



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Rete Unitwin
Università degli Studi di Genova
Museo di Etnomedicina A. Scarpa



CATTEDRA UNESCO ANTROPOLOGIA DELLA SALUTE – BIOSFERA E SISTEMI DI CURA

Cross-Cultural Aspects of Health and Disease

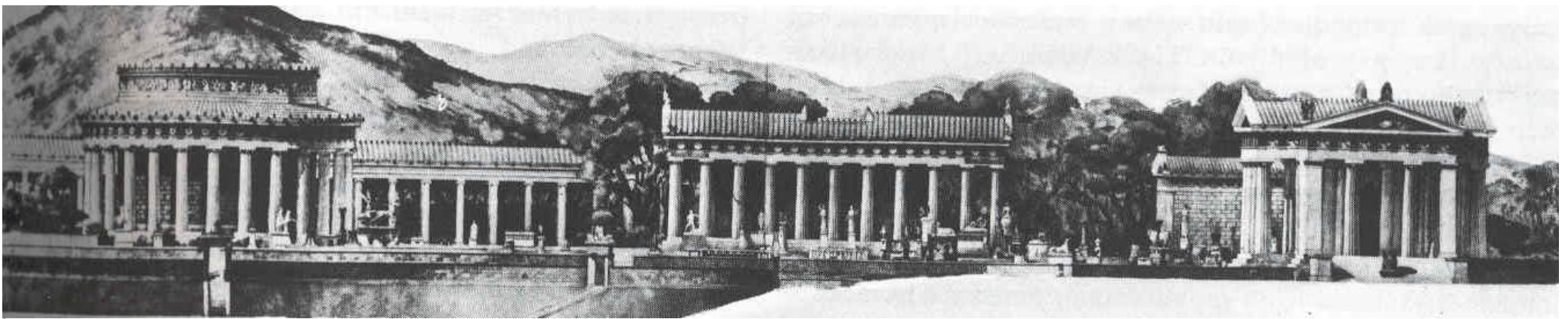
Psy. Tania Re
Prof. Antonio Guerici

April 2, 2016 – Porto – Bial Foundation



Bali Island 1939





1. Anthropology of Health, Ethnomedicine and Traditional Medicines
2. The ritual aspects in the healing process
3. Fieldwork
4. Research



1. Ethnomedicine

Ethnomedicine – the study of traditional medicines of different people – researches all preventive, hygienic and therapeutic procedures coming from the 3 natural realms.



1. Ethnomedicine

Human abilities to heal refer historically to the habitat, adopting different therapeutic strategies following climate pedologic, fitogrographic, fauna characters as well as cultural and socio structural elements.



1. Ethnomedicine

Evolving from an original historic – ethnographic interest towards lab research, the discipline involves biomedicine and pharmacology, thanks to World Health Organization.

WHO's Traditional Medicine Program is created as an answer to renewed interest towards traditional therapies and their interaction within the national health service.

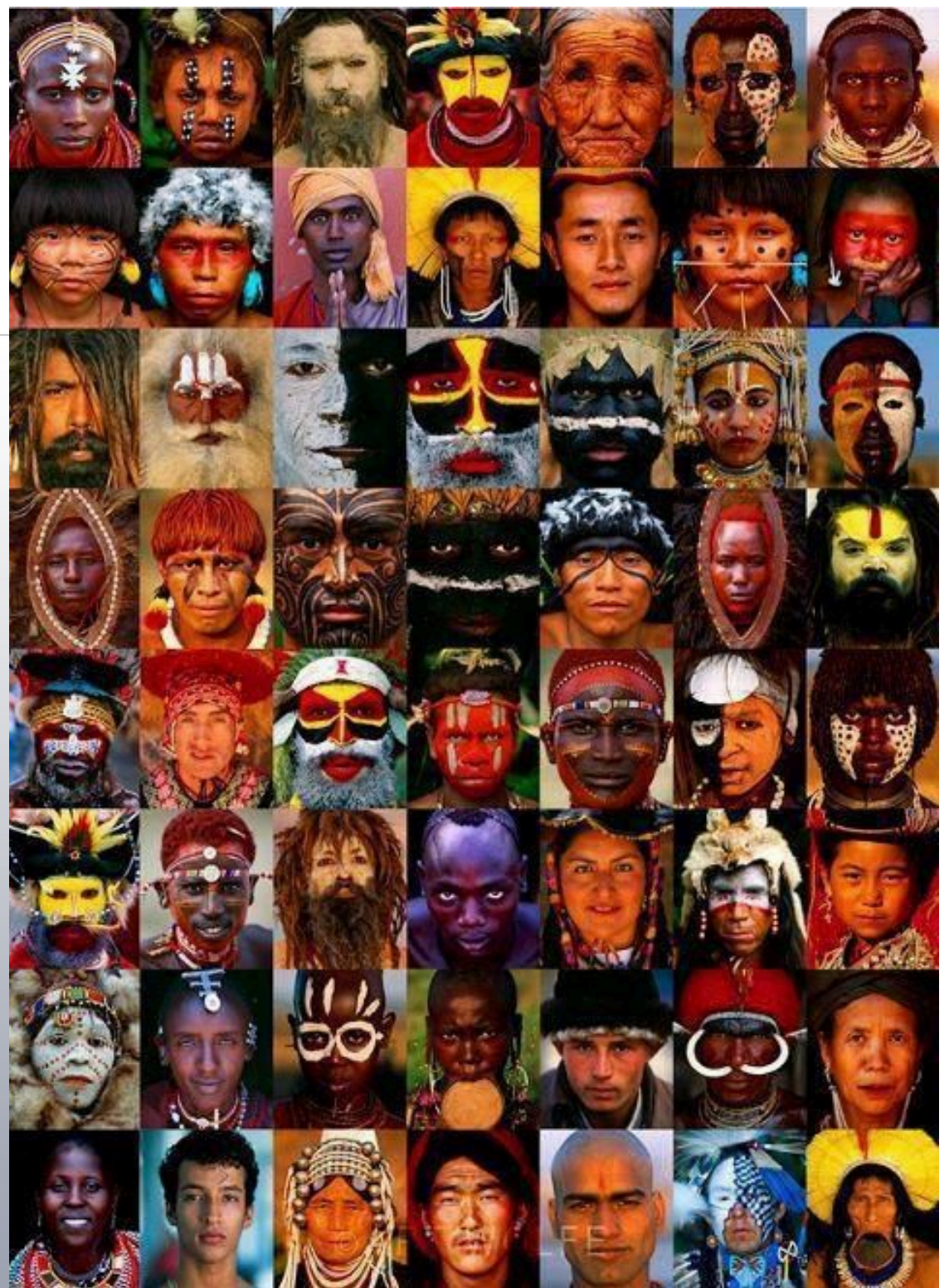
(Alma Ata, 1978)



Different People



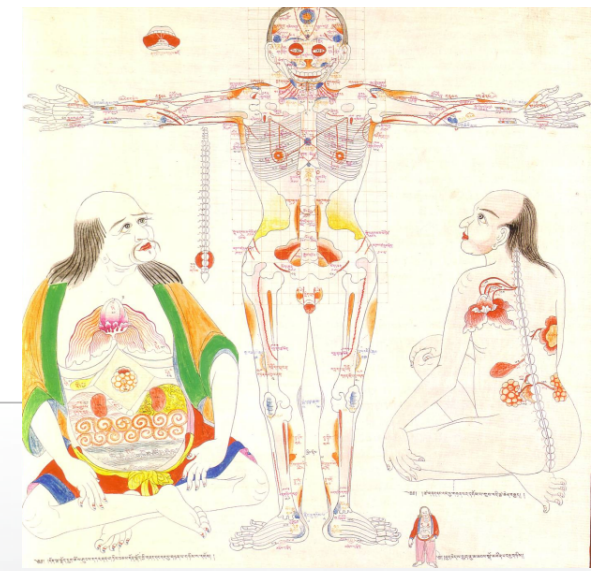
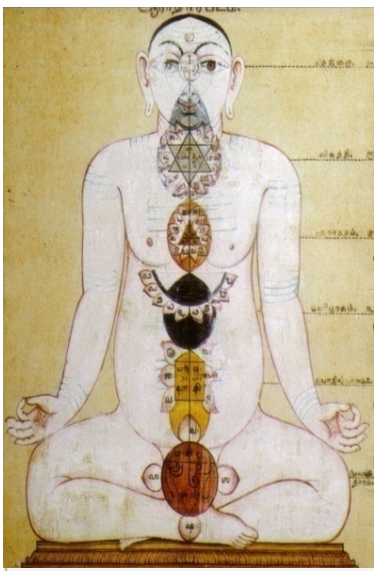
Different Cultures



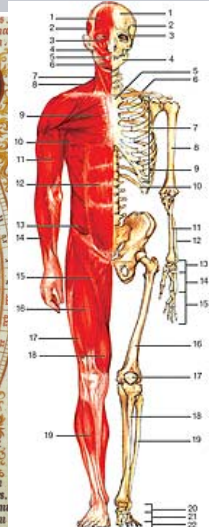
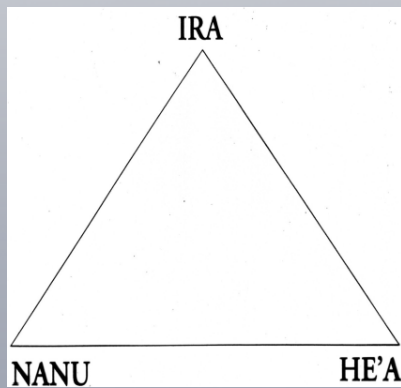
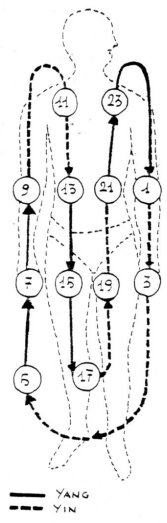


Different Cosmologies





Different Body representations



1. Traditional Medicine

1978	The Declaration of Alma Ata builds the historical foundations for the MT Program official policy.
1987	The 40th World Assembly urges Member States to promote integrated programs on medicinal plants
1988	Chiang Mai Declaration: Saving lives by saving trees, recognizing traditional medicines as essential treatment
1989	It is encouraged inventory of traditional practices in different countries. Enunciation of the "Doctrine of reasonable assurance"
1990	Enunciation of the "Doctrine of reasonable assurance"
1991	Promotion of cooperation between traditional and modern health care medicine. WHO consultation on research methodologies and evaluation concerning traditional medicine
2000	WHO consultation on research methodologies and evaluation concerning traditional medicine
2003	The role of traditional medicine for primary health services. Protection of traditional medical knowledge and fitoterapeutiche resources for sustainable development.

1. Traditional Medicine

1. In some Asian and African countries, 80% of the population depend on traditional medicine for primary health care.
2. Herbal medicines are the most lucrative form of traditional medicine, generating billions of dollars in revenue.
3. Traditional medicine can treat various infectious and chronic conditions: new antimalarial drugs were developed from the discovery and isolation of artemisinin from *Artemisia annua* L., a plant used in China for almost 2000 years.
4. More than 100 countries have regulations for herbal medicines.

Traditional medicine is the sum total of knowledge, skills and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures that are used to maintain health, as well as to prevent, diagnose, improve or treat physical and mental illnesses.

Annual revenues in Western Europe reached US\$ 5 billion in 2003-2004. In China sales of products totaled US\$ 14 billion in 2005. Herbal medicine revenue in Brazil was US\$ 160 million in 2007 (WHO, 2010)

methodology

UNDERSTANDING of HEALTH SYSTEMS	→	Anthropologist
CENSUS of THERAPEUTIC USES	→	Ethnomedical expert
botanical identification	→	botanist
use interpretation	→	botanist
RESEARCH USE on CONVERGENCES		
oral traditions Medicine learned	→	Anthropologist
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
DATABASE	→	Anthropologist
DRUG EVALUATION	→	Medical Doctor
Preparation extracts according to tradition. Chemical characterization Toxic-pharmacological protocol in vitro in vivo	→	Pharmacologist
Chemical identification	→	Chemist
CLINICAL EVALUATION	→	Clinician
RETURN INFORMATION	→	Anthropologist
Spreading	→	Ethnomedical expert
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM		Economist

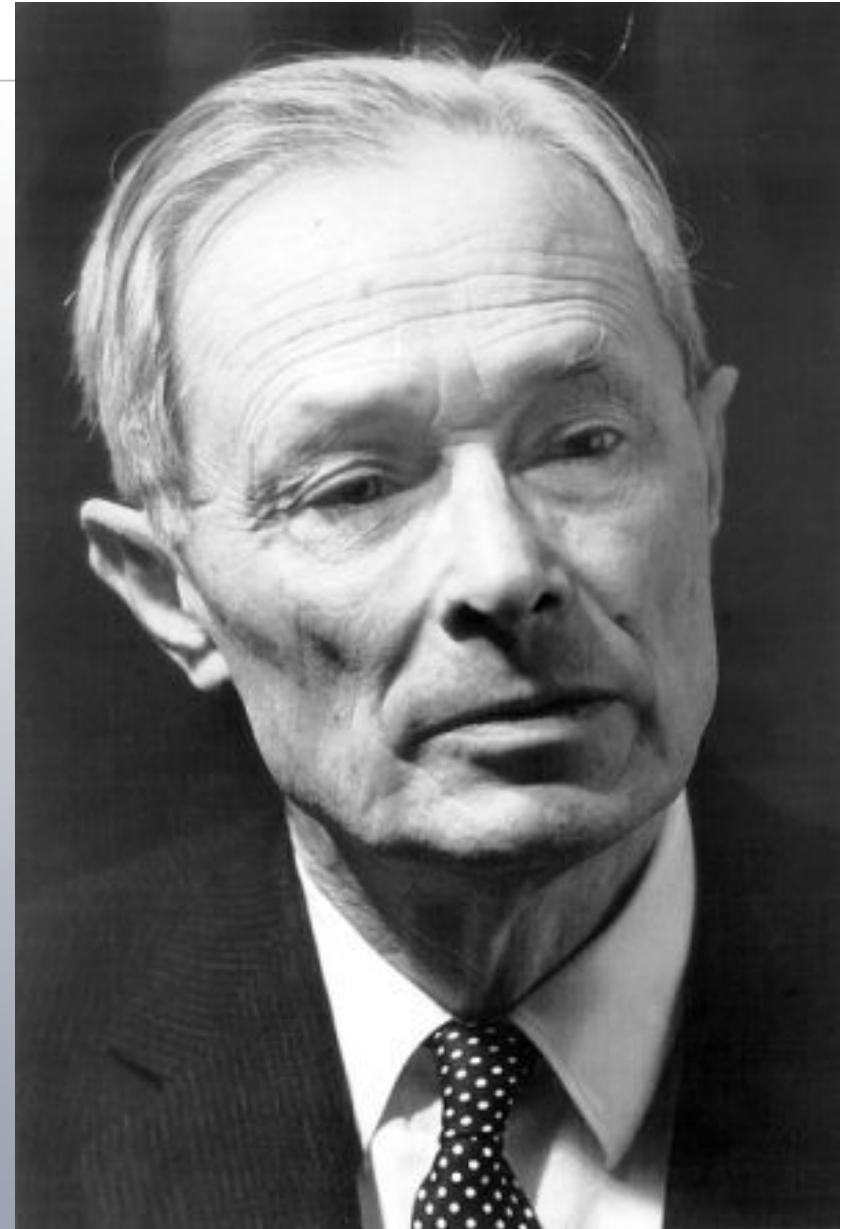


Differenti rappresentazioni della salute e delle malattie

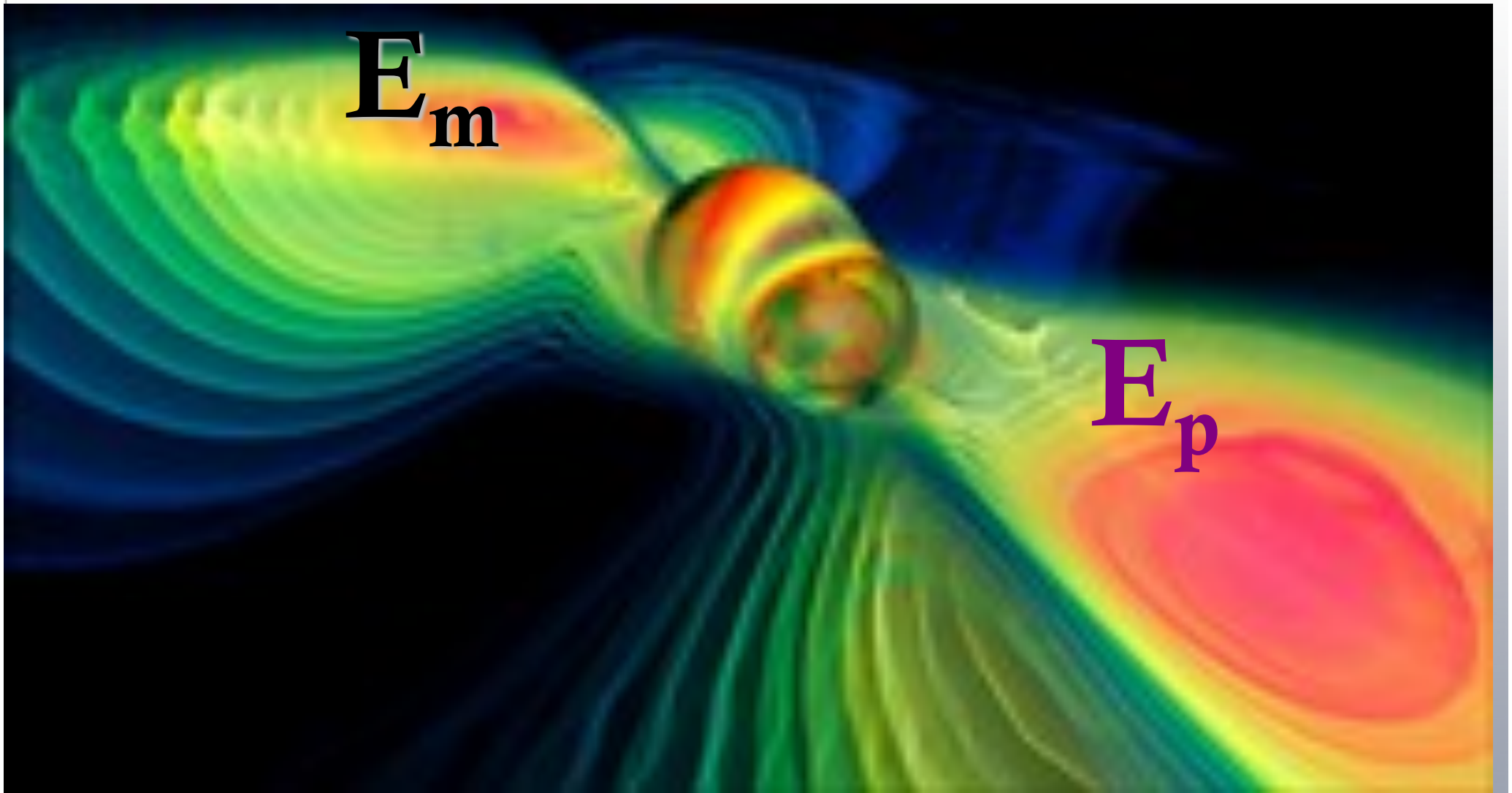
1. Ethnomedicine

Devereux: father of ethnopsicology

Devereux indicates in 1971 that we need to approach the problems of health – sickness states not in function of a culture or another, but of culture as a concept, considered as **lived or learned experience**.



2. The ritual of healing



2. The ritual of healing

Epidaurus

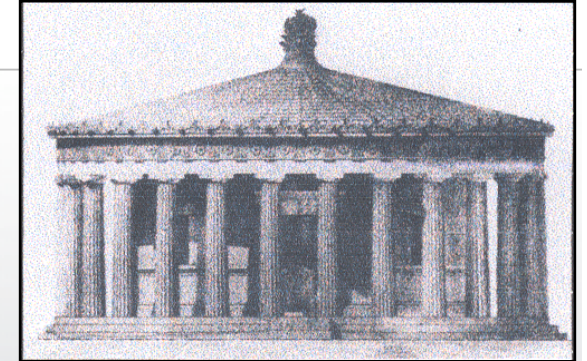
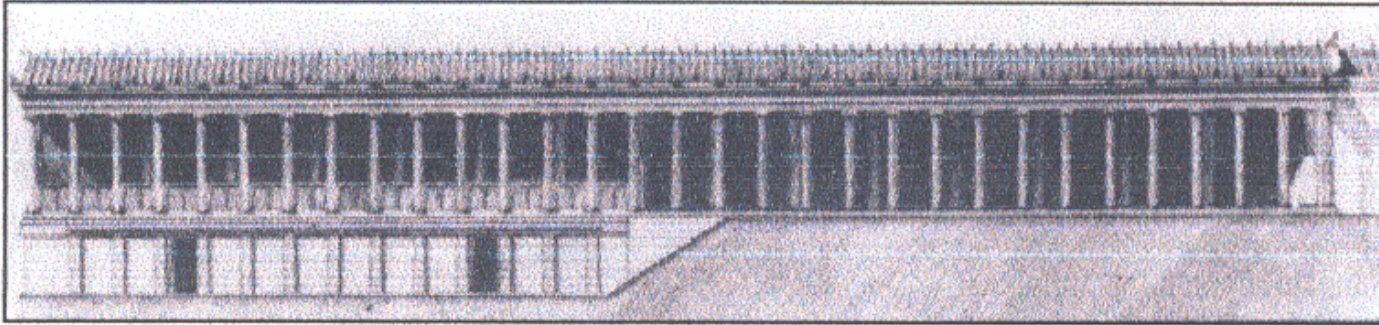
«Pure should be the one who enters in the odorous temple: But being pure means having pure thoughts ».

Porfirio, *De abst.*, II, 19



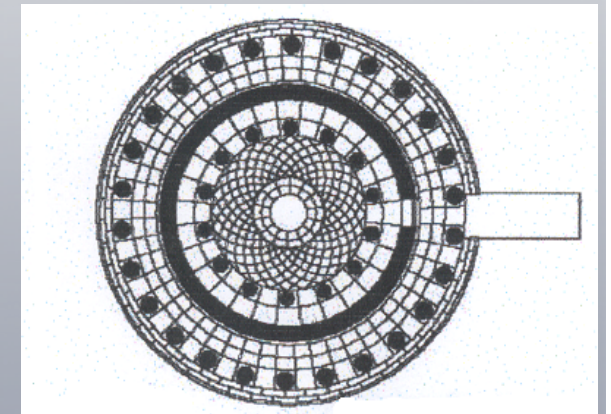
2. The ritual of healing

Epidaurus



In the porches towards the temple was located the **abaton**, hospitalization and sleep area, where patients spent their nights immersed in a hatched sleep

In the sacred enclosure was a **thòlos**, a circular labyrinth with a sacred well, home of the sacred serpents where the sick would leave votive tablets with their stories, symptoms and treatments received.

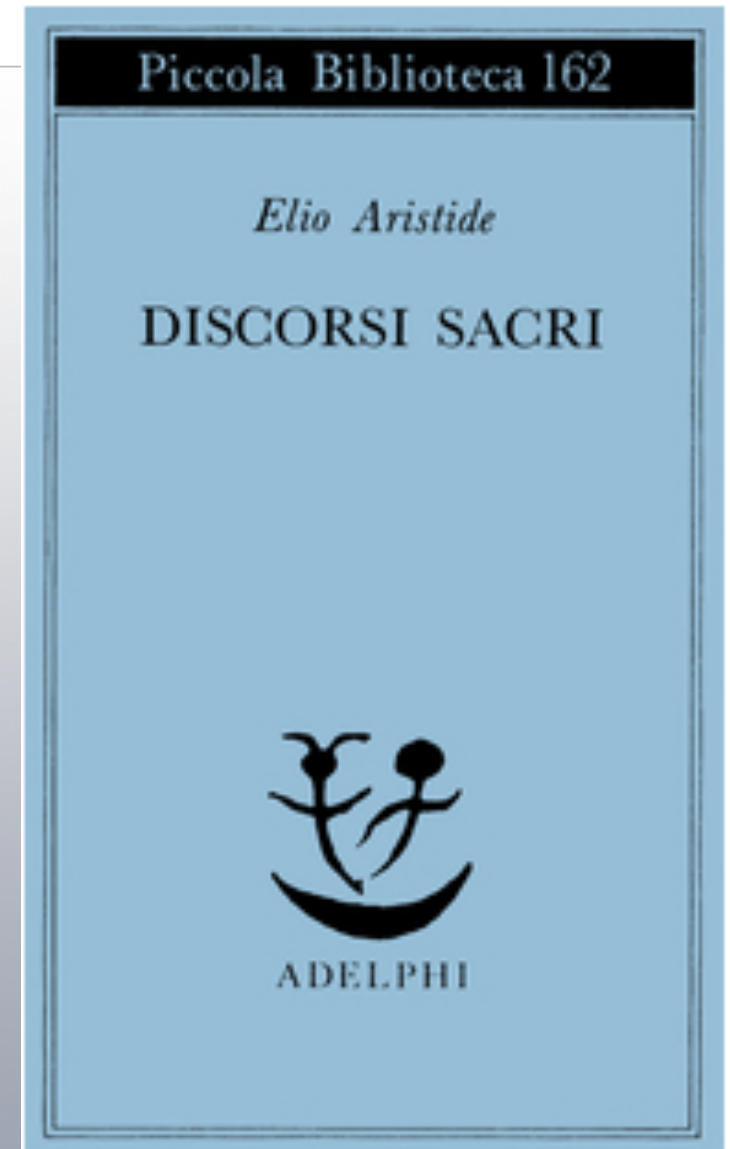


2. The ritual of healing

Epidaurus

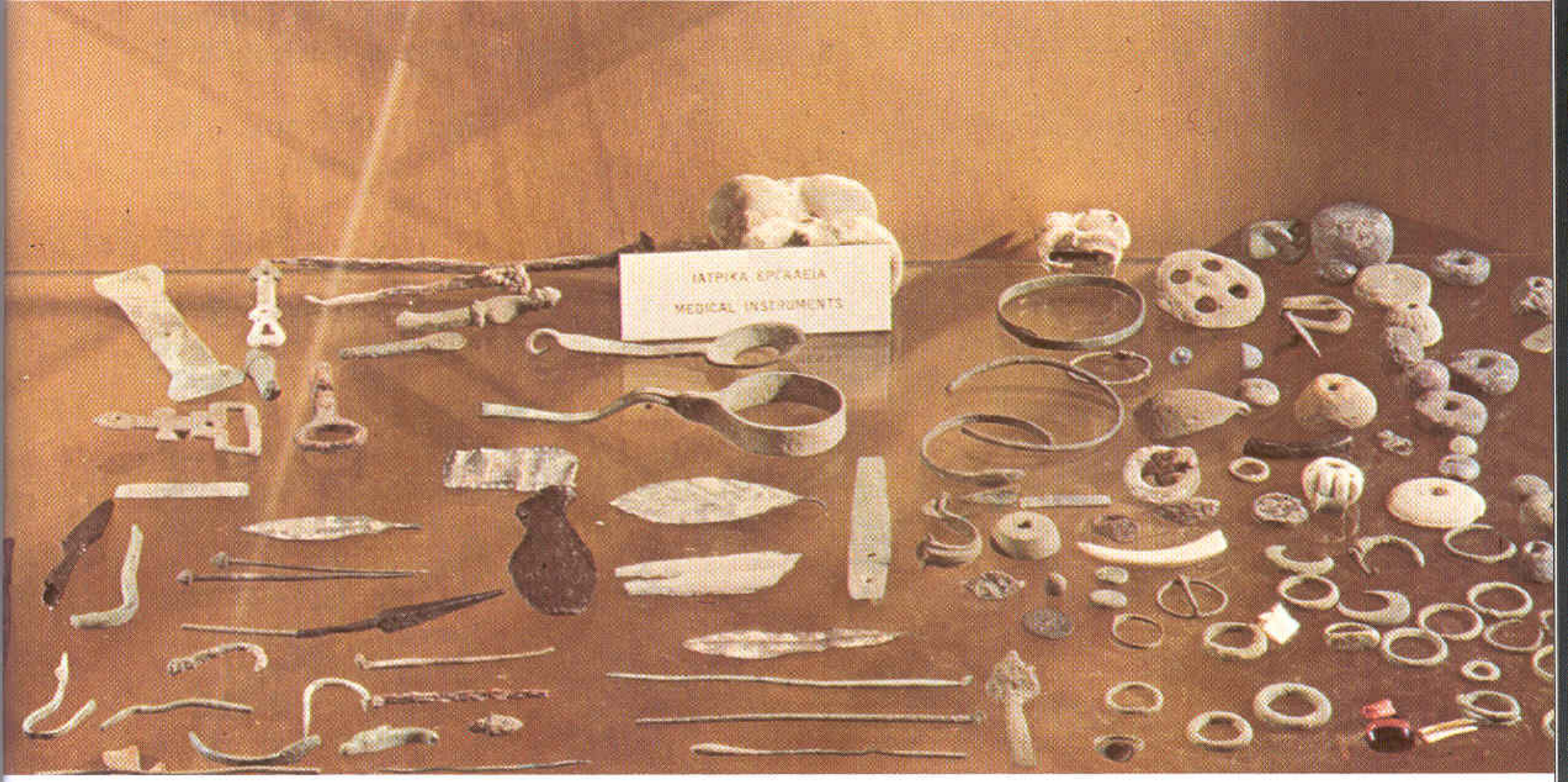
The first greek clinical case documented by the patient. The whole life of the greek orator Aelius Aristides turns around a mutant psychic case and around Asclepio, the god healer.

The Sacred Tales of Aelius **Aristides**



2. The ritual of healing

Epidaurus



We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and
our little life is rounded with a sleep



John of God

João de Deus - The Miracle Man of Brazil

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John of God Menu

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- [At the CASA](#)
- [Entities](#)
- [Oswald Cruz](#)
- [St Ignatius de Loyola](#)

About John of God



João Teixeira de Faria, internationally known as John of God or João de Deus, is arguably the most powerful unconscious medium alive today and possibly the best-known healer of the past 2000 years. However, João is a humble man who is very clear about one thing: "I do not cure anybody. God heals, and in his infinite goodness permits the Entities to heal and console my brothers.

I am merely an instrument in God's divine hands" – John of God. The medium Joao Teixeira has no formal medical training. Instead he gives over his consciousness and incorporates the spirits of past doctors and saints. These entities give talks, examine the waiting masses and conduct the visible and invisible operations.

It is estimated that he has treated, either directly or indirectly, up to 15 million people during the past 40 years.

We hope you enjoy our DVD about the healing process in the Casa de Dom Inacio de Loyola and that you use it to prepare for your travel and access the healing energy of the clinic.

News

psychic "surgery"

Psychic "surgery" is a type of non-surgery performed by a non-medical healer. The healer fakes an incision by running a finger along the patient's body, apparently going through the skin without using any surgical instruments. The healer pretends to dig his hands into the patient's innards and pretends to pull out 'tumors'. Using trickery, the healer squirts animal blood from a hand-held balloon while discarding items such as chicken livers and hearts. The patient then goes home to die, if he or she was really dying, or to live if there was nothing seriously wrong in the first place.

Psychic "surgery" is big business around the world, but especially in the Philippines and Brazil, where "healers" like [Alex Orbito](#) and [Laurence Cacteng](#) ply their trade. Tony Agpaoa put psychic "surgery" on the map in Manila, where there are now several hundred practicing psychic "surgeons", many working out of hotels. In 1967, Agpaoa was indicted for fraud in the United States. He jumped bail and went home, forfeiting a \$25,000 bond.

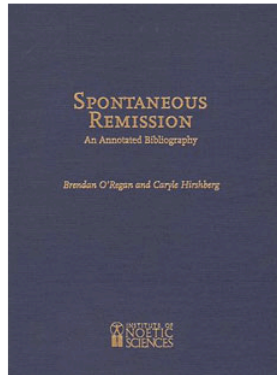


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Publication Bibliographies



Spontaneous Remission
An Annotated Bibliography

In 1961 Dr. Henry Beecher reported on a study in which he divided patients scheduled for heart surgery for treatment of angina pectoris into two groups. One group had the full surgery. The other was cut open and simply sewn back up. Both groups were told they had the full operation. Follow-up studies indicated that all the patients fared equally well and so it was shown that **surgery for angina pectoris was a placebo.**

J.A.M.A., Dec. 24, 1955

THE POWERFUL PLACEBO

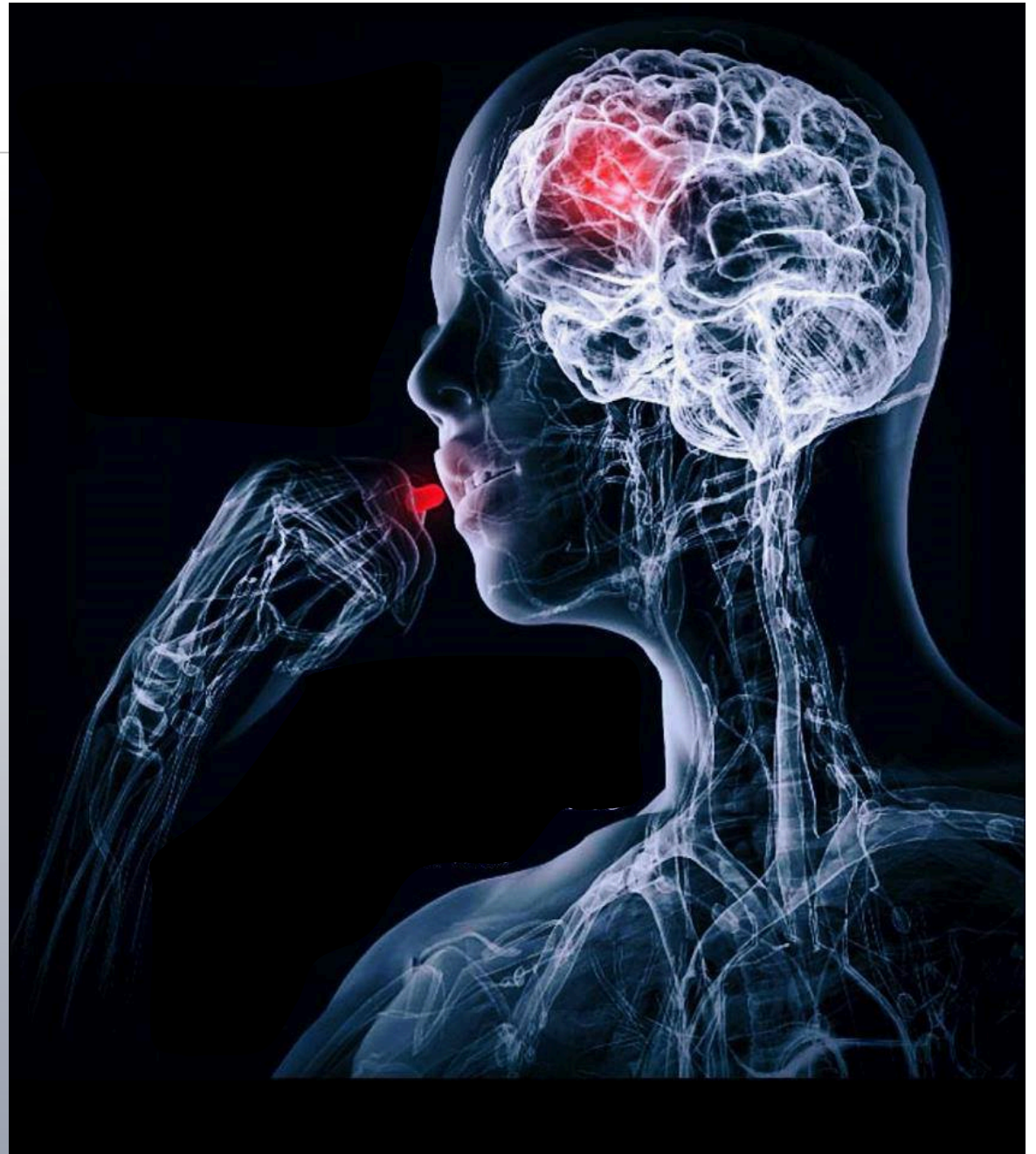
Henry K. Beecher, M.D., Boston

2. The ritual of healing

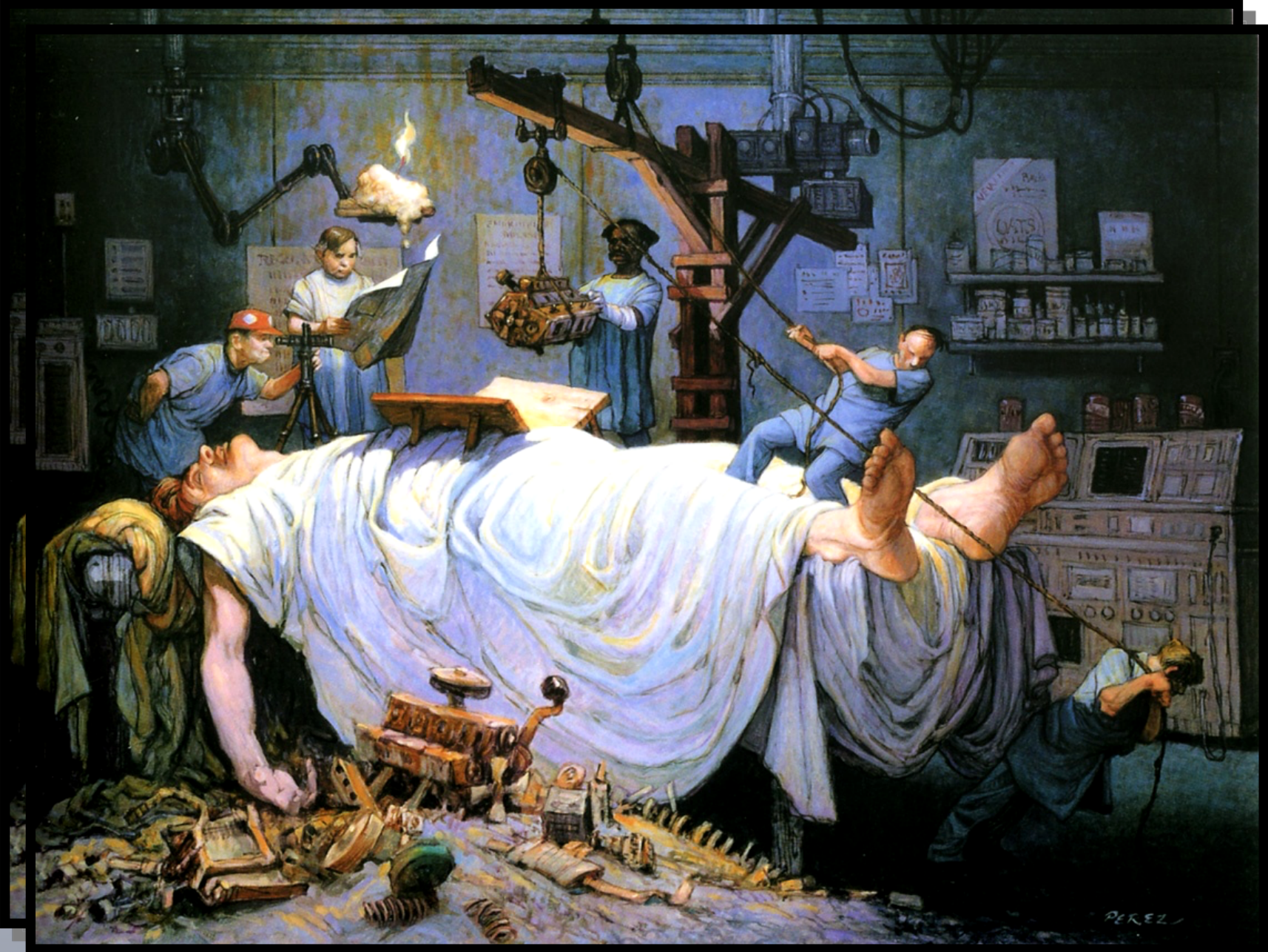
Molecula vs Placebo

The placebo is not so much a PILL but a PROCESS. The process begins with the patient's confidence in the doctor and extend through to the whole functioning of his healing system. The process works not because of any magic tablet but because human body is its own best apothecary

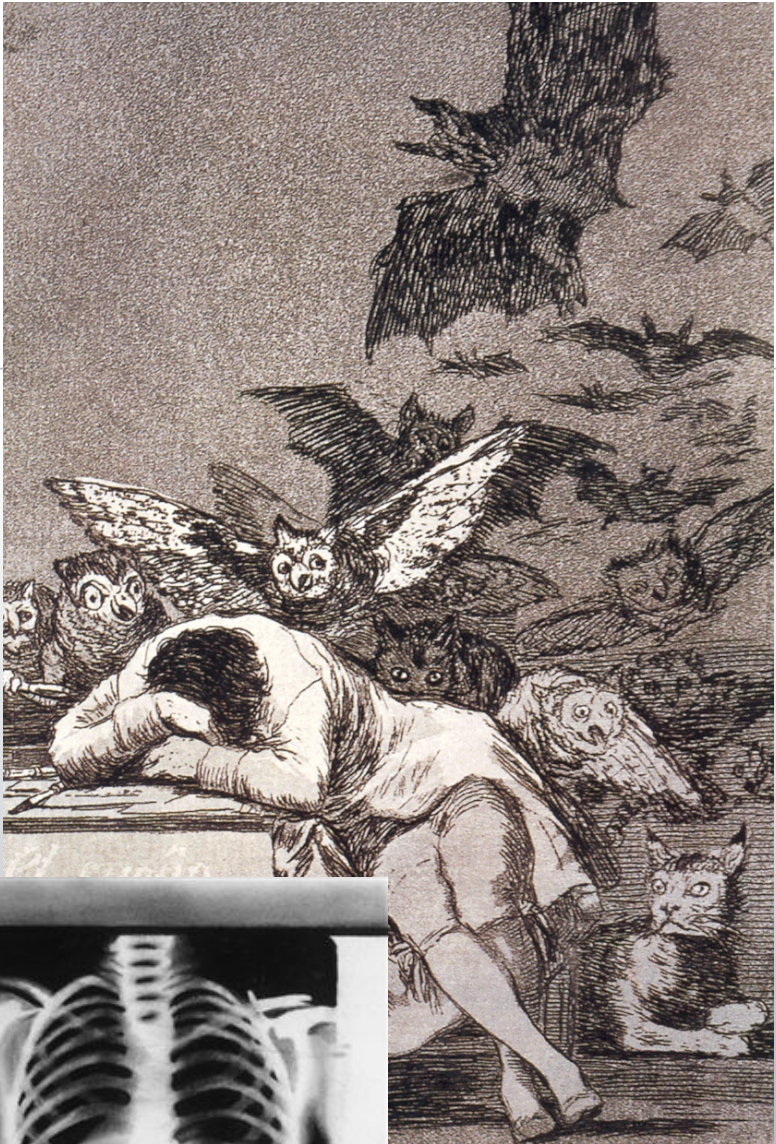
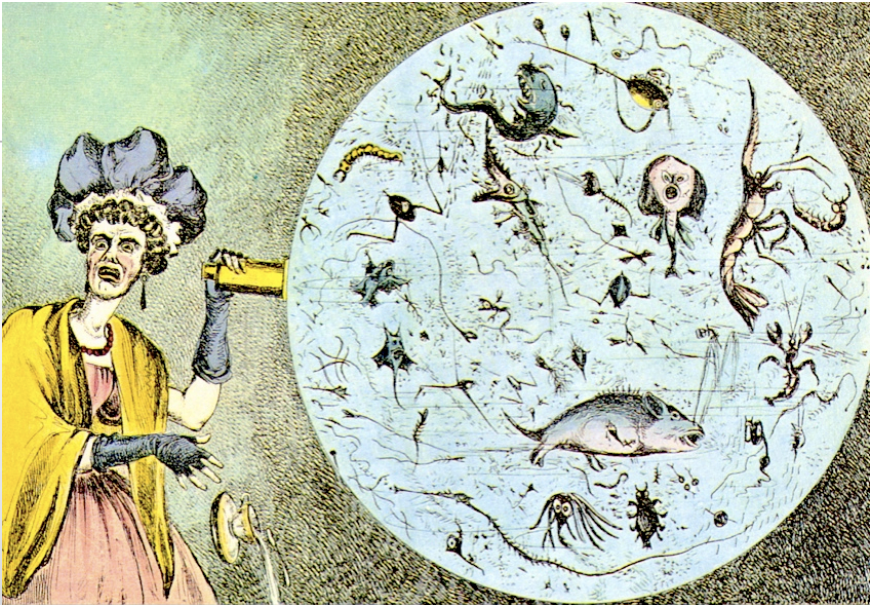
Norman Cousins (Anatomy of Illness, 1995)



2. The ritual of healing. Placebo



2. The ritual of healing. Nocebo



IL MATTINO

CRESCIE IN MANIERA CATASTROFICA IL NUMERO DEI MORTI (SONO 10.000?) E DEI RIMASTI SENZA TETTO (250.000?)

FATE PRESTO

per salvare chi è ancora vivo
per aiutare chi non ha più nulla

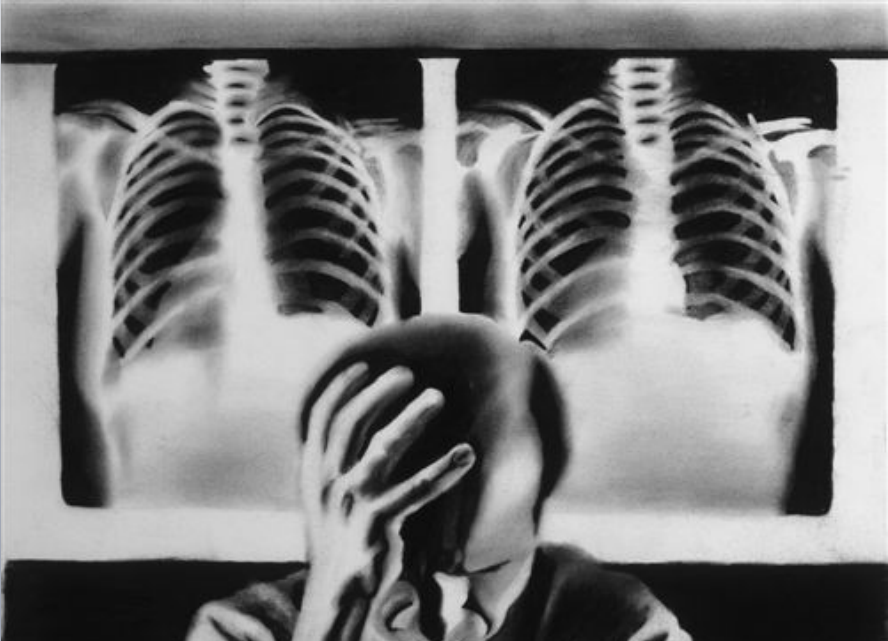


SOCORSI LENTI
SALE LA RABBIA

NAPOLI DEVE
TORNARE A VIVERE



14 pagine sulla catastrofe





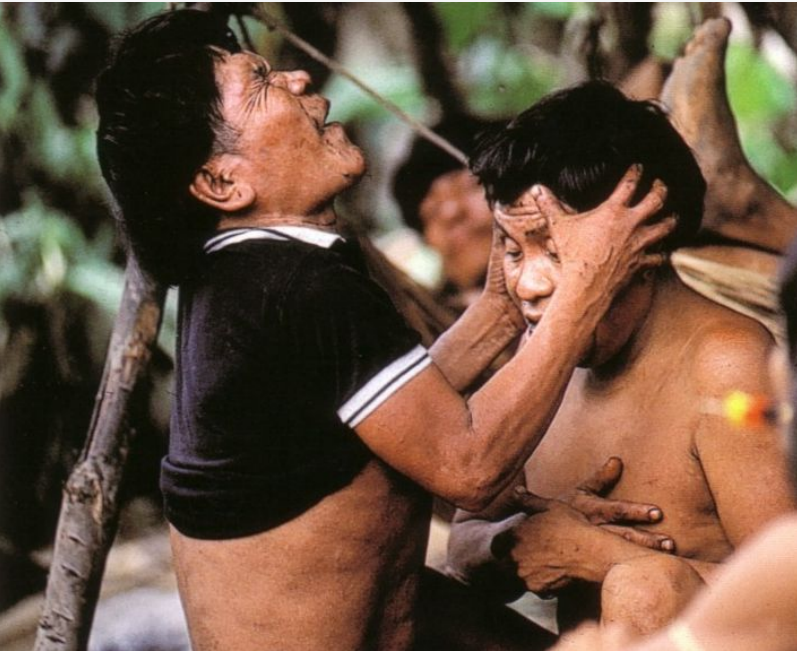
2. The healing process



India



Senegal



Brazil

2. The Healing process

Panax Ginseng C.A. Meyer

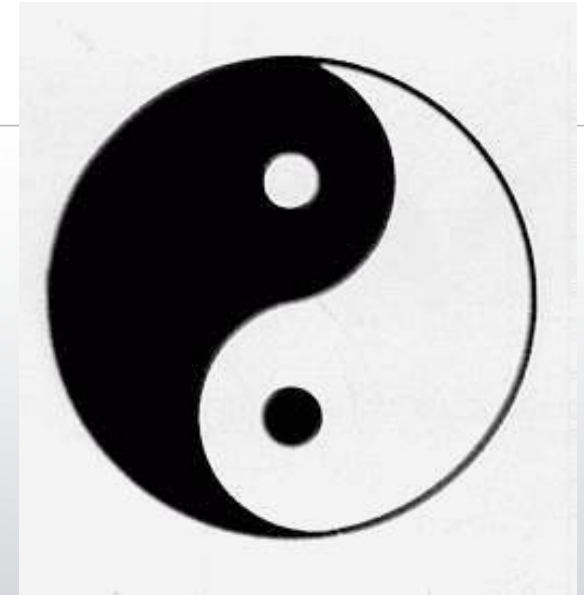
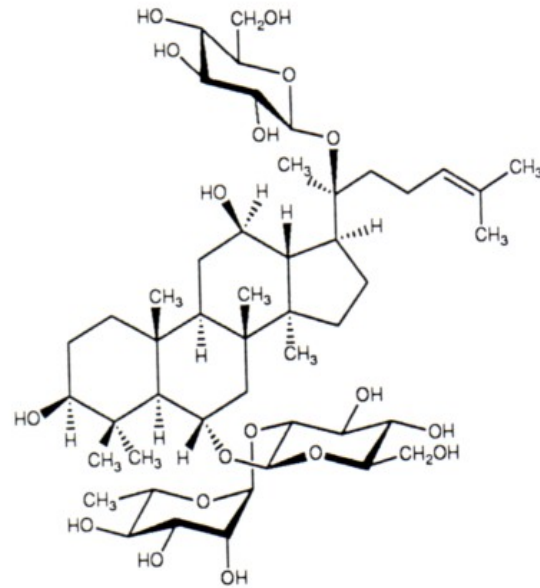
Active principles:

- Ginsenosidi (panaxosidi)
- Poliacetileni
- Panacene...

Family: Araliaceae

Order: Umbelliflorales

Class: Dicotyledones



2. The healing process

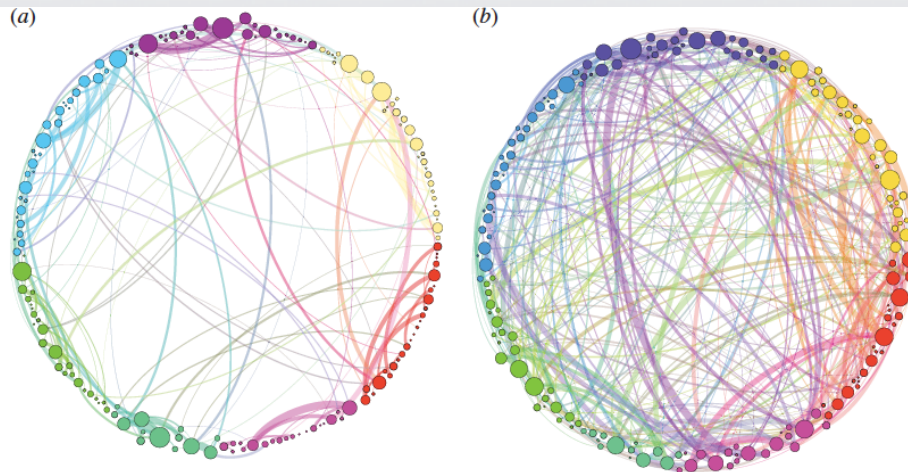


Figure 6. Simplified visualization of the persistence homological scaffolds. The persistence homological scaffolds \mathcal{H}_{pla}^p (a) and \mathcal{H}_{psi}^p (b) are shown for comparison. For ease of visualization, only the links heavier than 80 (the weight at which the distributions in figure 5a bifurcate) are shown. This value is slightly smaller than the bifurcation point of the weights distributions in figure 5a. In both networks, colours represent communities obtained by modularity [49] optimization on the placebo persistence scaffold using the Louvain method [50] and are used to show the departure of the psilocybin connectivity structure from the placebo baseline. The width of the links is proportional to their weight and the size of the nodes is proportional to their strength. Note that the proportion of heavy links between communities is much higher (and very different) in the psilocybin group, suggesting greater integration. A labelled version of the two scaffolds is available as GEXF graph files as the electronic supplementary material. (Online version in colour.)



2. The healing process

Tabernanthe Iboga

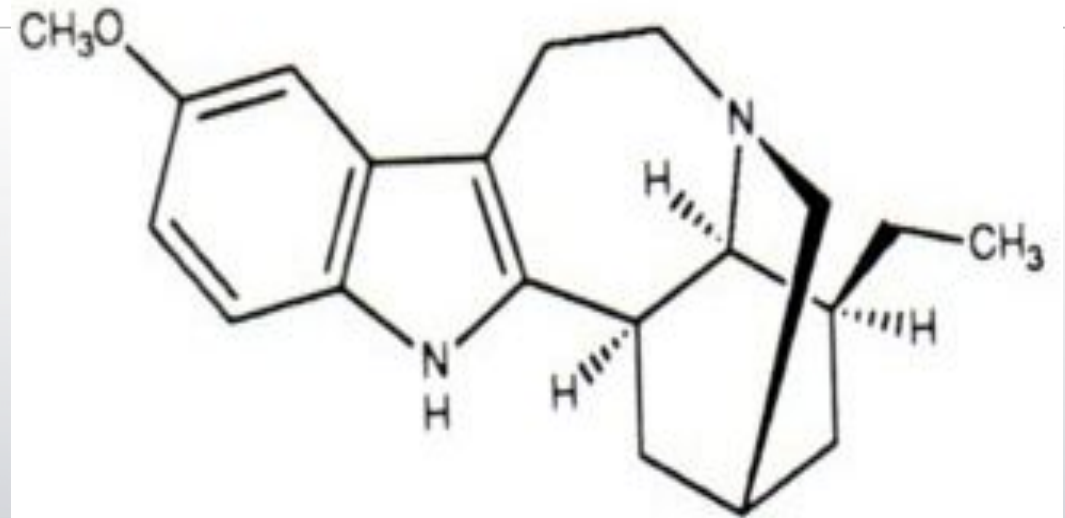
Family: Apocynaceae
Order: Contortales
Class: Dicotyledones

Active principles:

- Ibogaina
- Ibogamina
- Ibossigaina
- Tabernantina

...

In 2000 Gabon has declared
Tabernanthe Iboga a National
Treasure



4. Fieldwork

Mayantuyacu – Italy 2012



**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC**
FRANCE

13 RUE HENRI BARBUSSE
92624 GENEVILLIERS - 01 73 05 45 45



LES SECRETS DES GUÉRISSEURS

Au Pérou comme ailleurs, ils étaient considérés

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdYd4Ydm01A&feature=youtu.be>

4. Fieldwork

Mayantuyacu – Italy 2012



Juan Flores in Italia
9 – 24 Giugno 2012



11 giugno , ore 15, Museo di Etnomedicina

Via Balbi 4, Genova.

Con prof Antonio Guerri

12 giugno, ore 20:45, Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali

via Giolitti 36, Torino, Associazione Humana Medicina,

Con dra Rossana Becarelli e dra Tania Re

13 giugno, ore 18:30, Castello Sforzesco

Piazza Castello, Raccolte Extraeuropee del Comune di Milano

Con dra Carolina Orsini

14 giugno, ore 18:00, Centro Botanico

via Cesare Correnti 10, Milano

Con dr Angelo Naj Oleari

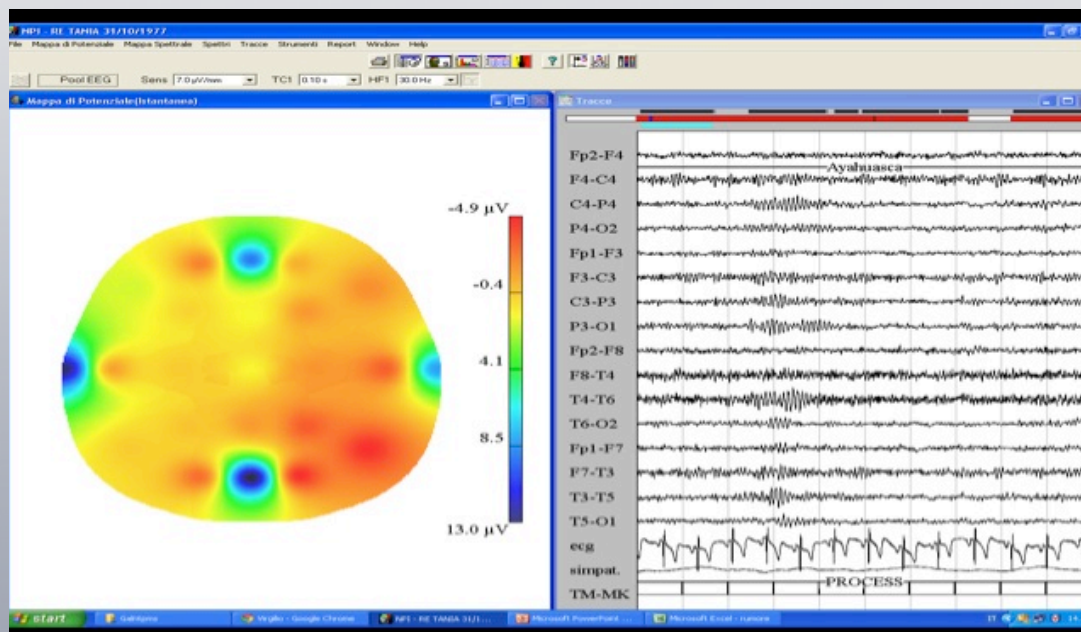
15 giugno, ore 11:00, Centro Clinico medicina integrativa Università di Firenze

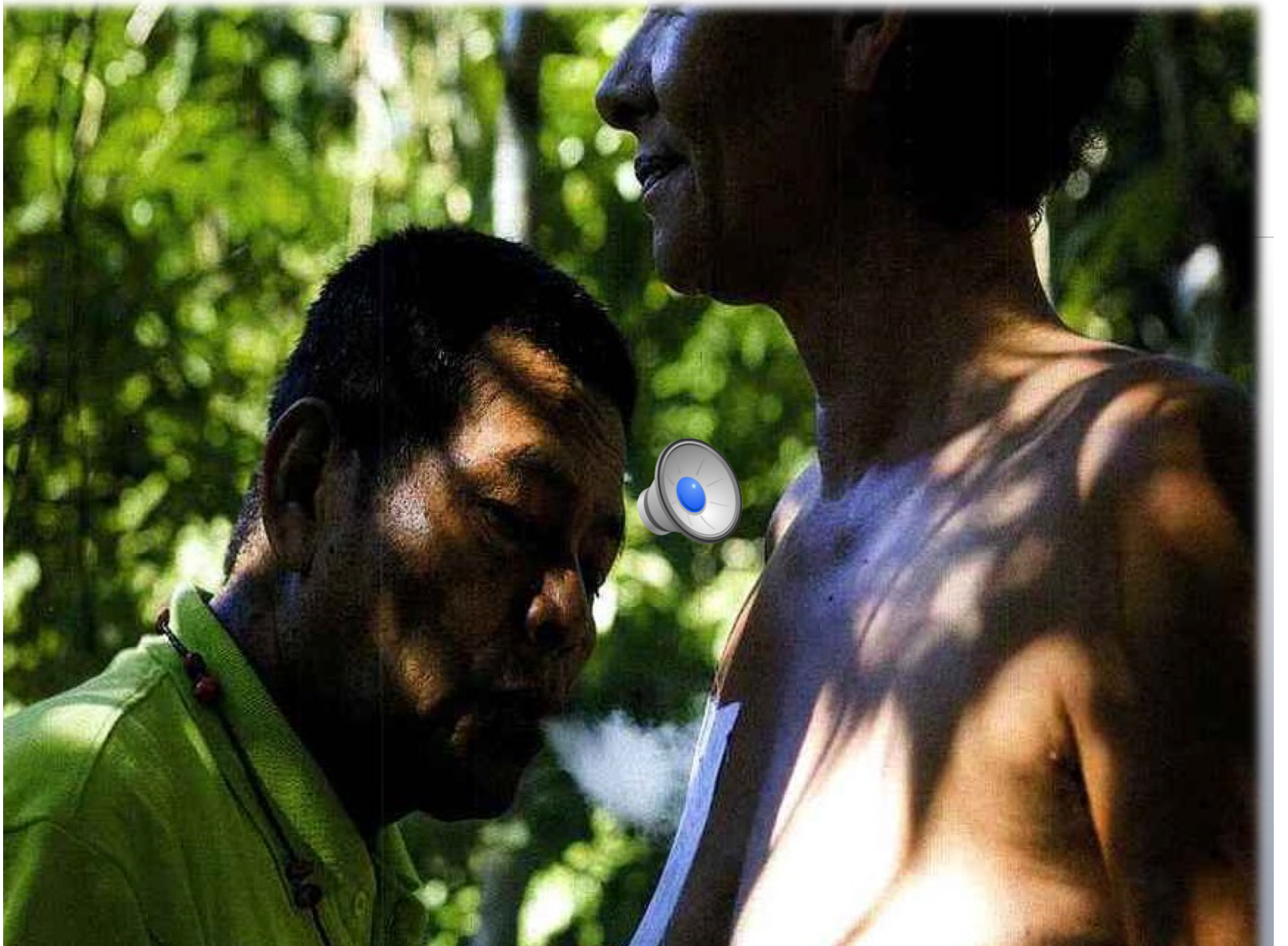
Ospedale Careggi Firenze

Con dr Fabio Firenzuoli

ICAROS - EEG

4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes	Pilot Study
EEG baseline	Original Icaros: "Ayahuasca mariri"	Pause EEG	Instrumental music related to Icaros	Pause EEG	Melodic music related to Icaros	Pause EEG	Noise Music related to Icaros	
Randomized Music Session for each of the 15 subjects								





Video 1

Songs: “*Icaros*”

Pictures: Mayantuyacu Healing Centre

- **Video Sections**

1. The place
2. The first researches
3. Songs: “*Icaros*”
4. Water
5. Experiences
6. Group Research
 - a. “*Icaros*” and EEG
 - b. Water
 - c. Ethnomedicine
 - d. Teaching plants



THANK YOU

Cosmos and History: The Journal of Natural and Social Philosophy, vol. 11, no. 2, 2015

**TRANSCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE ON
CONSCIOUSNESS: A BRIDGE BETWEEN
ANTHROPOLOGY, MEDICINE AND PHYSICS**

Tania Re & Carlo Ventura

(With the collaboration of Giuseppe Vitiello, Mario Simoes and Jorge Martines)

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