



Institute for
Social Anthropology

Centre for Studies in Asian Cultures
and Social Anthropology



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ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

Ritual and Belonging in two Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon

Leonardo Schiocchet

Thursday, 17th of June 2010, 16.00 pm [c.t.]

Centre for Studies in Asian Cultures and Social Anthropology, Seminar room
A-1040 Wien, Prinz-Eugen-Straße 8–10, 1st floor

The lecture will draw on the main differences found on a Muslim and a Christian Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. The Muslim camp is called Al-Jalil, and the Christian one is called Dbayeh.

Largely due to their refugee condition, the present time is lived in both camps as a “time within time” in contrast to the “normal time” of non-refugees. This “time within time” constitutes a force pulling individuals to collectively articulate their existential condition, and further ritualize their quotidian routines. But quotidian life in the Muslim camp is far more ritualized than in the Christian one. As I intend to demonstrate, the reasons for that are not to be found mainly through religious exegesis, but on the cultural-historical environment of the camps, and the way they fit their Lebanese surroundings.

I use a ritual approach for understanding two contrasting processes of belonging, which encompasses matters of social organization as much as identity processes.



Leonardo Augusto SCHIOCCHET received his Master in Socio-cultural Anthropology in 2005 at the Universidade de Brasilia (UnB) and his PhD in Social Anthropology in 2010 at the Boston University. Since 2006 active researcher at the Boston University at the Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations. For his PhD he received Cora du Bois Charitable Trust (Writing Fellowship) and Fulbright/CAPES (Full PhD scholarship).

Research interests: Palestinians/ Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon/ Lebanon/ Arab and Christian Middle East, Islamic World, Caiçaras and Ribeirinhos in Southern Brazil. *Theoretical interests:* Ethnicity, Religion and Politics; Anthropology of Knowledge and Conflict; Anthropological Theory.

Recent publications:

(2010 - in press) *Deus Traz Pelo Mar: conhecimento e conflito sócio-ambiental no espaço caiçara da pesca marítima do sul do Brasil* [God Brings through the Sea: Knowledge and Conflict in the South Brazilian Caiçara Marine Fishing Space] in CONHECIMENTOS TRADICIONAIS PARA O SÉCULO XXI: Etnografias da Intercientificidade. LITTLE, Paul Elliot (Editor).

(2010 - forthcoming) *Identities Sociais No Líbano: Sectarismo, Etnicidade e Outras Variáveis* [Social Identities in Lebanon: Sectarianism, Ethnicity, and Other Variables] in GERI (Grupo de Estudos de Relações Interétnicas).

Prinz-Eugen-Straße 8–10, 1st floor, 1040 Vienna, Austria

Phone +43 1 51581-6450, Fax +43 1 51581-6460, sozialanthropologie@oeaw.ac.at, www.oeaw.ac.at/sozant