



**ALCHEMY  
CONFERENCE:**

**EXPLORING  
METAPHORICAL  
TRANSFORMATIONS &  
ARTS-BASED RESEARCH**

**9-10 November, 2024  
University of Oxford**

**A conference organised by  
London Arts-Based Research Centre**

[www.labrc.co.uk](http://www.labrc.co.uk)

## **Day 1: November 9, 2024**

**10:00-10:10** Opening words

**10:10-11:30** Parallel Sessions 1

### **1.a Alchemical Transformations: Jungian Perspectives on Psychology, Creativity, and Healing:**

**Helen Tye Talkin**, Independent Researcher

“Edward Whitmont: Bridging the Gap between Depth Psychology, Homeopathy and Alchemy”

**Louise Austin**, University of Essex

“Alchemical Amplification: Meaning Making with Psyche in Mind”

**Cassie Fielding**, University of Essex

“Autopsychography as the Alchemical Opus

**Gustavo Orlandeli Marques**, SBrPA/IAAP

“Palimpsest: What if Jung had written as an ancient alchemist instead of a scientist?”

### **1.b The Alchemical Canvas: Material, Artistic, and Spiritual Explorations in Contemporary Practice:**

**Hannah De Corte**, FRNS Postdoctoral research fellow, Université de Namur

“Perpetual Present: Adaptive Paintings of Hypersensitive Materials and Ecological Relations”

**Elena Greta Falcini**, University of Art and Design Linz

“Am I more of an alchemist than an artist? Exploring the dimensions of Alchemy and Fine Arts”

**Christine Ramsay**, Faculty of Media, Art and Performance, University of Regina, Regina, SK, Canada

“Moka Fatto a Mano”

**Kate Southworth**, Independent Artist

“The Alchemical Soul Paints Itself Transforming”

**11:30-11:45** Break

### **11:45-12:45 Keynote Session:**

**Leah Larwood**, “Creative Experimentation and the Poetics of Dream Work”

**12:45-13:45** Lunch

## 13:45-15:00 Parallel Sessions 2

### 2.a Jungian Alchemy in Arts-Based Practice: Winemaking, Healing, and Archetypal Journeys:

**Gabor Majdan**, ISAPZURICH  
“The Alchemy of Winemaking”

**Cynthia Virene Fredericksen**, Pacifica Graduate Institute  
“Encountering the Self: A Journey through Copper”

**Lahab Al-Samarrai**, JAMP University  
“The Alchemy of Healing through Archetypes”

**Gelareh Khoie**, Kosmos Institute  
“The Alchemy of Disco”

### 2.b Alchemical Journeys in Art: From Place to Poetry, Cinema, and Myth:

**Gabrielle R. Milanich**, Pacifica Graduate Institute  
“Are You Alabaster? I am: Intimations from Place, Poetry and an Alchemical Quincunx”

**Christina Stojanova**, University of Regina, Department of Film  
“Alchemy in Motion: Caroline Leaf’s *The Owl Who Married a Goose*”

**Kachine Moore**, University of Glasgow  
“EVP Experiments on Hellier (2019-) as Alchemical Theater”

**Marta Miquel-Baldellou**, Universitat de Lleida  
“Gothic Archetypes in Search of the Elixir of Life: Don Juan, the Vampire, and the Promethean Scientist as Alchemists”

## 15:00-15:15 Break

### 15:15-16:00 Plenary:

**Roula-Maria Dib**, “Arabic Alchemy and Arts-Based Research: A Crucial Fusion of Spirituality, Science, and Creativity”

## 16:00-16:15 Break

## 16:15-17:30 Parallel Sessions 3

**3.a From Yellowing to Citrinatis: Alchemy in Midlife, Ritual, and Jungian Symbols:**

**Stella Stathi**, *The Yellowing Therapist*

“The Journey of Midlife as the Alchemical Yellowing”

**Caroline Coyle**, Technological University of the Shannon Midlands

“Women of Ireland (Mná na hÉireann): Celebrating Mnápause (Menopause) through the Collective Power of Ritual at the Hill of Uisneach, Ireland”

**Sarah D. Norton**, Pacifica Alumna

“The Alchemy of Uncertainty: Finding Citrinatis in the Vessel”

**John Pallas**, Graduate Student, Indiana Wesleyan University

“Symbols of the Prima Materia in Jung's Vision Seminars”

**3.b From Rhetoric to Ritual: Alchemy in Economics, Pedagogy, and Ancestral Healing:**

**Ryan Trimm**, University of Rhode Island

“The Rhetorical Ends of Alchemy: Neoliberal Economic Tropes and Monetary Value”

**Zifi Tung**, University of Bath

“Teenagers at Play: Investigating Playful Experiences in Schools”

**Molly Ryan**, Virginia Tech

“The Alchemist as Teacher: A Framework of Alchemy for the Writing Classroom”

**Michelle Boyle**, California Institute of Integral Studies

“Ancestral Alchemy: Alchemical Elements in Ancestral Healing Research in Northern Italy”

## Sunday, November 10, 2024

### 10:00-11:15 Parallel Sessions 4

#### 4.a Alchemy and the Divine: Spiritual Transmutation in Early Modern Thought:

**Adina Bezerita**, FRSA (Oxford-Cambridge)

“*Aurum Philosophicum* as Technology of the Self: Introducing *Khora AI*”

**James A. Bard**, McGill (alma mater)

“We Heard God Churning at the Cold Feet of the Sea”

**Lauren Hoaglund**, Duke University

“From god it cometh, & god maketh it sencible To some preelect; to other doth it deny”:  
Calvinism and Early Modern Alchemy”

**Emma Gabor**, Independent

“The Alchemical Rebis: Queen Christina of Sweden’s pursuit of Intellectual and Spiritual Transmutation”

#### 4.b Embodied Alchemy: Menopause, Matrescence, and Conflict Transformation:

**Caroline Coyle**, TUS and Athlone Community Radio

“MnáPause – Unravelling the Mystery of the Irish Experience of the Menopause through the Airwaves of Community Radio”

**Michelle LeBaron**, Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia Canada

“Alchemy and Embodied Practices in Conflict Transformation”

**Marion Gibbon**, Birmingham City Council (CET)

“The Alchemy of Matrescence”

### 11:15-11:30 Break

### 11:30-12:45 Parallel Sessions 5

#### 5.a Dream Portals: Alchemical Symbols and Spiritual Imagination:

**Diane Cousins**, University of Newcastle (PhD)

“The Idea of Sacred Mandorla Symbolism and Alchemic Dreaming Doorways”

**Grzegorz Jan Sus**, Jagiellonian University (PhD School of Humanities)

“Symbolism of the Alchemical Dreams of the Divine Zosimos”

**Maxim Ilyashenko**, UKCP

“Tibetan Dream Yoga and Active Imagination”

**Mathew Mather**, Limerick School of Art and Design, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, Limerick  
“Soror Mystica: The True Story of an Alchemical Opus”

**5.b Literary Alchemy: From Lead to Gold:**

**Kamyar Nowidi**, Department for American Studies, Munich; C.G.Jung Institute, Munich  
“Hawthorne and the Hidden Literary Pursuit of Alchemy: How the Science of Transmutation was Crucial in Selected Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne”

**Mahdi Sepehrmanesh**, Assistant Professor at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages  
“The Immortality of Art and the Ephemerality of Life in Henry James’ *The Beast in the Jungle*”

**Elizabeth Bush-Peel**, University College London; Columbia University  
“Into Lead: Lessing’s *Golden Notebook* and the Alchemical Breakdown of Self”

**Sunday Online-only Sessions**

**18:00-19:15 Session 6.a Cinematic Alchemy, Film, and Fiction**

**Jonathan Ferrini**, Independent  
“A Fiction Writer and Pharmacist Meet...”

**Aroldo de Lara Cardoso Júnior**, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo  
“Symbolic Transformations through Jungian Psychodrama”

**Gary D. Rhodes**, Oklahoma Baptist University  
“Alchemy, Technology, and the Cinematic Grimoire: E. Elias Merhige’s *Begotten* (1989)”

**Robert Singer**, CUNY Graduate Center  
“Alchemy and Damnation: Faust’s Silent Transformation”

**19:15-19:30 Break**

**19:30-21:00 Session 6.b Alchemy of Language and Mind: Poetry, Literature, and Trauma:**

**Gina Snooks**, Western University Canada  
“Wandering and Wondering”

**Maria Aracy Bonfim**, Univerisdade Federal do Maranhão (Brazil)  
“Avalovara, by Osman Lins and the Alchemical Kerotakis: The Incessant Treatment of Language”

**Padmini Sukumaran**, Kean University

“Allegorical Alchemy: Amatory-Magic in *The Faerie Queene* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*”

**Suzanne LaLonde**, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley

“Traumatized Children from Wars and a Genocide and an Alchemy of the Mind in Francophone Trauma Novels”