



# “The Therapeutic Potential of Ayahuasca for the Treatment of Mental Health Challenges”

Speaker:

Anja Loizaga-Velder, Dr.sc.hum, Dilp.Psych.  
Adjunct Professor, National Autonomous University of Mexico  
Director of Research, Nierika Institute for Intercultural Medicine

**Tuesday, October 8th, 2019**

**6:00 PM until 7:30 PM**

Cohen Auditorium, Yale Child Study Center  
230 S. Frontage Road, New Haven  
Directions here: <http://tiny.cc/w6jodz>

This lecture will discuss the therapeutic potential of ayahuasca in the treatment of mental health problems based on an in-depth literature review of clinical perspectives, observational research on the use of ayahuasca for the treatment of substance use and eating disorders, and over a decade of psychotherapeutic work involving preparation and integration of ayahuasca experiences in traditional shamanic and intercultural settings. Dr Loizaga-Velder will specifically explore the therapeutic mechanisms of well-guided ayahuasca experiences for psychotherapeutic change in mental health challenges such as addictions, eating disorders, trauma, grief, and treatment resistant depression. She will also address the importance of setting, the value of complementary psychotherapeutic work, and other important factors for successful therapeutic outcomes. Finally, experiences working with patients who have suffered trauma from inappropriate Ayahuasca use will be shared.

*Dr. Anja Loizaga-Velder is a German-Mexican clinical psychologist and psychotherapist, who has been investigating the therapeutic potential of the ritual use of psychedelic plants for over 25 years, in collaboration with indigenous healers. She earned a PhD degree in Medical Psychology from Heidelberg University in Germany with a doctoral dissertation on: The therapeutic uses of ayahuasca in addiction treatment. She is founding member and director of research and psychotherapy of the Nierika Institute for intercultural Medicine and is adjunct professor and researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, where she researches the therapeutic potential of psychedelics in intercultural therapeutic settings.*

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RVSP by Sunday, October 4th, 2019: <https://forms.gle/fNDRPriPT5i95dWh9>