

Goethean Science

and the Golden Triangle

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Ruskin Mill Trust's method of *Practical Skills Therapeutic Education*, developed over 30 years, is applied through Seven Fields of Practice. The method is subject to ongoing research on three main levels: action research and reflective practice; Master's degree level; doctoral. Dissemination of research occurs through research journals, key RMT publications, exhibitions and conferences. This research cycle, with its research objects sourced in practice, serves to develop staff practice for the benefit of student progression.

Research into the Seven Fields of Practice, and its theoretical underpinnings, is coordinated through three research centres in England, Scotland, and Wales. This unified trichotomy is referred to as the Golden Triangle. The principles and practices in the Seven Fields of Practice draw inspiration from spiritual science and Goethean science. As each research centre in the Golden Triangle stands both within RMT and the world, research undertaken also contributes to the broader discourse in spiritual science and Goethean science.

Each research centre of the Golden Triangle has its task in the world, based on the genius loci of its location. The genius loci also informs the research themes through the threefold picture of the human being and the kingdoms of nature.

Goethean Science Courses

Since its inception, RMT has drawn inspiration from Goethean science and spiritual science. Over the years, both a broad range of individual specialists and groups of collaborative inquiry have contributed to Goethean science and spiritual science for both staff and public. Through the Field Centre the first formalised offering of a Goethean science programme was launched at RMT in 2018-19. Three further cohorts have undertaken the internal Goethean science programme. The core faculty of the Goethean science programme is Judyth Sassoon, Troy Vine and Simon Reakes.

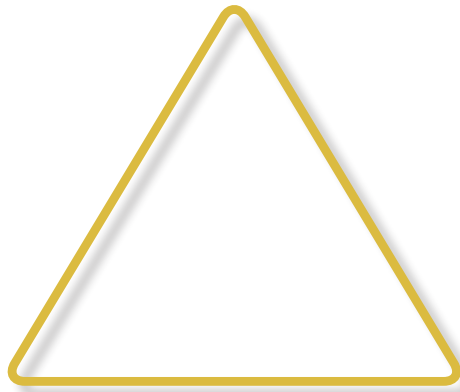
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East Lothian, Scotland

Threefold human being: head

Kingdom of nature: plant

Task: bringing cognition into social enterprise



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Pembrokeshire, Wales

Threefold human being: heart

Kingdom of nature: mineral

Task: bringing the social into action

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Gloucestershire, England

Threefold human being: limbs

Kingdom of nature: animal

Task: teaching the will to think

External Course

In November 2019, a further step was taken with the launch of RMT's first external Goethean science programme. Attended by 20 participants, the programme consisted of three weekends, with one weekend being offered in each Golden Triangle research centre. Offering participants an insight into the genius loci of each site, the course also allowed for the performing of Goethean science in the locality of the Golden Triangle. In this way, the course initiated a larger, longer-term action research project on Goethean science at RMT.



Being a participant in this Goethean science training has been an enriching experience, a life affirming gift. Thank you to all who made this extraordinary event possible. Loved it"

- Participant on the RMT Goethean science external course

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Nov 16 -17, 2019

Overview of content:

- The Experiment as Mediator between Subject and Object
- Faculties of cognition: open monitoring and focused attention
- Threefolding through the alchemical Tria Principia (in relation to the processes in human physiology and form)
- Threefolding in animals and plants
- Public lecture on Owen Barfield from Troy Vine

Judyth Sassoon demonstrating the alchemical Tria Principia of Salt, Sulphur and Mercury



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Feb 8 - 9 , 2020

Guest lecturers and presenters: Katherine Buchanan, Alasdair Gordon

Overview of content:

- Plant Morphology and Metamorphosis
- Goethe and Hermeneutics
- Goethe and Seeing Connections
- Image Making and Camera Obscura
- Public lecture on “Everything is in flames”: the Great Debate between Morphology and Mechanism from Judyth Sassoon

Katherine Buchanan leading a session on Goethean plant observation and morphology





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Apr 25 - 26, 2020

Guest lecturer: Laura Wallwork

Overview of content:

- Goethe and Paradigms
- Polarity as an Ur-phenomenon
- Visit to Gors Fawr
- Preseli Bluestone Geology, Landscape and Goetheanism



Laura Wallwork introduces the local landscape and the Preseli Bluestone geology



current internal course

The current internal Goethean science course provides an introduction to Goethean science taking a “fourfold perspective” and is especially designed for Ruskin Mill staff. It is an important part of staff training, as the teaching practices of the Trust are founded on the method developed by Goethe in his scientific writings, and on subsequent research, by Rudolf Steiner. In this course we introduce Goethe’s original work and discuss Rudolf Steiner’s role in developing Goethe’s ideas. We also briefly highlight some later work developing out of Goethean science, including the original research of Field Centre researchers. The sessions have a highly practical and experiential content alongside short, intense classroom teaching.



Troy Vine presenting on polarity in Goethe's method

The course guides participants through the four kingdoms of nature using the four traditional elements as focuses of observation. Exercises demonstrate how different ways of looking at nature give rise to different kinds of experiences of the same thing. The relevance of the fourfold experience and epistemology is discussed in direct relationship to the practices of the Ruskin Mill Trust. The core faculty is: Judyth Sassoon, Aonghus Gordon, Simon Reakes.

Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to outline Goethe's original comparative method. To understand how it can be used in a variety of working contexts and how the practice of making faithful connections can mobilise the exact imagination (*Exakte sinnliche Phantasie*)
- To understand the relevance of a fourfold epistemology to the student study and to see how the four natural kingdoms and four elements are discovered within human beings, their contexts and their activities
- To be able to describe the relationships between content and context especially with relevance to PSTE. To understand how the Goethean method can assist in establishing the correct relationships between the students and their educational curricula
- Be able to undertake a Genius Loci survey using the fourfold approach employed at RMT



Participants on the Goethean science course working with the morphology of the human skull

"Whoever wishes
to deny nature
as an organ
of the divine
must begin
by denying all
revelation."

Goethe
Maxims and Reflections