



Study Week

Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities

Reincarnation and Karma in the Work of Rudolf Steiner

With Andre Bartoniczek, Elke Dominik, Christine Gruwez, Christiane Haid,
Babette Hasler, Stefan Hasler, Michael Klemt, Wolf-Ulrich Klünker,
Mechtild Oltmann, Benno Otter, Alexander Schaumann and Jaap Sijmons

28 July – 1 August 2025

**RUDOLF
STEINER 100**



Study Week

Reincarnation and Karma in the Work of Rudolf Steiner

Understanding what reincarnation and karma mean is a question that has become existential for more and more people today. Rudolf Steiner worked on this theme from 1903 in lectures, in his books *Theosophy* and *Occult Science* and artistically in his *Mystery Dramas*. In 1924 he intensified the presentation of his research results in more than 80 lectures.

From the perspective of an understanding of reincarnation and karma, life is no accident but rather a fabric woven of karmic preconditions; this fabric can be discovered and recognised with the help of meditative practices. An understanding of the origin of human beings in cosmic expanses, their rootedness in past cultures and the task given by destiny that places an individual in particular human relationships and community contexts are all life puzzles that are to be taken up as responsibilities in the age of the consciousness soul. As Rudolf Steiner's last address on September 28, 1924, indicates, he saw any involvement with the theme of reincarnation and karma as one of his legacies. A recognition and specific understanding of the facts associated with reincarnation and karma enables individuals to arrive at a completely different understanding of their individual life and destiny. Meeting anthroposophy and the life of the Anthroposophical Society can be experienced as a puzzle on the one hand and as a task or mission on the other. The challenge now is for an individual's presence of mind to take ownership of the puzzle and to fructify it for the future. Together we want to approach this central theme with you in lectures, working groups, workshop performances, conversations and exercises in the course of the Study Week.



Christiane Haid



Ariane Eichenberg

Programme

	MONDAY, 28.7.	TUESDAY, 29. 7.	WEDNESDAY, 30.7.	THURSDAY, 31.7.	FRIDAY, 1.8.
9.00	Forms that Awaken Our Abilities to See Karma: Observing Metamorphoses in Rudolf Steiner's Sculptures Elke Dominik				
		Basic perspectives with which to understand reincarnation and karma Michael Klem	Sensing individual destiny: reincarnation and karma in the 21st century Wolf-Ulrich Klünker	The effect of the turning point of time: Living with the idea of karma as the future Mechtild Oltmann	Karma and Understanding History Andre Bartoniczek
10.45	Coffee break				
11.30	Working Groups				Closing plenary meeting
12.45	Lunch Break				
15.00	Practice Opportunities in Nature and Art Nature observation, creative speech, sculpture, eurythmy, painting with pastels				
16.00	Break				
16.30		Rudolf Steiners 1924 karma lectures: law or the science of freedom? Jaap Sijmons	Past, present and future aspects of the human form Alexander Schaumann	Individual destinies become the destiny of humanity: Structures and forms of a new connection Christine Gruwez	
18.00	Supper Break				
20.00	Reincarnation and Karma in history and in the present Christiane Haid	Workshop performance: scenes from Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas	Guilt and responsibility in destiny communities – The character of Maria in Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas Christiane Haid	Workshop performance: scenes from Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas	
This schedule may be subject to change					

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WORKING GROUPS

1. **Mechtild Oltmann:** *Ordering Karma* – A Task to Help Understand the Past and the Future
2. **Alexander Schaumann:** Observation Exercises on Human Physiognomy: Does the same Individual appear that lives and speaks today?
3. **Jaap Sijmons:** Examples of Karma and Karma Exercises from Rudolf Steiner's Karma lectures
4. **Michael Klemt:** Foundations for an Understanding of Reincarnation and Karma.
5. **Wolf Ulrich-Klünker:** Thinking as a Body-Creating Power, Karma and Therapy
6. **Christine Gruwez:** Key Moments in the Karmic Stream from Gondishapur, Arabism and its Effects on the Present

AREAS OF PRACTICE

7. **Benno Otter:** Exploring our Relationship with Nature and the Plant World by Perceiving, Observing and Giving Impulses from the Perspective of the Seven Life and Learning Processes – Nature Observations
8. **Babette Hasler:** I in my Language, I in my Karma – Creative Speech/Speech Formation
9. **Elke Dominik:** The I's Will to Transform in the Sculptural Process – Sculpture
10. **Stefan Hasler:** Exploring Karma Exercises in Tone Eurythmy using the Qualities of the *Between* – Eurythmy
11. **Christiane Haid:** The Secret of the Colour of Flesh – Painting with Pastels

Biographies

Dr Andre Bartoniczek

Studied German literature, history and philosophy in Heidelberg; Upper School Waldorf teacher in Weimar, Stuttgart and Heidelberg; leadership of the Academy for Waldorf Education in Mannheim and lecturer on the online Waldorf Education training based in Jena. Has been head of school at the Waldorf school in Karlsruhe since 2023. Publications on history, education and aesthetics.

Elke Dominik

Has been on a journey with Rudolf Steiner's and Raoul Ratinowsky's impulses for the sculptural realm in Dornach since 1966. She continues to make new discoveries and develop new processes.

Christine Gruwez

Studied philosophy, the Classics and Iranian Studies at the University of Leuven. Became a Waldorf teacher and contributor to the Waldorf teacher training and Thomas More College in Antwerp. Has made numerous research trips, particularly to the Near and Middle East. Main fields of research are Manichaeism and Rudolf Steiner's intention regarding Mani.

Dr Christiane Haid

Studied education, German literature, history and art in Freiburg and Hamburg. 2012 Ph.D.: *Mythos, Traum und Imagination. Die kleinen Mythen Albert Steffens*. 2009-2019 Head of Verlag am Goetheanum, from 2019 Programme Director. Since 2012 Head of the Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities and since 2020 Head of the Visual Arts Section, Joint Head of the Art Study Year at the Goetheanum.

Babette Hasler

Studied Creative Speech and Acting at the Goetheanum. Main concern and professional main work have been and are speaking for eurythmy. Taught and performed for many years at the Eurythmy School and Stage group in Hamburg. Currently works at the Eurythmeum CH in Aesch, near Dornach. Recites, gives courses and contributes to artistic projects, including for the Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble. Has performed a variety of roles in *Faust* and in the *Mystery Dramas* at the Goetheanum.

Professor Stefan Hasler

Studied music in Basel, Stuttgart, Pescara and Budapest, conducting in London, eurythmy in The Hague and Hamburg. Teaching and lecturing in Hamburg. Professor of eurythmy at Alanus University since 2003. Head of the Section for the Performing Arts since 2015. Collaboration in the Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble. Member of the Goetheanum leadership team since 2024.

Michael Klemt

Studied eurythmy from 1980 to 1984, eurythmy therapy from 1990 to 1992 in Stuttgart. Trained as a natural

health practitioner from 2003 to 2005 in Tübingen, courses in osteopathy 2011-2018 in Ulm/Oberhausen, training in osteopathy (BAO) in Münster 2019-23. Taught eurythmy and music in the Waldorf School in Überlingen; from 1992 to 1999. eurythmy therapist in the Free George School in Reutlingen. Therapy practice for eurythmy therapy and later for osteopathy in Reutlingen from 1999. Numerous courses and seminars in eurythmy, eurythmy therapy and anthroposophy; more recently, in anatomy and physiology from an anthroposophical perspective in Böblingen, Stuttgart, Würzburg and Kassel.

Professor Wolf-Ulrich Klünker

Head of the Turmalin Foundation (Rondeshagen near Lübeck), founder of the Delos Research Centre for Psychology (Berlin). Professor of Philosophy and the Philosophical Foundations of Anthroposophy at Alanus University near Bonn, Germany. Publications on the therapeutic study of the human experience, the foundations of Spiritual Science and the development of the human I in the history of ideas.

Mechtild Oltmann

Studied psychology in Heidelberg and Freiburg. Encountered the Christian Community in Hannover after breaking off an apprenticeship as a book seller. Attended the Priests' Seminar in Stuttgart from 1969, ordination in 1971. Active as a priest in Berlin from 1976 until retirement in 2011. In 1998 was invited to give a seminar on the Apocalypse, thus expanding and deepening the theme. Lectures and seminars on main area of research: The apocalypse and the present day.

Benno Otter

After attending the biodynamic gardening training at Warmonderhof in the Netherlands began work as a gardener in a Camphill village with special needs adults in Northern Ireland. Has worked as a gardener in the market garden at the Goetheanum since 1982, and been head of the business from 1984 to 2024. Gives courses for students and teachers at gardening schools and mentors students training in biodynamic agriculture.

Alexander Schaumann

Studied painting and history of art under Gerhart Richter and W. J. Hofmann in Düsseldorf. Has since worked as a freelance artist and lecturer for painting, history of art, anthroposophical study of human experience, Goethean study of nature and developed his own approach to the study of human experience.

Professor Jaap Sijmons

Studied philosophy, mathematics and law in Utrecht. Completed Ph.D.s in law and on Rudolf Steiner's philosophy and system of twelve world views (Utrecht, 2004). Published in German as *Phenomenology and Idealism. Structure and Method in Rudolf Steiner's Philosophy*, Basel 2008. From 2014 to 2019 was General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in the Netherlands. Professor for health legislation.

TICKET PRICES

- Tickets include 3 lunches at 12.45 on 29, 30 and 31 July and 4 coffee breaks at 10.45 on 29, 30 and 31 July and 1 August
- In addition to the conference ticket, 3 suppers on 29, 30 and 31 July can be pre-purchased for CHF 84

Sponsorship fee	CHF 900
Normal fee	CHF 550
Reduced fee	CHF 450
Student fee	CHF 200

REGISTRATION

Please register online for the Study Week:

https://goetheanum.ch/en/events/studyweek_2025

Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities

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