

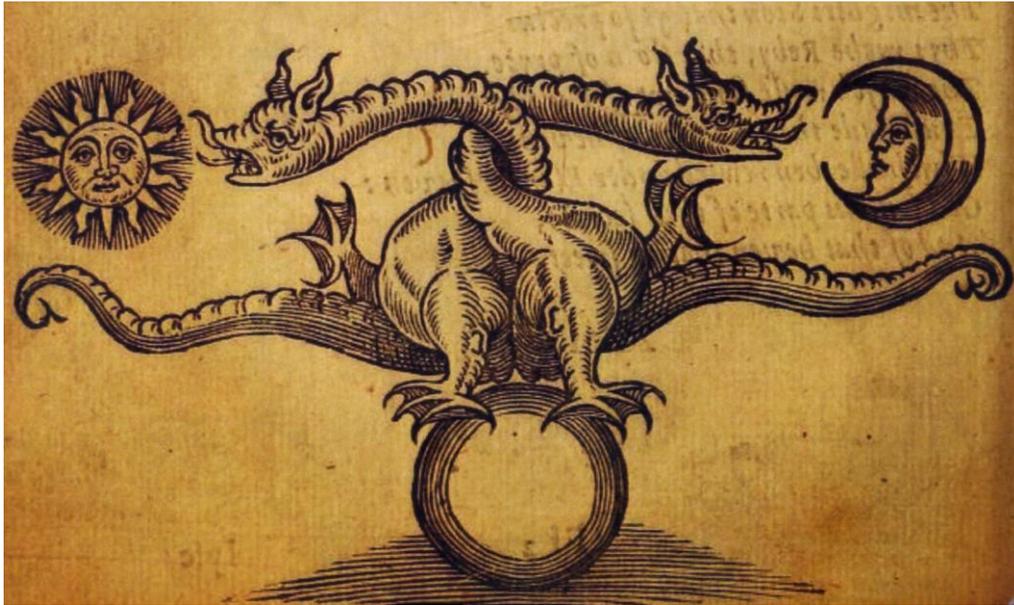
MA IN MYTH, COSMOLOGY AND THE SACRED

OPEN LECTURES SPRING 2019

All lectures: 6.15-7.45
£5 entry (free to CCCU staff and students)

January 12th DR JEREMY NAYDLER Ng07

The Archetype of the Binarius and the Prehistory of the Computer



The binary thinking of computer technology is omnipresent in the contemporary world and has deeply embedded itself in the modern psyche, but it has perhaps not been given due consideration at the archetypal and imaginal level. At the time when Francis Bacon first conceived the seed idea of the computer and invented a binary alphabet for writing in code, the alchemist Gerhard Dorn had a prophetic vision of a cosmic being called the Binarius. In a series of treatises, Dorn described the attempts of the Binarius to seek entry into the human psyche, and eventually to assume a position of dominance in the delicate balance of the soul. The Binarius, however, was known long before Dorn. This lecture will trace the hidden biography of the Binarius from its manifestation in ancient Egypt as Seth, the god of strife and division, to its crucial role in modern times at the basis of computer technology.

Jeremy Naydler holds a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies, and has written several books on religious life in antiquity and on the history of consciousness. His most recent book is *In the Shadow of the Machine: The Prehistory of the Computer and the Evolution of Consciousness* (Temple Lodge, 2018).

January 26th LAURA GUBBINS

Performance: The Path of the Mystics

(Please note this performance will take place at St Martin's Priory, North Holmes Rd)



An evening of verse and stories from some of the great mystics describing the journey of our souls from darkness to light. Guided by Catholic mystic, St Teresa of Avila, we'll journey together through the seven mansions described in her famous 16th century text 'Interior Castle'. At each stage of the soul's path we'll hear loving guidance, experiences and stories from other great mystics including Rumi, Lalla, Mirabai, Hafiz, St Catherine of Siena, and St John of the Cross. Weaving deep clarity with humorous metaphor, their words describe the soul's journey towards union with God, and the many difficulties and ecstasies experienced along the way. Although the texts come from various spiritual contexts, the descriptions of the soul's mystical experiences seem to transcend all religious boundaries. They are an expression of the bond with divine love which unites us all. When the mystics' texts are merged we can feel the presence of a great cloud of witnesses still guiding us today. Many voices yet one divine heart.

Laura Gubbins spent some years journeying alongside her Kashmiri Sufi guide. Throughout this time, the expressive texts from our great mystics were an invaluable source of inner nourishment, reassurance and guidance. They continually reflected with clarity and confidence the process undertaken by the soul as it strives towards connection with Divinity. Laura now shares the texts internationally in ashrams, at kirtans, spiritual festivals and devotional events, or wherever feels like the right place at the right time. Her intention in offering this work, is as a contribution to humanity's current fractured state by lifting us out of the mind and reuniting us in the realm of the heart. Laura has a diverse background in theatre, spending 7 years in London performing with experimental theatre companies.

February 9th JOHN WADSWORTH Ng07

Astrology as a Path to Wholeness



How is it that the planets and stars which wheel around us in the sky, also seem to turn within us, and offer up meaningful guidance through the medium of astrology? Beneath astrology's apparent complexity, there is a philosophical elegance and symmetry to the astrological scheme, rooted in the principles of balance, harmony, rhythm and correspondence with natural and seasonal cycles. In this lively, experiential presentation, astrologer John Wadsworth will demonstrate how an understanding of the zodiac wheel and the archetypal nature of the planets, can help restore wholeness and imaginal coherence to the psyche.

John has been practising as a professional astrologer for over 25 years and has been teaching astrology since 2000, founding the Kairos School of Astrology in Glastonbury. He is the author of 'Your Zodiac Soul', published in 2018 by Orion Books. John holds an MA in Cultural Astronomy & Astrology from Bath Spa University and is currently pursuing PhD research at CCCU, looking at astrology as transformative learning.