

## **The Other under Erasure: Lessons from the Phoenix (and Diotima)**

*Michael Marder*

Keynote Speaker

University of the Basque Country (Bilbao)

In my recent book, *The Phoenix Complex*, I diagnose and describe a deep unconscious structure, on a par with the Oedipus complex, the Electra complex, and Gaston Bachelard's "fire complexes," which across cultures and historical periods prompts human beings to identify the outside world and themselves with phoenixes, ever ready to spring back to life after death. The miraculous rebound of the phoenix, ranging from psychic and physical recuperation and resurrection to environmental recovery, is the hope that refuses to die even in the face of utter devastation and extreme loss. This lethal hope persists in numerous guises, affecting our sense of life, love, and death at the individual, species, interpersonal, and cosmic levels. In the present talk, we will explore how the phoenix complex puts the other under erasure and, in particular, how it is operationalized in Plato's *Symposium* with respect to Diotima's teachings on love.

## **The Sky's the Limit – How to Encounter the Other**

*Andrea Rehberg*

Keynote Speaker

Newcastle University (Newcastle upon Tyne)

This paper looks at instantiations of otherness and what they tell us about the operations of othering. The paper is in two parts: the first, constative part attempts to chart a certain trajectory through the terrain made up of 'sites of otherness', according to a particular narrative, namely one that can be traced through twentieth-century continental philosophy. This trajectory is both in practice and in principle open-ended, for reasons that will be laid out. The second part – both more abstract and more speculative – aims to address