

Christopher I. Lehrich

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Sherborn, MA 01770
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chrislehrich@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Chicago, Committee on the History of Culture.	2000
M.A. University of Chicago, Divinity School.	1994
B.A. University of Chicago, Tutorial Studies.	1992

Dissertation: Hermetic Hermeneutics: Language, Magic, and Power in Cornelius Agrippa's *De occulta philosophia*

Advisers: Jonathan Z. Smith (supervisor), Allen G. Debus, Anthony C. Yu

EMPLOYMENT

Editor and Columnist, Freelance	2014–
Assistant Professor of Religion, Boston University	2007–2014
Visiting Assistant Professor in Religion and Writing, Boston University	2006–2007
Instructor, Writing Program, Boston University	2002–2006
Adjunct Instructor, Writing Program, Boston University	Autumn 2001
Adjunct Instructor, Core Curriculum, Boston University	2000–2001
Instructor, University of Chicago, Graham School of General Studies	1996, 1997-1998

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Visiting International Scholar, Nichibunken (International Research Center for Japanese Studies), Kyoto, Japan	2015–2016
BU Nominee, Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship	October 2011
Junior Fellow, Boston University Humanities Foundation	AY 2009-2010
ACLS Fellowship	AY 2008-2009
Publication Assistance Grant, Boston University Humanities Foundation	May 2006
Nominated, Boston University Metcalf Teaching Award	Nov. 2005
Dissertation granted distinction	August 2000
Mrs. Giles Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities	AY 1998-99
University of Chicago Gift Aid Award Recipient	1993-98

TEACHING

Teaching Interests:

Writing
Theory of Religion
Comparative History of Religions
Early Modern/Renaissance Intellectual History
Scientific Revolution
Theoretical Approaches to History

Courses Taught:

Graduate:

Humanities Approaches to Religion
Core Texts: West
Seminar in Theory of Religion

Undergraduate:

Introduction to Religion
Kilachand Honors College Junior Colloquium: The Process of Discovery
Magic, Science, and Religion
Sacred Journeys
Theoretical Approaches to Religion
Topics in Philosophy of Religion: Early Modern Magic and Occultism

Writing and General Education:

Comparing Religions
The Great Witch Hunt
Magic and the Occult in Literature

Adjunct Instruction:

Core Humanities
Renaissance Civilization I & II
Magic: Medieval to Modern

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

The Occult Mind: Magic in Theory and Practice. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2007.

The Language of Demons and Angels: Cornelius Agrippa's Occult Philosophy. Brill's Series in Intellectual History. Leiden: E. J. Brill Academic Publications, 2003.

Edited Volumes:

Yelle, Robert A., Christopher I. Lehrich, and Courtney Handman, eds. *Language and Religion*. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter (final production, publication expected 2018).

On Teaching Religion: Essays by Jonathan Z. Smith. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Articles:

"*Spiritus Mundi, Spiritus Musicae?*" In *Aesthetics of the Spirits: Spirits in Early Modern Science, Religion, Literature and Music*, edited by Steffen Schneider, 465-75 (Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2015).

"Hearing Transcendence: Distorted Iconism in Tōru Takemitsu's Film Music," *Signs and Society*, Vol. 2, No. S1 (Supplement 2014): S215-S245.

"Orphic Revenge: The Limits of Language for a Semiotics of Religion." *Religion* (2013). doi:10.1080/0048721X.2014.866722.

"The Unanswered Question: Music in Theory of Religion," *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 25 no. 3 (2013).

"Magic in Theoretical Practice." In *Defining Magic: A Reader*, edited by Bernd-Christian Otto and Michael Stausberg, 211–28. *Critical Categories in the Study of Religion*. Sheffield; Bristol, CT: Equinox, 2012.

"Overture and Finale: Lévi-Strauss, Music, and Religion." *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 23 no. 4 (2011): 307-327.

"Finding One's Place." In *Introducing Religion: Essays in Honor of Jonathan Z. Smith*, edited by Willi Braun and Russell T. McCutcheon, 252-66. London: Equinox Press, 2007.

"Ritual and the Writing Class." In *Teaching Ritual*, edited by Catherine M. Bell, 273-86. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Invited Lectures:

- “Reconsidering Mircea Eliade: Politics of Religious Studies and the Morphology of Religion”
209th “Nichibunken Evening Seminar” on Japanese Studies July 7, 2016
- Keynote Address March, 2016
American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference
- “Introduction to Durkheim’s *Elementary Forms*” February 26, 2015
Boston University, Core Curriculum
- “Voyeurism in Tōru Takemitsu’s Film Music” January, 2014
University of Heidelberg
- “Hearing Transcendence: Music and Religion in Tōru Takemitsu’s Film Music” Dec. 2, 2013
Harvard University
- “The Limits of Language” Oct. 3, 2013
Reed College, Portland OR
- “*Spiritus Mundi, Spiritus Musicae?*” Oct. 6, 2012
Conference “Spiritus et purgatio,” University of Tübingen
- Response lecture, Jan Assmann, “Difference and Hermeneutics” May 2, 2012
Comparative Studies of the Premodern World, Boston University
- “Sounds of Enlightenment: Mozart's Magic Flute” April 2010
Scripture and the Arts Lecture, Boston University
- “Come, Mephistopheles, let us dispute again” March, 2001
Religion Department, University of California, Santa Barbara
- “Signs of Power: Cornelius Agrippa’s Magical Semiotics” October, 2000
Seminar on Medieval and Renaissance Magic, Newberry Library, Chicago

Articles in Reference Works:

- “Cornelius Agrippa.” In *The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft: The Western Tradition*, edited by Richard M. Golden, 4 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2004-2006.
- “Hermeticism” and “Occult Philosophy.” In *The Dictionary of Early Modern Europe*, edited by Jonathan Dewald et al., 6 vols. New York: Scribner, 2003.

Reviews:

Review of Christian Smith, *The Sacred Project of American Sociology*. *Critical Research on Religion* (forthcoming).

Review of David Chidester, *Empire of Religion*. *History of Religions* (forthcoming).

Review of Christopher Partridge, *The Lyre of Orpheus: Popular Music, the Sacred, and the Profane*. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (forthcoming).

Review of Glyn Parry, *The Arch-Conjuror of England: John Dee*. *American Historical Review* 118 (2013), 1595-96.

Review of Florian Ebeling, *The Secret History of Hermes Trismegistus*. *Renaissance Quarterly* 61 no. 2 (Summer, 2008), 643-645.

Review of Robert Ford Campany, *To Live As Long as Heaven and Earth*. *History of Religions* 46 no. 3 (February, 2007), 262-265.

Review of Györgi Szönyi, *John Dee's Occultism*. *Renaissance Quarterly* 59 no.2 (Summer, 2006), 605-06.

Review of Norman Girardot, *The Victorian Translation of China*. *History of Religions* 45 no.1 (August, 2005), 82-84.

Review of Sylvain Matton, ed. *Documents oubliés sur l'alchimie, la Kabbale et Guillaume Postel*. *Sixteenth-Century Studies Journal* 34 no.4 (Winter, 2003), 1183-84.

Review of Rudolph Agricola, *Letters*, trans. and ed. Adrie van der Laan & Fokke Akkerman. *Renaissance Quarterly* 56 no.4 (Autumn, 2003), 1249.

Review of Martín del Río, *Investigations Into Magic*, ed. and trans. P. G. Maxwell-Stuart. *Renaissance Quarterly* 56 no.1 (Spring, 2003), 192-94.

Review of Peter Pesic, *Labyrinth: A Search for the Hidden Meaning of Science*. *Sixteenth-Century Studies Journal* 33 no.4 (Winter 2002), 1164-5.

Review of P.G. Maxwell-Stuart, *The Occult in Early Modern Europe: A Documentary History*. *Sixteenth-Century Studies Journal* 31 no.4 (Winter, 2000), 1213-15.

“Not Quite the Usual Suspects.” Review of Graham Cunningham, *Religion and Magic: Approaches and Theories*. H-Ideas, H-Net Reviews, September, 1999. URL: <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=22056938548205>.

Editing/Proofreading/Manuscript Preparation:

Thouny, Christophe. “Return to the 90’s: Melancholy, Crime, and Subculture in Fukushima Japan.” *positions* (forthcoming).

Thouny, Christophe, and Mitsuhiro Yoshimoto, eds. *Planetary Atmospheres and Urban Society After Fukushima*. London and New York: Palgrave, 2016.

Popular Writing and Scholarship:

(As Chris Lehrer): Column on knives and cooking, KnifePlanet.net:

“Himono: Cutting, Drying, and Grilling the Japanese Way.” (4/6/2017)

“How to Cook Pumpkin Nimono: The True Home Taste of Japan.” (4/5/2017)

“The Best Kitchen Knives: A Complete Guide To Creating Your Perfect Set.” (4/4/2017)

“Fun With An Usuba: Sen-Giri And New Ginger.” (6/17/2016)

“Our Kyoto Correspondent: Fish Heads, Fish Heads....” (9/13/2015)

“Our Kyoto Correspondent: By Way of Introduction.” (8/30/2015)

(As ChrisLehrer): “How to Cook Japanese (multi-review).”

<http://www.cheftalk.com/products/japanese-cooking-a-simple-art/reviews/4128>

“Ritual Discourse in Role-Playing Games.” *The Forge: The Internet Home for Independent Role-Playing Games*

(http://www.indierpgs.com/_articles/ritual_discourse_in_RPGs.html).

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Music:

12 credits MA/DMA Musicology/Music Theory, Boston University College of Fine Arts

Tonal Analysis (master’s level)

Tonal Theory (doctoral level)

Proseminar in Musicology and Ethnomusicology (master’s/doctoral level)

Composition (master’s level)

Computer Software:

Word, Excel, OpenOffice, WordPerfect

GoogleDocs

Blackboard

Sibelius

Adobe Acrobat Pro

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research Interests:

Method and Theory in the History of Religions
 Music and Religion
 Theory and Practice of Magic in the Renaissance
 Critical Theory and Textuality
 Music History, Semiotics, and Cultural Criticism
 Comparative and Theoretical Approaches to Magic, Science, and Religion
 Magico-Religious Thought in Early China

Conference Papers and Sessions:

- “Teaching Theory and Humanities: Lessons from J.Z. Smith.” November, 2013
 Presidential Panel, on *On Teaching Religion: Essays by Jonathan Z. Smith*
 North American Association for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- “Overture and Finale: Lévi-Strauss, Music, and Religion” October, 2010
 North American Association for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- “Polymaths and Pedagogy” April, 2008
 BU Provost Conference, “Constructing the New Humanist in Undergraduate Education”
- “Discipline and Interdiscipline: Magical Comparison” November, 2006
 American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- “Ritual Mathemagic: John Dee’s *Monas hieroglyphica*” November, 2006
 North American Council for British Studies, Boston, MA
- “Magic, Comparison, Classification, Difference” June, 2006
 Association for the Study of Esotericism Conference, Davis, CA
- “The Humanist as Collector: Athanasius Kircher in China and Egypt” October, 2004
 Sixteenth Century Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON
- “Rewriting Ritual Magic” June, 2004
 Association for the Study of Esotericism Conference, Lansing, MI
- “Grammatologies of Chinese Script: Japanese, European,
 and Chinese Perspectives” March, 2003
 Chair and Presenter; paper entitled “Athanasius Kircher and the Hieroglyphs of China”
 Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, New York, NY
- “Words of Power: Magical Semiotics and Foreign Language in Cornelius
 Agrippa and Athanasius Kircher” November, 2002
 History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI

- “Signs of Power: Magic Squares and Sigils in Cornelius Agrippa” March, 2000
 Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Florence, Italy
- “High Magic I: Theories of Magic” October, 1999
 Session Organizer and Presenter, paper entitled “Agrippa’s Magical Language”
- “High Magic II: Astrology” – Session Organizer and Chair March, 1999
 Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, MO
- “Reading the World in Triplicate: Reuchlin and Agrippa” March, 1999
 Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- “Cryptography and Magic: The Case of Trithemius and Agrippa” October, 1998
 Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Visiting Classroom Lectures:

- “*The Magic Flute*: Musico-Ritual Dramaturgy” December 2013
 CFA MU 645: Topic in Musical Style (Mozart Opera), Boston University
- “Arnold Schoenberg and the Problem of Tonality” April 2010
 RN 221 HP: Moses, Boston University
- “Tōru Takemitsu’s Film Music” March 2010
 LJ 281: Japanese Culture Through Film, Boston University
- “Thinking About Comparison: Jonathan Z. Smith and the Religion Classroom” February 2010
 DRTS Teaching Fellows Seminar, Boston University
- “Tōru Takemitsu’s Film Music” February 2010
 Boston University Center for the Study of Asia (BUCSA)
- “Mozart, Masonry, and *The Magic Flute*” February 2010
 CFA MU 328: Opera, Boston University
- “Tōru Takemitsu’s Film Music” March 2008
 LJ 281: Japanese Culture Through Film, Boston University
- “The Long Research Paper in Little Time” March 2005 & 2006
 HI 301: Critical Reading in History, Boston University
- “Teaching Thesis and Argument” October 2005
 Boston University College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program
- “Teaching Research Writing” August 2003
 Boston University College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program

“The Choice between Science and the Occult”
Core Curriculum in the Natural Sciences, Boston University

September 2001

Other Scholarly Appearances:

“Magic, Marvel, Miracle”: Winterfest 2011 presentation, jointly with
Deeana Klepper (CAS RN) and Zsuzsanna Varhelyi (CAS CL)

February 2011

Interviewed (10/31/2010) as expert for radio program “Philosophy Talks.”

Interviewed (8/17/2010) as expert for documentary film “Appassionato: A Mathematical History
of the Piano,” dir. Michael LaPointe (forthcoming)

Translated:

“Приложение. Как читать Клода Леви-Строса [Supplement: How to read Claude Lévi-
Strauss].” Translated from English by Vladimir Gusev. Supplement to Gusev, “Театр
Леви-Строса [The Theater of Lévi-Strauss].” [http://post.scriptum.ru/article/levi-
strauss#supplement](http://post.scriptum.ru/article/levi-strauss#supplement) (accessed Feb. 1, 2009).

SERVICE

Service to the Field:

Interim President, North American Association for the Study of Religion
September - November 2013

Vice President, North American Association for the Study of Religion November 2011–2014

Executive Councilor, North Am. Association for the Study of Religion Oct 2010–Nov. 2011

BU Representative, Council on Graduate Studies in Religion August 2009–August 2011

Board Member, Association for the Study of Esotericism August 2004–2011

External Reader for MA Thesis, Medieval Studies Department, Central European University
(Budapest): Noel Putnik, “Two Conflicting Notions of Ascension in Cornelius Agrippa’s
De Occulta Philosophia” May 2007

Boston University:

Director of Graduate Studies, Division of Religious and Theological Studies, Boston University
(Formerly: Chair, Committee on Academic Programs; Associate Director for Student
Progress.) September 2006–August 2008; August 2009–August 2011

Co-Principal Developer (with William W. Grimes) and Steering Committee Member, MA
Program in International Relations and Religion, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,
Boston University March 2007–January 2011

Member, Committee on Doctoral Studies in Religion at Boston University Summer 2007

Member, Executive Committee, Division of Religious and Theological Studies,
Boston University September 2006–August 2007

Curriculum Committee, Boston University CAS Writing Program
Autumn 2002–Spring 2003; Spring 2005

Prize Essay Committee, Boston University CAS Writing Program Autumn 2002–Spring 2003

Memberships:

American Academy of Religion, North American Association for the Study of Religion,
Association for the Study of Esotericism, Renaissance Society of America, Sixteenth
Century Society

Languages:

French and Mandarin speaking capabilities. Excellent French reading capability. Mandarin and Literary Chinese, German, Italian, and Latin reading knowledge. Some Classical Hebrew.

Unfunded Grants Applied for:

American Academy of Arts and Sciences	2013-14 competition
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study	2013-14 competition
Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, NJ)	2013-14 competition
Guggenheim Fellowship	2013-14 competition
Mellon Foundation, New Directions Fellowship	October 2011
Mellon Foundation, John E. Sawyer Seminars on the Comparative Study of Cultures With Merry White (BU CAS AN), proposal entitled "Food, Dislocation, and Memory."	Jan. 2009
Japan Foundation Fellowship	November 2007
Asian Cultural Council Fellowship	November 2007

References:

Academic / Research

Allison P. Coudert, Paul and Marie Castelfranco Chair in the History of Religion, University of California at Davis

Anthony Grafton, Henry Putnam University Professor of History, Princeton University

Phillip Haberkern, Dir. Undergraduate Studies, Asst. Professor of History, Boston University

Bruce Lincoln, Caroline E. Haskell Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions in the Divinity School; Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Committee on Medieval Studies; Associate Faculty, Anthropology and Classics, University of Chicago

Eugenio Menegon, Associate Professor of History, Boston University

Richard J. Parmentier, Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

Michael Puett, Professor of Chinese History, Chair, Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University

Jonathan Z. Smith, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of the Humanities and the College, University of Chicago

Randall G. Styers, Associate Professor and Department Chair, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Györgyi Szönyi, Professor and Director, Institute for English and American Studies, University of Szeged, Hungary

James A. Winn, Professor of English; William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor; Director, Boston University Humanities Foundation

Teaching

Michael Prince, Professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University [formerly Assistant Dean, Director of the Writing Program]

Stephen Prothero, Professor of Religion, Boston University

Michael Zank, Professor of Religion, Boston University

Student Testimonials

Onaje X. Offley-Woodbine, PhD, Dissertation Year Fellow, Phillips Exeter Academy; Faculty, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Phillips Andover Academy (from 7/14)

Eric Dorman, PhD student, Graduate Division of Religious Studies, Boston University

Lauren Kerby, PhD student, Graduate Division of Religious Studies, Boston University

Service / Administration

John H. Berthrong, Associate Dean for Academic and Administrative Affairs; Associate Professor of Comparative Theology; Director, Institute for Dialogue Among Religious Traditions, School of Theology, Boston University (retired)

Karen Nardella, Administrator, Department of Religion, Boston University

Stephen Prothero, Professor of Religion, Boston University

Adam Seligman, Professor of Religion; Research Associate at the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture, Boston University

Michael Zank, Professor of Religion, Boston University

Other

Peter Grilli, President, The Japan Society of Boston

William A. Marotti, Assistant Professor of History, University of California Los Angeles

Jennifer M. Matsue, Assistant Professor of Music, Union College

† Catherine Bell, Bernard Hanley Professor of Religious Studies, Santa Clara University.

† Allen G. Debus, Morris Fishbein Professor Emeritus, Department of History and Morris Fishbein Center for the Study of the History of Science and Medicine; Research Fellow, Division of Social Sciences, University of Chicago

† Donald Richie, Independent Filmmaker, Scholar and Writer, Tokyo

† Anthony C. Yu, Carl Darling Buck Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Humanities; Professor, The Divinity School, Departments of East Asian Languages and Literatures, English Language and Literature, Comparative Literature, University of Chicago