

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, February 25
9 am – 1 pm; 2 pm – 6 pm, Molly Pitcher Room

‘Moving Forward, Looking Back: Future Directions in Post-Modern Astrology’
Facilitator Chris Brennan, with Nick Dagan Best, Gary Christen, Ronnie Gale Dreyer, Benjamin Dykes, Demetra George, Rob Hand, Ken Irving, and Richard Tarnas

The history of astrology is punctuated by major transmissions of the subject from one culture to another, usually followed by a synthesis of the older traditions of astrology with the newer ones. These important periods of transmission and synthesis lie at the heart of many of the great astrological traditions, ranging from the Mesopotamian, Hellenistic, Medieval, and Renaissance traditions through the early modern period. Historically these periods have coincided with crucial times in which astrology has been transformed, advanced, and then flourished. Today we are in the midst of another one of these pivotal periods in the history of astrology.

The purpose of this research symposium is to take stock of the changes and developments that are taking place in the astrological community at the present time, by looking backwards at the traditions which have preceded us. In doing so the goal is to gain some perspective on what previous periods of transmission and synthesis have produced, as well as what synthesis will likely emerge in our own time. We will explore recent research into the development and transmission of specific astrological techniques and concepts in various ancient astrological traditions from the Babylonian period through the late Renaissance, identify and discuss developments that have taken place in the modern period, and examine how other types of research has expanded the scope of astrological practice.

Late 20th century astrology is often called ‘modern astrology,’ but with the recent revival of older traditions, it is clear that astrology in the early 21st century is becoming something quite different — a synthesis of ancient and modern traditions is taking place. We might call this ‘post-modern astrology.’ The goal of the symposium is to explore what each tradition offers us by asking speakers who specialize in each tradition to address specific questions related to what their tradition contributed to the overall development of astrology from a technical, philosophical and conceptual standpoint, as well as what unique perspective each particular tradition has to contribute to the future.

The goal is to arrive at a better understanding of what the current movement towards synthesis in the astrological community will produce in the coming decades, and to provide a blueprint for how this synthesis might be accomplished. While there will necessarily be areas of disagreement amongst the traditions, by engaging in this dialogue we will at least be able to gain a broader perspective on our shared astrological heritage. From this perspective we will have a greater ability to find areas of agreement and accord between the traditions that will be conducive to the overall development of astrology in the 21st century.

Morning Session – Opening Introduction & Past Traditions ***9 am – 1 pm***

- Mesopotamian astrology – Rob Hand
- Hellenistic astrology – Chris Brennan
- Indian astrology – Ronnie Gale Dreyer
- Medieval & Renaissance astrology – Benjamin Dykes

Afternoon Session – Contemporary Traditions ***2 pm – 6 pm***

- Modern astrology – Richard Tarnas
- Uranian astrology & Cosmobiology – Gary Christen
- Asteroids & Mythology – Demetra George
- Transit theory and data collections – Nick Dagan Best
- Statistical and scientific research – Ken Irving

Closing Summation/Lecture – Rob Hand



Marsilio Ficino

AUDIO RECORDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE AVAILABLE
AT THE CONFERENCE CD TABLE OPPOSITE THE TRADE SHOW.