Shamanic practices in contemporary Japan: Local habits and national fascination

a virtual lecture by Marianna Zanetta

Contemporary Japan still cherishes a significant variety of the so-called minkan fusha, popular religions practitioners (often translated with the term “shaman”) who work as mediators between the world of the living and the dimension of the sacred. They are mainly women, and their role went through some significant transformations in the course of the last three centuries. Today, these shamans (heiresses of older traditions) are facing different challenges, while their profession is evolving to answer the new needs and questions of their clients. This talk explores the transformative and inventive process of these practices, and how in today’s Japan minkan fusha are regarded in the local communities and at a national level.

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