You are invited to a seminar given by Assoc. Prof Marco Pasi on the study of Western esotericism as a new field in religious studies, organized by the postgrad STaR Seminar for Theology and Religious Studies. He is a guest of the Monash University Museum of Art, co-curating its exhibition **Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits** (21 April – 27 July 2015) http://monash.edu/muma/exhibitions/2015/believe-not-the-spirits.html

Venue: Seminar Room, Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, 8th floor, Building H, Caulfield Campus, Monash University.

Hosted by Prof Constant Mews and Dr. Scott Dunbar, Centre for Religious Studies, School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University  
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Abstract:
In the last twenty years the study of Western esotericism has emerged as a new field in religious studies. For a long time, ideas, practices and beliefs associated with esotericism were left at the margins of scholarly investigation. In this presentation I would like to introduce the study of Western esotericism to a non-specialist audience. First of all, I will discuss the way in which Western esotericism is conceptualized by the contemporary scholars working on it. Secondly, I will offer some reflections on the way in which the field has emerged and its current status within academia. I will conclude with some remarks on the possible future development of the field in the years to come.

Bio:
Marco Pasi is Associate Professor in the History of Hermetic philosophy and related currents at the University of Amsterdam. He is one of the founding members of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE) and is presently the General Secretary of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR).