

Call for Papers

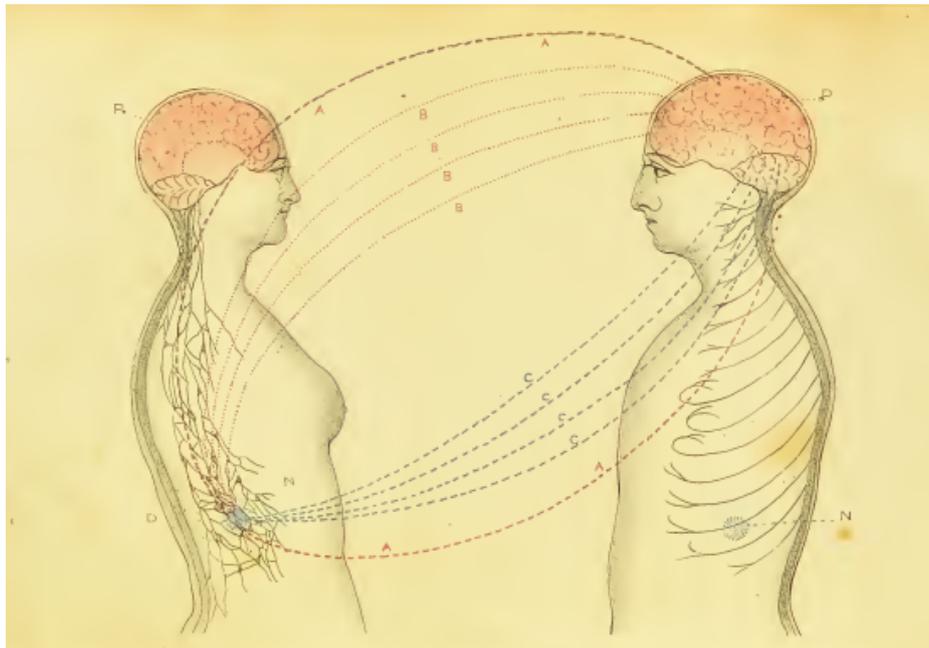
Interdisciplinary Conference

Subtle Energies - Explorations within Holistic Healing and Spirituality

Department of Religious Studies

University of Vienna, Austria

7th - 8th of May 2021



Confirmed Speakers

Liane Hofmann (Freiburg)

Jeffrey Kripal (Houston)

Kurt Leland (Boston)

Hugh Urban (Ohio)

So-called subtle energies are employed by the vast majority of protagonists of the contemporary holistic milieu. This conference aims to explore the role of these energies in holistic healing and spirituality (1800–present).

Ideas, practices, and experiences involving sublime life forces have circulated for millennia in various parts of the world. Traditions postulating the flows of these vital powers or substances through the channels and centers of a likewise subtle body are probably best known from their occurrence in South and East Asian techniques of self-cultivation (e.g., *qi*, *prāṇa*, *kuṇḍalinī*). Since the 19th century, elements from these traditions have been mingled and supplemented with similar concepts of European origin (e.g., animal magnetism, Od, Orgon) and disseminated on a worldwide scale.

Two key topics of this conference will be the various theories and practices of energy healing on the one hand, and the concepts of *kuṇḍalinī* energy within modern yoga and transpersonal psychology on the other hand.

Areas of potential interest include, yet are not restricted to the following

- Historical processes leading to modern subtle energy-based practises and theories
- *Kuṇḍalinī* concepts in modern yoga and transpersonal psychology
- Energy healing in the past and present
- Subtle energies and the mind-body complex
- Vitalism, vital forces, and related concepts in alternative healing
- The boundary-work between the sciences and emic explanatory models

General information

- Papers will be 30 minutes in length
- The conference language will be English
- All presenters will have to cover their own accommodation, meals, and travel expenses
- The proceedings of the conference will be published as an edited volume

We accept proposals until the **3rd of May 2020**. Confirmed speakers will be notified by the **24th of May 2020**. Please send your paper title and abstract (max. 200 words) and a short CV (max. 1 page) to dominic.zoehrer@univie.ac.at.

Prof. Dr. Karl Baier

Dominic Zoehrer, PhD Fellow

Marleen Thaler, PhD Fellow

(Department of Religious Studies, University of Vienna)