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lecture

General anthropology, between biology and human sciences

Tuesday 28th October 2014

at 6.00pm

Simone WEIL amphitheater
5, allée Jacques Berque, Nantes

by

François FLAHAULT

philosopher and anthropologist
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François FLAHAULT is emeritus research director at the CNRS and member of the editorial board of the magazine *L'Homme*.

After a career in philosophy, he started a research in the humanities. He worked on European folk tales (*La Pensée des contes*, 2002 ; « *Be yourself !* », 2006), as well as the tales of Andersen. He taught at the Department of Psychoanalysis at the University of Paris VIII, at the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, University of Paris VII and the International College of Philosophy. He currently leads the "General Anthropology and Philosophy" seminar at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS).

Aware that Eurocentrism of philosophy constitutes a serious handicap, François Flahault strives to unearth biases that have given its specific nature to Western Thought. By building his research on scientific knowledge which is today renewing our conception of man and society, his research invites us to explore the fact that a human being exists in and through social relational and cultural ecosystems.

Theme

The biological sciences are now in a better position than the humanities to make proposals in general anthropology. Given the situation of the human sciences and society fragmented by specialization, biological sciences are taking advantage of a greater synergy and their status of the "hard sciences." Confronted to this conquering attitude, the humanities are tempted to adopt a defensive strategy. Result: while the question is essential, the articulation between biology and humanities is not sufficiently studied.

It is possible to make progress on this issue by taking advantage of different research carried out in these two key areas. François FLAHAULT proposes to focus on the following five questions:

- 1 - The development of joint attention and its consequences.
- 2 - The basics of self-awareness, but also neurological relational awareness.
- 3 - Pleasure and pain for vertebrates to humans: continuity and qualitative differences.
- 4 - At what functions satisfy human cultures?
- 5 - Information Theory, genetics and functioning of language.