Contents

1 Religion and Science in Discursive Perspective —— 1
   The Discursive Construction of Knowledge —— 3
      Historical Analysis of Discourse —— 5
   Discursive Study of Religion: Concepts and Definitions —— 10
      Basic Concepts for Discourse Analysis —— 11
      Consequences for a Discursive Study of Religion —— 13
   Methodological Implications —— 15
      Determining the Research Question —— 15
      Selecting Data and Building a Corpus —— 16
      Choosing the Most Suitable Method to Analyze the Data Sets —— 18
   Beyond Binaries: An Outline of the Argument —— 19

Part One:
Discarded Knowledge and Its New Legitimacy in Secular Discourse —— 23

2 From Polemical Disjunction to New Integration: The Science of the Stars —— 25
   The Differentiation of Branches of Knowledge —— 25
      The Responses of the Astrologers —— 27
   Polemical Disjunctions and their Complexities in the Eighteenth Century —— 33
      Astrological Semantics in the Secret Societies of the Eighteenth Century —— 36
   The Perpetuation of ASTROLOGY in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Literature and Philosophy —— 38
      Astrology in Goethe’s Time —— 38
      Aestheticization and Psychologization of Astral Powers in the Romantic Period —— 43
   Re-Enchantment of the Cosmos around 1900 —— 47
   The Marriage of Secular Psychology and Astrology: Carl Gustav Jung —— 49
      The Dialogue between Wolfgang Pauli and Carl Gustav Jung and Its Impact —— 52

3 Alchemical Quests in Modern Garb —— 56
   Alchemy as the ‘Occult Other’ —— 58
      VITALISM: A Ménage-a-Trois of Life, Spirit, and Matter —— 64
Rearrangements in the Twentieth Century — 70

4 **Darwinism Turned into Religion: Monism** — 76
   Ernst Haeckel: From Darwinism to Pantheistic Monism — 77
   Wilhelm Ostwald: Entanglements Personified — 80
   Discursive Implications: Holistic Thinking between **new age science**, Nature-Based Spirituality, and a New Philosophy of Nature — 87
      Fritjof Capra — 88
      Ilya Prigogine — 89
      Gregory Bateson — 91
      Rupert Sheldrake — 92
      David Bohm — 92

5 **Merging Occultism, Philosophy, Science, and the Academic Study of Religion: The Theosophical Society** — 94
   Helena P. Blavatsky as a Discursive Hub — 94
      Unveiling the Hidden Knowledge of Isis — 98
      Secret Doctrines and Synthetic Discourse — 103
      Wars of Succession — 107
   The German Knot: Rudolf Steiner — 110

Part Two:
**Academics as Religious Pioneers** — 113

6 **The Trouble with Europe: Academic Orientalism and New Mystical Religions** — 115
   Martin Buber, Gershom Scholem, and Dynamics of Jewish Self-Orientalization — 117
      Martin Buber: In Search of the Eastern *Urdjentum* — 118
      Gershom Scholem: ‘Jewish Mysticism’ as an Antidote to ‘Europe’ — 122
   Rudolf Otto and Gerardus van der Leeuw: Oriental Wisdom and the Ultimate Access to the Sacred — 124
      Rudolf Otto — 125
      Gerardus van der Leeuw — 126
   Gender, Eroticism, and the Unveiling of an Orientalized Salome — 129
   Discursive Materializations: Globalized Sufism and Kabbalah — 132
   Kabbalistic Entanglements in the Life Sciences — 134
7 In Search of the Great Goddess: How Academic Theories Generated Paganism and Witchcraft —— 139
   Matriarchy as an Historical Myth: Johann Jakob Bachofen —— 140
   Archaeologists and Classicists Discover the Great Goddess —— 144
   Charles G. Leland and Robert Graves: Popularizing the Idea of the Goddess —— 146
      Charles Godfrey Leland —— 146
      Robert Graves —— 149
   Discursive Materializations in (the Study of) Paganism and Esotericism —— 152

8 Normatizing Shamanism: Academic Teachers as Religious Experts —— 159
   Mircea Eliade: Scholar and Novelist of Shamanism —— 162
   Shamanic and Academic Authorities: The Routinization of Charisma —— 166
      Carlos Castaneda —— 167
      Joan Halifax —— 169
      Michael Harner —— 170
   Authority Contested —— 173

Conclusion: The Scientification of Religion —— 178

Bibliography —— 183

Index —— 211