

Call for Proposals

This Group invites paper proposals on the following topics:

- Esotericism and psychoactive substances — exploring the historical, cultural, and social dimensions of the use of drugs and more generally psychoactive substances in the context of Western esotericism, especially in relation to visionary and/or mystical experiences but also in relation to magical and ritual practices
- Michel Foucault's concept of "technologies of the self" and focuses to esoteric practices of bodily and/or mental discipline used as tool of spiritual or magical realization
- For a possible cosponsored session with the [Ritual Studies Group](#) , play and games in an esoteric context, particularly the dimensions of irony, games, play, and humor in esotericism and challenging the classic stereotype of the esotericist who looks at his/her endeavors and doctrines with extreme seriousness and gravity

Mission

This Group seeks to reflect and further stimulate the current process — reflected in the recent creation of new Chairs and teaching programs, international associations, journals, monograph series, and reference works — of professionalization and scholarly recognition of Western esotericism as a new area of research in the study of religion. For more information on the field, see the Websites of the [European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism](#) , the [Association for the Study of Esotericism](#) , and the [History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the University of Amsterdam](#) . On these Websites you will also find information on the academic journal [Aries](#) and the Aries Book Series (both published by Brill Academic Publishers).

Anonymity of Review Process

Proposer names are **visible** to Chairs but **anonymous** to Steering Committee members.

Questions?

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Method of Submission

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