Satanic Feminism: Lucifer as the Liberator of Woman in Nineteenth-Century Culture

According to the Bible, Eve was the first to heed Satan’s advice to eat the forbidden fruit and thus responsible for all of humanity’s subsequent miseries. The notion of woman as the Devil’s accomplice is prominent throughout Christian history and has been used to legitimize the subordination of wives and daughters. In the nineteenth century, rebellious females performed counter-readings of this misogynist tradition. Lucifer was reconceptualized as a feminist liberator of womankind, and Eve became a heroine. In these reimaginings, Satan is an ally in the struggle against a tyrannical patriarchy supported by God the Father and his male priests. Per Faxneld’s talk will show how this “Satanic feminism” was expressed in a wide variety of nineteenth-century literary texts, autobiographies, pamphlets, newspaper articles, paintings, sculptures, and even artifacts of consumer culture like jewelry. Spanning European and US culture, the presentation details how colorful figures like the suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton, gender-bending Theosophist H. P. Blavatsky, author Aino Kallas, actress Sarah Bernhardt, anti-clerical witch enthusiast Matilda Joslyn Gage, decadent marchioness Luisa Casati, and the Luciferian lesbian poetess Renée Vivien embraced these reimaginings. By exploring the connections between esotericism, literature, art, and the political realm, new light will be shed on neglected aspects of the intellectual history of feminism, Satanism, and visionary mythmaking. The talk is based on Faxneld’s award-winning book Satanism (Oxford University Press, 2017).

講師紹介:
スウェーデン生まれ。2014年、ストックホルム大学大学院修了（Ph.D.）。ストックホルム大学、ケンブリッジ大学研究員を経てセーデルトーン大学准教授。専門は宗教学（エソテリシズム研究など）。単著に上記のSatanic Feminism、編著にThe Devil’s Party: Satanism in Modernity（2012）、Satanism: A Reader (2023) などがある。

日時: 2023年11月22日（水）15:30-17:00
会場: 東京大学本郷キャンパス
法文1号館1階113教室

参加無料・申込不要

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本講演は、東京大学大学院人文学系研究科演習科目「宗教と世俗空間」（西村明、宗教学・文化資源学）授業の一環として開催
According to the Bible, Eve was the first to heed Satan’s advice to eat the forbidden fruit and thus responsible for all of humanity’s subsequent miseries. The notion of woman as the Devil’s accomplice is prominent throughout Christian history and has been used to legitimize the subordination of wives and daughters. In the nineteenth century, rebellious females performed counter-readings of this misogynist tradition. Lucifer was reconceptualized as a feminist liberator of womankind, and Eve became a heroine. In these reimaginings, Satan is an ally in the struggle against a tyrannical patriarchy supported by God the Father and his male priests. Per Faxneld’s talk will show how this “Satanic feminism” was expressed in a wide variety of nineteenth-century literary texts, autobiographies, pamphlets, newspaper articles, paintings, sculptures, and even artifacts of consumer culture like jewelry. Spanning European and US culture, the presentation details how colorful figures like the suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton, gender-bending Theosophist H. P. Blavatsky, author Aino Kallas, actress Sarah Bernhardt, anti-clerical witch enthusiast Matilda Joslyn Gage, decadent marchioness Luisa Casati, and the Luciferian lesbian poetess Renée Vivien embraced these reimaginings. By exploring the connections between esotericism, literature, art and the political realm, new light will be shed on neglected aspects of the intellectual history of feminism, Satanism, and revisionary mythmaking. The talk is based on Faxneld’s award-winning book Satanic Feminism (Oxford University Press, 2017).

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