

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Hosted by the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, MAPS Canada
and the Centre for Addictions Research of BC

“Reflections on the International Process of Expansion and Regulation of Ayahuasca”

Speaker: *Dr. Beatriz Caiuby Labate*

When: Friday, **February 17, 2012** from **4:30 to 5:30 PM**
Terasen Cinema (Room 1800), SFU Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

About the Lecture

This presentation will address the internationalization of ayahuasca, a psychoactive substance made generally from the plants *Banisteriopsis caapi* and *Psychotria viridis*. Ayahuasca has traditionally been used in indigenous, mestizo shamanic, and religious rituals in South America. In the last 20 years, its use has spread beyond the Amazon to the world, and has been accompanied by great controversy. This presentation will analyze the public debate around the expansion of the use of this substance. It will contemplate the discussions in media and society around legalization, religious freedom, cultural diversity, and health risks. This analysis makes use of ethnographic fieldwork in the main new contexts of use of this substance, such as ayahuasca tourism in Peru, and the expansion of the Brazilian ayahuasca religions (Santo Daime and UDV) around the world.

About the Speaker

Beatriz Caiuby Labate (Bia Labate) has a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp), Campinas, Brazil. Her main areas of interest are the study of psychoactive substances, drug policies, shamanism, ritual, and religion. Currently she is a Research Associate at the Institute of Medical Psychology, Heidelberg University. She is also researcher with the Nucleus for Interdisciplinary Studies of Psychoactives (NEIP) and editor of its site (<http://www.neip.info>). She is author, co-author and co-editor of eight books, including most recently, *The Internationalization of Ayahuasca* (Lit Verlag, 2011). Her book *A Reinvenção do Uso da Ayahuasca nos Centros Urbanos* (“The Reinvention of the Use of Ayahuasca in Urban Centers”, (Mercado de Letras, 2004) received the prize for Best Master’s Thesis in Social Sciences from the Brazilian National Association for Graduate Studies in Social Science (ANPOCS) in 2001. For more information, see: <http://bialabate.net>

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