

Dr Marco Pasi,  
**Fernando Pessoa and western esotericism**

Public lecture on Friday 7 December, 17:00-18:00h, Vondelzaal (University Library).



The research group *Religious Dynamics and Cultural Diversity* (University of Amsterdam) is pleased to invite you to the lecture **“Fernando Pessoa and western esotericism” by Dr Marco Pasi on Friday 7 December, 17:00-18:00h, Vondelzaal** (University Library of the University of Amsterdam, Singel 425). The lecture is public and entrance is free. You are encouraged to forward this email to those who may be interested to attend.

Abstract “Fernando Pessoa and western esotericism: glimpses from an ongoing research”:

Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935) is now widely recognised as one of the most important figures in twentieth century literature. When he died he had published relatively little, and his literary fame had not yet crossed the borders of Portugal, his country of origin. But after his death a trunk was discovered where he had collected over many years an enormous amount of unpublished writings, all in a variable stage of completion. Poems, essays, novels, short stories began to surface, some consisting of a few fragments, some almost ready for publication. One of the aspects that have emerged with increasing clarity from Pessoa’s posthumous papers is his deep interest for esotericism. This fascination began early in his life and remained constant until his death. His poems often contain references to esoteric ideas and images, and a very significant number of texts found in the trunk present themselves as short essays or notes on various esoteric subjects. This lecture is based on an ongoing research initiated during a recent fellowship at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies. It will focus on the various aspects of Pessoa's relationship with western esotericism.

Biography Dr Marco Pasi:

Marco Pasi is Associate Professor in the History of Hermetic philosophy and related currents at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). He has written extensively on the history of modern western esotericism, especially in relation to magic, art, and politics. He is the author of *Aleister Crowley e la tentazione della politica* (1999), translated into several languages. Among other things, he has edited *Peintures inconnues d’Aleister Crowley: La collection de Palerme* (2008), and co-edited *Kabbalah and Modernity: Interpretations, Transformations, Adaptations* (2010).

Best wishes and hoping to welcome you on December 7, on behalf of the research group *Religious Dynamics and Cultural Diversity*,

Prof Dr Wouter Hanegraaff  
Prof Dr Gerard Wiegers  
Ammeke Kateman MA