

## **COLONIZATION AND NAVIGATION: HOW DID IT HAPPEN?**

Dear colleagues and friends,

Volume 13 of EXPRESSION e-magazine is now available. In the framework of the project '*Understanding what is defined abstract*', authors from different scientific, cultural and geographical areas, are contributing papers on "**Abstract signs in prehistoric and tribal art: meaning and problems of interpretation**". Should you wish to receive a free copy, just ask for it at [atelier.etno@gmail.com](mailto:atelier.etno@gmail.com). Provide your name, mailing address and e-mail, and the free copy will be sent to you.

We are now preparing an issue of EXPRESSION facing another fascinating topic:

## **COLONIZATION**

### **HOW DID HUMANS REACH ALL THE LANDS OF THE PLANET? MANY DIFFERENT STORIES CAN BE LIKE STONES IN A MOSAIC, PIECING TOGETHER AN OVERVIEW**

Colleagues are welcome to propose their contribution: papers illustrating a case, a trend, an idea or a detail, of such immense process that gave to most (not yet all) peoples and cultures of the planet their homeland. Papers may concern art, archaeology, anthropology, history, myths, beliefs, traditions or popular tales.

From an original land of origins, likely to have been in Africa, the ancestors of humankind colonized all corners of the globe: they reached far away islands in the oceans and remote highlands in the mountains, territories in the desert and in the deep forest. Other primates still survive in their limited habitat; humans live in the equatorial regions as well as near the Arctic pole. How did colonization take place? What are the traces of human expansion? How did present day populations reach their "homelands"? Each case is a special case: the first inhabitants of Easter Island and those of the Falklands, both reached far away islands, but for different reasons and have different stories.

The first inhabitants of America and those of Australia have different stories. But also the quality and size of our knowledge differs on each one of these events. Processes of cultural diffusion concerning art and material culture reveal relations between continents, expansions of certain cultural trends and restrictions of others. The entire story of humankind is made of bits and pieces of colonization.

Many open questions are awakening interest and concern. How and why did human beings expand from their land of origin? How did they reach and colonize Australia or America, or an island like Iceland, or the top of a

mountain like Machu Picchu? How did people penetrate and occupy the forest, in central India, Borneo, the Congo or Amazonia? How was New Zealand in the Pacific or Malta in the Mediterranean first inhabited?

How did various human waves colonize Europe? From the early hominids that reached Europe two million years ago, to the Neanderthals who evolved and spread over Europe, to the early waves of *Homo sapiens*, to the Neolithic colonizers, to recent arrivals, the secret of European success is likely to be due to the overlapping and encounter of different people and cultures. The same can be said for America or Australia. And what about Japan or Madagascar, or Sri-Lanka, or Tasmania? No one, not even the local natives of five continents, was originally born in their land, though some believe they were. Even the Pygmies of the Congo basin have their myth of origin concerning their early exodus. From a primary core humanity reached everywhere. Each culture, like each village or clan, has a story or a myth regarding their "Garden of Eden" their primordial land of origin.

Following the traditions of **EXPRESSION** magazine, papers should concern specific topics or sites. Short papers of 1,500–3,000 words are suggested, preferably with good illustrations. The deadline for presenting papers for next issue is 15 November, 2016.

**EXPRESSION** magazine is published by *Atelier Research Center* in cooperation with **UISPP-CISNEP**, the "*International Scientific Commission on the Intellectual and Spiritual Expressions of Non-literate Peoples*". The goal of **EXPRESSION** is to promote knowledge and ideas concerning *the intellectual and spiritual expressions of non-literate societies*. It is an open forum in conceptual anthropology welcoming contributions. Colleagues having something to say will find their space in this e-magazine, which is reaching people of culture and academic institutions in over 60 countries.

For further information or for submitting papers contact:  
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Best wishes and cordial regards,  
*Emmanuel Anati*

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