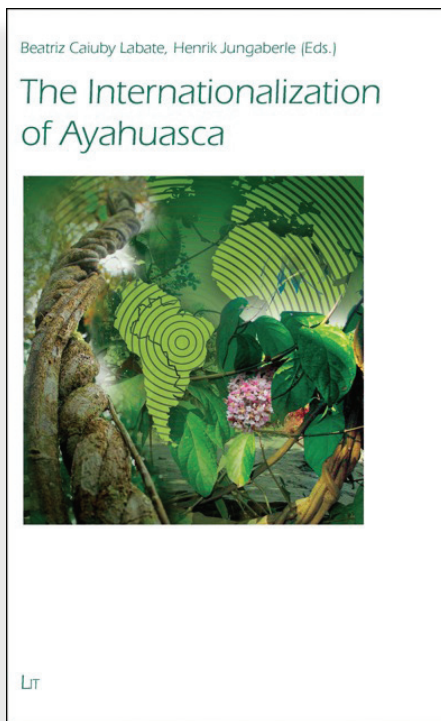


BOOK RELEASE

The Internationalization of Ayahuasca

Beatriz Caiuby Labate & Henrik Jungaberle (Eds.)
Zurich, Switzerland: Lit Verlag, 2011



The *Internationalization of Ayahuasca* is composed of 27 articles (almost 500 pages) and is divided in three parts: “Ayahuasca in South America and the world”, “About medical, psychological and pharmacological Issues: is the use of ayahuasca safe?” and “The expansion of the use of Ayahuasca and the establishment of a global debate on ethics and legalization”. The book brings together the work of scholars from different countries and academic disciplines to offer a comprehensive view of the globalization of this Amazonian brew. It presents a rich array of reflections on the complex implications of this expansion, ranging from health, spiritual and human rights impacts on individuals, to legal and policy impacts on governments. As ayahuasca drinking becomes an increasingly established practice beyond the Amazon in the early 21st century, Labate and Jungaberle have put together a collection that is an unprecedented contribution to a growing field of research. It is a must-read for people interested in the present and future of ayahuasca, as well as in spirituality, ethnobotany, social science theory, contemporary religious and ritual studies, therapeutic potentials of psychedelics, and international drug policy. (Kenneth W. Tupper, Ph.D.)

This is a fascinating compilation of medical, psychological and sociological papers on the spread of ayahuasca use through new religious movements in Brazil and in several European countries (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands), as well as the USA. Much appropriate consideration is given to its controversial legal status and the emergence of new social-legal frameworks to accommodate the healing potentials of this remarkable plant medicine. Highly recommended for serious students of this subject.

Ralph Metzner, Ph.D.
Psychologist and author, Sacred Vine of Spirits - Ayahuasca.

Over the past three decades, ayahuasca has taken a dizzying leap out of the Amazonian hinterlands into many countries in North America, Western Europe and beyond. A persistent and growing international fascination with ayahuasca has coincided with the global “war on drugs,” stoking diverse and ever more assertive reactions by law enforcement and health agencies in many nations. Harrowing issues have emerged surrounding the authenticity of so-called traditional practices, the legality and safety of ayahuasca use, and the right to the free practice of religion. *The Internationalization of Ayahuasca* brings together a diverse group of scholars, scientists, entheogen advocates and religious practitioners to reflect on the complex and largely unresolved issues that continue to emerge as ayahuasca use spreads far beyond its jungle origins.

Glenn Shepard, Ph.D.
Curator of Ethnology, Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, Belém do Pará, Brazil.

The *Internationalization of Ayahuasca* provides reliable information that has never before appeared in print, ranging from the rain forests of the Amazon to the churches in Western Europe. In addition there are chapters on legal and political issues, as well as the psychological, pharmacological, and medical applications of this ancient brew. Like it or not, ayahuasca has left the jungle and is here to stay! Read this book and you will understand the importance of its arrival on the global scene.

Stanley Krippner, Ph.D.
Alan Watts, Professor of Psychology, Saybrook University
Co-author, Personal Mythology.

Labate and Jungaberle’s book presents a timely overview of the history of the expansion of ayahuasca use from South America to become an international phenomena. The contributors provide a detailed consideration of the legal situation of ayahuasca in the major countries where it has spread, as well as a multidisciplinary assessment of the health implications of its use. *The Internationalization of Ayahuasca* is a must-read for anyone attempting to understand the global implications of ayahuasca today.

Michael Winkelman, M.P.H., Ph.D.
Author, Shamanism A Biopsychosocial Paradigm of Consciousness and Healing.

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