

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-84630-1 - 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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Contributors

PHILIPPE DESCOLA studied philosophy at the École normale supérieure of Saint-Cloud and ethnology at the École pratique des hautes études (VIe section), where he completed his PhD under the supervision of Claude Lévi-Strauss. After several years of ethnographic fieldwork in Amazonia, he was appointed to the École des hautes études en sciences sociales, first as a Maître de conférences then a Directeur d'études. He became Professor at the Collège de France in June 2000. Philippe Descola was awarded the silver medal of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in 1996 for his anthropological work on the uses and knowledge of nature in tribal societies. He is the author of numerous articles and books, among them: *La Nature domestique*; *Les Lances du crépuscule*; *Par-delà nature et culture*.

WENDY DONIGER graduated from Radcliffe College and received her PhD from Harvard University and her DPhil from Oxford University. She is the Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions at the University of Chicago and the author of many books, most recently *The Bedtrick: Tales of Sex and Masquerade* and *The Woman Who Pretended to Be Who She Was*.

PETER GOW is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews. His major ethnographic research has been with the indigenous and other peoples of the Bajo Urubamba River in Peruvian Amazonia, resulting in two books, *Of Mixed Blood: Kinship and History in Peruvian Amazonia*, and *An Amazonian Myth and Its History*, aside from numerous articles. Along with ongoing research on Western Amazonia, he is engaged in a project applying Lévi-Strauss's analysis of myth and history to archival and other materials from the Southern Highlands of Scotland from the late seventeenth century onwards.

MICHAEL E. HARKIN is Professor and Chair of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming. He received his PhD in anthropology from the University of Chicago, and has conducted fieldwork in Canada, the US and France. He is

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author or editor of five books, including (with Marie Mauzé and Sergei Kan) *Coming to Shore: Northwest Coast Ethnology, Traditions and Visions*. He is editor of the journal *Ethnohistory*, and theme editor for cultural anthropology of the *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems*, published by UNESCO.

MARCEL HÉNAFF has taught at the University of Copenhagen and at the Collège international de philosophie in Paris. He studied ethnology at the University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Since 1988 he has been a Professor at the University of California, San Diego. His publications include *Sade, the Invention of the Libertine Body*; *Claude Lévi-Strauss and the Making of Structural Anthropology*; *Public Space and Democracy* (co-edited with Tracy Strong); *The Price of Truth: Gift, Money, Philosophy* (forthcoming, Stanford University Press; orig. Seuil, 2002: Grand Prix de l'Académie Française); *La Ville qui vient* (City in the making). His main field of research is political philosophy and the anthropology of political institutions and religious practices.

CLAUDE IMBERT is Emerita Professor of Philosophy at the École normale supérieure, Ulm, where she currently coordinates a seminar on 'Art, Creation, Cognition'. She is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and has held posts as Associate Professor at UC Davis and The Johns Hopkins University. She is now Associate Professor at Fudan University (Shanghai). Her main publications are on logic (Greek, Port Royal, and mathematical twentieth-century Logic), and contemporary philosophy. Her most recent essays focus on Cavaillès, Merleau-Ponty, Wittgenstein and Lévi-Strauss, and on a new approach to the human sciences. She is currently writing a book on the relationship between contemporary French philosophy and anthropology, and the conditions of a second modernism. Selected publications include: *Maurice Merleau-Ponty*; *Pour une histoire de la logique*; *Phénoménologies et langues formulaires*.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON is Professor of French at the University of Nottingham, specialising in contemporary French thought and the philosophy of technology. He is the author of *System and Writing in the Philosophy of Jacques Derrida*; *Jacques Derrida: The Scene of Writing and Claude Lévi-Strauss: The Formative Years*. He is a member of the editorial board of *Paragrap: A Journal of Modern Critical Theory* and a founding member of the Science Technology Culture Research Group at Nottingham.

DENIS KAMBOUCHNER is Professor of Philosophy at the University Paris-I Panthéon Sorbonne. As a historian of early modern philosophy, he is the author of *L'Homme des passions. Commentaires sur Descartes* and *Les*

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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*.

FRÉDÉRIC KECK is Chargé de Recherches at the CNRS in Paris. He works as a member of the Groupe de Sociologie Politique et Morale, an interdisciplinary laboratory in the social sciences combining theoretical questions with empirical studies. Frédéric Keck has conducted research on the relations between philosophy and the social sciences in the French context (Comte, Lévy-Bruhl, Lévi-Strauss), has translated Paul Rabinow's *French DNA* into French, and is currently beginning a research project on food safety raising contemporary questions on a classical anthropological theme. He has published two books on Lévi-Strauss (2004, 2005) and one on Lévy-Bruhl (2008).

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 transcendantale 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).