

Discover | Learn | Enjoy

MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred

# OPEN LECTURES



SPRING 2015

[www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae)

MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred

# Open Lectures

SPRING 2015

Come along and join the MA students at five Open Lectures this term. Attendance at the Open Lectures will cost £5 per lecture (payable on the door, or by booking online in advance).

The Open Lectures take place at our Canterbury Campus (Laud building, Lg16) on Saturdays from 6.15pm-7.45pm.

You can book your place online at [www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae) or call us on 01227 782919

SATURDAY 24 JANUARY

---

## Unique Methods of Discarnate Communication

CALLUM COOPER



Since early documentation of human kind, there has been a relationship between this world and the next. In other words, human kind has prayed to spirits of the dead, seen them, and even spoken with them face to face. These experiences have often been interpreted as divine information from higher powers, with precognitive messages given of the world to come and the future for human life. It is no surprise, that even today, we are fascinated with the prospect of communicating with the dead. But what unique methods – besides mediumship – have developed over time in order to establish communication with the disembodied consciousness of the human mind beyond death, and

what success has come of such attempts?

**Callum E. Cooper** holds degrees in psychology and social science research methods. He is a PhD candidate at the University of Northampton where he also lectures on Parapsychology & Anomalous Experiences, Thanatology (death and bereavement), and Human Sexual Behaviour (the psychology of sex). He holds numerous grants and awards in parapsychology including the Eileen J. Garrett Scholarship (Parapsychology Foundation, 2009), the Alex Tanous Scholarship Award (Alex Tanous Foundation for Scientific Research, numerous, since 2011) and the Gertrude R. Schmeidler Award (Parapsychological Association, 2014). He is member of organisations such as the Society for Psychical Research (and on the Survival Research Committee), the Parapsychological Association, a Hope Studies Graduate Researcher (University of Alberta), and a member of the Centre for the Study of Anomalous Psychological Processes (CSAPP, University of Northampton). Additionally, he has appeared on UK and USA radio and TV shows as a representative for parapsychology. He is the author of *Telephone Calls from the Dead, Conversations with Ghosts* (with Dr Alex Tanous), and *Paracoutics: Sound and the Paranormal* (co-edited with Steve Parsons).

SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY (please note this lecture is 6.15pm-8.15pm)

---

## Extended Minds and the Realm of Spirits

DR RUPERT SHELDRAKE



Our minds seem to extend far beyond our brains. Many experiments have now shown that people can influence others at a distance just by looking at them, even when all normal sensory clues are eliminated. Intentions can have effects at a distance, and can be detected telepathically, as shown in experiments with dogs that know when their owners are coming home, and in people's ability to anticipate who is about to call on the telephone, or send them an email or a text message. In addition, our minds link us to the spirit realm including angels, saints and ancestors. Rupert will explore how spirits work and how they influence us, and how we influence them.

**Dr Rupert Sheldrake** is a biologist and author of more than 80 papers in scientific journals and 11 books, the most recent being *The Science Delusion*. He was a Fellow of Clare College Cambridge and a Research Fellow of the Royal Society, and from 2005-2010 was Director of the Perrott–Warrick Project, funded from Trinity College, Cambridge. His website is [www.sheldrake.org](http://www.sheldrake.org)

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

---

## The Judder and Alternative Reality

MAGGIE HYDE



The 'judder' goes beyond the elevation found in symbol or an ecstatic high, and it is more than just a shiver down the spine when realities collide. It is disturbing and unpleasant, a physically nauseous feeling accompanied by disorientation and a mood of resistance. The judder is the cognitive dissonance that occurs when a person tries to fit disturbing experiences into their usual framework of how the world works. It forces an opening into an alternative reality, and many people do not want to go there. In an extreme form, this refusal leads to the denial of experience, including one's own. We will look at what makes people judder and the experience of the numinous that it evokes. Like the *mysterium*

*tremendum* of Rudolph Otto, the experience is found not only in sacred and shamanic paths but also in psychoanalysis. It emerges in the divinatory arts from tarot to tea-leaves, and its non-rational source is seen as rooted in occult phenomena. In this talk Maggie will discuss how healthy the resistance created by the judder might be, especially through her experiences in divination and the media. Do we, for the most part, simply allow a little frisson so that different worlds juggle about just enough to give us insight when it's needed?

**Maggie Hyde** is a speaker and researcher on divination and Jung. She is a co-founder of The Company of Astrologers and director of Media Cosmics agency. She is the astrologer for *Glamour* magazine and writes extensively for the Japanese media. She has an MA in Mysticism and Religious Experience and is currently undertaking doctoral studies in divination. Her books include *Jung and Astrology*, *Introducing Jung* and *Astrology for Beginners*.

SATURDAY 7 MARCH

---

## The Ontology of the Unseen: How do we know what is really real?

JACK HUNTER



In this talk Jack will present a brief overview of the fields of transpersonal anthropology, the anthropology of consciousness and, the most recent development in this lineage, paranthropology. He will outline the contributions of these fields to the development of a new approach to the investigation of so-called non-ordinary realities which emphasises the need for ethnographers to participate in the transpersonal practices and experiences of their fieldwork informants. In the words of Edith Turner, the anthropologist must learn to 'see as the Native sees' in order to truly grasp the experiential foundations of religious and spiritual belief, and escape from the hegemonic dismissal of alternative ontologies. The talk will explore the limitations of traditional anthropological approaches to the study of religion, which often fall-short of providing a satisfactory account of the richness and complexity of ethnographic reality, and will offer suggestions for ways to overcome such problems.

Jack Hunter is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Bristol, and a trainee RE teacher with the University of Chester. His research takes the form of an ethnographic study of contemporary trance and physical mediumship in Bristol, focusing on themes of personhood, performance, altered states of consciousness and anomalous experience. In 2010 he established 'Paranthropology: Journal of Anthropological Approaches to the Paranormal,' as a means to promote an interdisciplinary dialogue on issues relating to paranormal beliefs, experiences and phenomena. He is the author of 'Why People Believe in Spirits, Gods and Magic' (2012), a beginner's introduction to the anthropology of the supernatural, and co-editor with Dr David Luke of *Talking With the Spirits: Ethnographies from Between the Worlds* (2014).

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

---

## The Pleiades and Human Origins: a Cross-Cultural Mystery

DR MARGUERITE RIGOGLIOSO



To the Greeks and many others, the stars known as the Pleiades were the Seven Sisters, virgin mothers of deities and kings. In the West, their stories speak of an astral history of female leadership and empowerment related to planet earth that was usurped. They were also connected with Atlantis — and the Greeks believed they were associated with the founding of Troy. Around the world, cultures have Pleiadian origin stories, and many ordinary people report an uncanny and inexplicable feeling that they are "from" this asterism. Meanwhile, a number of prominent public spiritual teachers claim to "channel" wisdom from these stars. The Pleiades bear lovely female names — but who exactly were they? Why are people so attracted to them? With lively visuals, Marguerite helps us understand the Pleiades, and provides a provocative theory of the Seven Sisters as the Seven Mothers of the World.

Dr Marguerite Rigoglioso is the founding director of Seven Sisters Mystery School, university lecturer, scholar/practitioner of the ancient Mediterranean mystery traditions, and spiritual teacher. Her books *The Cult of Divine Birth in Ancient Greece* and *Virgin Mother Goddesses of Antiquity* explore women's shamanic abilities in an evolutionary new light. For more on Marguerite and her live programmes, webinars, audios, and spiritual mentoring offerings, visit [www.sevensistersmysteryschool.com](http://www.sevensistersmysteryschool.com)

[www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae) or tel 01227 782919