



Public Lecture by Daniel Everett

Don't Sleep, There Are Snakes: Life and Language in the Amazonian Jungle

Di 06. März 2018, 18:30 Uhr
Hörsaal C1, Campus Uni Wien,
Hof 2, Eintritt frei, ohne Anmeldung,
Vortrag in englischer Sprache,
Infos zum Event unter khaled.hakami@univie.ac.at



For more than 30 years Daniel Everett has lived and worked with the Pirahã, a tribe of Amazonian Indians in central Brazil. In 1977 he arrived there with his wife and three young children, hoping to convert the people to Christianity. The Pirahã were then living as hunter gatherers, they had no personal property, no social hierarchy, no concept of war and no counting system. Everett very soon came to realize that their values and perspectives did not support the basic teachings of the Bible or the very idea of faith in something unseen. He became skeptical of his own beliefs, eventually turning atheist. Instead, Everett became fascinated by the Pirahã language and its cultural implications, devoting his life to the science of linguistics. Over the years he studied the languages and cultures of nearly 20 Amazonian societies.

"I've learned so much from the Pirahã over the years. But this is perhaps my favorite lesson. Sure, life is hard and there is plenty of danger. And it might make us lose some sleep from time to time. But enjoy it. Life goes on."