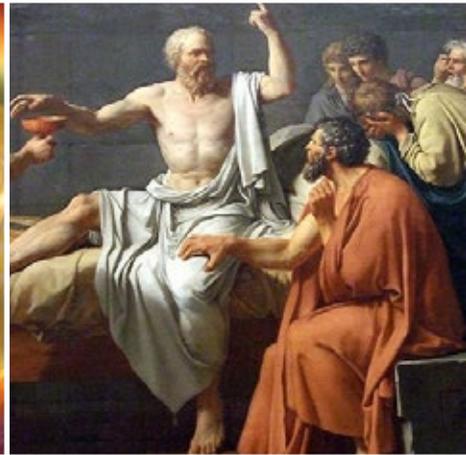


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OPEN LECTURES

MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred



Canterbury
Christ Church
University

MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred

OPEN LECTURES

AUTUMN 2016

Come along and join our MA students at five Open Lectures this term. Attendance at these events will cost £5 per lecture (*free to students and staff of Canterbury Christ Church University*). Payable on the door (cash payments) or by booking online in advance.

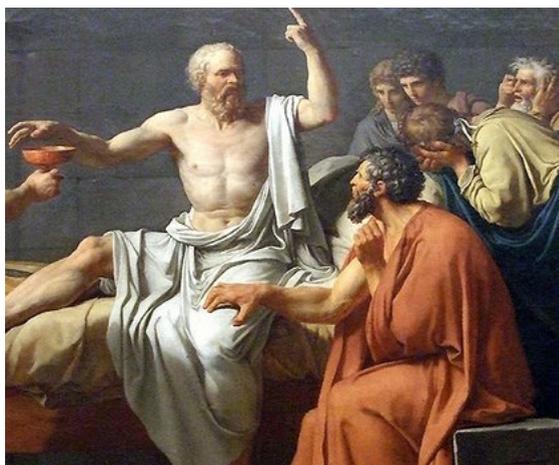
The Open Lectures take place at our Canterbury Campus (Newton building, Ng07) on Saturdays from 6.15pm-7.45pm.

You can book your place online at www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae/open-lectures or call us on 01227 782919

SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER 2016

The Platonic Myths

Julie Parker



Of the heaven above the heavens what earthly poet can sing ...

Myth has an essential part to play in the dialogues of Plato, most often in relation to the nature and destiny of the human soul.

This talk will survey some of the key myths and consider what they tell us about the world-view of Plato and his teacher Socrates.

Julie Parker is the Manager and Educational Programme Co-ordinator for the Fintry Trust, a charity based in Surrey.

She edits publications and runs courses entitled Reading the Mystics in both Surrey and Kent.

She was formerly Vice Principal of Hilderstone College in Broadstairs.

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2016

The Detective, the Shulamite and the Garden of Dreams

Chris Pike



The connection between dreaming, language and myth, including the role of what we currently think of as 'wordplay' (puns, anagrams, riddles, figures of speech) in dream imagery and dream interpretation, has been recognised and used by various cultures for thousands of years for purposes of prediction, guidance, self-understanding and/or communication with the Divine.

This talk aims to throw light on the mythological (archetypal) origins of language and its role in dreaming through charting the presenter's discovery of multiple layers of wordplay in a dream he experienced several years ago. This led him on a journey of self-exploration and

research from the study of a painting by Paul Klee to the ancient Hebrew poetry of the Song of Songs.

The talk outlines the unfolding interpretation and 'decoding' of the dream-riddle in dialogue with the presenter's waking life, subsequent dreams, and research, and shows how the original dream encrypts, anticipates, describes and provokes the process of its own interpretation by - and transformative effect upon - the dreamer.

Dr Chris Pike is a Principal Lecturer in Psychology in the School of Psychology, Politics and Sociology. Before joining Canterbury Christ Church University, he was a Research Fellow in the Department of Psychology at the University of Kent. While originally a developmental psychologist focussing on the role of adult-child conversation in children's cognitive development, he now has wider, more transdisciplinary interests in the areas of psychology and art, language and communication, and psychology, religion and spirituality. He is currently integrating these interests via studying the phenomenology of dreams and dream interpretation.

SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 2016

John Wood and the Cosmological Vision of Albion

Simon Wilson

John Wood (1704–1754) is best known today as the chief architect of eighteenth-century Bath. Yet he was much more than just a town planner: inspired by Pythagorean cosmology, the rocky vestiges of prehistory, and the stories of King Bladud, he aimed at restoring the ancient enchantment which, he believed, had once held sway over the south-west of England.

Bath, in Wood's view, had been founded by Bladud, the legendary tenth ruler of Britain. Bladud, too, was responsible for the great megalithic temples of the South-West, such as Stonehenge or Stanton Drew, which he constructed according to Pythagorean principles, encoding in them, and in their relationship to each other in the landscape, the order and harmony of the cosmos. Wood was not alone in believing that prehistoric monuments reveal the presence of primordial mystical truths in the fields of Britain.

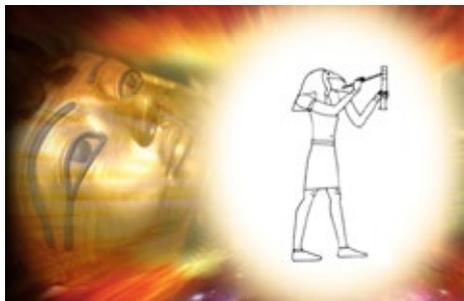
We will compare his speculations with those of his contemporaries, such as the antiquarian William Stukeley (1687–1765). Whatever else these insights may offer, they reflect a level of imaginative engagement with the past which was to be lacking in much of later archaeology. Dr Simon Wilson has a long-standing interest in the spiritual traditions of the West. An independent scholar, he has published on a wide variety of topics, including the Palais Idéal, the Grail, colour symbolism, the sublime, John Michell, and John Dee in the Czech Lands. He also lectures for the MA and supervises PhD students at Canterbury Christ Church University.



SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2016

Psychedelics, Cities and a Question of Origins

Lucy Wyatt



We assume that cities evolved out of a farming experiment at the end of the Ice Age 7000 years ago. What if that isn't so? What if the whole concept of civilization can be seen as the result of secret visionary experiences of an elite priesthood who used certain substances to facilitate astral travel and access the basic principles of cities?

This talk will explore the evidence for suggesting that it is time for shamanism to 'come out of the jungle' and be acknowledged in its true context as a possible sophisticated stimulus for the design of original ancient cities.

Lucy Wyatt is an independent researcher and writer with an MA in European Studies from the University of Sussex. In 2010 she published *Approaching Chaos - could an ancient archetype save 21st century civilisation?* (O Books, 2010) which proposes that cities appeared not from a farming experiment but from a 'shamanically' accessed blueprint. She has given talks at alternative events and festivals such as Secret Garden Party and Green Gathering, and has run the 'Eternal Knowledge Festival' for two years. She is now working on an eco-conversion project in Somerset.

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2016

Indian Raga, Restoring an Ancient House

Livia Sevier

According to the Indian tradition Brahma gave us ragas to sing, and instruments came later, following the patterns of the singing voice. The first half of this presentation will explore the form and structure of Indian raga singing, which was established during the seventh to the nineteenth centuries. Some ragas are identical to the Greek modes, but many are unique in rules of ascent and descent and their specific selection of notes, and they are traditionally sung at specific times of day, at spring time or monsoon.

The second part of this session will be experiential, inviting you to sing and encounter another way into music. We will follow this ancient aural tradition, naming the notes with Sanskrit names and improvising with the support of a drone, together with the support of group call and response. We will go beyond major, minor, blues and flamenco to explore other sound worlds. The notes we will sing have beauty because of the space between them; we will sing with the intimacy of chamber music and the fragility and spontaneity of improvisation, and we will emerge with a new clarity of listening and sense of expansion.

No previous musical experience is required, although this session will also be of interest to emerging singers, musicians and music teachers working with Indian raga on the National Curriculum.

Livia Sevier has a BMus from Canterbury Christ Church University and has studied raga singing since 1994 with Gilles Petit, developing the voice as an improvising instrument for teaching and composing. She has taught Indian raga since 2006, encouraging participants to take a risk in listening and following her lead into a continually changing musical landscape.

