

Western Esotericism A Guide For The Perplexed Gui

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Die orientalische Wende der Theosophischen Gesellschaft - Ulrich Harlass 2021-07-19

Die 1875 gegründete Theosophische Gesellschaft gilt als eine der wichtigsten esoterischen Vereinigungen um die Wende zum 20. Jahrhundert und als Prototyp der modernen westlichen Esoterik. Viele Elemente ihrer Lehre sind bis heute populär: vom wissenschaftlich-rationalen Buddhismus, über Yoga bis zur Reinkarnation. Harlass untersucht die als orientalische Wende bezeichnete „Vollendung“ theosophischer Philosophie und legt eine detaillierte Studie über ihre Entstehung vor. Er zeigt, dass die Theosophen zahlreiche Überlegungen im Laufe dieser Streitigkeiten aufnahmen, veränderten und schließlich zu einer esoterischen Lehre, der „okkulten Wissenschaft“ ausformulierten. Ein gängiges Narrativ von der Kontinuität westlicher Esoterik-Strömungen seit der Antike muss in diesem Zuge ebenso infrage gestellt werden wie die orientalische Wende und der damit einhergehenden Unterscheidung von Ost und West. Auf der Basis postkolonialer Ansätze wird gezeigt, dass die theosophischen Lehren ein Ergebnis zeitgenössischer Aushandlungen und harter Streitigkeiten sind. Und sie werden erst vor dem Hintergrund einer sich globalisierenden Welt kolonialer Machtbeziehungen und der Annahme einer weltweiten Geschichte der Religionen verständlich.

The Occult Nineteenth Century - Lukas Pokorny 2021-01-09

The nineteenth century witnessed a proliferation of alternative religious currents and practices, appropriating earlier traditions, entangling geographically distinct spiritual discourses, and crafting a repository of mindscapes eminently suitable to be accommodated by later generations of thinkers and practitioners. Penned by specialists in the field, this volume examines important themes and figures pertaining to this occult amalgam and its resonance into the twentieth century and beyond. Global guises of the occult, ranging from the Americas and Europe to India, are variously addressed, with special attention to the crucial role of mesmerism and the origins of modern yoga.

Hermetic Spirituality and the Historical Imagination - Wouter J. Hanegraaff 2022-06-30

Hermetic spirituality in late antiquity was an experiential practice and personal transformation grounded in powerful techniques for consciousness alteration.

One Truth and One Spirit - Keith Readdy 2018-12-01

Based upon academic research at the University of Amsterdam's Center for the History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, *One Truth and One Spirit* is a much-needed work that covers a previously unexplored history of the modern religious movement known as Thelema. This work details the theoretical framework of Aleister Crowley's spiritual legacy in the O.T.O. and the A?A? and covers the years of Thelema since Crowley's death in 1947. *One Truth and One Spirit* approaches a complex topic with a complex history, with exhaustive citations and sources, but it is written for anyone interested in the subject of Thelema. The author utilizes published source material as well as previously unavailable information, which makes this a unique contribution to the available literature. *One Truth and One Spirit* is expected to be of interest to the novice, the scholar, and the seasoned practitioner of Thelema. The work provides a general historical overview of Thelema from a theoretical vantage point, explores the historical development of the movement from the 1960s to the 1990s, and applies the author's own critical discussions on the topic itself.

Wissenschaft - Wahrheit - Weisheit - Ulrich Lüke 2018-05-14

Welche Wahrheiten erschließen sich verschiedenen wissenschaftlichen Zugängen zur Wirklichkeit? Kann es Wahrheit heutzutage nur noch im Plural geben? Oder droht hier ein Abgleiten in eine Beliebigkeit, die den

Anspruch auf Rationalität aufzuheben droht? Und was ist und was leistet eine weisheitliche Perspektive? Gibt Weisheit möglicherweise eine Antwort darauf, in welchem Verhältnis die verschiedenen Wahrheiten der Wissenschaften zueinander stehen? Mit "Wissenschaft - Wahrheit - Weisheit" widmet sich der Band drei grundlegenden Begriffen unserer Wissensgesellschaft. Er tut dies in der ganzen Bandbreite theologischer Perspektiven.

Accelerating Human Evolution by Theosophical Initiation - Yves Mühlematter 2022-12-19

The main subjects of analysis in the present book are the stages of initiation in the grand scheme of Theosophical evolution. These initiatory steps are connected to an idea of evolutionary self-development by means of a set of virtues that are relative to the individual's position on the path of evolution. The central thesis is that these stages were translated from the "Hindu" tradition to the "Theosophical" tradition through multifaceted "hybridization processes" in which several Indian members of the Theosophical Society partook. Starting with Annie Besant's early Theosophy, the stages of initiation are traced through Blavatsky's work to Manilal Dvivedi and T. Subba Row, both Indian members of the Theosophical Society, and then on to the Sanâtana Dharma Text Books. In 1898, the English Theosophist Annie Besant and the Indian Theosophist Bhagavan Das together founded the Central Hindu College, Benares, which became the nucleus around which the Benares Hindu University was instituted in 1915. In this context the Sanâtana Dharma Text Books were published. Mühlematter shows that the stages of initiation were the blueprint for Annie Besant's pedagogy, which she implemented in the Central Hindu College in Benares. In doing so, he succeeds in making intelligible how "esoteric" knowledge was transferred to public institutions and how a broader public could be reached as a result. The dissertation has been awarded the ESSWE PhD Thesis prize 2022 by the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism.

Sozialismus, Katholizismus und Okkultismus im Frankreich des 19. Jahrhunderts - Julian Strube 2016-05-24

Die Studie behandelt den religiösen Charakter der wichtigsten sozialistischen Strömungen unter der Julimonarchie und ihr erstaunliches Fortbestehen in neuen religiösen Bewegungen in der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts. Als roter Faden dient dabei die Entwicklung des radikalen Sozialisten Alphonse-Louis Constant (1810-1875), der unter dem Pseudonym Eliphas Lévi als Begründer des Okkultismus gilt. Die umfangreiche Kontextualisierung seiner Schriften zeigt, dass er seine okkultistischen Ideen nicht etwa in einem „esoterischen“ Kontext entwickelte, sondern vor dem Hintergrund sozialistischer und so genannter „neo-katholischer“ Diskurse. Die dabei gewonnenen Einblicke erlauben die Hinterfragung festgeschriebener Rollen auf der Bühne der europäischen Religionsgeschichte. So erweist sich die weit verbreitete Annahme eines Antagonismus zwischen fortschrittlichen sozialistischen und reaktionären religiösen Kräften, der seinen Höhepunkt in der laïcité gefunden habe, als irreführend. Ebenso wird in diesem Zusammenhang die Notwendigkeit einer Neubewertung von Esoterik verdeutlicht. Dies ermöglicht nicht nur neue Sichtweisen auf die Politikgeschichte, sondern auch auf kontrovers diskutierte Prozesse der Modernisierung und Säkularisierung.

Germanische Kultorte - Matthias Egeler 2016-05-31

Der Band „Germanische Kultorte: »Vergleichende, historische und rezeptionsgeschichtliche Zugänge« zieht die Bilanz eines interdisziplinären Symposiums, das im Oktober 2015 am Institut für Nordische Philologie der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München stattfand. Diskutanden aus Nordischer Philologie,

Archäologie, Altorientalistik und Religionswissenschaft tauschten sich in diesem Rahmen über unterschiedlichste Aspekte germanischer (und ausgewählter anderer) ›Kultorte‹ aus und deckten dabei ein Spektrum von Fragen ab, das von allgemeinen Problemen der Auseinandersetzung mit ›heiligem Raum‹ über die spezifischen religiösen Räume der germanischen Religionsgeschichte bis hin zu ihrer modernen Rezeption reichte.

Western Esotericism: A Guide for the Perplexed - Wouter J. Hanegraaff 2013-02-28

Western esotericism has been a pervasive presence in Western culture from late antiquity to the present day, but until recently it was largely ignored by scholars and surrounded by misconceptions and prejudice. This accessible guide provides readers with the basic knowledge and tools that will allow them to find their way in this bewildering but fascinating field. What is it that unites phenomena as diverse as ancient gnosticism and hermetism, the "occult sciences" of astrology, alchemy, and magic, rosicrucianism, as well as Christian theosophy, occultism, spiritualism, and the contemporary New Age spiritualities? What can the study of them teach us about our common cultural and intellectual heritage, and what is it that makes them relevant to contemporary concerns? How do we distinguish reliable historical knowledge from legends and fictions about esoteric traditions? These and many other questions are answered clearly and succinctly, so that the reader can find his way into the labyrinth of Western esotericism and out of it again.

Minority Religions and Uncertainty - Matthew Francis 2020-05-04

Religions are at their core about creating certainty. But what happens when groups lose control of their destiny? Whether it leads to violence, or to nonviolent innovations, as found in minority religions following the death of their founders or leaders, uncertainty and insecurity can lead to great change in the mission and even teachings of religious groups. This book brings together an international range of contributors to explore the uncertainty faced by new and minority religious movements as well as non-religious fringe groups. The groups considered in the book span a range of religious traditions (Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam), old and new spiritual formations such as esotericism, New Age and organized new religious movements, as well as non-religious movements including the straight edge movement and the British Union of Fascists. The chapters deal with a variety of contexts, from the UK and US, to Japan and Egypt, with others discussing global movements. While all the authors deal with twentieth- and twenty-first-century movements and issues, several focus explicitly on historical cases or change over time. This wide-ranging, yet cohesive volume will be of great interest to scholars of minority religious movements and non-religious fringe groups working across religious studies, sociology and social psychology.

Wissen um Religion: Erkenntnis - Interesse - Klaus Hock 2020-08-01

Was sind eigentlich die Voraussetzungen unseres Wissens über Religion bzw. unseres Wissens über "anderes" Wissen über Religion - und was macht es zu wissenschaftlichem Wissen? Dabei geht es nicht nur um das Problem, wie wir begründetes Wissen über Religion erlangen können, sondern auch um die Bedingungen der Möglichkeit, dass Religion überhaupt zum Gegenstand unseres Wissens wird. Der vorliegende Band versammelt Beiträge aus Religionswissenschaft und Interkultureller Theologie, die sich mit ausgewählten Aspekten dieser Thematik befassen. Das Spektrum reicht dabei von der Auseinandersetzung mit grundsätzlichen Fragen der Wissensproduktion über die Beschäftigung mit epistemologischen Herausforderungen "sichtbarer Religion" bis hin zu hermeneutischen Problemen interreligiöser Schriftkommentare. Mit Beiträgen von Philipp Balsiger, Michael Bergunder, Daniel Cyranka, Heiner Hastedt, Andreas Heuser, Klaus Hock, Claudia Jahnel, Conrad Krannich, Frieder Ludwig, Daria Pezzoli-Olgiate, Perry Schmidt-Leukel, Christian Stahmann, Friedemann Stengel, Fabian Völker und Simon Wiesgickl. [Knowledge of Religion: Knowledge — Human Interests. Epistemology and Episteme in Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology] What are the prerequisites for our knowledge of religion or our knowledge on ›other‹ knowledge about religion - and what makes it academic or scientific knowledge? The issue is not only on the problem of how we can acquire well-founded knowledge about religion, but also on the conditions of the possibility that religion can become a subject of our knowledge at all. This volume brings together essays from Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology dealing with selected aspects of this topic. The spectrum ranges from fundamental questions of knowledge production to epistemological challenges of ›visible religion‹ to hermeneutical problems of interreligious commentaries on sacred writings.

Religion und Wahnsinn um 1900: Zwischen Pathologisierung und Selbstermächtigung / Religion and Madness Around 1900: Between Pathology and Self-Empowerment - Lutz Greisiger 2017-12-22

Der Sammelband widmet sich dem "religiösen Wahnsinn", wie er insbesondere in den Jahrzehnten um das Jahr 1900 gesellschaftlich und diagnostisch etabliert und verhandelt wurde. Die Herausgeber gehen davon aus, dass Fälle "religiösen Wahnsinns" bisher vorwiegend aus psychologischer Perspektive bearbeitet und als Beispiele pathologischer Erkrankungen beschrieben wurden. Eine interdisziplinäre Betrachtung des Themas soll hingegen die Schnittstellen zwischen Religion, Medizin, Psychologie und Gesellschaft sowie deren dynamische Grenzverschiebungen bzw. diskursive Verwobenheit hervorheben. Die Beiträge legen daher den Fokus einerseits auf konkrete Einzelbeispiele jenseits der in der Literatur bekannten und prominenten "Psychofälle" und diskutieren andererseits systematische Fragen zur gegenseitigen Konstituierung von religiösen Sinnsystemen, zeitgenössischen Krisenrhetoriken sowie "wissenschaftlicher" und "pseudowissenschaftlicher" Diagnostik und Therapie. Ein besonderes Interesse liegt zudem auf dem Diskurs über "religiöse und psychische Devianz", der nicht allein die Pathologisierung "religiösen Wahnsinns" ermöglichte, sondern gleichsam der Selbstermächtigung des religiösen Subjekts und dessen Befreiung aus den gesellschaftlichen Zwängen der Moderne Vorschub leistete. Eine zentrale These ist dabei, dass solche "Anormalitätsdiskurse" und deren breite Rezeption in Wissenschaft, Kunst und Religion den gesellschaftlichen und individuellen Umgang mit den Ambivalenzen und Chancen der Moderne widerspiegeln und dies insbesondere am Beispiel des "religiösen Wahnsinns" zu Tage tritt.

Der George-Kreis und die Theosophie - Jan Stottmeister 2014-09-01

Eine wichtige Studie zum George-Kreis, der in einem bislang unbekanntem Ausmaß von der Theosophie geprägt wurde. Die Theosophische Gesellschaft war die kulturgeschichtlich einflussreichste esoterische Institution des frühen 20. Jahrhunderts. Ihre Lehren vermengten Elemente indischer Religionen und des europäischen Okkultismus zu einer religiös grundierten Weltanschauung, die vor allem bei Künstlern, Intellektuellen und sozialen Eliten Anklang fand. Die Wirkungsgeschichte der Theosophie prägt auch die Geschichte des Kreises um den Dichter Stefan George. Sie ist nachweisbar in der Symbolik, mit der Georges Buchgestalter Melchior Lechter die Publikationen des Kreises versah, und im Mitgliedsregister der Theosophischen Gesellschaft, das neben Lechter auch Karl Wolfskehl und andere George-Anhänger verzeichnet. Während Zeitgenossen wie Ernst Bloch versuchten, George mit der Theosophie zu vereinbaren, begann George selbst die weltanschauliche Identität seines Kreises ab 1910 durch programmatische Abgrenzungen von der Theosophie zu konturieren. Ein Motiv dieser Abgrenzungen ist die Konkurrenz, die seine poetische Messiasfigur Maximin durch die theosophische Messiasfigur Krishnamurti erhielt. Den George-Kreis und die Theosophische Gesellschaft verbindet auch die Verwendung der Swastika als Erkennungsmerkmale. Im Anhang des Bandes wird dieser Zusammenhang im Kontext der westlichen Deutungsgeschichte des Zeichens, das heute nur noch als NSDAP-Hakenkreuz wahrnehmbar ist, untersucht.

Spirituality: A Guide for the Perplexed - Philip Sheldrake 2014-09-25

'Spirituality' is a word that is used increasingly these days yet it is often ill-defined. What exactly is spirituality? Is it distinct from religion and can we separate it from beliefs and traditions? Does spirituality mainly focus on spiritual experiences and practices or is it something more? This book suggests that, while there may be common features in the use of the word, 'spirituality' is not a single reality. Different 'spiritualities' reflect particular religious or philosophical viewpoints, as well as the cultural contexts in which they arise and develop. Spirituality: A Guide for the Perplexed provides students and general readers with a reliable and comprehensive guide to 'spirituality' as an area of study, religiously, historically, philosophically and in the social sciences. It explores the tools that are used to study the subject and to interpret spiritual classics (whether these are written texts or other forms such as art) from different times and cultures. Attention is paid to spirituality in a variety of religious and non-religious forms in their own terms and comparatively. However, for the sake of simplicity greatest attention is given to the study of spirituality within a religious perspective with illustrations drawn from texts, personalities and themes associated with five major world religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The book concludes with an exploration of spirituality in contemporary perspective - in particular how spirituality is currently employed in areas such as health-care, education and business among other examples.

Occult Imperium - Christian Giudice 2022-02-03

Christian Giudice's *Occult Imperium* explores Italian national forms of Occultism, chiefly analyzing Arturo Reghini (1878-1946), his copious writings, and Roman Traditionalism. Trained as a mathematician at the prestigious University of Pisa, Reghini was one of the three giants of occult and esoteric thought in Italy, alongside his colleagues Julius Evola (1898-1974) and Giulian Kremmerz (1861-1930). Using Reghini's articles, books, and letters, as a guide, Giudice explores the interaction between occultism, Traditionalism, and different facets of modernity in early-twentieth-century Italy. The book takes into consideration many factors particular to the Italian peninsula: the ties with avant-garde movements such as the Florentine Scapigliatura and Futurism, the occult vogues typical to Italy, the rise to power of Benito Mussolini and Fascism, and, lastly, the power of the Holy See over different expressions of spirituality. *Occult Imperium* explores the convergence of new forms of spirituality in early twentieth-century Italy.

Spiritualität, Religion, Weltanschauung - Ursula Baatz 2017-09-11

Spiritualität und Religion sind heute in Europa nicht mehr Schicksal, sondern jede/r einzelne muss zwischen einer Vielzahl von divergierenden Sinn-Deutungen wählen. Zwischen den Vertretern der verschiedenen Weltanschauungsoptionen kommt es dabei immer wieder zu Konflikten über die Deutungshoheit von »Wirklichkeit«. Was ist wirklich wirklich, wer äußert sich dazu wie und wird wie von wem gehört? Virulent werden diese Fragen vor allem dort, wo es um Gesundheit im weitesten Sinn geht, also in Psychotherapie und Pflege, in medizinischen Fragen zu Anfang und Ende des Lebens, aber auch in Fragen der Erziehung oder des Lebensstils. Es sind existenzielle Fragen, wobei die Verquickung von institutionellen Systemen, Familiensystemen und persönlichen Glaubenssätzen eine oft verwirrende Situation schaffen. Basierend auf aktuellen religionswissenschaftlichen Ansätzen können systemische Ansätze der Beratung und Therapie an diesem Punkt hilfreich und erfolgreich sein. Hier bietet der Band von Ursula Baatz Orientierung, auch um die Prozesse spiritueller orientierter Klienten professionell unterstützen zu können.

Techno-Esoterik in der säkularisierten Moderne - Nils Menzler 2019-07-16

Esoterik ist ubiquitär – sie bestimmt vielfach die praktische Ausgestaltung individueller Lebensführung und ist fester Bestandteil einer kollektiven Wissenskultur. Oft als „quacksalberische Betrugsmasche“ verfehmt, liefert Nils Menzler einen innovativen medienwissenschaftlichen und wissenshistorischen Zugang zu diesem Phänomen. Da Esoterik heute oftmals als wissenschaftlich-technisch fundiert dargestellt wird, untersucht der Autor die Genese dieser technischen Apparaturen und die Subjekteffekte, die ihre Anwendung nach sich zieht – und wie sich das in der vorgeblich säkularen kapitalistischen Gesellschaftsordnung niederschlägt. Der Autor befasst sich mit der Frage, wie Esoterik heute konfiguriert ist, und was das über den derzeitigen Status der Subjektbildung in der modernen Gesellschaft sagt.

The Sacred Life of Modernist Literature - Allan Kilner-Johnson 2022-06-16

Probing the relationship between modernist literary experimentation and several key strands of occult practice which emerged in Europe from roughly 1894 to 1944, this book sets the work of leading modernist writers alongside lesser known female writers and writers in languages other than English to more fully portray the aesthetic and philosophical connections between modernism and the occult. Although the early decades of the twentieth century—the era of cocktails, motorcars, bobbed hair, and war—are often described as a period of newness and innovation, many writers of the time found inspiration and visionary brilliance by turning to the mysterious occult past. This book's principle intervention is to reimagine the contours and boundaries of literary modernism by welcoming into the conversation a number of significant female writers and writers in languages other than English who are often still relegated to the fringes of modernist studies. Well-remembered poets and novelists such as Ezra Pound, W.B. Yeats, and Aleister Crowley were tied to occult beliefs, and this book sets these leading figures alongside less well-remembered but equally splendid modernists including Paul Brunton, Mary Butts, Alexandra David-Neel, Florence Farr, Dion Fortune, Hermann Hesse, and Rudolf Steiner. From the little magazines where occultism and Fabianism were comfortable companions, to consulting rooms of psychoanalysts where archetypes were revealed to be both mystical and mundane, to the forbidden mountain trails that led to formidable spiritual teachers, the conditions of modernism were invariably those conditions which inspired a return to the occult traditions that many thinkers believed had long evaporated. Indeed, in many ways these traditions were the making of

the modern world. By uncovering hidden hopes and anxieties that faced a newly modern Western Europe, this book demonstrates how literary modernists understood occultism as a universal form of cultural expression which has inspired creative exuberance since the dawn of civilisation.

The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion - Nickolas P. Roubekas 2021-03-10

Explore a rigorous but accessible guide to contemporary approaches to the study of religion from leading voices in the field. The Wiley Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion delivers an expert and insightful analysis of modern perspectives on the study of religion across the humanities and the social sciences. Presupposing no knowledge of the approaches examined in the collection, the book is ideal for undergraduate students who have yet to undertake extensive study in the humanities or social sciences. The book includes perspectives from those in fields as diverse as globalization, cognitive science, the study of emotion, law, esotericism, sex and gender, functionalism, terror, the comparative method, modernism, and postmodernism. Many of the topics covered in the book clearly hail from religious studies, while others are grounded in other areas of academia. All of the chapters contained within are written by recognized authors who show how their chosen discipline contributes to the understanding of the phenomenon of religion. This book also includes topics like: A comprehensive exploration of multiple approaches to religious study, including anthropology, economics, literature, phenomenology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and theology. A review of various topics germane to the study of religion, including the study of the body, cognitive science, the comparative method, death and the afterlife, law, magic, music, and myth. A selection of subjects touching on modern trends in extremism and violence, including chapters on terror and violence, fundamentalism, and nationalism. A discussion of the influence of modernism and postmodernism in religion. Ideal for undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students in humanities and social science programs taking courses on religion and myth, *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion* will also earn a place in the libraries of specialists working in the fields of Religious Studies, Theology, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Political Science, History, and Philosophy.

Jahrbuch Sexualitäten 2019 - Initiative Queer Nations 2019-07-01

Das Jahrbuch *Sexualitäten* ist ein jährlich erscheinendes Periodikum, das Fragen des Sexuellen in einem weiten Sinne thematisiert - unter anderem in den Bereichen des Gesellschaftlichen, Politischen, Kulturellen, Historischen und Juristischen, in der Medizin und den Naturwissenschaften, in Religion, Pädagogik und Psychologie.

Theosophy across Boundaries - Hans Martin Krämer 2020-11-01

Offers a new approach to Theosophy that takes into account its global dimensions and its interaction with highly diverse cultural contexts. *Theosophy across Boundaries* brings a global history approach to the study of esotericism, highlighting the important role of Theosophy in the general histories of religion, science, philosophy, art, and politics. The first half of the book consists of seven perspectives on the activities of the Theosophical Society in very different regional contexts, ranging from India, Vietnam, China, and Japan to Victorian Britain and Israel, shedding new light on the entanglement of "Western" and "Oriental" ideas around 1900. The second half explores specific cultural influences that Theosophy exerted in the spheres of literature, art, and politics, using case studies from Sri Lanka, Burma, India, Japan, Ireland, Germany, and Russia. The examples clearly show that Theosophy was part of a truly global movement, thus providing an outstanding example of the complex entanglements of the global religious history of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Hans Martin Krämer is Professor of Japanese Studies at Heidelberg University, Germany, and the author of *Shimaji Mokurai and the Reconception of Religion and the Secular in Modern Japan*. Julian Strube is a Research Fellow in Religious Studies at the University of Münster, Germany.

Platonic Mysticism - Arthur Versluis 2017-08-16

Restores the Platonic history and context of mysticism and shows how it helps us understand more deeply the humanities as a whole, from philosophy and literature to art. In *Platonic Mysticism*, Arthur Versluis clearly and tautly argues that mysticism must be properly understood as belonging to the great tradition of Platonism. He demonstrates how mysticism was historically understood in Western philosophical and religious traditions and emphatically rejects externalist approaches to esoteric religion. Instead he develops a new theoretical-critical model for understanding mystical literature and the humanities as a whole, from philosophy and literature to art. A sequel to his *Restoring Paradise*, this is an

audacious book that places Platonic mysticism in the context of contemporary cognitive and other approaches to the study of religion, and presents an emerging model for the new field of contemplative science. □ An important work on the mystical experience delving deep into its history, particularly from the Platonic perspective. An essential text for anyone interested in mysticism and its relationship to philosophy and creative expression. □ □ Andrew Newberg, author of *How Enlightenment Changes Your Brain: The New Science of Transformation* □ The present work, the latest from the pen of Arthur Versluis, provides a trenchant, learned, and illuminating analysis of the origins of Western mysticism in the Platonist tradition, relayed through such figures as Plotinus and Dionysius the Areopagite, down through Meister Eckhart and others, while suitably excoriating the attempts of certain modern philosophers and sociologists of religion to □ deconstruct □ it from a materialist perspective. I found it a rattling good read! □ □ John Dillon, author of *The Heirs of Plato: A Study of the Old Academy (347-274 BC)*

Wissenschaft und Aberglaube. Bd. 23 - Reinhard Neck 2020-09-07

Die Beiträge des Österreichischen Wissenschaftstags 2019 setzten sich mit dem Thema des Aberglaubens und mit der damit verbundenen Wissenschaftsfeindlichkeit in interdisziplinärer Weise auseinander. Politische Debatten, Artikel in viel gelesenen Zeitungen und abergläubische Äußerungen von Personen des öffentlichen Lebens belegen, dass das Thema "Wissenschaft und Aberglaube" sehr aktuell ist. Die Beiträge des Wissenschaftstages setzen sich mit unterschiedlichen Lesarten des Generalthemas auseinander und versuchen sich u.a. der Beantwortung folgender Fragen anzunähern: In welchem Verhältnis stehen Wissenschaft und Pseudowissenschaft? Hängen Aberglaube und Überleben zusammen? Wie entsteht Aberglaube und wie wird dieser aufrechterhalten? Wo verlaufen die Grenzen der Wissenschaft? etc.

Secrecy - Hugh B. Urban 2021-01-12

The powers of political secrecy and social spectacle have been taken to surreal extremes recently. Witness the twin terrors of a president who refuses to disclose dealings with foreign powers while the private data of ordinary citizens is stolen and marketed in order to manipulate consumer preferences and voting outcomes. We have become accustomed to thinking about secrecy in political terms and personal privacy terms. In this bracing, new work, Hugh Urban wants us to focus these same powers of observation on the role of secrecy in religion. With *Secrecy*, Urban investigates several revealing instances of the power of secrecy in religion, including nineteenth-century Scottish Rite Freemasonry, the sexual magic of a Russian-born Parisian mystic; the white supremacist Brüder Schweigen or "Silent Brotherhood" movement of the 1980s, the Five Percenters, and the Church of Scientology. An electrifying read, *Secrecy* is the culmination of decades of Urban's reflections on a vexed, ever-present subject.

The Occult in Modernist Art, Literature, and Cinema - Tessel M. Bauduin 2018-05-15

Many modernist and avant-garde artists and authors were fascinated by the occult movements of their day. This volume explores how Occultism came to shape modernist art, literature, and film. Individual chapters examine the presence and role of Occultism in the work of such modernist luminaries as Rainer Maria Rilke, August Strindberg, W.B. Yeats, Joséphin Péladan and the artist Jan Švankmajer, as well as in avant-garde film, post-war Greek Surrealism, and Scandinavian Retrogardism. Combining the theoretical and methodological foundations of the field of Esotericism Studies with those of Literary Studies, Art History, and Cinema Studies, this volume provides in-depth and nuanced perspectives upon the relationship between Occultism and Modernism in the Western arts from the nineteenth century to the present day.

Western Esotericism and Islamic Mysticism - Makhabbad Maltabarova 2022-06-10

Dieses Buch bietet eine umfassende Untersuchung des Werks von Georges I. Gurdjieff, mit besonderem Schwerpunkt auf dem Sufismus und dessen Stellung in seiner Lehre. Gurdjieff bleibt eine wichtige Figur des westlichen esoterischen Denkens und erfreut sich sowohl akademischen Interesses als auch großer Beliebtheit. Makhabbad Maltabarova untersucht sein Hauptwerk, "Beelzebubs Erzählungen", und konzentriert sich dabei auf das Thema des Selbst und seiner Entwicklung, was zu einem innovativen Ansatz für das Studium des Sufismus in Gurdjieffs System führt. Dieses Buch bietet eine kritische Untersuchung des Inhalts und Kontexts von Gurdjieffs Lehren und ist eine wertvolle Quelle für Studierende und Forschende der Religions- und Islamwissenschaften.

The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Secrecy - Hugh B. Urban 2022-03-30

Secrecy is a central and integral component of all religious traditions. Not limited simply to religious

groups that engage in clandestine activities such as hidden rites of initiation or terrorism, secrecy is inherent in the very fabric of religion itself. Its importance has perhaps never been more acutely relevant than in our own historical moment. In the wake of 9/11 and other acts of religious violence, we see the rise of invasive national security states that target religious minorities and pose profound challenges to the ideals of privacy and religious freedom, accompanied by the resistance by many communities to such efforts. As such, questions of secrecy, privacy, surveillance, and security are among the most central and contested issues of twenty-first century religious life. The *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Secrecy* is the definitive reference source for the key topics, problems, and debates in this crucial field and is the first collection of its kind. Comprising twenty-nine chapters by a team of international contributors, the *Handbook* is divided into five parts: Configurations of Religious Secrecy: Conceptual and Comparative Frameworks Secrecy as Religious Practice Secrecy and the Politics of the Present Secrecy and Social Resistance Secrecy, Terrorism, and Surveillance. This cutting-edge volume discusses secrecy in relation to major categories of religious experience and individual religious practices while also examining the transformations of secrecy in the modern period, including the rise of fraternal orders, the ongoing wars on terror, the rise of far-right white supremacist groups, increasing concerns over religious freedom and privacy, the role of the internet in the spread and surveillance of such groups, and the resistance to surveillance by many indigenous and diasporic communities. The *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Secrecy* is essential reading for students and researchers in religious studies, comparative religion, new religious movements, and religion and politics. It will be equally central to debates in the related disciplines of sociology, anthropology, political science, security studies and cultural studies.

The Indigo Flame - Isobel Blackthorn 2022-07-03

A collection of esoteric fiction, 'The Indigo Flame' contains four standalone novels from author Isobel Blackthorn, now available in one volume! *The Drago Tree*: Haunted by demons past and present, geologist Ann Salter seeks sanctuary on the exotic island of Lanzarote. Ann's encounters with the island's hidden treasures becomes a journey deep inside herself, as she struggles to understand who she was, who she is, and who she wants to be. Set against a panoramic backdrop of dramatic island landscapes and Spanish colonial history, *The Drago Tree* is an intriguing tale of betrayal, conquest and love. *The Unlikely Occultist*: Librarian Heather Brown discovers the fascinating life of Alice Bailey - a long forgotten occultist. Back in 1931, Alice is preparing to give a speech at a Swiss summer school. But how can she stave the tide of hatred and greed set to bring the world to its knees? What she doesn't realize is the enormity of her influence to the world, and the real enemies who are much closer than she thinks. *A dynamic and complex figure, Alice Bailey was widely regarded as the Mother of the New Age.* *Emma's Tapestry*: At the dawn of World War Two, German-born nurse Emma Taylor sits by the bedside of a Jewish heiress in London as she reminisces over her past. She's taken back to her days in Singapore on the eve of World War One, and her struggle to fit into colonial life and the need to hide her true identity. Emma is caught up in history, the highs, the lows, the adventures. A deadly mutiny, terrifying rice riots and a confrontation with the Ku Klux Klan bring home, for all migrants, the fragility of belonging. *A Perfect Square*: Across two continents, two sets of mothers and daughters are bound by a dark mystery. On a winter's day in the Dandenong Ranges, Australia, pianist Ginny returns home to her eccentric mother, Harriet. Ginny tries to prise the truth of her father's disappearance. In an effort to distract her daughter's interrogations, Harriet proposes they collaborate on an exhibition of paintings and songs. Meanwhile, on the edge of Dartmoor, artist Judith paints landscapes of the Australian Outback to soothe her troubled heart, as her wayward daughter Madeleine returns and fills the house with darkness.

Esotericism and Narrative: The Occult Fiction of Charles Williams - Aren Roukema 2018-05-29

In *Esotericism and Narrative: The Occult Fiction of Charles Williams*, Aren Roukema looks through the portal of Charles Williams's fantastic fiction, analyzing the author's narrative translations of ritual experiences with modern magic, kabbalah and spiritual alchemy.

Religions in the Modern World - Linda Woodhead 2016-01-13

Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations, Third Edition is the ideal textbook for those coming to the study of religion for the first time, as well as for those who wish to keep up-to-date with the latest perspectives in the field. This third edition contains new and upgraded pedagogic features,

including chapter summaries, key terms and definitions, and questions for reflection and discussion. The first part of the book considers the history and modern practices of the main religious traditions of the world, while the second analyzes trends from secularization to the rise of new spiritualities. Comprehensive and fully international in coverage, it is accessibly written by practicing and specialist teachers.

Lux in Tenebris - 2016-11-28

The eighteen original interdisciplinary essays in *Lux in Tenebris* explore the alchemical, magical, kabbalistic, rosicrucian and theosophical verbal and visual symbolism in the history of Western Esotericism, from the middle ages to the present day.

Western Esotericism: A Guide for the Perplexed - Wouter J. Hanegraaff 2013-02-14

Western esotericism has been a pervasive presence in Western culture from late antiquity to the present day, but until recently it was largely ignored by scholars and surrounded by misconceptions and prejudice. This accessible guide provides readers with the basic knowledge and tools that will allow them to find their way in this bewildering but fascinating field. What is it that unites phenomena as diverse as ancient gnosticism and hermetism, the "occult sciences" of astrology, alchemy, and magic, rosicrucianism, as well as Christian theosophy, occultism, spiritualism, and the contemporary New Age spiritualities? What can the study of them teach us about our common cultural and intellectual heritage, and what is it that makes them relevant to contemporary concerns? How do we distinguish reliable historical knowledge from legends and fictions about esoteric traditions? These and many other questions are answered clearly and succinctly, so that the reader can find his way into the labyrinth of Western esotericism and out of it again.

Studies on Western Esotericism in Central and Eastern Europe - Nemanja Radulović 2019-06-01

These papers examine how occult and esoteric themes appear in visual and verbal media, connecting to intellectual history, literature, the arts, present day pop culture, and religious practices. The topics range from the witchcraft motives in the love poetry of the 15th-century Humanist poet, Conrad Celtis; through the activities of Polish and Russian theosophists; Croatian, Greek, Polish painters of the spiritual; the philosophy of wine by the Hungarian esoteric philosopher Béla Hamvas; to contemporary Serbian magic and neo-shamanism. Two studies touch upon the influence of Freemasonry and the Kabbalah in Western esotericism, and, although these are not specifically Central European topics, they provide parallel perspectives to what the other papers of the collection are investigating.

Schluss mit dem Bullshit! - Tobias Hürter 2014-10-06

Die Menge an Bullshit, die täglich auf uns eindringt, nimmt zu. Die Autoindustrie preist ihre Geländewagen als umweltfreundlich, Politiker sprechen von alternativlosem Handeln, Bäckereien backen Brötchen mit energetisiertem Wasser. Wir hören und sehen inzwischen so viel Bullshit, dass wir ihn oft gar nicht mehr bemerken. Im Selbstversuch erkunden Tobias Hürter und Max Rauner den alltäglichen Blödsinn. Sie absolvieren ein Training zum Eliteverkäufer, machen die Grundausbildung in Chakren-Heilung, besuchen eine Familientherapie und testen ihre eigene Blödsinns-Quote. Sie beschreiben die aktuellen Bullshit-Strömungen und hinterfragen die Ursachen und dahintersteckenden Bedürfnisse. Eine unterhaltsame Lektüre mit Streifzügen durch die philosophische Geschichte des Bullshits. Mit konkreten Tipps, wie man Blödsinn erkennt und vermeidet – und wann es besser ist, selbst zu bullshitten.

The Problem of Disenchantment - Egil Asprem 2018-05-31

Challenges the conventional view of a "disenchanted" and secular modernity, and recovers the complex relation that exists between science, religion, and esotericism in the modern world. Max Weber famously characterized the ongoing process of intellectualization and rationalization that separates the natural world

from the divine (by excluding magic and value from the realm of science, and reason and fact from the realm of religion) as the "disenchantment of the world." Egil Asprem argues for a conceptual shift in how we view this key narrative of modernity. Instead of a sociohistorical process of disenchantment that produces increasingly rational minds, Asprem maintains that the continued presence of "magic" and "enchantment" in people's everyday experience of the world created an intellectual problem for those few who were socialized to believe that nature should contain no such incalculable mysteries. Drawing on a wide range of early twentieth-century primary sources from theoretical physics, occultism, embryology, radioactivity, psychical research, and other fields, Asprem casts the intellectual life of high modernity as a synchronic struggle across conspicuously different fields that shared surprisingly similar intellectual problems about value, meaning, and the limits of knowledge. Egil Asprem is Associate Professor of History of Religions at the Department of Ethnology, History of Religions, and Gender Studies, Stockholm University, and the author of *Arguing with Angels: Enochian Magic and Modern Occulture*, also published by SUNY Press.

Esotericism and the Academy - Wouter J. Hanegraaff 2012-01-19

The neglected history of how intellectuals since the Renaissance have approached ideas of the occult which challenged biblical religion.

Esoteric Transfers and Constructions - Mark Sedgwick 2021-04-07

Similarities between esoteric and mystical currents in different religious traditions have long interested scholars. This book takes a new look at the relationship between such currents. It advances a discussion that started with the search for religious essences, archetypes, and universals, from William James to Eranos. The universal categories that resulted from that search were later criticized as essentialist constructions, and questioned by deconstructionists. An alternative explanation was advanced by diffusionists: that there were transfers between different traditions. This book presents empirical case studies of such constructions, and of transfers between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the premodern period, and Judaism, Christianity, and Western esotericism in the modern period. It shows that there were indeed transfers that can be clearly documented, and that there were also indeed constructions, often very imaginative. It also shows that there were many cases that were neither transfers nor constructions, but a mixture of the two.

The Occult World - Christopher Partridge 2014-12-05

This volume presents students and scholars with a comprehensive overview of the fascinating world of the occult. It explores the history of Western occultism, from ancient and medieval sources via the Renaissance, right up to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and contemporary occultism. Written by a distinguished team of contributors, the essays consider key figures, beliefs and practices as well as popular culture.

Handbook of Freemasonry - 2014-06-12

The Brill Handbook of Freemasonry is a pioneering work that brings together, for the first time, leading scholars on Freemasonry—the largest, oldest, and most influential secret society in the world.

Die Melamiyye von Rumelien - Cüneyd Yildirim 2018-12-04

Diese Untersuchung handelt von der im 19. Jahrhundert entstandenen osmanischen Sufi-Gemeinschaft der Melâmiyye. Sie zeichnet die Geschichte einer Glaubensgruppe, für die die Modernisierung eine Daseinskrise bedeutete, welche sie mithilfe ekstatischer Mittel und imaginierter Selbsterhöhung zu bewältigen suchte. Ausgehend von den Texten herausragender Melâmîs sowie der frühesten Rezipienten wird hier Sozial- und Ideengeschichte auf eine Weise kombiniert, die den Blick auf die allgemeine Situation des Sufismus in der Türkei zu Beginn der Ära Atatürk freigibt.