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978-0-521-60867-1 - The Cambridge Companion to Lévi-Strauss

Edited by Boris Wiseman

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The Cambridge Companion to Lévi-Strauss

Claude Lévi-Strauss is one of the major thinkers of the modern age. Regarded as a crucial figure in the development of structuralism, his writings are studied across a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, philosophy and literary studies. *The Cambridge Companion to Lévi-Strauss* presents a major reassessment of his work and influence. The fifteen specially commissioned chapters in this volume engage with the controversies that have surrounded his ideas, explore the concealed influences that have shaped his thought and expose the obscuring clichés that have all too often been used by commentators and critics. The contributors are experts drawn from a number of fields, and demonstrate the durability and importance of Lévi-Strauss's work in contemporary thought. Written for students and researchers alike, these incisive, jargon-free essays will be essential reading for anybody who wishes to gain a deeper understanding of this important thinker.

BORIS WISEMAN is Senior Lecturer in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Durham.

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Méditations métaphysiques de Descartes, I. He has also published various studies on contemporary French thought (Lévi-Strauss, Derrida, Foucault, Bourdieu) and on the philosophy of culture and education, including his essay on 'La Culture', in *Notions de philosophie*.

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JEFFREY MEHLMAN, University Professor at Boston University, is a literary critic and a historian of ideas. Over a number of years, he has been writing an implicit history of speculative interpretation in France in the form of a series of readings of canonical literary works. His books include *A Structural Study of Autobiography; Revolution and Repetition; Cataract: A Study in Diderot; Legacies: Of Anti-Semitism in France; Walter Benjamin for Children: An Essay on His Radio Years; Genealogies of the Text and Émigré New York: French Intellectuals in Wartime Manhattan, 1940–1944*. In addition, Professor Mehlman's numerous translations, beginning with his collection *French Freud*, have played an important role in the naturalisation of French thought in English.

JEAN PETITOT is a mathematician specialising in dynamical modelling in structural and cognitive sciences. He is currently Director of the CREA (Centre de recherche en épistémologie appliqué) at the École polytechnique and Directeur d'études at the Centre d'analyse et de mathématiques sociales at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris. He is a member of the scientific committee of CNRS and of the executive committee of many international associations. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the journals *Western Philosophy Series, Mathématiques et sciences humaines, Archives de philosophie, Intellectica, Semiotic Inquiry, Analyse, Biologica, Scripta Semiotica, VISIO*. He is the author of *Morphogenèse du Sens* (English translation, Peter Lang); *Les Catastrophes de la parole: de Roman Jakobson à René Thom; La Philosophie transcendante et le problème de l'objectivité; Physique du sens; Morphologie et*

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esthétique and more than 250 papers. He is also the editor (with F. Varela, J.-M. Roy and B. Pachoud) of *Naturalizing Phenomenology: Issues in Contemporary Phenomenology and Cognitive Science*.

ABRAHAM ROSMAN received a PhD from Yale University. His first fieldwork was with the Kanuri of Bornu Province in Northern Nigeria. He conducted further research in Iran, Afghanistan, New Guinea and New Ireland. He has taught at Vassar College, Antioch College and Barnard College, Columbia University. He is now Professor Emeritus at Barnard College.

PAULA G. RUBEL has a PhD in anthropology from Columbia University. She carried out fieldwork with an émigré group of Kalmyk Mongols living in the United States. Her doctoral dissertation was published as *The Kalmyk Mongols: A Study of Continuity and Change*. She also did fieldwork in Iran, Afghanistan, New Guinea and New Ireland. She has taught at Hunter College and Barnard College, Columbia University where she is now Professor Emerita.

ERIC SCHWIMMER (born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 1923), now retired, became interested in the structuralism of Lévi-Strauss in 1962, when he was a journalist in New Zealand; he decided to become an anthropologist after reading *La Pensée sauvage*. He subsequently did a PhD in anthropology at the University of British Columbia and taught at L'Université Laval, Québec. He has published work on the New Zealand Māori, on the Orokaiva of Papua New Guinea and, since his retirement, on theoretical topics. The chapter in this volume is based on his researches into the canonical formula for the structural analysis of myth and the place of that formula in a possible future humanistic anthropology.

MARCELA COELHO DE SOUZA teaches anthropology at Brasília University, Brasília, Brazil. Her doctoral research focused on the social organisation and kinship systems of Jê-speaking Central Brazilian indigenous peoples (Museu Nacional of Rio de Janeiro, 2002). She is now carrying out long-term research among the Kisêdjê Indians of the Xingu, centred on experiments which involve relations of property and appropriations of (the notion of) culture and concern questions of 'intellectual property', 'traditional knowledge', 'intangible wealth' and 'cultural heritage'. She has published articles related to both these topics.

BORIS WISEMAN is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of French, University of Durham. In 2007 he was made an Inaugural Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University. His research is centrally concerned with various forms of interdisciplinary connections.

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He has written extensively about structural anthropology and Lévi-Strauss's aesthetic thought. As part of an ongoing involvement with the International Rhetoric Culture project, he has published on the figure of chiasmus. More recently, his research has focused on qualia and sensory experience. Selected publications include: *Claude Lévi-Strauss and Structural Anthropology*; *Lévi-Strauss, Anthropology and Aesthetics*; *Chiasmus in the Drama of Life* (with Anthony Paul (eds.)), (Berghahn Books, forthcoming).