Culture, Indigenous Food and the Sublingual

Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 1:23 PM

From: shashwat shukla <shashwat80@gmail.com>

Dear Louise,

The use of symbols in indigenous psychology is one of the interesting areas of research and study. Various symbols are combined together to elevate a sensual experience into a spiritual awe. One such powerful and primal symbol is food. In India there is a post modern renaissance of traditional crops after decades of modernization based on a colonial western model. The neuro biological health benefits of such indigenous cultivation practices have been brought to the forefront. However the philosophical and the existential aspects of the rituals associated with such cultivation practices is slowly emerging. It is not an alignment of stars, that these cultivation practices used certain specific rituals along with the factual and grounded aspects of cultivation. The rituals were like an Jungian archetype which had emerged from the interaction of demography and physical geography of a land mass. Areas which were able to retain these rituals were also able to sustain some of the traditional crops such as millets. To explore how culture has allowed the survival of milltes in India please follow the link:

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/food/culture-has-helped-millets-survive-61730

regards, Shashwat

From: Bond, Michael [MM]

Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 8:44 PM

I recently sent my class of [mostly Mainland] graduate students into Chung King Mansion, a redoubt of South Asian culture in HK: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chungking Mansions

In asking about S. Asians eating with their hands, some of the groups discovered the significance of each of the five fingers in Ayurvedic teachings about body-spirit interrelationships: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayurveda

This was the first time in many years of such class projects that I was learning about such culture-specific beliefs. Fascinating!

Michael

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From: Fathali Moghaddam

Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 8:59 PM

Michael - absolutely fascinating! Thank you for sharing. Ali

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From: Richard A. Shweder

Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 9:54 PM

Hi Michael and Ali,

I have fond memories of my visit to Chung King Mansions and time spent with Michael on that trip.

More to the point here is a link to a piece on Ayurvedic medicine that I wrote for the New York Times back in 1997. I thought it might interest you.

https://www.nytimes.com/1997/10/26/weekinreview/humoral-sap-ancient-cures-for-open-minds.html

From: Bond, Michael [MM]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 8:18 PM

Ahhhh, a shard of Shweder, delivered with his irreplaceable touch of Mozartian grace and insight. Your article for NYT should really be referenced on the Wikipedia article on Ayurveda: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayurveda

Chinese folks should be reading it, too, so as to appreciate that many cultural traditions yield similar ideas about healing, and that life is better if approached "in good humor", aka "balance".

Ideas about better health always sell regardless of evidence from randomized controlled trials, since when faced with pain, most of us gladly take Pascal's wager.

Michael

From: Kiran Kumar Salagame

Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 11:13 PM

To: <u>iptaskforce@simplelists.com</u>

Subject: Re: IP--Culture, indigenous food and the sublingual

Wow! Great article on Ayurveda by Rick Shweder. I agree with Michael Bond that this article should be included in the Reference list not only of Wikipedia article on Ayurveda even in other research articles. Thank you Sheweder and with warm regards,

Kiran

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From: Richard A. Shweder
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 11:17 PM

Thanks Kiran

Warm regards

Rick