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MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred

OPEN LECTURES



MICHAELMAS TERM 2015

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MA Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred

Open Lectures

MICHAELMAS TERM 2015

All lectures take place in Laud Lg16, North Holmes Road Campus | 6:15pm - 7:45pm

EXCEPT

November 28 which will take place in St Martin's Priory, North Holmes Road, CT1 1PW

Come along and join the MA students at our Open Lectures series. Attendance at the Open Lectures will cost £5 per lecture by booking online in advance (free for CCCU staff and students). The link to the Open Lectures web page and booking page is:

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Contact details: mamcsmamcs.education@canterbury.ac.uk and Tel: 01227 782919

OCTOBER 3 2015

Of Two Minds

Gary Lachman



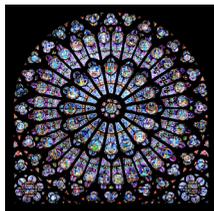
Sometime around the 6th century BCE, something happened to human consciousness. According to the philosopher Karl Jaspers, who called this time the "axial age," at this point human consciousness seems to have shifted from an earlier, mythological understanding of reality to a more theoretical one, a change that, Jaspers believed, happened globally and resulted in the ideas that underpin our modern world. Explanations of the world and our place in it moved from being expressed in narratives - myths - to more logical, conceptual approaches. Yet this shift was neither as sudden nor as complete as some interpreters and historians believe, and as the new, conceptual approach to understanding reality gained ground, its earlier mythological one continued, albeit in a demoted, devalued capacity. Much of early philosophy expresses the tension between these two "modes of thought," which Plato tried to reconcile, developing in his dialogues the new dialectical method while also reverting to "likely stories." I will look at this contrast between myth and theory in the context of the evolution of consciousness, drawing on recent developments in "split-brain" research and what they suggest about our "two minds."

Gary Lachman is the author of several books on the meeting ground between consciousness, culture and the western esoteric tradition, including *A Secret History of Consciousness*, *The Quest for Hermes Trismegistus*, *Rudolf Steiner: An Introduction to His Life and Ideas*, *The Caretakers of the Cosmos*, *The Search for P.D. Ouspensky*, and *Politics and the Occult*. He writes for several journals in the UK and US and lectures on his work in the UK, US, and Europe. His most recent work is *Revolutionaries of the Soul*, a collection of essays from over twenty years. He is adjunct professor in the evolution of consciousness at the California Institute of Integral Studies and in a former life was a founding member of the rock group Blondie. His website can be found at www.garylachman.co.uk

OCTOBER 17 2015

As Above, So Below; As Within, So Without: Sacred geometry as a means and experience of reconciling Heaven and Earth

Daniel Docherty



The fundamental principles of sacred geometry are underlying and operational at every level of the manifest world. The sacred science of geometry, according to Socrates, can effect “the drawing of the soul toward truth”. In Plato’s *Republic* he declares that through its right practice “an organ of perception, when by other pursuits lost and dimmed, is...re-illuminated; and is more precious far than ten thousand bodily eyes...” This illustrated talk by artist, educator and master geometer Daniel Docherty will attempt to shed some light on these audacious claims.

Since receiving his MA from the Prince’s School of Traditional Arts in 2004, Daniel has undertaken extensive research into how the principles and practice of sacred geometry underlie and inform the world’s manifold cultural traditions. He has presented numerous talks, courses and exhibitions both in Australia and the UK. He currently lives in Forest Row, East Sussex where he works at Tablehurst Farm and where Sacred Art of Geometry which he co-founded in 2014 is based.

www.sacredartofgeometry.com

OCTOBER 31 2015

A Daimonic Perspective on C. G. Jung’s Red Book

Chiara Reghellin



To encounter the daimon is a primordial experience of confrontation with the numinous. Its roots are grounded in the history of the human being and it manifests in the most perceptive minds of every epoch. C. G. Jung is one of those who have undertaken investigations into this phenomenon, and the *Red Book* can be read as Jung’s engagement with a spirit which seems to have assailed him and imposed acts of creation from within. In this text, the daimon emerges as a systematising figure which forced Jung to organise his own work into an ordered and structured pattern aimed at the attainment of the Self (wholeness and unity). It is however my contention that the daimon does not

only act as a systematiser - it can be systematised too. In this talk I will show how the daimon in the *Red Book* can be interpreted as a collective articulation of experiences in which we can all share. Through the analysis of meaningful passages and revealing drawings, I will try to demonstrate that Jung is giving us a key to both perceiving our inner daimon and coping with it in an authentic and dynamic way.

Chiara Reghellin works and lives in Southfields, London. In 2013 she achieved a PhD in Literature at the University of Essex under the supervision of Dr. Alan Cardew and Prof. Paul Bishop. The title of her thesis is *The Daimonic in C. G. Jung and W. B. Yeats: Systematic Search for Self and Unity of Being*. Her recent article ‘The Daimonic in W. B. Yeats’ is published in *Daimonic Imagination, Uncanny Intelligence* edited by Angela Voss and William Rowlandson.

NOVEMBER 14 2015

Teresa of Avila and Depth Psychology

Julienne McLean



In this presentation, Julienne will explore some of the similarities, as well as divergences and differences, between Jungian, or depth, psychology and the Christian mystical tradition, as highlighted by the lives and writings of the Spanish Carmelite saints and mystics, St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross.

Julienne McLean practices as a psychologist, psychotherapist and Jungian analyst in north London, as well as being a spiritual director. She is also on the clinical team at the St Marylebone Healing and Counselling Centre in central London. She has had a lifelong involvement in the Christian contemplative tradition, with a particular interest in the relationship between modern depth psychology and contemplative prayer. For many years, she has been teaching, running workshops, study groups and retreats on psychology and Carmelite spirituality, particularly in relation to the lives and writings of the Carmelite saints, St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross. She also facilitates a contemplative spirituality programme in north London. (www.contemplativespirituality.org) and is the author of *Towards Mystical Union* (St Pauls, 2003, 2013), which is a modern spiritual and psychological commentary on St Teresa's classic text on contemplative prayer *The Interior Castle*.

NOVEMBER 28 2015 (NB this event will take place in St Martin's Priory)

The Melancholy Muse in Renaissance Song | A recital of lute songs by John Dowland and contemporaries

Helen Atkinson (voice and lute), Esha Neogy and Angela Voss (viols)



The Elizabethan and early Jacobean period is renowned for its revival of esoteric philosophy, through such iconic figures as Dr John Dee. But artists, musicians and poets were also working with hidden symbolic meanings, and one of the most powerful expressions of the Hermetic philosophy was that of the melancholic temperament as a gateway to genius and spiritual insight. Tonight's recital will explore some of the ways melancholy was given musical form in the lute songs of the period, highlighting the exceptional talent of John Dowland, whose motto was 'semper Dowland, semper dolens' (ever Dowland, ever melancholy).

Helen Atkinson received vocal training whilst living in Oxford, and went on to perform regularly as a soprano soloist in the Oxford area. Since moving to York in 2006, she has returned to the lute – which she played as a teenager – specialising in self-accompaniment. Helen has studied the lute with Jacob Heringman and taken lute-song master-classes with Emma Kirkby and Dai Miller, Evelyn Tubb and Michael Fields, and Johanne Zomer and Fred Jacobs. She performs regularly at recitals and events, both on her own and in collaboration with others.

Originally from Hawaii, Esha Neogy is a viola da gamba player, event organiser, editor and mediator. She is a member of Ensemble Tramontana, which won the Trinity Laban Early Music Prize in 2011, and has also performed with Chelys, Musicke in the Ayre, Echoing Air, Europa and many other ensembles. Esha holds a BA in Music from the University of Hawaii. In the UK, she studies viol with Alison Crum.

Angela Voss originally studied viola da gamba and baroque violin at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and was a professional musician for 15 years until an academic career took over. She freelanced with many baroque chamber groups, and with The English Fantasy Consort of Viols recorded the Consort Music of Thomas Lupo for ASV. She has also masterminded 'Secrets of the Heavens' and 'Images of Melancholy', two CDs exploring the astrological music of Marsilio Ficino and the Hermetic influences on John Dowland and his contemporaries.