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# MYSTERIES OF MATTER: MUSIC AND MEANING, MONSTERS, AND MATERIAL MYSTICISM

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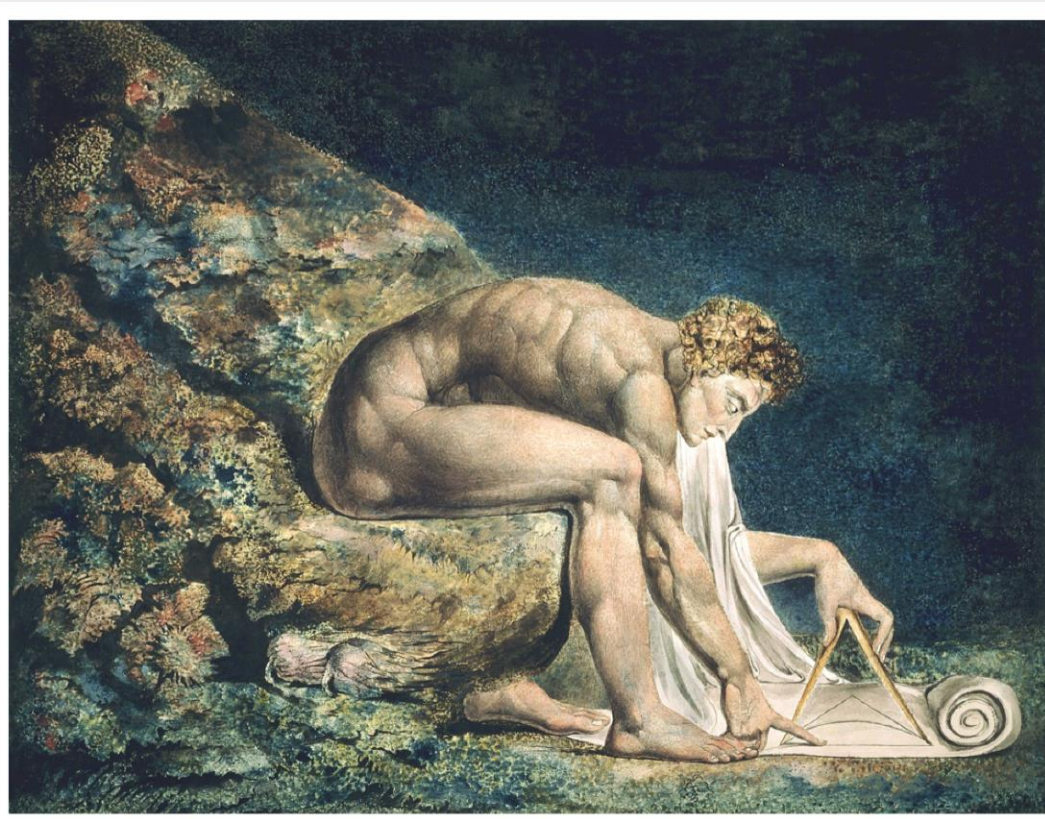
Methodological Intensive Seminar Given by

**Prof. Karmen MacKendrick (Le Moyne College)**

**May 18th-22nd, 2015, 9:30 – 12:30, Building 1451/3**

**Nobelparken, Aarhus University, Denmark**

This seminar will focus on matter, especially flesh, as something that cannot be reduced to a simple mechanical or natural scientific explanation. Through readings in late ancient,



Medieval, and contemporary texts, we will explore three different aspects of this irreducibility. Readings in Greek myth, Platonism, and Augustine of Hippo join contemporary sources including Jean-Luc Nancy to ground a discussion of sonorous voice versus the attempt to abstract and disembody meaning. Readings from Augustine and other Latin and Greek Church fathers, along with more contemporary readings from Georges Bataille and Julia Kristeva, will allow us to consider monstrous and “normal” bodies. Finally, we will read together late ancient and Medieval ontologies and cosmologies

with new materialism to consider the possibility of a mysticism that, far from denying or rejecting the immanent world, is wholly material. Seminar participants will also be given the opportunity to present their own research and work-in-progress.

The number of participants in the seminar is limited. Participants from outside Aarhus will have their travel and accommodation expenses covered. Applicants should send CV and 150-words description of their engagement with the theme, including a title for their presentation in the seminar, to Jonathan Cahana at [joca@cas.au.dk](mailto:joca@cas.au.dk).

**Deadline for application is MARCH 1st. Applicants will be notified of their application status by March 15th.**

The seminar is funded by The Danish Council for Independent Research as a part of the project *Wrestling with Archons: Gnosticism as a Critical Theory of Culture*. The project is affiliated to the research program Classical Antiquity: Traditions and Transformations (Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity) at the Department of Culture and Society.

For further details see <http://projects.au.dk/wrestlingarchons/>