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University of Groningen Summer Schools 2014

Mysticism and Esotericism in Pluralistic Perspective

Conflicting Claims of Knowledge
 and the Power of Individualism

29 June - 5 July 2014

Groningen, the Netherlands



UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



RICE
Unconventional Wisdom

www.rug.nl/summerschools





> Summer school description <

It is often assumed that mysticism and esotericism are rather isolated strands in the history of religion, in particular in the history of religion in Europe. One reason for this assumption is the fact that scholars are used to prioritize large 'traditions,' framed in container terms such as 'Christianity,' 'Islam,' or 'Buddhism'; in such a perspective, mysticism and esotericism appear as second-order phenomena, attesting to internal religious pluralism or deviance only. As a consequence, the impact of traditions that are associated with mysticism and esotericism have also been underestimated in recent discussions regarding 'spiritualities' or 'the religion of Nones.' It is time to reframe the analytical

perspective. A focus on individual agency and knowledge (two different yet supplementary rather than mutually exclusive concepts) can help to provide a better understanding of the important role that mysticism and esotericism have played in the pluralistic history of religion, philosophy, science, and culture. It turns out that esoteric and mystical discourses frequently cross the borders of the usual container concepts of 'religions,' as well as the line between religion and non-religion.

The summer school, co-organized by the Universities of Groningen, Erfurt (Germany), Aarhus (Denmark), as well as Rice University (USA), will address fundamental questions of concepts and approaches. It will introduce phenomena from various perspectives and cultural locations to comparative analyses. A framework for the discussion will be provided by lectures by invited speakers, as well as by preparatory reading. Participants will be asked to contribute expositions of their own research.

Applicants are asked to fill out the online application form and upload other required documents. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

> Academic coordinator	Prof. Dr. Kocku von Stuckrad
> Fee	€ 500
> Who is it for?	For graduate students (advanced Master and Research Master students) and postgraduate students (PhD students or Post Docs) in the field of religion; history; cultural studies and other fields of research that have a clear link to the theme of the summer school
> Language of instruction	English
> Credits/Certificate	3 EC. All students will receive a certificate of attendance
> Application deadline	1 June 2014
> More information	www.rug.nl/summerschools