



We have the pleasure of inviting you to the lecture

*Soul Machines.
Modern Occultism and
Media Technology*



given by

Dr. Andreas KILCHER
Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich

**Wednesday, July 5, 2017, at 17h00
New Europe College (Plantelor 21)**

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Abstract:

A distinctive feature of occultism is its fundamental ambivalence towards modernity: While it is critical especially of the positivistic implications of modern science and its disciplines, it has, nevertheless, adapted several of their methods and techniques. Of special significance is the operation of new media technology in occultist self-fashioning. The lecture will exemplify these technological procedures with reference to the development and application of techno-scripture and techno-images in modern occultism. By claiming to make the invisible visible, these media-technologies serve – so to speak – as occultist soul-machines.

Short Bio:

Andreas B. KILCHER is Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zürich. He has achieved a visible public profile and has held prominent academic positions, including the following: Silberman Visiting Professor at the Cohn Institute, Tel Aviv University (2016/17), International Visiting Scholar at the Center for Humanities, Stanford University (2014), Professor at the German Department, Princeton University (2011), Visiting Professor at the German Department, University of Berne (2010). His main fields of research are the relation between literature and knowledge, German-Jewish literature and culture, and Kabbalah and esotericism. He has written a wide range of monographs, edited volumes, articles, dictionary entries, and reviews.

Selected Books: *Deutsche Sprachkultur in Palästina/Israel* (De Gruyter Verlag, 2016, together with Eva Edelmann), *Poétique et Politique du Witz chez Heinrich Heine/ Poetik und Politik des Witzes bei Heinrich Heine* (l'Éclat, 2014), *Max Frisch* (Suhrkamp, 2011), *Franz Kafka* (Suhrkamp, 2008), *Geteilte Freude. Schiller-Rezeption in der jüdischen Moderne* (Lyrik Kabinett, 2006), *mathesis und poiesis. Die Enzyklopädie der Literatur 1600 bis 2000* (Fink, 2003).