Ritual Healing and Spiritual Experiences:
An Evolutionary Approach to Shamanism Art, Migrations, Development

Dr. Michael Winkelman (retired)
School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University

Monday, November 16, 2015, 3:30 pm
Browsing Room, Knight Library

University of Oregon
1501 Kincaid
Eugene, OR

In this presentation, Dr. Winkelman examines the cross-cultural features of shamanism involving specific healing rituals and alterations of consciousness that reveal an underlying biological basis. He explores how these features reflect adaptations that occurred in the course of hominin evolution that enhanced our capacity for social bonding, extrapersonal cognition and symbolic modulation of emotions. Shamanism reflects aspects of our evolved social psychology that still has relevance for understanding healing processes, spiritual experiences and our propensity for seeking to alter consciousness in community rituals. These perspectives bring new approaches to the treatment of current health conditions, especially contemporary problems involving addictive behaviors.

Dr. Michael Winkelman (School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University, retired) has engaged in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary research on shamanism, altered states of consciousness, and healing traditions. His books include *Shamans, Priests and Witches*; *Culture and Health: Applying Medical Anthropology; Shamanism: A Biopsychosocial Paradigm of Consciousness and Healing*; *Psychedelic Medicine* (co-edited with Tom Roberts), *Supernatural as Natural* (with John Baker), *Pilgrimage and Healing* (with Jill Dubisch), and *Altering Consciousness* (with Etzel Cardena). He was President of the Anthropology of Consciousness section of the American Anthropological Association, and was the founding President of its Anthropology of Religion Section.

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