Conference

Shamanism and Healing Rituals in Contemporary Islam and Sufism

Centro Incontri Umani, Ascona, Monte Verità, Switzerland
22-23 November 2008

Convenor Prof. Thierry Zarcone
Dedicated to Vladimir Nikolaevich Basilov

This conference wants to question the association of Islam (Sufism) and Shamanism in the contemporary Muslim world and particularly to discuss the healing rituals used by the shamans. Two kinds of healers will be investigated in this meeting: first, the shaman healers of Central Asia (bakhshi, emchi, achikgöz, parikhuán, darger) which doesn’t belong to a homogenous movement but to several trends. However these trends have a common origin that is the mixing of Islam and especially of Sufism with the old religion of the region, i.e. Shamanism. This « Islamized Shamanism » (Islamizirovannoe shamanstvo), as it was labelled by the late Profesor W. Basilov, exists in a geographic area which covers today the Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kirghizistan, the Northern Province of Afghanistan (Afghan Turkistan), the Turkoman province of Iran, and the Uygur autonomous District of Xinjiang. Second, the conference will examine also the case of the healers located in other areas of the Muslim world which have no links with Central Asia, i.e. the Arab lands, India, Indonesia, etc. These healers are depicted as “Shamans” by many scholars since they use healing rituals which are more or less close to those performed in Central Asian Islamized Shamanism.
FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Evening, Registration

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

9:00 Opening
Angela Hobart, London University, Goldsmith College and UCL, Director of the Centro Incontri Umani, docente invitata all’Università della Svizzera Italiana
Thierry Zarcone, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique e GSRL, Paris

9:15 Roberte Hamayon (EPHE, Paris):
*Vladimir Nikolaevich Basilov, 1937-1998*

Session I: Shamanism in the Turko-Persian Area
Chairs: François Ruegg (University of Fribourg)

9:30 Roberte Hamayon (EPHE, Paris):
*How the place and style of shamanic “healing” varies with the context. On the base of pre-soviet Evenk and Buryat examples*

10:00 Anne-Marie Vuillemenot (University of Louvain, Belgium):
*Kyat and Khaiat, two examples of contemporary kazakh bakhshi (shamans)*

10:30 Coffee

10:45 Aurélie Biard (Institut of Political Studies, Paris):
*Interrelation to the invisible: “köz ačik” (open eye)’s healing practices and representations of misfortunes in Kyrgyzstan*

11:15 Patrick Garrone (independent scholar, Avignon):
*Healing by transfer: a comparative approach*

11:45 Discussion

13:00 Lunch

Session II: From Central Asia to the rest of the Muslim World
Chairs: Roberte Hamayon (EPHE, Paris)

15:00 Pedram Khosronejad (St. Andrew University):
*Zar Ritual in South of Iran: Some Ceremonial and Visual Aspects*
15:30 Maghsudi Manijeh (Tehran University):  
*Comparison between Shamanism and Poorkhani of Turkmen Sahara*

16:00 Tea

16:15 Thierry Zarcone (CNRS - GSRL, Paris):  
*Shamanism in Turkey: Healers and Masters of the Jinns*

16:45 Discussion

17:00 Mohammad Sadegh Deghati Najd and Rahim Mortezavand Kahjoogh, co-director of the film (Miras-e Farda Institute, Tehran):  
*Turkmen Poorkhans, ethnological film on Shamanism ceremony amongst Iranian Turkmen*

18:00 Discussion

19:30 Dinner

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**20:45 Evening lecture** (in French): *Les Danses sacrées en Turquie*

Dance Presentation: *La Danse de la grue entre soufisme et chamanisme*  
by the Alevi Bektași Gençlik Platformu (AGEP), Istanbul.  
Commentaries by Cafer Yildiz and Thierry Zarcone

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**SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER**

**Session III: Islam and Shamanism outside Central Asia**  
Chairs: Anne-Marie Vuillemenot (University of Louvain, Belgium)

9:00 François Ruegg (University of Fribourg):  
*Healing practices among Gypsies in South-eastern Europe: Shamanism and Pentecostalism between Muslim and Christian orthodoxy*

9:30 Liliane Kuczynski (CNRS, Paris):  
*Several aspects of dreaming in the practice of African Marabouts in Paris*

10:00 Coffee
10:15 Faiza Seddik-Arkam (University of Franche-Comté):
*Epouser l’essuf: Paroles et pratiques féminines face au souffle de la baraka chez les populations touarègues et sahariennes de l’Ahaggar*

10:45 Angela Hobart (London University, Goldsmith College and UCL / Director of the Centro Incontri Umani / docente invitata all’Università della Svizzera Italiana)
*Spirit Healing in a Hindu-Muslim Area: Performances in Java and Bali*

11:15 Discussion

12:00 Final Discussion

**Organizer:** Prof. Thierry Zarcone and Fondazione Centro Incontri Umani

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Conferences, free entry - Dance Presentation, Fr. 15.-, students Fr. 10.-

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**Fondazione Centro Incontri Umani Ascona**

*The Cross Cultural Centre, Ascona - Centro Incontri Umani, Ascona - is a recognized Swiss Foundation. It was set up by Dr. Angela Hobart, London, in the memory of her parents, Dr. Edmund and Margiana Stinnes - von Gaevernitz. The aim of the Centre is to encourage understanding, respect and peace internationally, which is especially important in our contemporary era, beset by natural disasters and widespread human conflict. The Centre addresses issues of cross cultural concern in the domains of society, politics, philosophy, art, religion and medicine. By encouraging exchange among scholars, students, artists and laypeople of different countries and disciplines, the Centre seeks to honour the capacity of humans to revitalize consciousness and remake their lived realities.*