in the XIX Century”, ETH, Zurich (online), 25 May 2021.

“Lo studio dell’esoterismo: sfide e prospettive”. Invited lecture for the Società dello Zolfo, Italy (video recording available here), 11 March 2021.

Conference papers

“Esoteric forms of nationalism in Europe: From romanticism to modernism”. Paper presented at the international conference “Religious Dimensions of Nationalism: Interdisciplinary Perspectives”, Fondazione Cini, Venice, 23 October 2021.

“Esoteric Resilience in the Religious History of Italy”. Paper presented at the 18th annual conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), University of Pisa, 31 August 2021.

Organization of public events

Curatorship, in collaboration with Lars Bang Larsen and Simon Grant, of the exhibition “Not without My Ghosts: The Artist as Medium”, touring to the following locations: Millennium Gallery, Museums Sheffield (3 Dec. 2020 - 28 Feb. 2021); Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea (20 March - 13 June 2021); The Levinsky Gallery, The Arts Institute, University of Plymouth (16 July - 3 October 2021); Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool (15 Oct. - 11 Dec. 2021). Reviews:



The Guardian, The Spectator, Art Review, Art Monthly, The Burlington Magazine, Apollo: The International Art Magazine, Royal Academy of Arts Magazine, Hyperallergic, i-news.

Interviews and media appearances

“Catalogue Raisonné Hilma af Klint. Interview with Marco Pasi”, video interview for the release of Hilma af Klint’s *Catalogue Raisonné*, YouTube channel of Bokförlaget Stolpe (Stockholm), 6 May 2021 (available [here](#)).

“The Occult Guide to Chiara Fumai and Women Artists Practicing Magic”, interview with Sofia Kouloukouri for the Chiara Fumai retrospective exhibition “Poems I Will Never Release, 2007–2017”, Centre d’Art Contemporain, Geneva, January 2021 (available [here](#)).

“Occult Elements”, podcast with Sofia Kouloukouri for the Chiara Fumai retrospective exhibition “Poems I Will Never Release, 2007–2017”, Centre d’Art Contemporain, Geneva, February 2021 (available [here](#)).

“Luigi Pericle and esotericism”, video clip for the “Luigi Pericle on stage” series, Archivio Luigi Pericle, April 2020 (available [here](#) and [here](#); Italian version available [here](#)).

Liana Saif

Conference Organisation

With Mark Sedgwick, Francesco Piraino, and Michele Petrone, ENSIE3: “Islam and Esotericism: Societies, Politics, and Practices” 2021 Meeting of ENSIE, 29 September-1 October 2021 on Zoom.

With Charles Burnett, Symposium: New Approaches to Cosmos and Spirit in the Premodern World, Warburg Institute, 9 July 2021 – 10 July 2021.

Invited lectures

“Beyond the Greek ‘Fossils’: How ‘Islamic’ is Ghāyat al-Ḥakīm?”, Utrecht University, 11 March, 2022.

“Between Admiration and Repulsion: The Witch in Medieval Islam”, invited by LUCIS: Centre for the Study of Islam and Society”, 12 May, 2022.

“Decolonising Bāṭiniyya: Islamic Esotericism Beyond Corbinophilia and Traditionalism”, Series: Decolonial Islamic Spiritualities, Habib University/University of Exeter, 10 December, 2021.

“The Jābirian Kitāb al-Nukhab and Teaching Talismanry in Medieval Islam”, Current Issues in Religious Studies and Western Esotericism, University of Amsterdam, 18 October, 2021.

“A Reflection on the Diversity of Medieval Magical and Divinatory Practices of the Mediterranean”, book-launch conference at the Warburg Institute: “Talismans, Divination, and the Occult in Jewish Traditions”, for the publication of Gideon Bohak and Charles Burnett (trans.), Thabit ibn Qurra’s *On Talismans and Ps.-Ptolemy «On Images 1-9»*. Together with the «*Liber prestigiorum Thebidis*» of Adelard of Bath (Sismel, 2021) and *Unveiling the Hidden: Divinatory Practices Among Jews: Between Qumran and the Modern Period*, eds. Josefina Rodríguez and Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum, Warburg Institute, 30 November, 2021.



“The Intersection of Islamic Esotericism and the Occult Sciences”, LUSI Lecture Series in Shi‘I Studies, University of Leiden, 1 December 2020.

Conference papers

“Science and Religion in the Jābirian Text, known as Kitāb al-Nukhab”, ESHS: 9th Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, Bologna, 31 August, 2020.

“The (Non)Esotericism of Jābir ibn Ḥayyān”, 3rd ENSIE: European Network for the Study of Islam and Esotericism, Theme: “Islam and Esotericism: Societies, Politics, and Practices”, 29 September-1 October 2021 on Zoom.

“Between *dīn* and *‘ilm*: Negotiating the Esoteric in the *Jābirian Kitāb al-Nukhab*”, Power, Religion, and Wisdom: Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy in al-Andalus and Beyond, Princeton University, 1 April, 2022.

Podcasts

“Contextualising the Occult”, Converging Paths and Arts in Isolation Series, Barakat Trust, a partnership with Asia House, supported by the Altajir Trust, and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture’s Education Programme. Season 2, Ep. 7, November 2021.

“Astrology, Magic and the Islamicate Tradition”, Ad Astra: Academic Conversations on the History of Astrology, September 2020.

“Islamic(ate) Astrology: Themes, Works, and Practitioners”, Abbasid History podcast, Ep. 10, April, 2020.

6. Editorial activities

Dylan M. Burns

(co-editor of book series) Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies (Brill).

(editorial board) *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* (Brill)

(editorial board) Oxford Studies in Western Esotericism

(editorial board) *Gnosis: Journal of Gnostic Studies* (Brill)

Peter J. Forshaw

(editorial board) *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*. Leiden/Boston: Brill.

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(editorial board) "Universal Reform: Studies in Intellectual History, 1550-1700", Aldershot: Ashgate.

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(editorial board) Oxford Studies in Western Esotericism, Oxford - New York: Oxford University Press.

Wouter J. Hanegraaff

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(advisory board) *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. Carfax

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(general editor) "The Brill Esotericism Reference Library." Leiden / Boston: Brill.

(editorial board) "Aries Book Series: Texts and Studies in Western Esotericism." Leiden - Boston: Brill.

(advisory board) "Oxford Studies in Western Esotericism." Oxford University Press.

(member research council) "Scripta Classica".

Mriganka Mukhopadhyay

(review editor) *Correspondences: Journal for the Study of Esotericism*.

Marco Pasi

(editorial board) *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*. Leiden / Boston: Brill.

(editorial board) *Annali di Storia dell'Esegesi*.

(editorial board) *Politica Hermetica*.

(editorial board) *The Pomegranate: The International Journal of Pagan Studies*.

(editorial board) *International Journal for the Study of New Religions*.

(editorial board) *Pessoa Plural: An International Journal of Pessoa Studies*.

(editorial board) *e-Rhizome. Journal for the Study of Religion, Culture, Society and Cognition*.

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(co-editor in chief) "Axolotl: Studi di Storia delle Religioni." Milan: Mimesis.

(advisory board) "Bustrofedica," Rome: Aracne Editrice.

Liana Saif

(associate editor) Early Science and Medicine. Brill.

(editorial board) Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism. Brill.

(editorial board) *Correspondences: Online Journal for the Study of Esotericism.*

(editorial board) *Religiographies*, Fondazione Giorgio Cini / University of Ca' Foscari,
Venice