

The Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies two-day conference

# Science and Spiritualism 1750 – 1930

**Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May 2019**



# Day 1 30 May 2019

TIME	SESSIONS	
9:00am - 9.30am	Registration and refreshments – Conference Suite	
9.30am - 10.45am	<p><b>Session 1A</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Shane McCorristine <b>Room:</b> LC1 29/A</p> <p>Anaïs Aledo – <i>Liminality and the Unconscious in Arthur Machen's Use of the Transcendent Doctor Figure</i></p> <p>Andreas Sommer – <i>Scientific Naturalism and the Study of Spiritualist Phenomena by Positivist and Materialist Representatives of Science and Medicine</i></p> <p>Béatrice Laurent – <i>Spiritualism vs. 'Exact Science' in the Work of James John Garth Wilkinson</i></p>	<p><b>Session 1B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Elsa Richardson <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Bill Jenkins – <i>The Physiology of the Haunted Mind: Naturalistic Theories of Apparitions in Early Nineteenth-Century Scotland</i></p> <p>Clare Button – <i>'The Higher Fundamental Rhythms': Margaret Morris, a Spiritualist Physiotherapist?</i></p> <p>Marie Holm and Gazi Islam – <i>Mind over Matter: Exploring Spiritualism in Society through History</i></p>
10.50am - 12.05pm	<p><b>Session 2A</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Anne Reus <b>Room:</b> LC1 29/A</p> <p>Eleanor Dobson – <i>'The Picture of Dorian Gray': Oscar Wilde, Spirit Photography and Occulture</i></p> <p>Anthony Enns – <i>Gothic Media</i></p> <p>Stephen Whiting – <i>'Science is a match that man has just got alight': The Fourth Dimension, the 'Man of Science' and the Unreadable 'Book of Nature' in The Time Machine</i></p>	<p><b>Session 2B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Andreas Sommer <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Julia Falk - <i>The Terra Incognita of the Soul: Spiritualism in Sweden 1891-1922</i></p> <p>Julia Gyimesi – <i>Scientific Spiritualism and its Opponents in Hungary</i></p> <p>Tetsuya Kumagai – <i>The Influence of German Spiritualism on Modern Japanese Philosophy: Raphael von Koeber at Tokyo Imperial University</i></p>
12.10pm - 1.00pm	Séance: A view from through the veil with Nik Taylor and Andy Cooper <b>Room:</b> Mary Hallaway Lecture Theatre	
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Lunch – Conference Suite	
2.00pm - 3.15pm	<p><b>Session 3A</b>  <b>Chair:</b> James Mussell <b>Room:</b> LC1 29/A</p> <p>Karl Bell and Eilís Phillips – <i>'There is Nothing Certain': Science and Spiritualism, 1914-1924</i></p> <p>Hayley Flynn – <i>Spiritualism and Dream in Periodical Literature of the 1860s</i></p> <p>Merrick Burrow – <i>Ecology Catastrophe and the Scientific-Spiritualist Nexus in Arthur Conan Doyle's Professor Challenger Stories</i></p>	<p><b>Session 3B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Christine Ferguson <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Efram Sera-Shriar – <i>Grumbling at the Folklore Society: Edward Clodd, Andrew Lang and The Problem of Psychical Research</i></p> <p>Elsa Richardson – <i>Lentil Soup Beyond the Veil: Spiritualism, Vegetarianism and Dietetics</i></p> <p>Shane McCorristine – <i>Science, Geography, and the Spirits: Arctic Explorers and Shamanism</i></p>
3.20pm - 3.55pm	Refreshment break – Conference Suite	
4.00pm - 5.15pm	<p><b>Session 4A</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Shane McCorristine</p> <p>Kaat Wils – <i>Magnetizers, Spiritism, and the Science of Hypnosis in Late Nineteenth Century Belgium and France</i></p> <p>L. Anne Delgado – <i>Death-Defying Acts: Mina Crandon and the 'Sister Art of Magic'</i></p> <p>Ross MacFarlane - <i>Taken from the Genuine and Original Record: Spiritualism and Information Science</i></p>	<p><b>Session 4B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Suzanne Owen <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Claudia Abreu and T. Camel – <i>The Fall of Spiritism, The French Spiritualist Movement</i></p> <p>John M. Andrick - <i>Prophetess of a Glorious Future: Lilian Whiting and the Progressive Science of Spiritualist Evolution 1893 - 1919</i></p>
5.15pm - 6.00pm	Wine Reception – Conference Suite	
6.15pm - 7.15pm	<p><b>Keynote 1</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Efram Sera-Shriar <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p><b>Keynote speaker – Christine Ferguson 'Anna Kingsford (1846-1888) and the Intuitive Science of Occultism'</b></p>	

# Day 2 31 May 2019

TIME	SESSIONS
9:00am - 9.30am	<b>Registration and refreshments</b> – Conference Suite
9.45am - 11.00am	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 5A</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Suzanne Clores <b>Room:</b> LC1 29/A</p> <p>Aren Roukema – <i>Mediumship at Hyper-Speed: Spiritualism and Science Fiction</i></p> <p>Muhamet Alijaj – <i>Testimony, Method and Ontology in the Work of Crowe and Cox and their Influence in the Early Work of the SPR</i></p> <p>Daniel Albert Joslyn – <i>Heterodox Sexology: Sexual Mysticism as Popular Sexology in the Late Nineteenth-Century United States</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 5B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Suzanne Owen <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Nik Taylor and Andy Cooper – <i>Spiritualists and Magicians: Outrage, Appropriation and the Birth of a Performance Genre</i></p> <p>Evelien Jonckheere &amp; Kurt Vanhoutte – <i>Metempsychosis in the Fairgrounds: The Migration of a Ghost</i></p> <p>Susan B. Barnes – <i>The Davenport Brothers' Mediumship: Scientific Fact or Magical Fiction</i></p> </div> </div>
11.15am - 12.30pm	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 6A</b>  <b>Chair:</b> James Mussell <b>Room:</b> LC1 29/A</p> <p>Taylor Tomko – <i>Popular Poison: Pastiche and the Rhetorics of Influence in William Somerset Maugham's 'The Magician' and Oscar Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'</i></p> <p>Kazaki Inoue – <i>Scientific and Spirit 'Medium' in T.S. Eliot's 'Tradition and the Individual Talent'</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 6B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Roger Luckhurst <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Jane Ford – <i>'Un-Decodeable Wireless Signals': Telepathy in Lucas Malet's 'The Survivors' (1923)</i></p> <p>kitt price – <i>Frederic Myers and the 'dawning practical science of eugenics'</i></p> <p>Fae Brauer - <i>Illuminating Phantasmic Doubles: Hector Durville's and Albert de Rochas' Occultist Magnetism Photography</i></p> </div> </div>
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b> – Conference Suite
1.30pm - 2.45pm	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 7A</b> <b>Room:</b> LC1 29/A  <b>Chair:</b> John Andrick</p> <p>Camilo Garzón – <i>The Invention of a Spirit's Science: Rhetoric, Places of Production, and Inscriptions of an 'Ungraspable' Scientific Object, 1857-1860</i></p> <p>Ellen Packham – <i>Contesting Boundaries: William Gregory (1803-1858) and the Limits of 'Established Science' in the Mid-Nineteenth Century.</i></p> <p>Rebecca Sheppard – <i>Pathologized Victim or Self-Realised Subject? Mesmerism in George Du Maurier's 'Trilby' and W. Somerset Maugham's 'Magician'</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 7B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Angela Puca <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Emma Merckling – <i>Formal Logic and the Real in Evelyn De Morgan's Art and Spirit Writings</i></p> <p>James Mussell – <i>Binding and Embodiment: Oliver Lodge, Physics, and the Book</i></p> <p>Havelok Symes – <i>Representing the Ether: Oliver Lodge and the Fight Against Instrumentalism</i></p> </div> </div>
2.45pm - 3.15pm	<b>Refreshments break</b> – Conference Suite
3.15pm - 4.45pm	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 8A</b> <b>Room:</b> LC1 29/A  <b>Chair:</b> Hannah-Freya Blake</p> <p>Rosemary Mitchell – <i>Catholic Priests and Spiritualism</i></p> <p>Suzy Anger – <i>Western Buddhism and the Victorian Sciences of the Mind: Lafcadio Hearn's Mediations</i></p> <p>David Wilson - <i>Scientific Religion: Rational Theology in the Automatic Writings of James Padgett, 1914-23</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><b>Session 8B</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Angela Puca <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p>Serena Keshavjee – <i>Photographing Teleplasm: The History and Aesthetics of Ghost Photographs on the Prairies</i></p> <p>Shannon Taggart – <i>Scientists as Spirit Guides: Communications with Tesla, Einstein and Edison in Contemporary Spiritualism</i></p> <p>Karolina Maria Hess – <i>Photography and Radiation in Mediumistic Experiments by Julian Ochorowicz</i></p> </div> </div>
5.00pm - 6.00pm	<p><b>Keynote 2</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Efram Sera-Shriar <b>Room:</b> Conference Suite</p> <p><b>Roger Luckhurst – 'Stanhope Speer and the Ghost Club Circle: Questions and Methods'</b></p>

# Keynote speakers

## **Christine Ferguson**

### **'Anna Kingsford (1846-1888) and the Intuitive Science of Occultism'**

Feminist, occultist, and one of the first British women to qualify as a medical doctor, Anna Kingsford remains curiously absent from recent studies of science and spiritualism. Although active and esteemed in each of the latter arenas, her contributions here have been repeatedly side-lined by those of spiritualistically-inclined contemporaries such as Oliver Lodge, Alfred Russel Wallace, and William Crookes. This neglect is attributable to more than just the lesser impact of Kingsford's scientific work; it also reflects a wider tendency within spiritualism and science studies to prioritize interactions between professional male investigators and female or socially subordinate mediums, one that both reflects and reproduces the power dynamics of Victorian psychical research itself.

My talk examines how Kingsford sought to dismantle this divide between a masculinized scientific mode and a feminized practice of intuition throughout her eclectic literary output and self-experimentation. Across her visionary, medical, and anti-vivisectional writings, Kingsford advocated an intuitive form of investigation in which the subjectivity of the researcher took centre stage, and where feeling, inward reflection and self-experimentation replaced distanced observation. Actively resistant and hostile to the "new creed of objectivity" (Daston and Galison 2007; 195) which came to dominate professional science in the latter half of the nineteenth century, she insisted instead that the self was the first and most appropriate subject for occult and scientific research alike. In this conviction, I argue, she emerges as an important if deeply eccentric pioneer of a feminist epistemology of science, one who would assert the impossibility and undesirability of non-situated knowledge.

**Christine Ferguson** is Professor in English Literature at the University of Stirling, where her research focuses on the entwined histories of the literary gothic and modern occultism. She recently led the AHRC research network Popular Occulture in Britain, 1875-1947, and co-edited (with Andrew Radford) the essay collection *The Occult Imagination in Britain* (Routledge 2018). Her new book project focuses on the popular fiction networks and periodical culture of the Victorian occult revival.

## **Roger Luckhurst**

### **'Stanhope Speer and the Ghost Club Circle: Questions and Methods'**

The Ghost Club, founded by Alaric Watts and William Stanton Moses in 1882, was a private gentleman's club for eclectic discussion of the supernatural, mixing Spiritualist, Theosophical, psychological and psychical approaches in a relaxed post-prandial atmosphere. Work has only just begun on examining their extensive minuted records of meetings that ran from 1882 until 1936. This paper will map out some of the overlapping networks and connections of the Club, including Stanton Moses and his employer and friend Stanhope Speer, but I also want to use the Club to explore how successive generations of scholarship have shifted methodologies to understand the weird and wonderful beliefs of Spiritualists. Off the leash, in private, amongst friends and allies, the Ghost Club discussed some truly crazy propositions: how should we deal with them now?

**Roger Luckhurst** is Professor of Modern Literature at Birkbeck College, University of London. He is the author of *The Invention of Telepathy* (2002), *The Mummy's Curse* (2012), *Zombies: A Cultural History* (2015) and most recently *Corridors: Passages of Modernity* (2019).

Information correct at time of printing, May 2019

The information in this publication can be supplied in alternative formats  
Please call 0113 283 7150 or email [hello@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:hello@leedstrinity.ac.uk)