



GLOBAL MATRICULTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

Call for Presentations

CASCA virtual conference 12-15 May 2021

Symposium: Matriculture

Convenors: Angela Sumegi (Carleton) and Idoia Arana-Beobide (Network on Culture)

Submission deadline: 27 January 2021

Panel title: MATRICULTURAL COSMOVISIONS

The mythologies of peoples around the world and their visions of the cosmos create a web of interconnections between people, environment, food, climate, life, and death. Plants, animals, sun and stars, rocks and rivers all have their stories, stories that permeate the culture and infuse everyday life and values. Over centuries, despite long periods of colonization and patriarchalization, the woman-centered narratives that sustain a culture have endured, even if altered. In contemporary times, we are seeing a concerted effort in many communities to reclaim, revitalize, and at times even reinvent for future generations the ancient roots of their culture. In many instances, such re-emergence focuses on woman's leadership and empowerment, particularly regarding the reclaiming of 'mother right'.

In a frame where matriculture is understood as a cultural system in the classical Geertzian sense of the term, this panel will explore the myths and legends which are found in matricultures around the world. We take it as a given that some cultures have a weakly defined matricultural system, while others, that have strong matricultural systems, express this strength in several ways – one of which is through myths and legends where the female role and/or the female world is primary.

This panel invites papers that address the engagements and entanglements reflected in the myths and stories of matricultures, and their contemporary manifestations. We are particularly interested in presentations that explore the original worldviews, myths and/or cosmology; renewed and contemporized versions of ancient rituals and ceremonies; as well as research that brings the two together.

Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- Women-centered mythologies related to the environment
- Cosmogonic myths and their influence in contemporary societies
- The restoration/revitalization process bringing myths and stories into contemporary life
- Myths and legends related to the ordering of family and household life
- The effects of colonization and/or decolonization on the transmission of the foundational myths of a culture or community

Abstract submissions are invited of 250 words maximum.

Abstract submissions should be sent to Angela Sumegi (angela.sumegi@carleton.ca) or Idoia Arana-Beobide (goragu@rogers.com).

About the Global Matricultures Research Network (MatNet)

The Global Matricultures Research Network (MatNet) is a project of the International Network for Training, Education, and Research in Culture (Network on Culture) and, specifically, is an international network for research based on Marie-Françoise Guédon's concept of matriculture. That is, as a cultural system in the classical Geertzian sense within which the experiences and expressions of women are primary.

Similar to other cultural systems such as art, religion, or mathematics, employing the heuristic of matriculture allows for, among other things: cross-cultural comparisons; fresh insights into the social roles of women, men, children, and the entire community of humans, animals, and the environment; or renewed understandings of historically mis-labelled cultures. With Guédon's work in mind, then, and based on Geertzian principles, the concept of matriculture is both a model of reality by rendering the structure of matricultures apprehensible and a model for reality, where psychological relationships are organized under its guidance. MatNet encourages and supports research which explores, evaluates, re-evaluates, and interprets global cultures from this perspective.

For more information about MatNet, visit our webpage at <https://www.networkonculture.ca/activities>.