

# **CASCA/IUAES2017 MO(U)VEMENT**

A joint inter-congress/conference of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) and Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA)

University of Ottawa, Canada 02-07 May, 2017

## **Bridewealth revisited: the workings of identity**

*Convenors:*

*Christine Jourdan (Concordia University); Kathleen Rice (University of Toronto)*

### **Session presentation**

The panel examines current bridewealth practices from the perspective of identity. Across a wide range of societies, we focus on bridewealth in relations to socio-economic, and political transformations. It emphasizes the meaning of bridewealth for people involved in bridewealth transactions.

### **Papers**

#### **Bridewealth in Middle Indian Adivasi communities**

*Georg Pfeffer (Freie Universität Berlin)*

Rather than dowry, bridewealth obligations are the rule among some 100 million indigenous people of the Middle Indian highlands. They will be introduced in their socio-cultural context by reference to the general propositions on bridewealth.

#### **Odwa's big lobola: gendered and generational negotiations over the meaning of large bridewealth payments in South Africa**

*Kathleen Rice (University of Toronto)*

Conflicts over large lobola (bridewealth) speak to the meaning of kinship and value in South Africa. Women claim that large lobola indicates a man's love and commitment to gender equality in marriage. Men and elders wonder what is being paid for if not gendered and generational privilege.

## **“Fazendo tudo certinho”: socialization, performance and identity in the Brazilian bridewealth**

*Breno Alencar (IFPA)*

This work results from a comparative study in the cities of Belém, Teresina and Brasília and aims to analyze the place that bridewealth has in the process of socialization for conjugal life, as well as the symbolic efficacy of the rites that characterize it in Brazilian society.

## **‘I am not an animal to be paid for’: bridewealth, identity and urbanization in Solomon Islands**

*Christine Jourdan (Concordia University); Alexis Black (Concordia University)*

This study conducts a discursive analysis of interviews with women in the Solomon Islands to analyze the place of bridewealth on the micro-level, in the creation and maintenance of their individual identities.

## **Arsi oromo marriages in Ethiopia in a historic-contemporary continuum: conceptions and negotiations of gender and identity**

*Leila Qashu (Concordia University)*

This paper examines marriage practices among Arsi Oromo women in Ethiopia. Through their voices I explore contexts and significations of marriages, bridewealth/exchanges, and how community members are changing and adapting wedding contracts in view of social, religious, economic, and political changes.

## **Bridewealth and kinship in eastern Indonesia**

*Gregory Forth (University of Alberta)*

Concerning an eastern Indonesian society, the paper discusses the continuing importance of bridewealth and connections by ‘blood’ in maintaining asymmetric affinal alliance in the face of changes entailed in increasing integration into a modern economy and conversion to Catholicism