

Ethnopharmacologic Search for Psychoactive Drugs: 50 Years of Research (1967 - 2017)

Dennis McKenna, Editor

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Be so kind as to suspend your beliefs about psychoactive plants like *ayahuasca* and instead consider alternatives: that *ayahuasca* is “an intelligent entity”; “a gift of nature conveying messages from the biosphere”; “a portal to spiritual dimensions”; or “an agent of cognitive shamanic transformation,” in the words of Brazilian Luis Eduardo Luna, director of the Wasiwaska Research Center for the Study of Psychointegrator Plants, and one of the world’s foremost authorities on the *ayahuasca* plant.

Luna was a presenter at the 2017 50th Anniversary Ethnopharmacologic Search for Psychoactive Drugs Symposium, along with nearly twenty other experts in chemistry, botany, anthropology, and ethnopharmacology, all gathered to discuss their ethnopharmacology research and other psychoactive ideas collected over the past fifty years since the first symposium.

Much of their discussion centers around the indigenous peoples of the world who have utilized these miraculous psychedelic fungi and plants (even the skin secretions of frogs and toads) in their cultures and religions. Of course, what’s most exciting is the potential for additional therapeutic discoveries, once the substances are better understood.

This exhaustive, necessary two volume set includes all the papers given at both the 1967 and 2017 symposiums.

MATT SUTHERLAND (September/October 2018)

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