

## **Planning, Ritual and „standing by“: Sources of Uncertainty and Practices of its Management**

Anthropological and sociological analyses (especially in the field of medicine) nowadays conceive uncertainty to be a fundamental feature of the existence (Kleinman 2006, Jackson 1998) rather than something rare. People do manage uncertainty routinely by both ideally conceivable ways: by a minute planning as well as by treating uncertainty as something inevitable and thus being ready for encountering possible fails. Both approaches have different practical consequences and both are being combined together.

The lecture will focus on the sources of uncertainty during the preparation of an improvised contemporary dance performance. In this context the practices usually referred to as “magic” and “ritual” are being employed alongside the planning, structuring the performance and using tested techniques of handling issues in dance improvisation. It is interesting that the use of magic and ritual is being reported alike in cases of managing uncertainties related to chronic illness by the sufferers (Viebecke - Jenkins - Jensen 2005, Reynolds White 2005).

This in itself would not be surprising. But the analysis of the use of these practices in dance casts new light on their meaning. The empirical data suggest that crucial aspect of the pragmatic efficiency of these practices lies in their ability to build an experience of an intense emotional sharing of the burden of uncertainty in the situation.

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Is an assistant professor at the Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University. In the past he addressed the question of what aspects of modernity made acculturation of Indian traditions in the Czech society possible as a mass phenomenon. Recently he has moved towards more detailed studies of social ordering inspired by ethnomethodology and actor-network-theory and researched this way contemporary dance improvisation. Nowadays he works on a publication of results in the book with a working title *Managing Uncertainty: The Belief in Modern Society*. He was a co-author in the book *The Relational Dynamics of Enchantment and Sacralization: Changing the Terms of the Religion Versus Secularity Debate*.

The lecture will take place on May 9, Thursday at 12.00 in room 324, Jonavos str 66.