

*dans le cadre de son cycle  
de conférences internationales :*



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## **Alienation and Centrality in Subsistence: Salmon in the History of the Itelmens of Kamchatka**

The Itelmen people of Kamchatka peninsula refer to themselves as the people of salmon. They know that their history and their way of living along the rivers of the peninsula are deeply intertwined with the renewing life cycle of the fish that return every year. Yet the usual indicators of cultural centrality, myths, sayings, songs, performance art, do not in any large measure directly refer to the fish factor in their lives.

Instead, salmon seem to be the background, reflected in all aspects of traditional life, from dog keeping to hunting to berry picking. Salmon are also now the basis of the shadow economy of contemporary life. Fading in abundance, salmon's reflective existence is becoming a shadow existence. Salmon are life and salmon are now a political problem of subsistence and identity. This paper addresses the question of cultural and symbolic centrality from the perspective of how, when and where salmon have registered and continue to register in people's lives in Kamchatka.

**vendredi 25 novembre – 14 h - 16 h**

salle du conseil, 4<sup>e</sup> étage

Maison René-Ginouvès, archéologie et ethnologie



*conférence en anglais  
ouvert à tous*