

MAGIC UN/DISCIPLINED

A Societas Magica International Conference

University of South Carolina
September 2-4, 2022

Convened by

Matthew Melvin-Koushki
University of South Carolina

Marla Segol
University at Buffalo



societasmagica.org

Friday, 2 September

1 | ASTROLOGY *and* ASTRAL MAGIC

9:30-11:00 am | Chair: **Tuna Artun**, *Rutgers University*

Margaret Gaida, *California Institute of Technology*

Rethinking Islamic “Influence” in Premodern Europe: The Case of Astrology and Astral Magic

Alex Matthews, *University of Chicago*

The Da‘wa Abides: Fāṭimid Astrology as a Challenge to ‘Abbasid Rule

Kathryn Evans, *Independent scholar**

Thābit ibn Qurra al-Ḥarrānī and Jacques Lefèvre d'Étaples' *De magia naturali*

Jeremiah Hackett, *University of South Carolina*

Roger Bacon on Astral-Natural Magic

11:00-11:15 am | Coffee break

2 | MEDICINE *as* MAGIC

11:15 am-12:00 pm | Chair: **Nicholas Harris**, *University of Pennsylvania*

Tiana Blazevic-Bastow, *Macquarie University**

Crows' eggs, root of peony and dung of a dove: Magical Cures for Epilepsy in Four Medieval Medical Texts

Caitlin Yool, *University of Aberdeen**

Breaking the Boundaries: Revisioning *pharmaka* in Ancient Greece

3 | MAGIC MODERNITIES

12:00-1:15 pm | Chair: **Noah Gardiner**, *University of South Carolina*

Amy Hale, *Independent scholar**

Antimodernism or ‘Staying with the Trouble’: Emerging Paradigms for Magical Futures
in Contemporary Occulture

Zoe Katzen, *Loyola Marymount University*

Astral Clairvoyance: Chronicles and Methods in the Lyrics of Killah Priest

Samuel P. Gillis Hogan, *University of Exeter**

"He took her by the milk-white hand": A Case Study of Inquisitorial and White-Supremacist
Reactions of the Current 'Alt-right' Movement to Modern Magic/Fairy Scholarship

1:30-3:30 pm | Lunch (Mr. Friendly's)

3:30-4:15 pm | *panel resumes*

Daniel Harms, *State University of New York**

Conceptualizing an Information Infrastructure for Magical Studies in the Twenty-First Century

Ted Hand, *Independent scholar*

The Influence of Frances Yates on Terence McKenna

4:15-4:30 pm | Coffee break

4 | *ARTES MAGICAE*

4:30-5:45 pm | Chair: **Jeremiah Hackett**, *University of South Carolina*

Claire Fanger, *Rice University**

Prayers, Figures and Visualizations: John of Morigny's Visionary Technologies

Mai Lootah, *Rice University*

Visionary Practices in Royal Courts: Images and Texts as Divinatory Agents in the *fālnāma*

Zachary Schwarze, *Rice University**

Inspired Images: Art, Occultists and Visionary Experience in Late Modern Europe

6:00 pm | Dinner (Hunter Gatherer)

Saturday, 3 September

5 | FEMINIST MAGICS

9:00-10:00 am | Chair: **Sarah Waheed**, *University of South Carolina*

Amina Inloes, *The Islamic College, London*
The Hand of Fāṭima (*khamṣa/ḥamsa*) in Shi'i Islam

Maria Amir, *University at Buffalo**
Jugni as Jadoo: Exploring Themes of Magical Realism in a Spark

10:00-10:15 am | Coffee break

6 | LETTRISM *and* PRAYER

10:15-11:30 am | Chair: **Matthew Melvin-Koushki**, *University of South Carolina*

Vladimir Rozov, *Saint Petersburg State University**
Spatial Conceptualization of Islamic *dhikr* and the Eastern Orthodox 'Prayer of the Heart' (*umnaya molitva*)

Amin Mansouri, *Central Washington University**
The Tablet and the Pen: 'Azīz Nasafī (f. 13th century) and Quranic Lettrism

Carlos Grenier, *Florida International University**
God in Slippers: Deciphering the West Anatolian Hurufi Community of the Fifteenth Century

11:30-1:30 pm | Lunch (Soda City Market)

7 | WITCHERY

1:30-3:30 pm | Chair: **Rochelle Rojas**, *Kalamazoo College*

Abigail Mitchell, *University of Southampton*
Revisiting Rebecca West: Creative and Community-based Histories of the Essex Witch Trial of 1645

Debora Moretti, *University of York**
Magic Practices and Witchcraft Beliefs in post-Enlightenment Italy: From Folk-Medicine to Folklore Traditions

Annabel MacPherson, *La Trobe University**

The Greco-Roman Witch in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Monica Stenzel, *Spokane Falls Community College*

From Boiled Babies to Gingerbread: Medieval Witches' Connections to Food, Harvest and Cannibalism

Manuel Padro, *Independent scholar**

The Good Witch Must Also Die: The Persecution of Joseph Smith, Nineteenth-Century
Witchcraft Belief and Satanic Panic in the Second Great Awakening

3:30-3:45 pm | Coffee break

8 | MAGIC CROSSPOLLINATIONS

3:45-5:30 pm | Chair: **Andrew Berns, *University of South Carolina***

Catherine Rider, *University of Exeter**

Magic Crossing Religious Boundaries: Christian and Muslim Magical
Practitioners and the Inquisition in Malta, c. 1600-1610

Rochelle Rojas, *Kalamazoo College*

Magic in Michoacan: The Trials of Atanacio de la Cruz

Ilona Gerbakher, *Columbia University**

The Jews Bewitched Muhammad: Practical Magic and Communal Identity in Seventh-Century Arabia

Veronica Menaldi, *University of Mississippi*

Supernatural Continuities: A New Lilith Resurfaces from Medieval Kabbalistic
Sources in Contemporary Entertainment

6:30 pm | Dinner (Matt's place, Le Bambou)

Sunday, 4 September

9 | SEX MAGIC

9:30-10:45 am | Chair: **Marla Segol**, *University at Buffalo*

Sonia Wigh, *University of Edinburgh**

Ṭilismāt-i ulfat va maḥabbat: Pursuing Intimacy, Love and Occult Practice in Early Modern North India

Lauren Hamm, *Independent scholar*

Nú mun hon sökkvask: The Connection between Prophetic Magic and the Feminine
in Old Nordic Religion

Simon Eales, *University at Buffalo**

Harder or softer? Faster or slower? Contemporary Sex Magic and Its Transmission Issues

10:30-10:45 am | Coffee break

10 | PANDORA'S BOX OPENED

10:45 am-12:30 pm | A concluding roundtable with reflections by **panel chairs** in person, and online:

Emily Selove, *University of Exeter*

Michael Noble, *University of Exeter*

Claire Fanger, *Rice University*

David Porreca, *University of Waterloo*

Kira Robison, *University of Tennessee*

Dan Attrell, *University of Waterloo*

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NB: Online presentations are denoted by an asterisk.