



# WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

11.05.2022, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

## Grażyna Kubica-Heller (Jagiellonian University Kraków)

### Intersubjectivity of Siberian Ethnography of Maria Czaplicka (1916) and Its Recent Artistic Representation.



Grażyna Kubica-Heller is an Associate Professor of Social Anthropology in the Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków.

One of her research areas is the history of anthropology. She coedited the volume *Malinowski — Between Two Worlds* (Cambridge University Press, 1988).

She authored the introduction and annotations of the full version of Malinowski's diaries in their original language: *Dziennik w ścisłym znaczeniu tego wyrazu* (2002). Kubica-Heller has recently published an anthropological biography of another Polish-British anthropologist, Maria Czaplicka. At present she is carrying out a project "Written with the other hand" - literary ethnographic writing and its Polish specificity".

Another research area is connected with her fieldwork, historical research and autoethnography in Polish Teschen Silesia, her home region. She has also been involved in women's oral history projects in Ukraine and Teschen Silesia and is a co-author of oral-history films. She is currently working on a book about Lutheran deaconesses-nurses, family memory and unwanted German heritage in former Austrian Silesia.

#### kommende Termine

18.05.2022 **Agnieszka Pasieka**

*Fascisms of our Time.*

25.05.2022 **Veronika Siegl**

*When Birth and Death Coalesce: Prenatal Medicine, Pregnancy Termination and Unborn Life.*

The Polish-British anthropologist Maria Czaplicka (1884-1921) organised and led the Yenisei Expedition (1914-1915) to study the Evenk (Tungus) in the vast territory between the Yenisei and Lena rivers, which aimed at collecting ethnographic data, gathering collections for museums, and making anthropometric measurements. Czaplicka wrote several academic articles using ethnographic data collected during the research, published her travelogue *My Siberian Year* (1916), and a series of magazine articles. Her travelogue can be treated as a reflexive ethnography, in which one can find anthropological issues that were rarely addressed by contemporary anthropological monographs, such as: the everyday experience of fieldwork, the role of local collaborators (Siberians, Aborigines and political exiles), and the anthropologist's relations with indigenous people. Czaplicka's legacy inspires contemporary questions about the intersubjective experience of fieldwork. If her strong authorial "I" is always present, it actually serves to highlight her engaging in telling stories to her hosts in exchange for theirs, her following the "natives", staying with them, establishing a good rapport by entertaining them, and only later gathering ethnographic material, measurements and photographs. Engaging and evocative, but also informative, sometimes educational, her writings reveal intensive tones in spite of the extensive nature of her expeditionary survey. Czaplicka's ethnographic praxis may be reassessed today as sensitive if not visionary.

The presentation will be concluded with a fragment of a film by Anna Baumgart, a Polish post-conceptual artist and a filmmaker, "Michikha is not afraid of airplanes" (2019). It is about Czaplicka and her Tungus guide, and tells, according to the artist, "a universal story about power relations influencing how we view the world".