

Curriculum Vitae

Contact Details

Dr. Egil Asprem
Universiteit van Amsterdam
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Personal Details

Name: Egil Asprem
Born: February 26, 1984
Nationality: Norwegian

Languages: Fluent: Norwegian, English, Swedish, Danish.
Intermediate: Dutch, German.
Some reading knowledge: French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese.
Ancient languages: Latin (basic to intermediate reading level).

Education

2008-2012: PhD (*cum laude*)¹; History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents; University of Amsterdam

2006-2008: Research MA, Religious Studies / History of Hermetic Philosophy (*cum laude*); University of Amsterdam

2003-2005: BA Religious Studies (*cum laude*);
BA Philosophy (*cum laude*);

¹ In the Dutch system, a *cum laude* is a rare distinction bestowed on less than 5% of successful PhDs.

Minors: Latin; Hebrew; Literature and Linguistics;
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU),
Trondheim, Norway

Grants and awards

2008: Awarded a competitive and prestigious *TopTalent grant* from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). This entailed the transfer of €180,000 to the University of Amsterdam over four years to fund a self-defined PhD research project.

2006: Awarded a *P.C. Hooft grant* for exceptional young students of €1,500 by the University of Amsterdam towards the funding of my MA.

Current positions

Since October 2012:

Research associate (80 %), Center of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, Department of Art, Religion and Cultural Sciences, University of Amsterdam.

Since November 2012:

Researcher (20 %), Religious Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway.

Since September 2008:

Guest Lecturer (2-4 lectures in Autumn semesters), Religious Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway.

Academic work experience

September 2008 – September 2012:

PhD Candidate / Research Fellow, Center of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, Department of Art, Religion and Cultural Sciences, University of Amsterdam (funded by a “Toptalent” grant from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO); see above).

September 2005 – June 2006:

Teaching Assistant, Religious Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim.

Involvement with Scholarly Societies

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE):

Full member. Serving as Member of the Board, Membership Secretary and Vice-Treasurer since June 2010. Serving as Acting Treasurer since January 2013.

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S):

Professional member.

Norsk religionshistorisk forening (Norwegian Association for the History of Religions):
Member.

Nederlands Genootschap voor Godsdienstwetenschap (NGG; Dutch Association for the Study of Religion):
Member.

Co-founder and coordinator (w/ Dr. Kennet Granholm) of Contemporary Esotericism Research Network (ContERN). ContERN is a thematic network under the auspices of the ESSWE.

Conferences & Lectures

Responsibilities as organizer and convener:

2013: On the organizing committee of the 4th International Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, June 26-29, 2013, on the topic of "Esotericism and Health". Main organizer: Dr. Henrik Bogdan.

2012: Co-organizer of the "1st International Conference on Contemporary Esotericism" (w/ Dr. Kennet Granholm), Stockholm University, August 27-29, 2012.

2012: Organizer of the panel "European Identity Politics and the Memory of Paganism" for the conference *Regimes of Religious Pluralism in 20th-Century Europe*, University of Amsterdam, April 19-21, 2012.

2010: Co-organizer (w/ Dr. Tessel M. Bauduin) of the panel "Seduced by Science: The culture of science and religion in the early 20th century", at the quinquennial world congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Toronto, Canada, August 2010.

2008: Co-organizer (with Joyce Pijenburg) of the conference "Emblems, Magic, and Higher Knowledge", at the University of Amsterdam, March 23, 2008.

Keynotes and Invited lectures, past and planned:

2013: Keynote lecture at "Synthesis – Esotericism & Science, Junior Scholars

Conference", University of Amsterdam, April 29, 2013

- 2013: Invited lecture at the conference "Looking Through the Occult: Instrumentation, Esotericism, and Epistemology in the 19th Century", Humboldt University Berlin, November 14-16, 2013.
- 2012: "Religion and Scientific Change: The Case of the New Natural Theologies between the World Wars", public lecture at Illustre School, Spui25, Amsterdam, April 12, 2012.
- 2010: "The Naturalization of the Supernatural: Parapsychology between the history of esotericism and the history of science". Invited lecture at the Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene (IGPP), Freiburg, Germany. October 27, 2010.
- 2009: "Enokiana: engler og demoner fra renessansemagi til moderne okkultur" ("Enochiana: Angels and demons from renaissance magic to modern occulture"). Invited popular lecture, Forum Nidarosiae, Trondheim, Norway. July 16, 2009.
- 2008: "Apokalypse 2012" ("Apocalypse 2012"). Invited public lecture at the release party for the book *Dommedag!* ("Doomsday!"); Oslo: Humanist forlag), Oslo, Norway. October 23, 2008.

Papers presented at academic conferences (overview; please inquire for details):

Papers presented at more than 10 international conferences since 2007 (including: European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism [Tübingen, Germany 2007; Szeged, Hungary 2011], CESNUR/INFORM [London, England 2008], EASR/IAHR [Brno, Czech Republic 2008; Stockholm, Sweden, 2012], International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture [Amsterdam, Netherlands 2009], American Academy of Religion [Montreal, Canada 2009; San Francisco, USA 2011], IAHR [Toronto, Canada 2010]; Science, fables et chimère: croisements [Toulouse, France, 2011], 1st Intl. Conf. on Contemporary Esotericism [Stockholm, 2012]).

Other academic activities

Journal administration:

Editorial Board member of *Correspondences: Online Journal for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism*.

Peer reviewer for academic journals:

- 2012: *Journal for the History of the Behavioral Sciences*;
Din – Tidsskrift for religion og kultur (Norwegian)
Chaos – Skandinavisk tidsskrift for religionshistoriske studier (Danish, Swedish, Norwegian).
- 2011: *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*.
- 2010: *History of the Human Sciences*;

The Pomegranate.
2009: *The Pomegranate*;
Din - Tidsskrift for religion og kultur (Norwegian).
2008: *The Pomegranate*.

Research blogging:

Running the research blog Heterodoxology (www.heterodoxology.com) since March 2010.
The blog currently (February 2012) attracts around 6,000 hits per month.

Publications

PhD Dissertation

Egil Asprem (2012), *The Problem of Disenchantment: Scientific Naturalism and Esoteric Discourse, 1900-1939*. Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam.

Academic Monographs (peer-reviewed):

Egil Asprem (accepted for publication, 2013), *The Problem of Disenchantment: Scientific Naturalism and Esoteric Discourse, 1900-1939*. Leiden: Brill.

Egil Asprem (2012), *Arguing with Angels: Enochian Magic and Modern Occulture*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Edited volumes (peer-reviewed):

Peer-Reviewed:

Egil Asprem & Kennet Granholm, eds., (2013). *Contemporary Esotericism*. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing Ltd.

Professional, Non-Peer-Reviewed:

Egil Asprem & Joyce Pijnenburg, eds., (forthcoming, 2013), *Similitudes of the Sublime: Esotericism and Magic in Images*. Seattle: Ouroboros Press.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals:

Asprem, E. & Asbjørn Dyrendal. (Accepted for publication, 2013). Sorte brorskap, mørke korrespondanser og frelsende avsløringer. Konspirasjonsteori som esoterisk diskurs. *Din: Tidsskrift for religion og kultur* 1 (2013).

- Asprem, E. (2011). The Birth of Counterjihadist Terrorism: Reflections on some Unspoken Dimensions of 22 July 2011. Editorial feature, *Pomegranate*, 13.1, 17-32.
- Asprem, E. (2011). Pondering Imponderables: Occultism in the mirror of late classical physics. *Aries* 11.2, 129-165.
- Asprem, E. (2010). A Nice Arrangement of Heterodoxies: William McDougall and the Professionalization of Psychical Research. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 46.2, 123-143.
- Asprem, E. (2009). På epleslang i kunnskapens tre: En kritisk drøfting av teori i nyere esoterismeforskning. *Din: Tidsskrift for religion og kultur*, Vol. 2-3, 5-27.
- Asprem, E. (2008). Magic Naturalized? Negotiating Science and Occult Experience in Crowley's 'Scientific Illuminism'. *Aries*, 8:2, 139-165.
- Asprem, E. (2008). False, Lying Spirits and Angels of Light: Ambiguous Mediation in Dr Rudd's *Treatise on Angel Magic*. *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*, 3:1, 54-80.
- Asprem, E. (2008). Heathens up North: Politics, Polemics, and Contemporary Paganism in Norway. *The Pomegranate*, 10:1, 42-69.
- Asprem, E. (2007; published summer 2008). Én vilje, hinsides godt og ondt: Etikk og livssyn for det Nye Aeon. *Din: Tidsskrift for religion og kultur* 4, 23-42
- Asprem, E. (2007). *Kabbalah Recreata*: Reception and Adaptation of Kabbalah in Modern Occultism. *The Pomegranate International Journal for Pagan Studies*, 9:2, 132-153.
- Asprem, E. (2006). Thelema og ritualmagi – med magi som livsholdning i moderne vestlig esoterisme. *Chaos* 46, 113-137.

Book chapters, anthologies:

- Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2014). The Society for Psychical Research. In: *The Occult World*. Edited by Christopher Partridge. Routledge.
- Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2014). Science and the Occult. In: *The Occult World*. Edited by Christopher Partridge. Routledge.
- Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2014). Contemporary Ritual Magic. In: *The Occult World*. Edited by Christopher Partridge. Routledge.
- Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2013). The Monas Hieroglyphica. In: *Similitudes of the Sublime: Esotericism and Magic in Images*. Edited by Egil Asprem & Joyce Pijnenburg Seattle: Ouroboros Press.
- Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2013). The Archéomètre of Saint-Yves d'Alveydre. In: *Similitudes*

of the Sublime: Esotericism and Magic in Images. Edited by Egil Asprem & Joyce Pijnenburg. Seattle: Ouroboros Press.

Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2013). Dr. Rudd's Magic Circle and the Ambiguity of Images in Magic. In: *Similitudes of the Sublime: Esotericism and Magic in Images*. Edited by Egil Asprem & Joyce Pijnenburg. Seattle: Ouroboros Press.

Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2013). 'Logaeth q consibra a caosg': The Development of Modern Enochian Angel Magic. In: Edward Bever and Randall Styers (eds.), *Essays on Magic and the Modern*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Asprem, E. (Forthcoming, 2013). The Golden Dawn and the O.T.O. In: *The Cambridge Handbook of Mysticism and Western Esotericism*. Edited by Glen Magee. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Asprem, E. & Kennet Granholm (2013). Introduction. In: *Contemporary Esotericism*, 1-24. Edited by Egil Asprem & Kennet Granholm. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing Ltd.

Asprem, E. & Kennet Granholm (2013). Constructing Esotericisms: Sociological, Historical, and Critical Approaches to the Invention of Tradition. In: *Contemporary Esotericism*, 25-48. Edited by Egil Asprem & Kennet Granholm. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing Ltd.

Asprem, E. (2013). Psychic Enchantments of the Educated Classes: The Paranormal and the Ambiguities of Disenchantment. In: *Contemporary Esotericism*, 330-350. Edited by Egil Asprem & Kennet Granholm. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing Ltd.

Asprem, E. (2013). Theosophical Attitudes towards Science. In: *Handbook of the Theosophical Current*, 405-428. Edited by Olav Hammer and Mikael Rothstein. Leiden: Brill.

Asprem, E. (2012). Parapsykologi. In *Skepsis: Guide til kritisk tenkning*, 184-198. Edited by Kjetil Hope and Mona Hide Klausen. Oslo: Humanist forlag.

Asprem, E. (2010). Parapsychology: Naturalising the Supernatural, Re-Enchanting Science. In: *Handbook of Religion and the Authority of Science*, 633-670. Edited by Olav Hammer and James R. Lewis. Leiden: Brill.

Asprem, E. (2008). Apokalypse 2012: Mayakalenderen, aliens, skjulte brorskap – og verdens snarlige undergang. In: *Dommedag! Verdens undergang før og nå*, 247-282. Edited by Asbjørn Dyrendal & Arnfinn Pettersen. Oslo: Humanist Forlag.

Book reviews:

Asprem, E. (2012). Marco Pasi, Kocku von Stuckrad, and Boaz Huss (eds.), *Kabbalah and Modernity*, Leiden: Brill, 2010. Review in: *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*.

Asprem, E. (2012). Heather Wolfram, *The Stepchildren of Science: Psychical Research and Parapsychology in Germany, c. 1870-1939* (Wellcome Series in the History of Medicine;

Amsterdam, NY: Editions Rodopi 2009). Review in: *Aries* 12.2, 281-302.

Asprem, E. (2011). Tore Ahlbäck and Björn Dahla (eds.), *Western Esotericism. Based on Papers Read at the Symposium on Western Esotericism, Held at Åbo, Finland, on 15-17 August 2007*. Åbo: Donner Institute, 2008. Review in: *Aries* 11.2.

Asprem, E. (2011). Mark S. Morrisson, *Modern Alchemy: Occultism and the Emergence of Atomic Theory*, Oxford: Oxford University Press 2007. Review in: *Aries* 11.1.

Asprem, E. (2010). Dave Evans, *The History of British Magic After Crowley: Kenneth Grant, Amado Crowley, Chaos Magic, Satanism, Lovecraft, The Left Hand Path, Blasphemy and Magical Morality*, n.p.: Hidden Publishing 2007. Review in: *Aries* 10.2, 267-271.

Non-peer reviewed and popularizing (journals, magazines, newspapers):

Asprem, E. (Accepted for publication, 2013). Myten om det autentiske: Sjamanismens genealogi. *Humanist*.

Asprem, E. (2011). Enokiansk magi i moderne okkultisme. *Arr – Idehistorisk tidsskrift* 3, 95-112.

Asprem, E. (2009). Sub rosa: Om koder, konspirasjoner, og en som ikke skrev Shakespeare. *Skepsis*, 27.12.2009. [<http://skepsis.no/?p=865>]

Asprem, E. (2009). Har vitenskapen glemt det overnaturlige? Et vitenskapshistorisk perspektiv på "åndsdebatten". *Skepsis*, 02.02.2009. [<http://skepsis.no/?p=660>].

Asprem, E. (2009). Parapsykologiens historie. *Humanist*, 2, 4-27.

Asprem, E. (2008). Mørkemakter i tussemørket: Eksorsisme på film og kristendommens revansj. *Humanist* 2, 60-74.

Asprem, E. (23-08-2008). Mumiemani!. *Aftenposten*, p. 4.

Asprem, E. (2007). Stjerner og mystikk: Postmoderne kabbalah. In: *Skepsis*, 13.02.2007. [http://www.skepsis.no/sekterisk/stjerner_og_mystikk_postmodern.html]

Asprem, E. (2007). Religionskritikere i teologiens tjeneste. Kabbalah, cash og sekulær religionskritikk. 50-63 *Humanist*, 1 (2007).

Asprem, E. (2007). Lettlurte vitenskapsmenn, skeptisk okkultist. *Skepsis*, 27.06.2007. [http://www.skepsis.no/juks_bedrag/lettlurte_vitenskapsmenn_skept.html]

Asprem, E. (2007). Hva er spesielt med 2012? Mayakalenderen under lupen. *Skepsis* 12.11.2007. [http://www.skepsis.no/sekterisk/hva_er_spesielt_med_2012_mayak.html]

Asprem, E. (2006). 'Enochian' Language: A Proof of the Existence of Angels? *Skepsis*, 13.12.2006.
[http://www.skepsis.no/marginalia/enochian_language_a_proof_of_t.html]