

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Julian Jakob Strube

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Date and place of birth: October 5th, 1985, in Heidelberg, Germany

Nationality: German

Research languages: In order of proficiency: German, English, French, Dutch, Bengali (modern, *sādhubhāṣā*), Latin, Ancient Greek, Sanskrit

HIGHER EDUCATION

2015 PhD (Dr. phil.) in the Study of Religion with high distinction (*summa cum laude*), University of Heidelberg.

2010 MA (“Magister Artium”) in the Study of Religion and Medieval/Modern History, with distinction, University of Heidelberg.

ACADEMIC CAREER

Since April 2016 Postdoctoral project on “Tantra Within the Context of a Global Religious History of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), University of Heidelberg.

Sep 2016–June 2017 Temporary replacement as assistant professor at the University of Amsterdam.

May 2015–March 2016 Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context,” MC7: “Political Legitimation,” University of Heidelberg.

2009–2010 Semester abroad at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

- 2009–2011 Student assistant at the Institute for Religious Studies, Heidelberg University.
- 2008–2009 Student assistant in the special research program “Sonderforschungsbereich Ritualdynamik” (SFB 619), and at the Department of History (Prof. Dr. Bernd Schneidmüller), Heidelberg University.
- 2007–2010 Studies in Medieval and Early Modern History, as well as in Religious Studies, University of Heidelberg.
- 2005–2006 Studies in History and Philosophy at the University of Heidelberg.

EXPERIENCE IN ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

- 2015–2018 Mentor in the LGF Graduate School “Global Religious History from Regional Perspectives: Historization and Decentralisation of Religious Identities in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries,” University of Heidelberg.
- 2015–2016 Project coordinator of project MC7, “Political Legitimation,” in the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” at the University of Heidelberg.
- 2015 Organization of the international conference “Theosophy Across Boundaries,” September 24–26, 2015, at the University of Heidelberg.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND PRIZES

- June 2017 Thesis Prize of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism.
- 2016–2019 Research grant by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for “Tantra and the Global Religious History of the 19th and 20th Century.”
- 2011–2014 Doctoral scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes).
- 2011 Travel stipend by the Graduate Academy of the University of Heidelberg for the attendance of the Conference of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco, November 19–22.

2008–2011

Study scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation
(Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes).

MONOGRAPHS

- *Sozialismus, Katholizismus und Okkultismus im Frankreich des 19. Jahrhunderts. Die Genealogie der Schriften von Eliphas Lévi*, Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter 2016. [\[Link\]](#)
- *Vril. Eine okkulte Urkraft in Theosophie und esoterischem Neonazismus*, München/Paderborn: Wilhelm Fink 2013. [\[Link\]](#) (Extensive review in *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, further reviews in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as well as in diverse academic journals.)

EDITED VOLUMES

- *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*, Special issue 16/1 “Transgressing Boundaries,” Leiden: Brill 2016.
- with Hans Martin Krämer, *Theosophy Across Boundaries: Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Modern Esoteric Movement*, State University of New York Press, forthcoming.

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- “Socialism and Esotericism in July Monarchy France,” in: *History of Religions* 57/2, 2017, pp. 197–221.
- “Occultist Identity Formations Between Theosophy and Socialism in *fin-de-siècle* France,” in: *Numen* 64/5–6, 2017, pp. 568–595.
- “Revolution, Illuminismus und Theosophie: Eine Genealogie der ‘häretischen’ Historiographie des frühen französischen Sozialismus und Kommunismus,” in: *Historische Zeitschrift* 304/1, 2017, pp. 50–89.
- “The ‘Baphomet’ of Eliphas Lévi: Its Meaning and Historical Context,” in: *Correspondences* 4, 2017, pp. 37–79.
- “Socialist Religion and the Emergence of Occultism: A Genealogical Approach to ‘Secularization’ in 19th-Century France,” in: *Religion* 46/3, 2016, pp. 359–388.
- “Transgressing Boundaries: Social Reform, Theology, and the Demarcations between Science and Religion,” in: *Aries* 16/1, 2016, pp. 1–11.
- “Ein neues Christentum. Frühsozialismus, Neo-Katholizismus und die Einheit von Religion und Wissenschaft,” in: *Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte* 66/2, 2014, pp. 140–162.

- “Die Erfindung des esoterischen Nationalsozialismus im Zeichen der Schwarzen Sonne,” in: *Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft* 20/2, 2012, pp. 223–268.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND ANTHOLOGIES

- “Tantra und Katholizismus im Kontext einer globalen Religionsgeschichte“, in: Olaf Blaschke & Francisco Javier Ramón Solans (eds.), *Weltreligion im Umbruch: Transnationale Perspektiven auf das Christentum in der Globalisierung des 19. Jahrhunderts*, Frankfurt: Campus Verlag 2019, pp. 338–362.
- “Contested Christianities: Communism and Religion in July Monarchy France,” in: Stefan Arvidsson, Jakub Beneš & Anja Kirsch (eds.), *Socialist Imaginations: Utopias, Myths, and the Masses*, Abingdon: Routledge 2019, pp. 21–40.
- “Esoterik und Rechtsextremismus,” in: Udo Tworuschka (ed.), *Handbuch der Religionen*, vol. 55, München: Olzog-Verlag 2018, pp. 1–20.
- “Nazism and the Occult,” in: Christopher Partridge (ed.), *The Occult World*, Abingdon: Routledge 2015, pp. 336–347.
- “Hinduism, Western Esotericism and New Age Religion,” in: Knut Jacobsen & Ferdinando Sardella (eds.), *Handbook of Hinduism in Europe*, 2 vols., Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.
- “Yoga and Meditation in Esoteric Traditions,” in: Suzanne Newcombe & Karen O’Brien-Kop (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Yoga and Meditation Studies*, Abingdon: Routledge, forthcoming.
- “Tantra as Experimental Science in the Works of John Woodroffe,” in: Yves Mühlematter & Helmut Zander (eds.), *The Occult Roots of the Study of Religions*, Berlin: De Gruyter, forthcoming.
- “Eliphas Lévi: Lucifer as Revolutionary and Redeemer,” in: Per Faxneld & Johan Nilson (eds.), *Satanism: A Reader*, New York et al.: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- “Fascism and Nazism (neo),” in: Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.
- “Savitri Devi,” in: Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.
- “Tantra (contemporary),” in: Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.
- “Tempelhofgesellschaft,” in: Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.
- “The Esoteric in Contemporary Politics,” in: Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

MATERIAL FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION

- “Esoterik und Rechtsextremismus,” brochure for the Informations- und Dokumentationszentrum für Antirassismusbearbeitung, 13 pages, 2017: https://www.vielfalt-mediathek.de/data/strube_esoterik_und_rechtsextremismus_vielfalt_mediathek.pdf

NON-ACADEMIC ARTICLES

- “Esoterik, Populismus und die neurechte Avantgarde,” in: *Marginalien*, April 17th 2018: <https://marginalie.hypotheses.org/642>
- “How Socialism Helped to Seed the Landscape of Modern Religion,” in: *Aeon*, November 14th, 2017: <https://aeon.co/ideas/how-socialism-helped-to-seed-the-landscape-of-modern-religion>

REVIEWS AND MINOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- “The Emergence of ‘Marxism’ in its Historical Context: A Perspective from Religious Studies,” in: *Global Intellectual History* 3/3, 2018, pp. 275–281.
- “Eric Kurlander, Hitler’s Monsters: A Supernatural History of the Third Reich,” in: *Correspondences* 5, 2017, pp. 130–139.
- “Monika Black/Eric Kurlander, Revisiting the Nazi Occult,” in: *The German Quarterly* 90/3, 2017, pp. 396–398.
- “Peter Staudenmaier, Between Occultism and Nazism: Anthroposophy and the Politics of Race in the Fascist Era,” in: *Aries* 17/2, 2017, pp. 254–259.
- “Stimulating new Research on the Controversy of the ‘Nazi Occult’,” in: *Aries*, forthcoming.
- “Tantra im Kontext der globalen Religionsgeschichte des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts,” in: *Jahresheft Theologie* 10, 2014/2015, pp. 91–99.
- “René Gründer, Blótgemeinschaften: Eine Religionsethnografie des ‘germanischen Neuheidentums’,” in: *Aries* 13/2, 2013, pp. 317–321.

EDITORIAL WORK

- Book review editor for *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* (Brill).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Winter 2018–2019, University of Vienna, Austria: MA course “Esotericism and Far-Right Extremism.”
- Winter 2016–2017, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands: MA course “Esotericism between East and West.”
- Winter 2016–2017, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands: BA course “Western Esotericism since the 18th Century.”
- Winter 2016–2017, University of Münster, Germany: BA/MA course “Occultism between Religion and Politics.”
- Winter 2014–2015, Heidelberg University, Germany: BA/MA course “Alternative Religious Movements in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century.”
- Winter 2012–2013, University of Lucerne, Switzerland: BA/MA course “The Emergence of Modern Esotericism.”
- Winter 2011–2012, Heidelberg University, Germany: BA/MA course “Occultism in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century.”
- Winter 2010–2011, Heidelberg University, Germany: Tutorial “Scientific Writing.”

FIELD WORK AND RESEARCH TRIPS

- October–November 2018: Research trip to West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, India.
- February–March 2016: Research trip to West Bengal and Assam, India.

MEDIA/OUTREACH

- January 2019: Radio Interview with *ORF* about “National Socialism and Religion.”
- January 2019: Interview with *Katholische Presseagentur Österreich* about “In the Light of the Black Sun: Vienna, Neo-Nazis & Esotericism.”
- November 2018: Radio Interview with *BR* about “The Esotericism of the National Socialists – Racist Occultism.”
- 2018: British Library South Asia Series Podcast about “Bengali Tantra and Nationalism.”
- 2017: Interview for the *National Geographic TV* documentary “World War Weird” about the relationship between National Socialism and esotericism.
- February 2014: Radio Interview with *WDR* about “National Socialism and Religion.”
- August 2013: Interview with REMID (Religionswissenschaftlicher Medien- und Informationsdienst) about “Socialism and Occultism.”

- April 2013: Interview with REMID about “esoteric neo-Nazism.”

MEMBERSHIPS

- Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft.
- European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism.
- Royal Asiatic Society.
- Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands.

INVITED LECTURES

- “Awakening India’s Shakti: Tantra and (Anti-)Modern Hindu Identity,” Occult South Asia Workshop, University of Vienna, 23–24 November 2018.
- “Modern Śākta Identities in a Global Context: Bengali Tāntrikas and John Woodroffe,” Śākta Traditions Symposium II, University of Oxford, 1 June 2018.
- “Bengali Tantra, Orthodoxy, and Nationalism,” South Asia Series, British Library London, 26 February 2018.
- “Der Streit zwischen Sozialisten und progressiven Katholiken um die 'wahre' Religion im Frankreich des 19. Jahrhunderts.” International Research Training Group “Religious Cultures in 19th and 20th-Century Europe”, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, 26 July 2017.
- “Eliphas Lévi and the Historiography of Occultism.” Thesis Prize speech at the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, University of Erfurt, 1–3 June 2017.
- “Hinduism, Western Esotericism, and New Age Religion.” Hinduism in Europe, University of Stockholm, 26–28 April 2017.
- “The Socialist Roots of Occultism, or the Occult Roots of Nazism? A Discussion of the Tangled Relationship Between Esotericism and Politics in the Nineteenth Century.” ETH Zürich, 9–11 March 2017.
- “Die Entstehung alternativer Katholizismen im Frankreich des 19. Jahrhunderts und die Globalisierung der universalen Religion.” Conference by the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” in Münster, about “Weltreligion im Umbruch: Transnationale Perspektiven auf das Christentum in der Globalisierung des 19. Jahrhunderts,” 7–9 Oktober 2016.
- “Early French Socialism and its Influence on the European History of Religions”, University of Amsterdam, 26 September 2016.
- “Alternative Konzepte von ‘Religion’ im Kontext von Sozialismus, Katholizismus und Okkultismus: Die Bedeutung des Fortschrittsdiskurses für die Schriften von Eliphas Lévi.” Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, 23–24 June 2016.

- “French Socialist Movements and Religion.” Utrecht University, 17 May 2016.
- “Socialism and Religion in Nineteenth-Century France.” Presidency University Calcutta, 24 February 2016.
- “Heilende Naturkräfte im Spannungsfeld von Esoterik, Religion, Wissenschaft und Politik“. Workshop “Towards an Anthropology of Blessing.” artes Graduate School Cologne, 31 March–1 April 2015.
- “Okkultismus und Sozialismus.” Doctoral colloquium of Prof. Dr. Sylvia Paletschek, Freiburg, 3 December 2013.
- “Die Entstehung des Okkultismus im 19. Jahrhundert.” Workshop zum Stand der Erforschung von Theosophie und Anthroposophie, Fribourg, 28 February–1 March 2013.
- “Das ‘Vril’-Konzept im Spannungsfeld zwischen Okkultismus, Spiritismus, Parapsychologie und Politik.” WGFP-Kolloquium, Freiburg, 21–23 October 2011.
- “Vril. Zur Geschichte eines Begriffs im Kontext westlicher Esoterik.” IGPP-Kolloquium, Freiburg, 3 November 2010.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “(Anti-)Modern Religious Nationalism in Bengal: Tantra and Hindu Identity in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century,” Religion und Religionsdiskurse transnational: Konstruktion und Abwehr von Globalität, German Historical Institute Rome, 21–22 June 2018.
- “Tantra als ‘Bharata Dharma’. Hindunationalismus im frühen 20. Jahrhundert zwischen Universalität und Partikularität,” Globale Religionsgeschichte aus regionaler Perspektive, Heidelberg University, 7–9 June 2018.
- “Tantra as Experimental Science in the Works of John Woodroffe,” Conference „The Birth of the Study of Religion: Out of the Spirit of Occultism“, University of Fribourg, 14–16 February 2018.
- “La France Martyre, La France Messie: Elitism and Universalism in French Radical Socialism and Occultism.” European Association for the Study of Religions, University of Leuven, 18–22 September 2017.
- “Contested Christianities: Communism and Religion in July Monarchy France.” European Association for the Study of Religions, University of Leuven, 18–22 September 2017.
- “Tantra als universelle religiöse Tradition in den Schriften John Woodroffes.” Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft, University of Marburg, 13–15 September 2017.
- “Embracing Heresy: Radical Social Reform Movements and Esotericism in July Monarchy France.” European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, University of Erfurt, 1–3 June 2017.

- “Die Rückkehr Gottes aus dem Exil: Katholische Polemiken und Apologien neuer Religionsformen in Frankreich.” Die Romantik und ihre Religionen, University of Halle, 17–19 May 2017.
- “The Emergence of French Occultism Against the Background of Neo-Catholic and Socialist Orientalism.” European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, 15–17 April 2015.
- “Ein neues Christentum. Die Suche nach einer wissenschaftlichen Vernunftreligion im postrevolutionären Frankreich.” Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft, 11–13 September 2013.
- “Die Entstehung des Okkultismus.” Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft, 11–13 September 2013.
- “Social Regeneration and Universal Harmony. The Socialist Roots of Eliphas Lévi’s Theory of Magnetism.” European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, 26–28 June 2013.
- “Religion im französischen Frühsozialismus, 1825–1848.” Working Group “Religion und Politik” of the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft, 26–27 April 2013.
- “Okkultismus und europäische Religionsgeschichte. Vernunft, Religiosität und Wissenschaftlichkeit an der Wende des 19. zum 20. Jahrhundert.” Doctoral forum of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, 14–16 June 2012.
- “The Aryan Jesus from Outer Space. New Age Adaptations of *völkisch* Christianity.” Regimes of Religious Pluralism, Universiteit van Amsterdam, 19–20 April 2012.
- “Esotericism in German Far-Right Circles. Recent Developments Under the Sign of the Black Sun.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, 19–22 November 2011.
- “‘Esoterischer Nazismus’. Eine religionsgeschichtliche Betrachtung.” 16. Symposium der Studierenden der Religionswissenschaft, Heidelberg, 21–23 May 2009.