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’Étapes’ *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

1:30-2:30 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 (khamsa/ḫamsa) 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 Nasafi (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 CROSSPOLLENATIONS

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*
Tılımät-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

Co-sponsored by

NB: Online presentations are denoted by an asterisk.