

Symposium on the Language of Ritual Discourse in South and Central America
Simpósio sobre a Linguagem do Discurso Ritual na América do Sul e Central
Symposium sur le langage du discours rituel en Amérique du Sud/Centrale
Simposio sobre el lenguaje del discurso ritual en América del Sur y Central

Esoteric ritual or ceremonial discourse forms are widely encountered among the Indigenous peoples of South and Central America, and often differ markedly from everyday speech in their delivery (e.g. chant or song), discursive structure, lexicon, and grammar. These discursive variations have important implications for our understanding of the South/Central American linguistic landscape and its cultural and historical contexts, as well as for a deeper appreciation of Indigenous approaches to verbal art. This workshop explores these esoteric discourse forms and the dynamics of linguistic manipulation that they exhibit, with an eye to understanding the structure and sources of deviant forms, their aesthetic and enactive functions, their relevance to processes of contact and change, and other considerations. The workshop will take place across three afternoons (CET) in hybrid mode to accommodate participants across time zones.

Dates: May 26-28, 2025

Location: Lyon, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (salle Elise Rivet, André Bollier & online)

Interested people outside of Lyon are welcome to listen to the talks and join the discussions online. Registration is free, but compulsory to receive the videoconference links. [Register here](#).

Organization and contact: Patience Epps (pattieepps@austin.utexas.edu)

PROGRAM

Times are given for Lyon, France (CET UTC+1h).

Mon 26 May	Salle Élise Rivet	
12:00		Lunch (participants)
13:00		Introduction
13:30	Bernat Bardagil	Mỹky ritual speech
14:15	Emilio Frignati, Danilo P. Ramos & Pattie Epps	Kapiwaya of the Upper Rio Negro: An opaque song genre compared across language groups
15:00		Pause
15:15	Katherine Bolaños & Ricardo Palacio	Ritual discourse in Kakua: Linguistic structuring in healing and illness prevention
16:00	Danilo P. Ramos & Geraldo Andrello	Línguas sopro: movimento, ontologia e linguagem no Alto Rio Negro
16:45		Pause
17:00	Marina Correia Lima Felix, Francisco Sarmiento, Artur Garcia Gonçalves, Luís Cayón, Thiago Costa Chacon	Cantos emotivos nos dabucurís Tukáno e Aruák: explorações de modelos para análise de discursos rituais no Alto Rio Negro
17:45	Javier Alvarez	Speaking with the ancestral chiefs: Ritual and language learning in Mapuche Lafkenche communities of the south-central Chilean coast
[Fin 18:30]		

Tues 27 May **Salle André Bollier**

12:00		Lunch (participants)
13:00	Pattie Epps & Françoise Rose	Divergent speech forms in Amazonia: A comparison of genderlects and ritual discourse
13:45	Martin Kohlberger	A hunting avoidance register as a pathway for loanwords in Shiwiar
14:30		Pause
14:45	Bernd Brabec	Levels of formalization and of power in Shipibo-Konibo vocal utterances and songs
15:30	Marina Magalhães & Uirá Garcia	Awa Guajá ceremonial discourse
16:15		Pause
16:30	Gustavo Godoy & Célio Timóteo	Canto e fala em rituais: contraste entre mbya e ka'apor
17:15	Regina Lira & Stefanie Ramos Bierge	Desdoblamiento de la identidad y recursos morfológicos en el habla ritual wixárika
[Fin 18:00]		
19:30		Workshop dinner

Wed 28 May **Salle Élise Rivet**

12:00		Lunch (participants)
13:00	Valentina Vapnarsky	Shaping ritual time: The poetics, grammar and pragmatics of the manipulation of time in Maya rituals
13:45	Jacob Menschel	On the morphosyntax of Andoke ritual songs: A case study from the Colombian Amazon
14:30		Pause
14:45	Katarzyna I. Wojtylak	Echoes of the ancestors: The ritual soundscape of the Murui-Muina (Witotoan) from northwest Amazonia
15:30	Karolin Obert & Pattie Epps	Opaque ritual discourse forms in Dâw and Nadëb (Middle Rio Negro)
16:15		Pause
16:30	Helder Ferreira & Alfredo Himotona Yanomama	Metáfora e substituição lexical nos diálogos cerimoniais yanomami
17:15		Discussion and envoi
[Fin 17:45]		

