

## Conference

# “Human relations are not soluble in morality”

**Tuesday February 7th 2012**

At 6 :00pm

Amphitheatre Simone Weil  
*5 allée Jacques Berque, Nantes*

**By François Flahault**

emeritus director of research at  
the National Centre for Scientific  
Research (CNRS), a member of  
the editorial board of the journal  
*L'Homme* and member of the  
AFEP (French Association of  
Political Economy)

## ***Biographical elements***

**François Flahault** is emeritus director of research at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), a member of the editorial board of the journal *L'Homme* and member of the AFEP (French Association of Political Economy).

After studying philosophy, he has engaged in social science research, especially on European folk tales. He taught in the Department of Psychoanalysis of Paris VIII, at the Faculty of Clinical Sciences of Paris VII and the International College of Philosophy.

Believing that philosophy must confront its Eurocentric prejudices, he looks at biases that gave its special character to Western thought. He backs this up with scientific knowledge that today renew our conception of human beings and society by inviting us to explore the fact that human beings exist in ecosystems and relationships.

He currently hosts the seminar "Anthropology and general philosophy" at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS).

### **Last publications:**

*Le Sentiment d'exister*, Descartes & Cie, 2002.

*Le paradoxe de Robinson. Capitalisme et société*, Mille et une nuits, 2005.

« *Be yourself !* » *Au-delà de la conception occidentale de l'individu*, Mille et une nuits, 2006.

*Adam et Ève. La condition humaine*, Mille et une nuits, 2007.

*Le Crépuscule de Prométhée. Contribution à une histoire de la démesure humaine*, Mille et une nuits, 2008.

*Où est passé le bien commun ?* Mille et une nuits, 2011.

## ***Theme of the conference***

« According to the modern Western conception of the individual, each individual determines his relations with others, either for economic reasons toward which he tends or for moral ends to which his is folding. Opposing the domination of the economy to the requirements of morality does not question the assumption that the individual is logically prior to its relations with others.

But the state of knowledge concerning, particularly, the origin of human societies and development of infants, led to a radical critique of this assumption or that belief. Hence the thesis to be presented:

- 1, the psychic existence of individuals is dependent on the ecosystem and social relationship in which they are; the very being of each is inseparable from his way of being with others;
- 2, all human relationships include, usually implicitly, issues of more-being or less-being;
- 3, the desire to exist is exerted, for the most part, without the knowledge of those concerned and with more force than moral requirement;
- 4, the forms of more-being or less-being are linked to objects, to collective representations and institutions specific to the cultural ecosystem in which everyone lives; in these conditions, even if a moral universal requirement is necessary in principle, it cannot overcome the habits and ways of being commonly accepted. "

François Flahault