

Conference Program

Religion after Longevity: Between Religious Traditions and Post-Humanism

Fondazione Giorgio Cini 1-2-3 December 2026



Tamausagi songokū, from the series *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon* (Tsuki no Hyakushi), c.1885-90.
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Tuesday, 1 December 2026

10:15 - 10:45

Welcome Greetings

- Francesco Piraino (Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- Francesca Tarocco (NICHE – Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- Charles M. Stang (CSWR – Harvard Divinity School)
- Marco Pasi (HHP – University of Amsterdam)

10:45 - 11:45 **Keynote Speaker**

- Natasha Heller (University of Virginia), “ ‘Better to Be a Riverside Tree’: Reading Hanshan in Climate Crisis”

11:45 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:00 **Panel: From Middle Ages to Renaissance**

- Stefania S. Buosi Moncunill (Sciència.cat, University of Barcelona), “The Elixir as Universal Medicine: Longevity and Spiritual Transformation in the Occitan-Catalan Alchemical Tradition (13th–16th Centuries)”
- Dunja Rašić (Tampere University, MIAS), “Lead into Gold: Muslims and Alchemists from the Kingdom of Minerals”

14:30 - 16:00 **Panel: Renaissance**

- Maria Koutsouris (Boston University), “How to Live A Long Life: Marsilio Ficino’s *Three Books of Life* as a Theurgic Guide for Immortality”
- Yasemin Kınay (Marmara University), “Holistic Therapy Against Aging in Marsilio Ficino’s *De Vita*: The Healing of Spiritus”
- Georgios Steiris (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), “Growing Old in a Eutopia”

Wednesday, 2 December 2026

10:15 - 11:45 **Panel: Contemporary Americas**

- Erwan Dianteill (Université Paris Cité), “From Initiation to Funeral Rite: Concentration, Dispersion, and the Permanence of the Ritual Person in Cuban Santería”
- Brett Grainger (Villanova University), “Fieldwork in the Land of the Dead: Shamanism, Sound, and the Ethnography of the Afterlife”
- Alysiana Carter and Pablo Vazquez (Graduate Theological Union), “Death Work and Reborn Gods: Psychedelic Ontologies of Death and Dying”

11:45 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:00 **Panel: Contemporary Asia and MENA**

- Luis Fernando Bernardi Junqueira (University College London), “Overcoming Death: Mental Healing for Longevity in Early 20th-Century East Asia”
- Feiyao Liao (University of Texas at Austin), “Oceanic Transhumanism: Cultivating ‘Comfort’ in Freediving Practice in Sinai Peninsula, Egypt”

14:30 - 15:30 **Panel: Modern and Contemporary Europe**

- Antonio de Diego González (University of Malaga), “The Body of Christian Rosenkreuz: Alchemical Longevity, Masonic Rebirth, and Modern Myths of Immortality”
- Steven J. Sutcliffe (The Open University), “Nature Spirituality as Post-Christian ‘Immortality Project’? The Example of ‘Soft Paganism’ in Scotland”
- Nicola Maria Camerlengo (University of Ordu, University of Konya, University of Salamanca), “The Frashokereti Upgrade: Zoroastrian Cosmic Evolution, Post-Human Transcendence, and Lived Religion in Contemporary Europe”

Thursday, 3 December 2026

10:15 - 11:15 **Panel: Transhumanism I**

- Tracy J. Trothen (Queen's University), “Grief Bots and Spiritual Needs: AI, Meaning-Making, and Mortality”
- Emanuele Palumbo (University of Padua, University of Turin), “Sacred Time in the Digital Space: Religious Temporality between Classical Frameworks and Digital Well-Being”

11:15 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:30 **Panel: Transhumanism II**

- Yaiza Hernández Escobar (Ucl IoI Institute of London, University of Barcelona), “Flesh That Will Not Age: Looksmaxxing, the Manosphere, and the Emergence of a Grassroots Post-Humanist Soteriology”
- Patricia K. Tillman (University of Maryland), “Death before Upload: Where are the Women Transhumanists?”

14:00 – 15:00 **Panel: Transhumanism III**

- Vikram Murthi (independent researcher), “The Immortality Complex: Consciousness, Eschatology, and Humanity’s Continuing Conversation with Mortality”
- Francesco Piraino (Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), “The Radicalization of Transhumanism: Peter Thiel’s Eschatological Politics”

15:00 - 15:30 **Concluding remarks - plenary**

The conference is organized jointly by the Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities (Fondazione Giorgio Cini), HHP-Centre for History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents (University of Amsterdam), CSWR-Center for the Study of World Religions (Harvard Divinity School), and NICHE Centre for Environmental Humanities (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice).