

Discover | Learn | Enjoy

# OPEN LECTURES

## MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred



Canterbury  
Christ Church  
University

MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred

# OPEN LECTURES

**AUTUMN 2017**

Come and join our MA students at our Autumn Open Lectures, the first in a suit of lectures in our 2017-18 programme.

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](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae/open-lectures) or call us on 01227 782919

**SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2017**

## A Journey into Northern Myth, Ritual, Runes and Cosmology

Andreas Kornevall

In this evening of insight into the Northern myth-world, Andreas will present the Norse creation myth and the story that lies at the very heart of Norse mythology: the Birth of Wisdom. He will also reveal the relationship between the runes and the creation myth, and will bring some ancient rune amulets such as the ancient bracteates and runes stones for display.

We will discover theories of how they were used magically, and what influenced the magician who worked with them throughout the thousand-year history of runic writing. Much of this material has never before been translated into English. The evening will combine storytelling, lecture and discussion.

Andreas Kornevall is a Swedish mythologist specialising in Norse myths and old Norse languages, with a focus on runic studies, especially the non-linguistic meaning of the runes. He is an active contributor to ancient-origins.net, which brings together experts in folklore and mythology. He has worked with Sussex Past, the oldest archaeological society in the UK, to revive the ancient Pagan Anglo-Saxon Creation Myth, telling stories inside the iconic Lewes Castle, and he regularly works with the National Trust in re-storying the landscape of the South Downs in Sussex.

He is also an active member of the 'Forn Sed' (Old Customs Association) in Sweden, which works closely with ancient Norse culture and traditions, unearthing old legends, forgotten folklore and endangered Norse languages. All his storytelling is accompanied by musical instruments such as drums, frame drums, flutes and horns.



**SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2017**

## The Role of Myth in Transformative Learning

Lindy McMullin

In this lecture Lindy will present her research on self-actualization and self-transcendence, areas of Abraham Maslow's 'hierarchy' (1943) that remain elusive to the majority of people, largely due to the lack of education about the self.

To know the self is also to care about the self, and Lindy's doctoral research was aimed at investigating how the use of myth in sacred text, combined with music, may contribute to this process of self-knowledge. Focusing on personal epiphanies, she will present archetypal figures that emerged from the study, outlining the way in which they may lead to transformative learning. The audience will also be invited to experience a short fragment of sacred text accompanied by lyre music.

Lindy McMullin PhD is a EUROTAS accredited transpersonal psychotherapist and supervisor, author of *A Soul's Journey* and co-editor of the Cambridge Scholar Publication, *Metamorphosis through Conscious Living*. International speaker and workshop leader, Lindy is now working on a project that includes transformative learning through visiting ancient sites, in particular the ancient site of Delphi (visit [www.quantumgreece.com](http://www.quantumgreece.com)).



**SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2017**

## A Midsummer Night's Dream: Love, Imagination and Poetic Truth

Valentin Gerlier

A Midsummer Night's Dream provides its audience with a wondrous, two-tiered reality: for the world of human reason, Athens, is juxtaposed to its shadow double, the faery wood. The excursions that the Athenians take into the world of the imagination enables the polis to transform from a divided and legalistic society into a world where drama, poetry and love are celebrated.

Just as the humans' adventures in the wood somehow bring to resolution the conflicts of the fairy realm, the faeries do - as Puck suggests to the audience - in some sense 'mend' the human world—imagination thus becoming the salutary corrective of the world of reason.

This lecture will show that, though imbued with its ideas and influences, Shakespeare's magical comedy transforms the prevailing Neoplatonism of his day by reversing the traditional idea of 'ascent' to the beautiful into a descent that is also a 'bodying forth': a veritable making poetry corporeal, and poetic language a bearer of the earthly density of love. In doing so, Shakespeare can be seen as prefiguring the later concerns of Romantic poets from whom imagination becomes a revelatory power at once divine and human.

Yet a Midsummer Night's Dream, in marrying law and love, faeries and humans, body and soul and imagination and reason, opens up a threshold to the infinite that nonetheless also fully attests to the fragility and corporeality of earthly life.

Valentin Gerlier is a novelist, musician and scholar who teaches and lectures for the Temenos Academy, the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, Madingley Hall, Cambridge and the William Blake Society among others. Valentin's scholarly interests include Shakespeare, Renaissance Poetry and Philosophy, Romantic Poetry and Greek Philosophy, in particular Plato. He is currently engaged in doctoral research on Shakespeare and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge. For more details, visit [www.valentingerlier.com](http://www.valentingerlier.com).



