**The human-object interface in the presentification of invisible powers**

Anthropology has always been concerned with uncovering human manipulations behind the power attributed to idols —what Bruno Latour calls the "ethical anti-fetishism" of the humanities. From this perspective, the power of objects thus falls implicitly within the domain of illusion and self-deception, and is considered as a form of human action. Since the late 1980s, however, objects have been at the heart of a dialogue between anthropology and sister disciplines, especially sociology and art history. Alfred Gell (*Art and Agency*, 1998) attributes to objects an intentionality and the ability to act upon reality, while for Bruno Latour ("Une sociologie sans objet? Remarques sur l’interobjectivité", 1994), objects can no longer be seen as mere "projection screens" for our beliefs or our social life; they must be included as agents (*actants*) in our lives, on a par with humans.

This workshop will explore the interface between humans and objects in situations where invisible powers are made present, with special (but not exclusive) attention to possession and shamanic contexts. These situations and processes of presentification are indeed unique in that they result in human beings becoming the "objects" of invisible powers. What are the relationships that the officiating priests, the shamans or the possessed persons, as well as the participants have with the objects involved in the rite, or with the “objectified” beings? How are the various channels of mediation between objects and human beings created? Instruments of worship, divination tools, idols, musical instruments, costumes and masks will be described with a view to understanding how they are "animated", and how they produce effects in these ritual situations in such arenas as emotion, healing and purification.