

# Questioning “occult sciences”

Wednesday, **2010 June 16th**, 10 am – 6 pm

Université Paris-Diderot • salle Rothko, 412B • bâtiment Condorcet  
4, rue Elsa Morante 75013 Paris

Organised by **Koen Vermeir** (SPHERE, CNRS)



In this workshop, scholars of the occult will question some of the central concepts, such as “magic”, “occult”, “alchemy” and “esoteric”. The discussions will evolve around about the meanings of these concepts for early modern actors, how they are related and whether they constitute something that can be called “occult sciences”. Furthermore, we will debate how these concepts can be used in historiography.

**Koen Vermeir** (CNRS, PARIS)  
Introduction

**Jennifer Rampling**  
(CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY / LEYDEN UNIVERSITY)  
Alchemy in England : some problems  
in the historiography of the occult sciences

**Steven Vanden Broecke** (GHENT UNIVERSITY)  
Magic, reason, and superstition :  
politicizing the historiography of magic

**Didier Kahn** (CELLF – CNRS, Paris)  
“Secret sciences” at the time  
of Montfaucon de Villars,  
Comte de Gabalis (1670)

**Ulrike Krampfl** (U. FRANÇOIS-RABELAIS, TOURS)  
“Magic” and the practices of the secret  
in the early eighteenth century

**Lawrence Principe**  
(JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE)  
Commentary