



Panteion University of Social & Political Sciences Department of Social Anthropology



Università
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INTERNATIONAL
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Εργαστήριο
ανθρωπολογικής
έρευνας

Shamanism and Eco-cosmology - A cross-cultural perspective

Organised & Conceptualised
by

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**Location: Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences,
Conference Room, DESKOI Building,
Lagoumitzi and Trikoupi Str., Athens**

This workshop focusses eco-cosmology as a worldview prevalent in shamanic cultures worldwide. Contemporary shamanisms are embedded in analogous ecological knowledge systems relating always to indigenous cosmologies and ontologies (Kopenawa/Albert 2013). Local shamanisms are commonly understood as value systems based on the one hand on cultures of orality, on the other hand on the non-dualistic perspective on human and non-human agencies in a mutually shared world and cosmos (Descola 1992, (2005) 2013, Viveiro de Castro 1998).

Within the process of industrial extraction of natural resources diverse indigenous / analogous communities are deprived of their fundamental human rights for secured livelihood and preserved ecosystems. An industrial neo-colonial intrusion into mineral rich territories of indigenous and analogous peoples takes place worldwide. With the ecological degradation, vulnerable worldviews of indigenous/ analogous communities and their rituals are critically threatened. These worldviews and local knowledge systems however could be a key for finding local and global solutions for a sustainable and philanthropic global world of cultural and eco-biological diversity and mutuality.

The 2-days workshop discusses from anthropological, environmental and study of religions perspective local eco-cosmological shamanic knowledge systems and worldviews. It aims on the one hand at displaying the threatened local ecological knowledge transmitted by shamans; on the other hand the workshop aims at a valuation and recognition of shamanic eco-cosmological solutions for a sustainable world and cosmos.

Cited works:

- Descola, Philippe 1992. Societies of nature and the nature of society. In Conceptualizing society (ed.) A. Kuper. London: Routledge
- Descola, Philippe 2013 Beyond Nature and Culture. The University of Chicago Press.
- Original: Descola, Philippe 2005. Par-delà de la nature et culture. Paris: Gallimard.
- Kopenawa, Davi / Bruce Albert 2013. The Falling Sky. Words of a Yanomami Shaman. Harvard University Press.
- Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo 1998. Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism. The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Vol. 4, No. 3 (Sep., 1998), pp. 469-488