

PROGRAM

“COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY, POPULATION GENETICS,  
LINGUISTIC PHYLOGENETICS, AND COGNITIVE PATTERNS:  
STUDIES IN THE NEW SCIENCE OF CULTURAL DIFFUSION”

December 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>  
Ecole Normale Supérieure  
29, rue d'Ulm/24, rue Lhomond – 75005 Paris

Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>

*Salle Théodule Ribot*

13:00-13:35 | Martin Fortier (Institut Jean Nicod, ENS, EHESS)

*The vindication of diffusionism against nativism: evidence from comparative mythology, population genetics, and linguistic phylogenetics*

13:35-14:10 | Charles Stépanoff (Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, EPHE)

*The “dark tent” and the Dene-Yeniseian hypothesis: when ritual analysis meets linguistics and paleogenomics*

14:10-14:45 | Valentin Thouzeau (Université Paris Dauphine)

*Genetic and linguistic histories in Central Asia inferred using approximate Bayesian computations*

14:45-15:05 | *Coffee break*

15:05-16:15 | Yuri Berezkin (Museum of Anthropology & Ethnology – Kunstkamera, Russian Academy of Sciences, European University at St Petersburg)

*A data-base approach to comparative mythology: evidence for an early “Melanesian” component in the Americas*

16:15-16:25 | *Short break*

*Salle 236*

16:25-17:35 | Natalia Chousou-Polydouri (Dynamique du Langage, CNRS)

*Phylogeny and diffusion of Amazonian languages: a brief review*

17:35-18:10 | Konrad Rybka (Musée du Quai Branly)

*Lexical and cultural diffusion: a study of fire fans in South America*

18:10-18:30 | *General discussion*

**Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup>**

***Salle Paul Langevin***

9:30-10:05 | Vincent Hirtzel (Centre Enseignement et Recherche en Ethnologie Amérindienne, CNRS)

*Détection des héritages et des diffusions: ce qu'apporte l'analyse de l'alignement des versions d'un récit mythologique envisagées comme "corpus comparable"*

10:05-11:15 | Julien d'Huy (Institut des Mondes Africains, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

*Ce qu'une approche statistique des mythes peut nous apprendre de leur diffusion*

11:15-11:35 | *Coffee break*

11:35-12:10 | Benjamin Balloy (LIAS-Institut Marcel Mauss, EHESS)

*Can cultural diffusion compare to genetic diffusion? Some thoughts about underlying models*

12:10-12:45 | Emmanuel Désveaux (LIAS-Institut Marcel Mauss, EHESS, University of Indiana at Bloomington)

*Why comparing distribution of genes and distribution of mythological thema is scientifically pointless and ethically dubious*

12:45-13:20 | Léo Fitouchi (Département d'Etudes Cognitives, ENS), Antoine Marie (CRI, Institut Jean Nicod, ENS), Sacha Yesilaltay (Institut Jean Nicod, ENS)

*A cognitive and evolutionary look at cultural diffusion*

13:20-13:45 | *General discussion*

No registration required

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Online information: <http://www.institutnicod.org/seminaires-colloques/colloques/the-new-science-of-cultural/>