

# Networks

The Newsletter of the  
International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture  
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## Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies

Volume 2, Issue 1 (March 2021)

**NOW LIVE ONLINE**

Special theme: Matricultural Societies of East Asia

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Issue Editor: Christine Mathieu, PhD, author of *A History and Anthropological Study of the Ancient Kingdoms of the Sino-Tibetan Borderland--Naxi and Mosuo*

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Welcome to this issue of  
**Networks**,  
the irregular newsletter of the  
International Network for Training,  
Education, and Research on Culture.  
Members are welcome to forward  
information about their activities for  
inclusion in the newsletter to  
[info@networkonculture.ca](mailto:info@networkonculture.ca).

Network on Culture will be at **CASCA 2021** !  
The Network on Culture is hosting two panels and a round table  
at the (virtual) 2021 meeting of the **Canadian Anthropological  
Society/ée Canadienne d'Anthropologie, 12-15 May 2021**. The  
panels are *Matricultural Cosmovisions* and *On the Mother's Side:  
theoretical consequences of extreme variation in matrilineal  
kinship systems for defining descent groups*. Join us online for  
the conference at <https://www.casca2021.uoguelph.ca/>

*Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies*  
Volume 3, Issue 2 (May 2022)

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**THEME: The Energy Force of Matriculture in Mythology and Storytelling Around the World**

**Deadline for abstract submission: 31 March 2021**

Mythology, storytelling, and story-work hold the parameters of conscious (and unconscious) transmission of valorizing identifiers for a culture, engaging and permeating everyday values. These values and teachings, handed down within traditional stories, are being reinvigorated and even reinterpreted in contemporary times. These features are embedded in language and mythology, and many of these cultures share ancestral heritages which have been handed down through centuries, spanning millennia - even though their original languages experienced colonizing factors and may be diluted today. This issue of *Matrix* will feature current understandings of matricultural mythologies and ancient knowledges that are based in oral traditions, as well as historical accounts of pre-colonial protocols and their manifestations in contemporary life cycles and ceremonies.

Today, there is a decisive revitalization of Indigenous traditional knowledge and oral history through the revealing of ancient ceremonies and myths passed on in stories, song, and art. This reclaiming has direct links to the social well-being of clans and communities, and it heightens an understanding of matriculture.

This issue of *Matrix* urges a decolonizing effort by showing how oral knowledge and ethnographic records are examined through the mythology and belief systems of the peoples themselves. We also encourage research about rites of passage, rituals, ceremonies, festivals, and seasonal honourings, showing how they are centered in the identities of a people, within their creation stories, and their life teachings.

Possibilities for papers include the discourse of mythology as well as contemporary notions and adaptations of storytelling and storywork, yet are not limited to the following:

- The link between the seasons, celebrations, festivals, ritual life, and matriculture.
- Traditional plants, food, and medicines.
- The significance of animal, fish, and plant in nationhood storywork and ritual.
- Ceremonies such as the Sundance, Moondance, Potlatch and their ties to matriculture.
- Kinship interactions, as in the role of grandmother/mother/daughter, sister/sister, brother/sister, uncle/niece & nephew relationships.
- Ethnographic or oral knowledge accounts.
- Linguistic markers which define matrilineality and myth as realism.
- Myths as they illustrate economic or sustainable development within matricultural societies

Issue Editors: Margaret Kress (University of New Brunswick) and Idoia Arana-Beobide (Network on Culture)

Please submit a 300-word abstract (max) to the Editorial Collective of *Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies*.

**Submission via email to:** [Margaret.Kress@unb.ca](mailto:Margaret.Kress@unb.ca), [idoia.ab@networkonculture.ca](mailto:idoia.ab@networkonculture.ca), or [info@networkonculture.ca](mailto:info@networkonculture.ca) (subject line: Matrix Vol 3, Issue 1, Abstract Submission)