

FROM INDIA TO THE POLE STAR: THE SHAMANIC COSMOS, Venice, 11-12 October 1996

Conference Report by Martino Nicoletti (University of Perugia)

An International Conference, organised by Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Venetian Academy of Indian Studies, and CIRSE (Interuniversity Centre for Research in Eurasian Shamanism), was held at Ca' Foscari University in October 1996. The Seminar aimed at the collection of data about/ and scholarly interpretation of the shamanic conceptions of space of various Asian cultures.

The list of scholars and topics is the following one:

Prof. V.N.Basilov (Academy of Sciences of Moscow): "Cosmos as Everyday Reality in Shamanism".

Dr. B. Brac de la Perrière (CNRS Paris): "37 Naq Cult and the Construction of the Burmese Space".

Dr. A.Cacopardo (Is.M.E.O, Rome): "Shamans and the Space of the 'Pure' among the Kalasha of the Hindu Kush".

Prof. A.T.Chang, Prof. T.Seppilli (University of Perugia): "Shamanic Cosmos and Sacred Kinship in Ancient China".

Prof. G.G.Filippi (University of Venice, Ca' Foscari): "Riding through Heavens".

Prof. G.Giuriati (University of Rome, La Sapienza): "Sampeah Kru Thom: Music as Coordinating Element of Khmer Syncretism".

Prof. M.Hoppal (Hungarian Academy of Sciences): "Shamans in Siberia Today".

Prof. I.M.Lewis (The London School of Economics): "Is there a Shamanic Cosmology?"

Prof. M.Massenzio (University of Rome, Tor Vergata): "Ernesto De Martino's Conception of the Shaman's Role"

Prof.R.Mastromattei (University of Rome, Tor Vergata): "Quality of Shamanic Space".

Dr. M.Nicoletti (University of Perugia): "The Journey to the Forest: Rituals Hunts and Cosmic Organisation in Eastern Nepal".

Prof. M.Raveri (University of Venice, Ca' Foscari): "The Search for a New Salvation: Shamanic *Imagerie* and Buddhist Language".

Dr. A.Rigopoulos (University of Venice, Ca' Foscari): "Forms of Possession in the Marathi Cultural Area: The Cases of Khandoba and Dattatreya".

Prof. V.Sestini (University of Florence): "Architecture and Water in Newar Culture".

Prof. G.Stary (University of Venice, Ca' Foscari): "Shamanic Rituals in Today Korea".

Prof. G.Torcinowich (University of Venice, Ca' Foscari): "Axial Symbolism and Ascensional Rituals".