

SEMINAIRE DU JEUDI

Jeudi 7 avril 2016, de 11h30 à 12h30

IMéRA – Institut d'études avancées d'AMU

Salle de conférences, Maison des astronomes

2 place Le Verrier, 13004 Marseille

ENTREE LIBRE

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**EUROPEAN NEOLITHIC HOUSE
AND CONTEMPORANEOUS NEO-GUINEAN HOUSE.
TOWARD A MATERIAL CULTURE THEORY**

The study of domestic dwellings, archaeological as well as ethnographical, gives us the opportunity to grasp the logical structure which underlies the process of transformation of a architectural tradition; and, one step further the reproduction and transformation of a culture, and eventually to evaluate its potential persistence, its potential *durée*.

The comparison between several traditions (European Neolithic, Anga groups of Neo-Guinean Highlands) allows us to extract the schema (the structuration) underlying every architectural tradition; i.e. the articulation between cultural norms, their variation and contingent differentiations which underlies any domestic dwellings.

Since there is a correspondence between the structuration of the dwelling and the structuration of the collective representations which underline each culture, it becomes possible (through the study of domestic architecture) to measure the relative importance of the terms which describe this structuration. As each of these terms relates to a greater or lesser degree of stability, this allows us to measure — at the level of the cultural “system” — the relationship between the factors contributing to stability (cultural norms) and those relating to instability (individual expressions and contingent adaptations). In other words, this allows us to investigate the relationship between sustainability and resilience, and presents us with one avenue to evaluate the logic which is responsible for the reproduction of a cultural system, as well as the potential life-span of its identity.