Conference Entry Form

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Short bio

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Proposal Title *  Impact of Western neoshamans on indigenous shamanic cultures: shifting attitudes of anthropologists

Abstract (500 words). Abstracts will be published on the webpage before the conference. *

Through their concepts of shamanism and direct contacts with indigenous shamanic cultures, Western neoshamans have made huge and diverse impact on these cultures and their shamanic traditions throughout the world. These contacts are implemented through invitations of indigenous shamans to Western countries, travels of neoshamans to indigenous communities in North and South Americas, Asia and elsewhere to learn their shamanic practices, financial support to indigenous communities and individual shamans, and teaching indigenous communities of Western neoshamanic practices. Since the start of these direct contacts in the 1960s, the changes brought by Western neoshamans include alterations of social and economic conditions of indigenous communities, valuation of their shamanic practices, adaptations of these practices and worldview according to the needs of Western practitioners.

The aim of the paper is to analyse the discussion of these changes in anthropological and related academic milieu. The discussion reflects important processes happening in indigenous communities, as well as interaction of the Western world and these communities. In addition, the discussion evidences changes in attitudes of anthropologists towards these communities, their practices and their development. Despite initial harsh criticism of the interaction and the following changes, currently anthropologists analyse the interaction and its impact more neutrally and thoroughly, and perceive the indigenous communities as active participants of the interaction.

Session type  •  Presentation

Short panel description

Additional Information

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