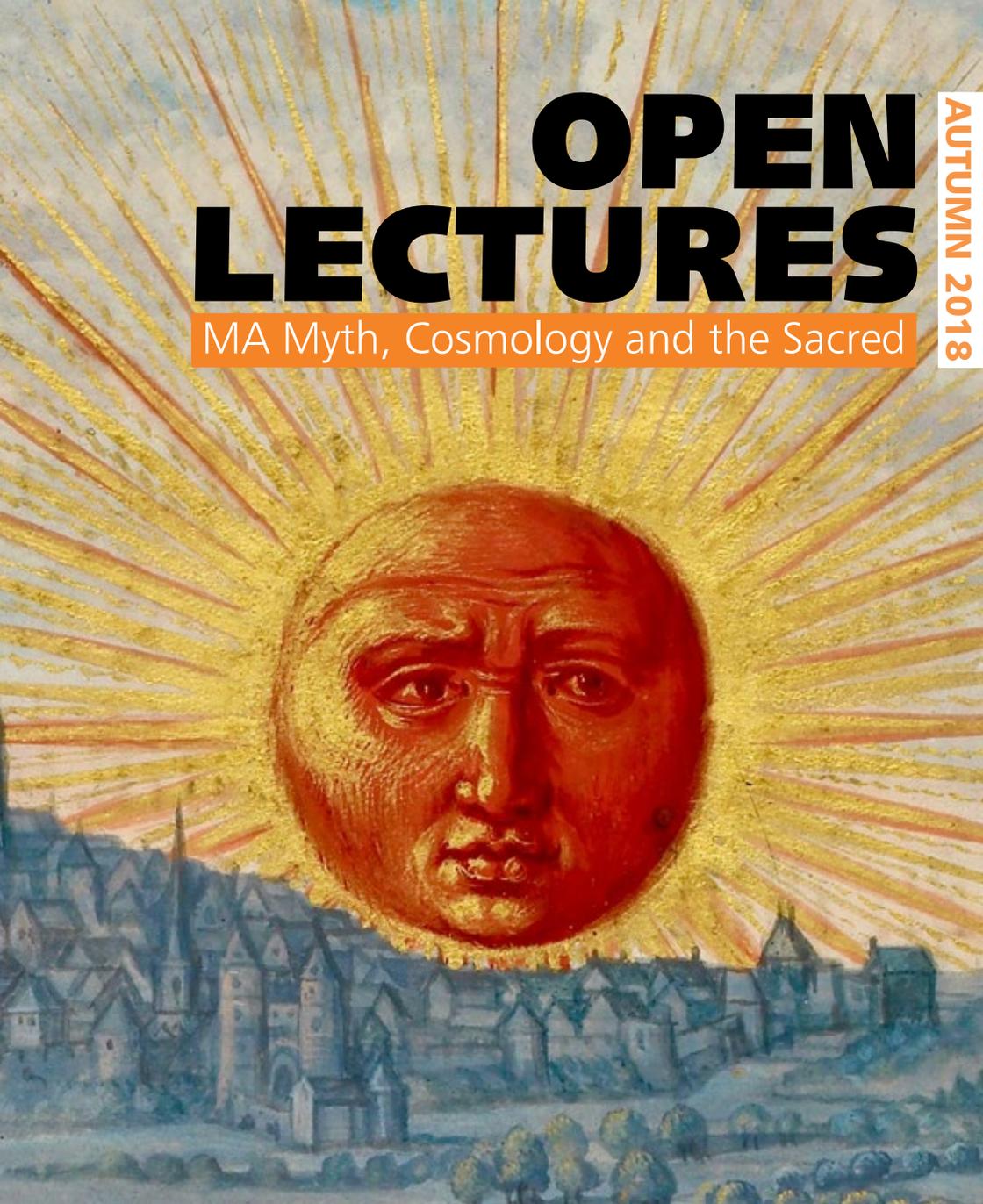


OPEN LECTURES

AUTUMN 2018

MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred



MA MYTH, COSMOLOGY AND THE SACRED

OPEN LECTURES

AUTUMN 2018

Come and join our MA students at our Autumn Open Lectures, as part of a series of lectures in our 2018-19 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/education/conferences

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER

Polis and Cosmos

Dr Joseph Milne

In the ancient world and throughout the Middle Ages we find there is always a strong relationship between the understanding of the cosmos, the polis, and human nature.

The image of the cosmos may change and this will be marked by a shift in the conception of human nature and community. We can trace these conceptions from Plato, through the Stoics, and through medieval Christianity, where a harmonious proportion is always maintained between the different orders of existence.

This may be observed in the ideas of providence, time and natural law, as well as in the arts. This begins to break down in the fourteenth century and finally collapses in the seventeenth century, where neither the city nor the human individual have a relation with a cosmic order any more.

The talk will explore some of the main features of the Greek and medieval conceptions of the place of human person in the city and the cosmos.

Until his retirement in 2013 Dr Joseph Milne was Honorary Lecturer at the University of Kent where he taught on the MA Mysticism and Religious Experience. His interests range from Platonism to medieval mysticism and theology, and in particular the transformations of metaphysical thought on the nature of the real that have occurred in different

periods of Western civilisation. He is also interested in the tradition of scriptural exegesis from Origen to Hugh of St Victor and Meister Eckhart.

His current research is into the classical and medieval understanding of Natural Law.

He is editor of *Land & Liberty*, the journal of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and also a member of the team editing for *The Annotated Works of Henry George*. Also he is associate editor of *Medieval Mystical Theology*, the journal of the Eckhart Society. Publications include *The Ground of Being: Foundations of Christian Mysticism* (2004), *Metaphysics and the Cosmic Order* (2008), *The Mystical Cosmos* (2013), and contributed chapter in *Mystical Theology and Continental Philosophy* (2017). He is a Trustee of The Eckhart Society and a Fellow of the Temenos Academy.



SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER

Goddess Mithra? Imaginal Light on Solar Mysteries

Dr Marie Angelo



Images of the soldier's warrior-god Mithras 'slaying the bull' are familiar from the Roman era, but a cross-cultural perspective offers older and less militaristic forms of this influential and starled mystery religion.

Ancient Vedic roots lead to Mitra, flame of celestial light, guardian of truth and order,

patron of friendship; to Avestan Mithra, 'Lord of the wide pastures', protector of covenants, mediator between light and darkness.

There are many variations, but historically, only Herodotus has ever described Mithra as female, apparently conflating Phrygian Attis, the beautiful Mithra, with Venus-Aphrodite under one of her many names. But was he perhaps glimpsing a truth?

In this illustrated talk we'll take to the 'wide pastures' of the imaginal itself; Mithra's mediating middle-ground of living image between earthly things Below and the starry heavens Above. An 'imaginal inquiry' (Angelo 2013) investigates in all the worlds, cultivating as research instrument the trained eye of the heart, organ of visionary imagination.

Reflecting on our 'meetings with imaginal peoples' teaches us more about the strengths and pitfalls of person-ifying the living powers. Holding 'conversations in the imaginal' takes us into the poetic territory of the alchemical language of the birds, where the sounds and symbols of folk etymology and esoteric correspondences are taken seriously.

Following this 'way of the imaginal', we will find ourselves in ancient Egypt, at the end of the age of Taurus, the Bull, and we will be assisted across the centuries by alchemical illuminations of the 'Splendor of the Sun', garment of Mithra's mystical Silver Star, the 'Sun-behind-the-Sun'.

Dr Marie Angelo, C. Psychol., ran the MA Transpersonal Arts and Practice at Chichester University, combining archetypal psychology, liberal 'liberating' arts, and western esoteric practice. For details of her research and new *Splendor Solis* book, see www.imaginalstudies.org

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Myth and the Symbolic Imagination: a conversation with Dr Geoffrey Cornelius and Rev. Dr Jeremy Law



Dr Geoffrey Cornelius



Rev. Dr Jeremy Law

In this session, Geoffrey and Jeremy will discuss perspectives on the religious imagination from both practical and theoretical viewpoints.

As experienced practitioners and academics in Pagan and Christian spiritualities they will open the debate about mythic 'truth' and address controversial questions for our time. These will include the role of divinatory and alternative ritual practices, the hermeneutics of religious experience, and interfaith dialogue and education. There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience.

Geoffrey Cornelius is a lecturer for the MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred, and previously for the MA Cultural Study of Cosmology and Divination at the University of Kent. He published his seminal book *Moment of Astrology* in 2002, and completed his PhD thesis in 2010 on 'Field of Omens: A Study of Inductive Divination'. He is most interested in the relationship between symbol interpretation and the experience of the 'sacred', and in the intellectual challenges that face diviners today.

Jeremy Law has been Dean of Chapel at Canterbury Christ Church University since 2003 and before that he was Chaplain and Lecturer at Exeter University. He began his professional life as a geologist and is greatly interested in the relationship between science and religion. He is committed to engagement with constructive theology and is an active researcher. Jeremy has overall responsibility for the work of the Chaplaincy Team and for helping Canterbury Christ Church remain true to its foundation as a Church of England university.

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