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Mariusz Dobkowski, Ph.D., is a specialist in religious studies and a historian. His main area of research includes: Manichaeism, medieval religious dissidence traditionally called Catharism and theory of religion. His recent publications include: “Szukałam, znalazłam”. *Podróż duszy według manichejskiego hymnu Wzlot ku eonom (PsB 167, 23–168, 19) z koptyjskiej Księgi psalmów*, [in:] *Światłość i ciemność. Podróż inicjacyjna. Podróż metafizyczna. Podróż ezoteryczna*, eds. D. Oboleńska, M. Rzeczycka, vol. 5, Gdańsk 2014, pp. 57–79; *Augustyn i jego wiedza na temat manicheizmu*, “Studia Religioznawcze” 2013, No. 46, pp. 61–69; scientific redactor (with A. Jocz, B. Sienkiewicz) *Gnoza, gnostycyzm, literatura*, Kraków 2012.

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Karolina Maria H e s s is a Ph.D. candidate in cultural studies in the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She double majored – in pedagogics (philosophical and social education) in 2009 and ethnology in 2013. She also completed a program for Ph.D. students in philosophy at the University of Silesia. In 2009–2013 she worked as a research and teaching assistant at the University of Silesia, since 2014 she is a head of a research project “The reception of the category of the East by Polish esoteric environments at the turn of the 20th century and its cultural and religious consequences” funded by the National Science Centre in Poland. Her research interests include Western esotericism, especially Theosophy, cultural and philosophical anthropology and philosophy of religion. She is a member of Polish and international organizations devoted to the academic study of Western esotericism, i.e. a co-founder and Board Member of the Polish Society for the Study of Western Esotericism.

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Anna M i k o ł e j k o, Professor at the University of Warsaw, is an anthropologist, sociologist of culture and historian of ideas. She has conducted research on the mass media and the crisis of authority in Poland, virtual reality, counterculture youth, changes in value systems, and especially the transformation of religious and para-religious culture. She is currently working on the image of the esoteric tradition in the Polish culture during the nineteenth and twentieth century. Author of approximately 200 scientific publications and essays.

Important books: *Tradycja i nowe drogi wiary. Obrazy religijności polskiej w latach 1918–1939* (2001), *Spoleczne Towarzystwo Oświatowe. Z dziejów oświaty niezależnej w Polsce* (1997), *Poza autorytetem? Społeczeństwo polskie w sytuacji anomii* (1991); and collective works (among others): *Pod słońcem gnozy* (2015), *Elity polskie* (2014), *Sztuka i ezoteryka* (2013), *Czas Apokalipsy. Koniec dziejów w kulturze od późnego średniowiecza do współczesności* (2012).

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