

"Special CAS-E Lecture"

With
prof. jason ānanda josephson storm



Jason Ānanda Josephson Storm is an historian and philosopher of the Human Sciences. He is Professor of Religion and Chair of Science & Technology Studies at Williams College. Storm received his Ph.D. from Stanford University, his MA from Harvard University, and has held visiting positions at Princeton University, École Française d'Extrême-Orient, and, is currently, a visiting scholar at Universität Leipzig. He is the author of award-winning "The Invention of Religion in Japan" (2012), "The Myth of Disenchantment: Magic, Modernity and the Birth of the Human Sciences" (2017), as well as "Metamodernism: The Future of Theory" (2021), all published by University of Chicago Press.

Professor Storm sees himself largely as a historian and philosopher of the Human Sciences. He has three primary research foci: Japanese Religions, European Intellectual History, and Theory more broadly. The common thread to his research is an attempt to decenter received narratives in the study of religion and science. His main targets have been epistemological obstacles, the preconceived universals which serve as the foundations of various discourses. Storm has also been working to articulate new research models in the wake of the collapse of postmodernism as a guiding scholarly paradigm.

"Through a Dark Prism: Astral Armies, Psychic Surveillance, and The History of Military Occult Research".

In 2021, a mysterious phenomenon known as "the Gateway Experience" erupted across Twitter. Its origins can be traced back to declassified U.S. Military documents from the 1980s, that purported to unveil a peculiar "technique to alter consciousness and ultimately escape spacetime." What distinguishes this collection of texts, even for seasoned observers of the Stargate Project and US remote viewing research, is the infusion of arcane elements. The research group behind the "gateway experience" plunged into the occult milieu of the 1970s and 1980s, embracing esoteric rituals, artifacts, and yes, even "magic wands."

Delving into these texts and the broader history of the occult-military industrial complex, this talk will not only unveil the origins of this project but also trace how psychic spies and occult conspiracies persist in pop culture and contemporary esoteric movements. It will explore the occult and psychic research conducted by military agencies in the United States, Soviet Russia, and beyond, revealing the legacy of a competitive struggle to extend knowledge beyond conventional boundaries, access information transcending temporal and spatial limitations, and even weaponize the mind.

Join Online!



<https://fau.zoom.us/j/63672581746>.

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11:15-12:45



CAS-E

Alternative Rationalities and
Esoteric Practices from a Global Perspective

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