

Call for Papers

The Donner Institute will arrange a symposium 5–7 June 2019 in Åbo/Turku, Finland

## Approaching esotericism and mysticism: Cultural influences

Conference website: [www.abo.fi/esomyst](http://www.abo.fi/esomyst)

Hashtag: #esomyst2019

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1954347284622536/>

This multidisciplinary conference approaches the traditions of Western esotericism and mysticism from a cultural-historical perspective. The aim is to analyse the diverse influences of esoteric ideas and practices and the various forms of mysticism in their cultural-historical surroundings. We promote approaches that focus on individuals, groups and networks, and various archival source materials, but we also welcome papers dealing with esoteric or mystical textual traditions.

The conference will consist of keynote lectures and sessions that can be either traditional paper sessions or roundtable talks, panels and/or artistic performances. The social program of the conference will consist of e.g. esoteric and occult walking tours in Turku and artistic performances (plans for an event together with Art Teatro Circus -group). An excursion to the exhibition on Finnish art and clairvoyance at the Gallen-Kallela Museum (Espoo/Esbo, 11.5.–8.9.2019) is also being planned. The exhibition is part of the research project *Seekers of the New* and is curated by Nina Kokkinen.

Keynote speakers:

- Per Faxneld, senior lecturer/associate professor at Södertörn University, Stockholm
- Christine Ferguson, professor in English Literature at the University of Stirling
- Olav Hammer, professor in the Department of History, Study of Religions at The University of Southern Denmark
- Maarit Leskelä-Kärki (PhD, Adjunct Professor), University Lecturer at the Department of Cultural History at the University of Turku

The expert symposium is arranged jointly by the Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural history and the research project *Seekers of the New: Esotericism and the transformation of religiosity in the modernising Finland* at the University of Turku. The project is funded by the Kone Foundation.

To apply, please send an abstract (or panel proposal with abstracts) of approximately 150 words to the Donner Institute, [donner.institute@abo.fi](mailto:donner.institute@abo.fi), no later than 31 December 2018. Letters of acceptance will be posted no later than 31 January, 2019.