

**Visiting Scholar: Raluca Nagy**

Centre de Recherches en Ethnologie Européenne, Université Libre de Bruxelles

**Host: Maciej Sekerdej**

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**Report on the Visiting Lecture**

The visiting lecture took place at the department where Maciek Sekerdej is associated for the moment, namely “Departamento Psicología Social y Metodología”, University of the Basque Country in San Sebastian, Spain, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2004.

The topic of the lecture was *The Representation of Tradition*. This theme is strongly linked to my Ph.D research and the presentation helped me put some concepts and ideas in order.

In certain places where anthropologists do research, avoiding the problem of tradition might be difficult; but how far can this avoiding go? The problem is that like many other scientific concepts, “tradition” is both a common sense and a scientific category. Through this presentation I tried to browse some approaches concerning tradition and its re-invention and new understanding as it appears in works of Hobsbawm, Linnekin or Handler.

The main point is that tradition is significant for human life; it consists in values “established” by ancestors but constantly reviewed throughout time, in an active process. Doing something because it is traditional means already reinterpreting it, and so changing it.

The lecture included a short presentation of my fieldwork and the way it links with this conceptual part concerning tradition.