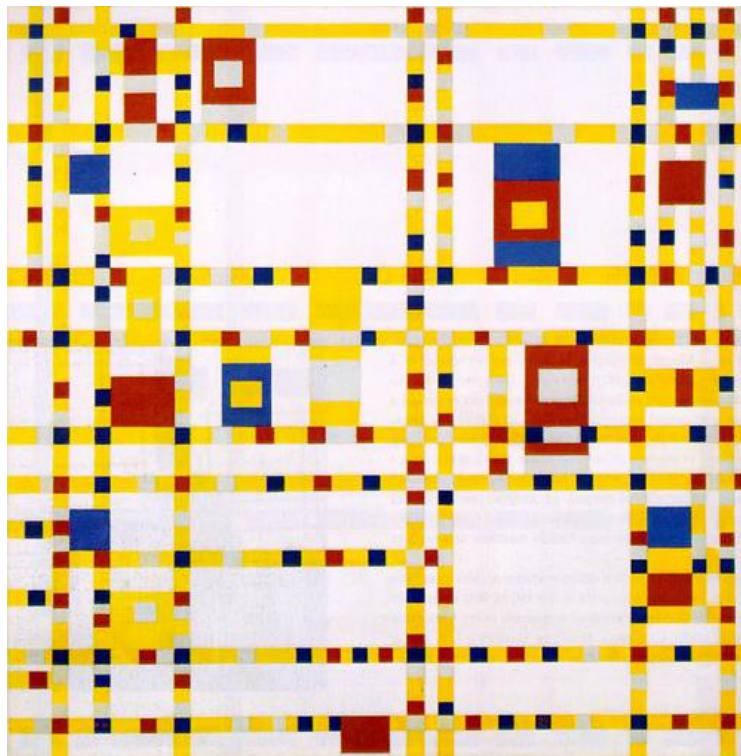


# *Theosophy and the Arts*

## *Texts and Contexts of Modern Enchantment*

Columbia University, New York  
9-10 October 2015



Piet Mondrian, *Broadway Boogie Woogie*, 1942-43

### **Program**

Kellogg Conference Center (Room 1501)  
International Affairs Building



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**DAY 1 – FRIDAY OCTOBER 9**

8.30am

**Registration (Foyer)**

9.00am

**Conference welcome: Gauri Viswanathan (Columbia University)**  
(Room 1501)

9.30am

**Keynote Address 1 (Room 1501)**  
**Wouter Hanegraaff (University of Amsterdam)**  
**“The Theosophical Imagination”**  
Chair: Gauri Viswanathan

10.30am-12.15pm

**Panel 1: Art, Media, and Aesthetics**  
Chair: Christopher Scheer (Utah State University)  
Respondent: Stefan Andriopoulos (Columbia University)  
(Room 1501)  
**Christopher White, “Claude Bragdon and the Art of Invisible Dimensions”**  
**Jeremy Stolow, “Astral Bodies: From Clairvoyant Perception to Technological  
Mediation”**  
**Emily Gephart, “My Theory of Soul Atoms’: Theosophy and Occult Mysticism in  
Sadakichi Hartmann’s Aesthetics”**

12.15pm-2.00pm

**\*Lunch Break\* and Fry Street Quartet Concert  
with introduction by Christopher Scheer (Room 1501)**

2.00pm-3.45pm

**Panel 2: Canons and Margins**  
Chair: Gauri Viswanathan  
Respondent: Sarah Cole (Columbia University)  
(Room 1501)

**Giuliano D’Amico, “Henrietta Frances Lord – a Translator of Ibsen for the Theosophical Movement”**  
**Mimi Winick, “Theosophy in Jessie L. Weston’s *From Ritual to Romance*: Historical Continuity, Narrative  
Coherence, and Modern Enchantment”**  
**Michael Gomes, “Unveiling Isis and Other Victorian Literary Pastimes”**

3.45pm-4.15pm

**\* Coffee Break \***

4.15pm-6.00pm

**Panel 3: Self and Affect**

(Room 1512)

Chair: Rachel Cowgill (University of Huddersfield)

Respondent: Christopher Scheer

J. Barton Scott, "Practical Asceticism: On Theosophy's Astral Ethics"

Christina Iglesias, "'Oneness with the Infinite': Self and Symbol in D.H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* (1915)"

Annika Forkert, "Serialism Enchanted: The Theosophical Basis of

Elisabeth Lutyens's Modernism"

4.15pm-6.00pm

**Panel 4: Color and Sound**

(Room 1501)

Chair: Carmel Raz (Society of Fellows)

Respondent: James Mansell (University of Nottingham)

Pia van Gelder, "Alexander Hector's Color Music Instruments and Unified Theories of Sonic and Visual Frequencies"

Massimo Introvigne, "Every Picture Tells a Story: Édouard Schuré's *The Great Initiates*: Theosophy, Text, Context, and Influence on the Visual Arts in France"

Paul Ivey, "Theosophical Impulses in the Work of John Varian: Mystic, Poet, Inventor, Masseur"

6.00pm-7.15pm

**Reception (Foyer)**

7.30pm

**\* Speakers' Dinner\***

**DAY 2 – SATURDAY October 10**

9.00am

**Registration (Foyer)**

9.30am

**Keynote Address 2** (Room 1501)

**Joy Dixon (University of British Columbia)**

**"After Theosophy"**

Chair: James Mansell

10.30am-12.15pm

**Panel 5: Intellectual History via Theosophy**

(Room 1501)

Chair: James Mansell

Respondent: Susan Pedersen (Columbia University)

Corinna Treitel, "Enchanting the Farm: Anthroposophy and the Origins of German Organic Agriculture"

Shiben Banerji, "Woodrow Wilson's Great Mistake: Self-Determination and the Theosophical Concept of Peace"

Gauri Viswanathan, "Theosophy as Cultural Translation: Mediating Hinduism"

12.15pm-1.30pm

**\* Lunch Break\***

**Enchanted Modernities project activities on display (Room 1501)**

1.30pm-3.15pm

**Panel 6: Theosophy's Transculturalism**

(Room 1501)

Chair: Helena Capkova (Waseda University)

Respondent: Wouter Hanegraaff

Devin Zuber, "The Colors of Conversion: Swedenborg, Theosophy, and Transcultural Mysticism"  
Serena Keshavjee, "Images of Buddha and Christ in French Symbolist Art: Interpreting East and West through a Theosophical Lens"

Chien Hui Chuang, "The Reception and Propagation of Theosophy in China"

Yuri Stoyanov, "Transmutations of Theosophy in Russian and East European Literary and Philosophical-Scientific Contexts (c.1880s-1950s)"

1.30pm-3.15pm

**Panel 7: Politics and Institutions**

(Room 1512)

Chair: Marco Pasi (University of Amsterdam)

Respondent: Cólín Parsons (Georgetown University)

Colin Duggan, "Theosophical Individualism and the Politics of Neutrality"

Catherine Candy, "Theosophy and the Emergence of an Irish-Indian Decolonising Counter-Modern through Margaret and James Cousins"

Toshio Akai, "The International Lodge Reconsidered: The Theosophical Network and its Impact on Japanese Interbellum Modernity"

3.15pm-3.45pm

**\* Coffee Break \***

3.45pm-5.00pm

**Panel 8: The Public Sphere**

(Room 1512)

Chair: Rachel Cowgill

Respondent: Matt Hart (Columbia University)

Christine Ferguson, "The Theosophical Gothic: Propaganda and Positive Epistemology  
in H.P. Blavatsky's *Nightmare Tales* (1892)"

Ayla Lepine, "Revivalism as "Beautiful Necessity": Tracing a Transatlantic Gothic Spirit"

Marta Ferrer, "Fables of Enchantment: Spiritualism, Anarchism and the Politics of Affection  
between Women in Spain and Latin-America"

3.45pm-5.00pm

**Panel 9: Futurism, Art, and Theosophy**

(Room 1501)

Chair: Sarah Victoria Turner (Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art)

Respondent: Marco Pasi

Linda D. Henderson, "Kandinsky, Boccioni, and the Ether in the International Cultures  
of Science and Theosophy"

Jennifer Griffiths, "A Theosophical Portrait of Ruzena Zatkova, Futurist"

Fae Brauer, "Evolving Androgynous Astrobodies: H el ene Dufau's Occult Transformism"

5.00pm-6.00pm

**Roundtable Discussion - Enchanted Modernities Project Team**

Chairs: Gauri Viswanathan and James Mansell

(Room 1501)

Helena Capkova

Rachel Cowgill

James Mansell

Marco Pasi

Christopher Scheer

Sarah Victoria Turner

Gauri Viswanathan

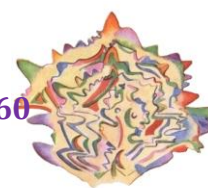
6.00pm

**Conference close**

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# Enchanted Modernities

A research network on theosophy, modernism and the arts, c. 1875-1960



## Conference Organization Team

Lead Conference Organizer/Network Partner: **Gauri Viswanathan** (Columbia University)

Co-Conference Organizer/Network Partner: **James Mansell** (University of Nottingham)

Conference Administrator/Network Facilitator: **Katie J. T. Herrington** (University of York)

## For further information please contact:

Katie J. T. Herrington

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Please check the conference website for updates, registration, and practical information:  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/history-of-art/newyork-theosophy-conference/>

## This conference has been made possible with the support of the following sponsors:

The Leverhulme Trust International Network Grant awarded to Sarah Victoria Turner and held by the University of York for the development of the *Enchanted Modernities: Theosophy, modernism and the Arts c. 1875-1960* network.

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