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The Media of Mediumship: Esotericism Studies Beyond the Academy

Vortrag von Prof. Christine Ferguson (University of Stirling)

In this talk, I introduce and reflect on *The Media of Mediumship*, a recent AHRC-funded public engagement and impact project held in collaboration with the Science Museum Group and Senate House Library which aimed to publicize and create new perspectives on scientific collection materials related to the histories of modern spiritualism, psychical research, and occultism. Scientific archives such as SMG have an immense potential value for esotericism studies researchers, one that an overly-prescriptive attachment to the rejection hypothesis might prevent us from identifying. Here I discuss what the project taught us about how to work productively with stakeholders holding differing, sometimes directly opposed, positions on the role of occultism within the history of science and science curation. Finally, the talk considers how going public with the material culture of so-called rejected knowledge might help esotericism studies scholars to rethink some of the central paradigms in their field.



Montag, 5. Juni 2023
17- 18 Uhr

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