Online Workshop

Esoteric Practices and the Master-Disciple Relationship in the Digital Age

Convenor: Stéphanie Homola (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

How is esoteric knowledge transmitted in contemporary societies where communication technologies allow all kinds of information to circulate and be disclosed to an ever-wider audience? Why and how to engage in a master-disciple relationship when even the most esoteric traditions are available on the Internet and can be shared and discussed in forums, blogs, and social media? Do information technologies dilute the potential of the dyadic relationship between a master and their student or do they make it even more relevant?

This event will be held via zoom. Please contact Stéphanie Homola to register: stephanie.homola@fau.de
Monday, 28 June 2021

11:15 - 11:30 a.m.  Welcome Address
Stéphanie Homola / Dominik Müller (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Panel 1 – The Master-Disciple Relationship in the Transmission of Divinatory Knowledge
11:30 - 12:00 a.m.  Knut Graw (University of Leuven)
“On the Transmission of Divination in Senegal”

12:00 - 12:30 p.m.  Alice Yu (University of Oxford)
“Different Kinds of Master-Disciple Relationships in Contemporary Hong Kong: the Transmission of Fundamental/Intermediate and ‘Ultimate’ Divination Knowledge”

13:30 - 14:00 p.m.  Radu Bikir (CRCAO)
“The Transmission of Mantic Techniques, and the Master-Disciple Relationship in Taiwan”

14:00 - 14:30 p.m.  Stéphanie Homola (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)
“The Master-Disciple Relationship as a Regime of Knowledge Production: Complementary Modes in the Transmission of Chinese Divination”

Panel 2 – The Guru and the Disciples
15:00 - 15:30 p.m.  Olivier Arifon (Université Catholique de Lille)
“Buddhism and Digital Communication. Connecting the Guru, the Master and the Disciple Through Digital Tools”

15:30 - 16:00 p.m.  Ana Cristina O. Lopes (Stanford University)
“Tara’s Triple Excellence Online Program and the Relationship Guru-Disciple in Tibetan Buddhism”

16:30 - 17:00 p.m.  Keith Edward Cantú (University of California, Santa Barbara)
“Guru is God*: The Teacher-Student Relationship Among Tamil and Bengali Sadhus”

17:00 – 17:30 p.m.  Cecilia Bastos (National Museum of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)
“Yoga, Meditation and the New Virtual Master-Disciple Relationships”

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

Panel 3 – Religious and Technical Traditions in a Global Perspective
14:30 - 15:00 p.m.  Serge Dreyer (Tunghai University)
“When Esoterism Prevails on Technique. Side Effects on the Relationship Teacher-Learner. The Case of Taiji Quan”

15:00 - 15:30 p.m.  Marc Lebranchu (GSRL-EPHE-PSL, CNRS)

16:00 – 16:30 p.m.  Meng Wang & Yang Shen (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity)
“Truth-seeking through Qin Practice: A Sonic-Sensorial Discovery of Ethics and Nature in Contemporary China”

16:30 – 17:00 p.m.  Harry Danon (EHESS)
“Patterns of Knowledge Transmission in Contemporary French Alchemy”

17:00 – 17:30 p.m.  Concluding Remarks & Discussion