

Schizophrenia and Shamanic Practice in Okinawa

Psychological disorders are part of the landscape of all societies, according to the World Health Organization's report on world mental health. Indeed, 12 percent of all people's health disorders are estimated to be mental disorders (2001). In Okinawa, some psychological disorders, particularly schizophrenia, are also often interpreted as spiritual disorders, complete with a long history of such interpretation.

This talk will explore some of the contradictions between science and spiritualism in asking questions about how people in Okinawa themselves choose to mobilize certain help-seeking behaviors. Conclusions are based on field research with shamans and psychiatrists in Okinawa between 1996 and 2000.

by

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Date:

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Time:

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Place:

Tokioka Room (Moore 319)

For further information and disability access, please contact the Center for Japanese Studies at 956-2665.