



## Global Matricultures Research Network

### Call for Oral Presentations

CASCA / AAA Conference, 15-19 November 2023

Toronto, Ontario

### Session: **Women Defining Boundaries Between Worlds: Matrilineal Societies, Matricultures, and Shamanism**

Modality: In-person

Chair: Angela Sumegi (Carleton)

### Deadline for Submission: 17 March 2023

*Women Defining Boundaries Between Worlds: Matrilineal Societies, Matricultures, and Shamanism* follows Nicole-Claude Mathieu's injunction to explore the potential linkage between cultures fostering matrilinealities, or their social equivalent, and shamanic practices. We want to discuss the processes at work in the intersection and interactions between matriculture and the cultural systems supporting ritual life, religion, and shamanism.

The experiences and expressions of women in every culture are the core of their matricultural cultural system, in the Geertzian sense of the term, including – since every society includes women among its people - women living in patriarchal societies. The vibrancy of any matriculture will be expressed through, among other things, the variety or limited social roles available for women, the personal or sexual identities usually condoned, and the definitions of womanhood; men, too, necessarily participate in matriculture, since they participate in these experiences and expressions. Some cultures limit the experience and expression of women, while others have flourishing matricultures. We are looking for submissions which explore the experiences and/or expressions of women in shamanism.

Topics may include and are not limited to the following:

- women shamans and ritualists
- gendered-centred shamanic practices
- the sacred feminine in human, animal, or mythical forms
- cross-dressing shamans
- female imagery in shamanism
- links between matrilineal kinship systems and women's spiritual authority
- change of gender to achieve animal-human or spirit-human relationships.
- Exploration of the shamanic training process undergone by women, men, and otherwise-identified genders
- the ritual convergence between shamanic rituals and puberty rituals or other rite-of-passage rituals

**For further information** about the conference, here is the AAA/CASCA 2023 webpage (<https://annualmeeting.americananthro.org/>); note that some pages of the website are currently under construction.

**To submit a proposal:** To join this session of oral, in-person presentations, forward an expression of interest and an abstract of 50 - 250 words to coordinator Angela Sumegi at [angela.sumegi@carleton.ca](mailto:angela.sumegi@carleton.ca). Submission of the session as a whole will be made by the coordinator (there is no need for individual submissions).

Please note: AAA/CASCA membership or conference registration is not required at time of submission. However, all participants must have or create profiles in the AAA Community Hub (AAA's membership and registration database: <https://my.americananthro.org/>) in order to be listed on submissions. All individuals accepted onto the program will be required to become a member of either CASCA or AAA (or secure a waiver) and pay registration by Friday, September 8 by 11:59 PM Eastern.

**Deadline for submissions: Friday, 17 March 2023**

#### **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>.