

The ontological and epistemological turn in the humanities led to the emergence of critical animal and plant studies, and in anthropology it led to the emergence of approaches such as the anthropology of life (developed by Eduardo Kohn) or multispecies ethnography (*inter alia*, Anna Tsing). Multispecies studies have an important epistemological and, in fact, also political postulate to shift perspectives and foci from those strictly human, and immersed in Western ontology (based on hierarchy and distance between people and nature), towards less hierarchical or even horizontal inter-species relations. Multispecies studies also aim to create a symmetrical dialogue between different ontological perspectives and to make the humanities and social sciences more open to different cognitive approaches and perspectives. This thinking has impacted environmental anthropology and more general debate within cultural anthropology, as well as geography and ecology, producing a paradigm shift and brought a new dynamic into decolonizing discourses too.

Multispecies ethnography seems an adequate approach to the research on material-semiotic reality in the Anthropocene. Empirically grounded research provides real answers to pressing environmental problems. Multispecies ethnography needs more new cases grounded in field studies and elaborating new methodology. Thus, within this project I propose to develop an ethnography of human relations with plants as part of multispecies ethnography and show a spectrum of human-plant interactions, interdependencies and forms of communications, and combine the local/indigenous perspective with the scientific one, and outline both human and plant perspectives too. The interactions and relations between humans and plants include social, material, and (chemo)ecological dimensions, which tend to be partly immersed in particular ontological frames. Therefore, the study of human-plant relationships is a multidisciplinary endeavor which requires a combination of complementary components derived from ethnography, anthropological theory, or even more broadly, humanistic theory, with elements from ecology, including chemical ecology, phytochemistry, botany and linguistics. The following aim is to employ the developed methodology to the analysis of diverse relations with plants established by three different societies in lowland South America. They are: 1) the Indigenous Ashaninka people from Peruvian Upper Amazonia, 2) the Paraguayan Mestizo people who are the migrants in the Atlantic Forest of Misiones in Argentina, 3) The Polish diaspora in northern Misiones in Argentina. The aim is to outline the diverse interactions and relations with plants which may stem from different history of inhabiting this biome (the Neotropics) by these societies, together with their partly different cultural background, approaches to exploring the vegetation, which may result from specific ontological frames. In order to process such an extensive set of data, I will use the previously collected ethnographic and ethnobotanical material together with new qualitative data generated within this project. The result of these considerations will be a monograph with a working title: *Entangled human-plant worlds. Three cases from lowland South America*. Finally, the last aim is to conduct completely new fieldwork in Paraguay among three groups: the Paraguayan Mestizo population and the descendants of Slavonic and Japanese migrants inhabiting one region in eastern Paraguay. The research will be designed and conducted within the framework of the developed methodology of ethnography of human relationships with plants with an ethnobotanical component. The analysis and synthesis of the material will lead to the publication of several scientific articles dedicated to human-plant relations in eastern Paraguay. The project will fill an important gap in research in the field of multispecies ethnography in South America and additionally in ethnobotanical studies of non-indigenous population in Paraguay. Moreover, it will provide new methodological insight for multispecies studies.