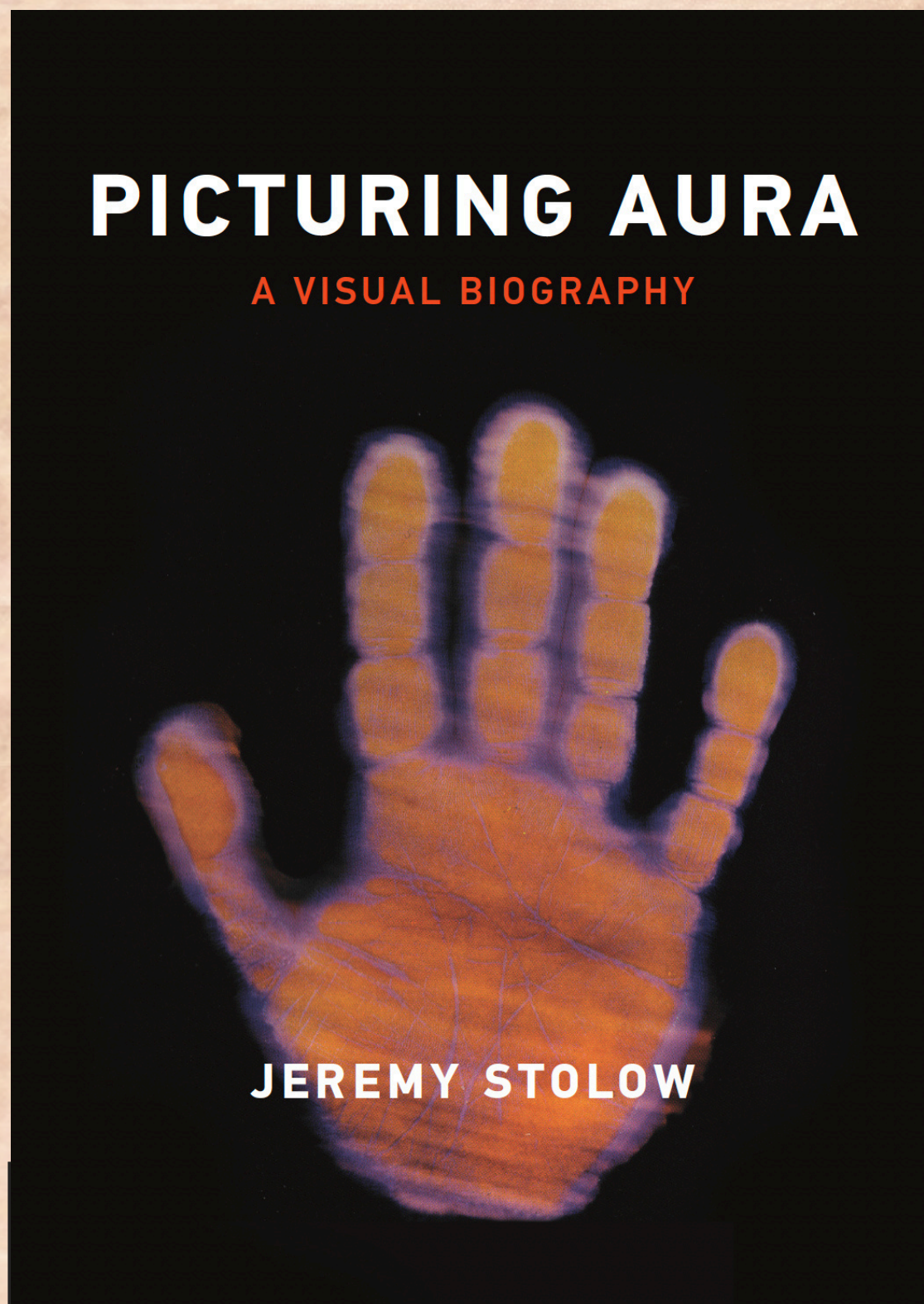


# Lecture

# Picturing Aura: A Visual Biography

Prof. Jeremy Stolow (Concordia University)

October 28, 2025 | 6.15 - 7.45 P.M



*Picturing Aura* offers a historical, anthropological, and philosophical study of modern efforts to visualize that hidden radiant force encompassing the living body known as our aura. This book chronicles the rise and global spread of modern instruments and techniques of picturing aura, from the late nineteenth century to the present day, exploring how its images are put to work in the diverse realms of psychical research, esotericism, art photography, popular culture, and the New Age alternative medical and spiritual marketplace. These sometimes complementary, sometimes conflicting histories – shaped by exchanges among professionals and amateurs, scientists and occultists, countercultural artists and entrepreneurs, metropolitans and hinterland figures – show how the aura operates as a boundary object: something ontologically plural and somehow serviceable to the varying tasks of making art, healing bodies, and mapping a hidden cosmos. My presentation will introduce a few of the book's remarkable protagonists, technologies, and image migrations, while also reflecting on the very enterprise of picturing aura and the challenges it poses to settled assumptions about religion, science, and art.

**Jeremy Stolow** is Professor of Communication Studies at Concordia University, Montreal, where he teaches and conducts research on religion and media, the history of technology, occultism and science, and visual culture. In addition to his latest book, *Picturing Aura* (MIT Press 2025), he is the author of *Orthodox By Design* (U of California Press 2010) and *Deus in Machina: Religion, Technology, and the Things in Between* (Fordham U Press, 2013).



Big Seminar Room

Hartmannstr. 14, Building D1, Erlangen

Link for attendance: <https://fau.zoom-x.de/j/62556506187>



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