

Biography

Beatriz Caiuby Labate has a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. Her main areas of interest are the study of psychoactive substances, drug policy, shamanism, ritual, and religion. She is Visiting Professor at the Center for Research and Post Graduate Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS), in Guadalajara, Mexico. She is also co-founder of the Nucleus for Interdisciplinary Studies of Psychoactives (NEIP), and editor of NEIP's website (<http://www.neip.info>). She is author, co-author, and co-editor of seventeen books, one special-edition journal, and several peer-reviewed articles. For more information, see: <http://bialabate.net/>

Glauber Loures de Assis is currently a PhD student in sociology at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where he leads a comparative research project on Santo Daime in the transnational context. He is also Research Associate at the Nucleus for Interdisciplinary Studies of Psychoactives (NEIP) and co-founder of the Center of Sociology Studies Antônio Augusto Pereira Prates (CESAP). He has developed research on Daimista groups from Brazil and Europe, and has also studied the sociology of religion from a wider perspective. His main interests include the ayahuasca religions, the New Religious Movements (NRMs), the internationalization of the Brazilian religions, and drug use in contemporary society.

Charlotte Walsh (LLB; MPhil) is a legal academic at the University of Leicester School of Law, England, where she runs an undergraduate course on Criminology, largely concerned with drug policy. Her main research focus is on the interface between psychedelics and the law, viewed from a liberal, human rights-based perspective, and she has published widely on this subject, both in edited collections – such as the recently published *Prohibition, Religious Freedom and Human Rights: Regulating Traditional Drug Use* - and in leading journals such as the *Criminal Law Review*, *British Journal of Criminology*, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs* and *International Journal of Human Rights*. She believes that drug prohibition conflicts with our fundamental right to cognitive liberty. Charlotte is involved with advising people who are being prosecuted for activities involving plant psychedelics. She is a member of the ICEERS Expert Committee for the Regularization of Psychoactives, a group concerned with co-ordinating a common defence strategy in ayahuasca cases and with the development of a global strategy of normalisation for ayahuasca.

Eli Oda Sheiner is a graduate student in the Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He studies the internationalization of the ayahuasca religions, with an emphasis on Santo Daime. Eli's research focuses on the ethical and political issues arising at the intersections between Santo Daime, First Nations and Aboriginal people and contemporary

Canadian society. He is also interested in the politics of ontology, or the way worlds, worldviews and attendant power dynamics are navigated in an ontologically plural environment. Findings will trace the similarities and dissimilarities in discourses between South American ayahuasca traditions and geographically removed communities in Canada, and explore the conflicts and confluences between ayahuasca as it is understood by the Canadian government and by the Canadians who employ it as a sacrament.

Graham St John, PhD, is an anthropologist specialising in dance movements, event-cultures and entheogens. He is the author of several books, including the forthcoming *Mystery School in Hyperspace: A Cultural History of DMT* (North Atlantic Books, 2015), the monographs *Global Tribe: Technology, Spirituality and Psytrance* (Equinox, 2012), and *Technomad: Global Raving Countercultures* (Equinox, 2009), and the edited collections *The Local Scenes and Global Culture of Psytrance* (Routledge 2010), *Victor Turner and Contemporary Cultural Performance* (Berghahn 2008), *Rave Culture and Religion* (Routledge 2004), and *FreeNRG: Notes From the Edge of the Dance Floor* (Commonground: 2001). He is currently editing *Weekend Societies: Electronic Dance Music Festivals and Event-Cultures* (Bloomsbury). Dr St John has been awarded postdoctoral fellowships in Australia, United States, Canada and Switzerland, where he has recently begun researching the global [Burning Man diaspora](#). He is founding Executive Editor of *Dancecult: Journal of Electronic Dance Music Culture*. He is Adjunct Research Fellow at Griffith Centre for Cultural Research, Griffith University. For more information, see: www.edgecentral.net

Alex K. Gearin has a PhD in anthropology from the University of Queensland (UQ), Brisbane, Australia. His PhD dissertation involves an ethnographic study of ayahuasca use in Australia and focuses on sensory, medical, and ethical themes of ritual practice and social organisation. He currently lectures in anthropology at the University of Queensland and works in the UQ Anthropology Museum, Brisbane, Australia. For more information, see: <https://culturaladmixtures.wordpress.com/>

Kenneth W. Tupper is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia, where his research interests focus on the cross-cultural and historical uses of psychoactive substances; public, professional and school-based drug education; and creating healthy public policy to maximize benefits and minimize harms from currently illegal drugs. Kenneth has a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from the University of British Columbia and an M.A. degree in Education from Simon Fraser University. For more information, see: www.kentupper.com

Rosa Virgínia Melo earned her PhD in social anthropology from the University of Brasília (UnB), Brazil, where she was an adjunct professor. Currently, she is a postdoc researcher and professor at the Federal University of Paraíba. She has developed ethnographic research on gender and violence, cultural heritage, and popular culture. Her most recent interests include Brazilian religions, religion and the public sphere, mutual help, and religion and mental health. She has published articles on

mediumistic trance within the Brazilian ayahuasca religions.

Andrew Dawson is Senior Lecturer in Religion at the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion of Lancaster University, UK. He obtained his doctorate at Oxford University and has degrees in social science and religious studies from US and other UK institutions. Andrew's principal research interest concerns the interface of religion and modern society which he examines mainly in the contexts of Brazil, Europe and North America. Focussing chiefly upon the Santo Daime religion, he has worked upon the internationalization of ayahuasca religiosity by exploring its ritual, theological and organisational implications. In recent years he has published *Santo Daime: A New World Religion* (2013), edited *Summoning the Spirits: Possession and Invocation in Contemporary Religion* (2011), and authored *Sociology of Religion* (2011) and *New Era–New Religions: Religious Transformation in Contemporary Brazil* (2007). Andrew has most recently edited *The Politics and Practice of Religious Diversity: National Contexts, Global Issues*, published by Routledge in 2015.

Benjamin K. De Loenen studied audiovisual media in the Utrecht School of Arts, The Netherlands, where he graduated from the master's program with honors as film director and editor of his documentary "Ibogaine: Rite of Passage" (2004), which he directed and produced. This documentary focuses on the therapeutic potential of iboga in addiction treatment and its' traditional ceremonial use in Gabon. He is the founder of the International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, & Service (ICEERS), a philanthropic, tax-exempt non-profit dedicated to the acceptance and constructive integration of ayahuasca, iboga, and other traditional plants as psychotherapeutic accelerants and enhancers in Western societies. ICEERS was founded in 2009 in the Netherlands and currently has an office in Barcelona, Spain and in Montevideo, Uruguay. In 2012, Benjamin made the documentary "Experience Bwiti: Renaissance of the Healed," and he is currently working on a documentary about the legal aspects and therapeutic potential of ayahuasca. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Global Ibogaine Therapist Alliance (GITA), and of the Ethnobotanical Stewardship Council (ESC), an organization that ICEERS helped incubate, dedicated to the safe use and sustainability of traditional plants.

Òscar Parés Franquero studied philosophy and anthropology in the University of Barcelona, after which he earned a master's degree in drug addiction at the same University. He is currently Assistant Director/Social Network Coordinator of ICEERS Foundation (International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, & Service) and coordinates drug policy projects. He trained as a volunteer at Energy Control (ABD) and later was hired to facilitate educational harm reduction workshops with youth. For more than seven years he has collaborated as a consultant with the government of Catalonia in coordinating risk reduction programs in the area of nightlife and in the field of the regulation of the activity of cannabis social clubs in Catalonia. He is founder of the Instituto de Políticas de Drogas y Sostenibilidad (IPDS).

Constanza Sánchez Avilés is a political scientist and holds a PhD in international relations and international law. Her work focuses on the political economy of illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, and national and international drug policies; issues on which she has published several papers and book chapters. From 2007 to 2013, she worked at the department of international law and international relations at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. She has been visiting scholar at the University of Miami (2010), the Justice in Mexico Project at the University of San Diego (2012) and Research Assistant at the Global Drug Policy Observatory at Swansea University (2013). She did fieldwork on drug policies in Peru, the United States, Mexico, and the US-Mexican border, and collaborates with several drug policy research institutions. She joined ICEERS Foundation (International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, and Service) in 2013 where she coordinates the law, policy and human rights activities, including legal defense for ayahuasca practitioners who are prosecuted, policy reform activities, and the development of reports about this subject matter. In this frame, she coordinates the Ibiza Expert Committee for the Regularization of Psychoactive Ethnobotanicals created at the World Ayahuasca Conference in Ibiza in September of 2014.

Joshua Homan is a PhD candidate in sociocultural anthropology at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. Since 2005, he has conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork among indigenous (Shawi, Kukama, and Quechua) and mestizo communities throughout the western Peruvian Amazon. He is currently conducting fieldwork among the Inga of the Pastaza watershed in the northwest Peruvian Amazon examining the relationships between information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as shortwave radio and indigenous political action.

For more information see: <http://www.runashimi.org> and <http://www.amazonianist.org>

Daniela M. Peluso is a sociocultural anthropologist who has been working in the Peruvian and Bolivian Amazon Basin since the 1980's. Her current Lowland South American research focuses on indigenous urbanization and relatedness. She works in close collaboration with indigenous organizations and has been involved in various local efforts on issues relating to health, gender and land-rights. Daniela also conducts research in the UK and the USA on business organizations. She received her PhD from Columbia University in 2003 and is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Kent.