

# MÄLARDALEN ESOTERICISM SEMINARS (MES)

SPRING 2024

## DESCRIPTION

The Mälardalen Esotericism Seminars (MES) is a collaborative series of research seminars bringing together established scholars, PhD candidates and advanced students researching various aspects of esotericism at universities in the Mälardalen area. Seminars focus on work in progress by MES members or invited scholars, and on discussion of new developments in the field. MES currently consists of regular participants from Stockholm University, Södertörn University, Linköping University, and Uppsala University. In Spring 2024 the seminars will be hosted at Stockholm University, Södertörn University, and Uppsala University.

For information about the seminar series or to join the mailing list, please contact Prof. Egil Aspren ([egil.aspren@rel.su.se](mailto:egil.aspren@rel.su.se) / [easpre@gmail.com](mailto:easpre@gmail.com)).

## PROGRAM

### **February 21, 14.00–16.00 (Stockholm University, D4110):**

*Per Faxneld (Södertörn University): "Crouching Secularity, Hidden Religion: Some Reflections on Studying East Asian Martial Arts in Europe". (Presentation from an ongoing VR-funded research project).*

### **March 13, 14.00–16.00 (Södertörn University, room TBD):**

*MA-to-PhD Seminar. In this seminar we focus on the earliest stages of a research career: MA projects and the transition to PhD positions. Seminar members who are currently writing an MA thesis as well as those who have done so and are looking for PhD positions are invited to give short presentations of their research topics or PhD application drafts. Discussions will focus both on substantial aspects (sources, previous research, methods and theories) and strategic aspects (how to pitch a project for a PhD application).*

### **April 17, 14.00–16.00 (Stockholm University, D4120):**

*Focus seminar: "Esotericism and 'libertarian authoritarianism': A critical theory of (post-)covid protest culture". Introduction by Misha Kakabadze (Stockholm University).*

### **May 15, 14.00–16.00 (Uppsala University, room 22-1008, Engelska parken):**

*Erik Karlström: "Capital Practice: (The Theory of) Practice in the Early Theosophical Society as Capital" (Presentation of draft chapter for ESSWE9 conference volume).*

### **June 12, 14.00–16.00 (Stockholm University, D4120):**

*Pre-conference session. An opportunity to rehearse draft conference papers to be delivered over the summer (e.g. at the EASR in Gothenburg).*