

# ***Finding the Way to Truth: Sources, History, and Impact of The Meditative Tradition, February 1-2, 2019***

## **Day 1: Friday February 1**

8:00: Doors open – Registration

8:45-9:00 Welcome – Introduction

### **Session 1: “Know Thyself!” Ancient Contemplations**

Chair-Discussant: Chuyu Tian and Molly Gurdon

**9:00–10:00** Wolfgang Mann, “Spiritual Exercises? 'Care for the Soul' and 'Contemplation'”

**10:00–11:00** Sara Magrin, “Who Knows You When You Know Yourself? Plotinus on the Delphic Command ‘Know Thyself’”

**11:00–12:00** Peter King, “Augustine's *Confessions*: Post-Classical Manifesto”

**12:00–12:15** Discussant - Questions

**12:15–1:00** Lunch Break

### **Session 2: Contemplation and Perplexity in Medieval Thought**

Chair-Discussant: Fatima Touilila

**1:00–2:00** Lauren Mancia, “Confession, Conversion, and Contemplation: Augustine, John of Fécamp, and the Monastic Meditative Tradition through the Eleventh Century”

**2:00–3:00** Souleymane Bachir Diagne, “Reaching God Through Perplexity: Al Ghazali's Meditation”

**3:00–4:00** Taneli Kukkonen, “Meditations in Islamic Thought: Philosophy and Sufism”

**4:00–4:15** Discussant - Questions

**4:15–4:30** Break

### **Session 3: Meditations in Late Medieval Thought: Now, Do it With Feeling**

Chair-Discussant: Natalie Hejduk

**4:30-5:30** Christina van Dyke, “From Meditation to Contemplation: Broadening the Borders”

**5:30-6:30** Katie Bugyis, “Through a Glass Clearly: Self-Reflection in Nicholas Love's *The Mirror of the Blessed Life of Jesus Christ*”

**6:30-7:15** Discussants – Reflecting on Our Day

## **Day 2: Saturday February 2**

8:15: Doors open – Registration

### **Session 4: Post-Reformation Reflections: Demons, Experience, and Knowledge**

Chair-Discussant: A.J. Marsh

9:00–10:00 Christia Mercer, “Self-Reflection and Virtue: Teresa of Ávila, Montaigne, and Leibniz”

10:00–11:00 Alan Stewart, “Francis Bacon's Sacred Meditations”

11:00–12:00 Elliot Paul, “Self-Knowledge and Rational Rhetoric in Descartes's Meditations”

12:00–12:15 Discussant - Questions

12:15–1:00 Lunch Break

### **Session 5: Post-Reformation Mysteries: From the Self to the World and Back**

Chair-Discussant – Olivia Branscum

1:00–2:00 Pamela Smith, “The ‘Mysteries’ of Bodily Knowledge in Early Modern Europe”

2:00–3:00 Brian Ogren, “Jewish Prayer and the Ascent of the Soul: An Early Modern Meditation on Unity and its American Christian Transformation”

3:00–3:15 Discussant - Questions

3:15–3:30 Break

### **Session 6: The Afterlife of Meditations: From Romanticism to Resistance and Critical Theory**

3:30–4:45 Panel Discussion – Chair-Discussant – Yarran Hominh

Clémence C. Boulouque, “Between Divine and Human Self-Awareness: The Significance of Jakob Boehme's Abyss in the Pre-Freudian Theories of the Unconscious”

Aminah Hasan-Birdwell, “‘Self-Reflection as Resistance:’ Hannah Arendt’s Reading of the Meditative Tradition”

Sabina Bremner, “Political Spirituality and Practices of the Self: Foucault’s Vindication of the Meditative Tradition”

### **Session 7: The Afterlife of Meditations: Contemporary Science**

5:00-5:45 Panel Discussion – Chair-Discussant – Helen Zhao

Stuart Firestein, “How Science Meditates: Ignorance, Failure and Optimism”

David Edwards, “Creating as Meditation”

5:45-6:30 Discussants – Reflecting on Our Day