

KLAUS-PETER KÖPPING

Ludic Practices of Personhood in Japan

Zur Person

After reading in Law, Linguistics, Japanology and Sociology, he received his doctorate in the field of social anthropology (ethnology) at the university of Cologne for a dissertation on millenarian and nativistic religious movements in modern Japan on the basis of his field-research from 1966-1969. From 1969–1972 appointment to Associate Professorship in Fullerton, California, in 1972 to Senior Lecturer and Reader at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; from 1984-1991 Foundation chair (Baldwin Spencer Chair of Anthropology) at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Since 1991 Professor at the Institute of Ethnology, University of Heidelberg, Germany. Last appointment after emeritus status in 2005, Visiting Professor at Goldsmiths College, London in charge of Postcolonial Studies and Postgraduate Advisor at the Centre of Cultural Studies (2005-2007). Since 2007 Fellow at the Free University of Berlin, International Collegiate Programme on „Interweaving Cultures“.

Main research focus on Japan and on modernization theories, religious anthropology, theories of myth analysis, shamanism and ritual/festive practices and on millenarian, nativistic and hybrid cultural movements, on surrealism (in particular Bataille) and the anthropology of art and aesthetics as well as the notion of the ludic as emerging in the performativity of transgressions in ritual and cinematic productions (re-assessing Bakhtin and the Trickster-Figure)

Book publications: (ed.) *The Games of Gods and Man: Essays in Play and Performance* (1997); *Shattering Frames: Transgressions and Transformations in Anthropological Theory and Practice* (2002). „Körpermaschinen und Maschinenkörper“ (2005, with Bettina Papenburg and Christoph Wulf): *Ritual and Identity* (2006 with B. Leistle and M. Rudolph); *Rituals in an Unstable World: Hybridity, Contingency and Embodiment* (2007, with Alexander Henn). Member of the Working Group on Semiotics of Clark University in Luxemburg (2004 and 2005) and Member of the Research Focus on Theatricality in Berlin, funded as Research Group by the German Science Foundation from 1996 to 2002, under the chair of Erika Fischer-Lichte. Co-Founder of the interdisciplinary research focus of the DFG „Ritual Dynamics“ at the Univ. of Heidelberg. Editorial board of *Baessler Archiv* and of *Culture and Psychology*.