

The aim of the project is to explore the use of medicinal plants for treatment needs within the framework of Indigenous ontology and cosmology. The study aims to document how the Indigenous community in highland Peruvian Amazon conceptualize plants and engage them in healing process, not only as causal agents with a therapeutic dimension, but also as a part of bigger ecosemiotic system, in which multispecies relations are being made.

The study posed five research questions and two hypotheses, which are strictly connected to the principal aim of the project. In the course of conducting research will emerge answers to the raised questions and hypotheses will be verified. Research questions aims to observe issues like, which plants are most frequently used by interlocutors, where is the habitat of those plants, in what form is the medicinal plant applied, who is qualified to treat specific disease, what epidemiological picture and the scope of etiologies is like. Research hypotheses indicate that Indigenous communities in Amazon use medicinal plants due to very diverse properties, both having the dimension of phytochemical and social.

The research assumes conducting by the principal investigator of the project in-depth, several months long fieldwork (ethnographic) among Indigenous community from highland part of Peruvian Amazon. During fieldwork standard ethnographic methods will be used like interviews and participant observation. In addition, various techniques will be used, e.g. walking method. Documentation will be supplemented by pictures of analyzed plants and collected herbarium specimens, which will be deposited in local herbarium.

Addressing the indicated topic provides filling the research gap, which consists of the lack of in-depth (ethnographic) fieldwork with Indigenous group selected by principal investigator of the project. The research represents a significant contribution to the broader discussion in particular within posthumanism, which indicate decentralization of human and recognizes subjectivity and intentionality of more-than-human beings. The study has also profound meaning for cultural anthropology, specifically in terms of multispecies ethnography, which notes coexistence of various organisms, proposing more horizontal view on all entities. Finally, the particularly important contribution to Amazonian anthropology should be noted, which consists of cooperation with Indigenous community from Arawak linguistic family, remaining so far outside of anthropologists considerations.

Findings, after analysis and synthesis will be made, will be presented at the interantional scientific conferences, e.g. The Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA) and will be published in reputable scientific magazines, e.g. Medical Anthropology Quarterly or Journal of Biosemiotics. The project is a prelude to further in-depth fieldwork in Indigenous Amazon and allows for comparisons, which may eventually lead to emergence of new theories in the field of Amazonian anthropology.