

## **PANEL *Internaturality and Meaning***

### **The International Center for Semiotic Sciences Umberto Eco (CiSS)**

A semiotic theory about internaturality has been set forth in Italy ten years ago, drawing on the ethnographical study of sciences and techniques (Latour), of the epistemology that stems from it (Stengers) and of researches in anthropology of nature (Descola). The core idea of this theory is that we should not talk about the background of a unique nature, from which the plurality of cultures, by contrast, is then constituted. Reasoning in those terms implies an ontological distinction between nature and culture and a conflation of these terms with human, not human and machine, with all the contradictions it generates (ex: how forests “think”?; how does artificial intelligence “think”?). Parental systems, hunting practices, ecological attitudes, prescriptive logics of alimentation, digital acts of processing data and creating images show how we should instead talk about a plurality of natures, that engage in reciprocity with the plurality of cultures. The use of pronominal systems across these fields is proof that every being is rather the cognitive result of the other’s perspectives, habitus and affects. The Achuar tribe in Amazonia refers to animal and vegetal species using the second singular person “you”, while they refer to other tribes using the third singular person (Viveiros de Castro).

As it happens in the insights on migration, where the hard integration of foreigners leads to a preference for the notion of interculturality over multiculturalism, similarly we will develop the issue of the plurality of natures by preferring the concept of internaturality. Natures are not only multiple but intertwine with each other, without any pre-established identity except as the outcome of processes of mutual transduction. The panelists will be solicited to define internaturality with better known concepts – modality, actantiality, enunciation... – and to propose case studies that delve into the ways in which different natures are formed and signified.

#### **Keywords:**

Internaturality, Anthropology, Perspectivism, Transduction.

#### **Topics:**

- Conceptions of the worldhood in phenomenological, metaphysical, and mythical thought.
- Text and text-processing activities associated with different types of discourse.
- Constituents of physical, anthropic, and semiotic cosmologies.

#### **Convenors:**

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