



Sachamama Center for Biocultural Regeneration (SCBR)



FURTHER INFORMATION

Dates

July 1-August 11, 2017

August 12 to 26 optional forest retreat with focus on Amazonian medicinal plants

Levels

Undergraduate students; MA students & Activists

Place

Sachamama Center for Biocultural Regeneration (SCBR), Lamas, Department of San Martin, Peru

Offering in the Community of Shukshuyaku,



Cultivating in the Chakra -Huerto in Shukshuyaku



SUMMER PROGRAM

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY IN THE PERUVIAN UPPER AMAZON

The program has two parts:

The first 6 weeks consists of three weekly morning seminars with readings and discussions focusing on the local ecological situation, the regeneration of the rain forest, food sovereignty and climate mitigation, indigenous traditions/spirituality as well as more theoretical issues of a post Cartesian/Newtonian paradigm. Outside of seminar participants will learn how to regenerate the pre-Columbian anthropogenic Amazonian soil known as Terra Preta do Indio, the most sustainable and fertile soil in the world, containing biochar. Biochar is a type of charcoal made with reduced oxygen that never decomposes in the soil, is porous and thus retains nutrients indefinitely and sequesters greenhouse gases by keeping them in the soil permanently. SCBR collaborates with several indigenous communities in this effort as well as with the local school board and several provincial High Schools.

Additionally, the participants learn to practice another type of agriculture called the Regenerative 4 per 1000 Agriculture, which along with Terra Preta, gives small farmers an alternative to slash and burn agriculture. The 4 per 1000 regenerative agriculture is an initiative of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda launched at the Paris COP 21 Climate Meeting in December 2015. Slash and burn agriculture is practiced widely in the whole Amazon basin by small farmers and contributes both to deforestation as well as to climate warming. Both forms of regenerative agriculture are powerful tools to achieve a solution to the climate crisis as well as the food crisis and deforestation. During this time period participants also stay for a few days and nights in an indigenous community and learn first-hand about their *cosmovision*, spirituality and craft trades.

The last two weeks are optional, involving a retreat in the rain forest with a focus on Amazonian medicinal plants, forest ecology, heart-opening and developing one's capacity for biognosis. SCBR's indigenous staff members will share their vast knowledge about the hundreds of Amazonian medicinal plants, as well as their use, their preparations and the rituals accompanying these.

Through these practices and more, participants experientially learn to relate to the earth as a Being – a Thou - with many different aspects rather than as an insentient, mechanical, natural resource there exclusively for satisfying some human need.

Those participants wishing to add readings and writing to this program can work individually with Professor Appfel-Marglin to identify relevant readings and help with writing if that is desired.

Farming for food sovereignty



Course Faculty

Frédérique Appfel-Marglin, PhD is Professor Emerita, Dpt. of Anthropology at Smith She founded SCBR in the Peruvian High Amazon in 2009 which she directs. (fmarglin@smith.edu; for more information see her biography on the SCBR website:

www.centrosachamama.org/sachamamain/

Useful Links

[Click here](#) for the SCBR web site in English (also in Spanish and French or go to:

<http://www.centrosachamama.org/sachamamain/>

[Click here](#) for accommodation in Casa la Sangapilla or go to:

<http://www.casasangapilla.com/sangapillain/>

[Click here](#) for SCBR 2015 documentary "Re-Weaving the Web: Amazonian Dark Earth"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1eLqmodalM>



This program is focused on Integral Ecology in two senses:

1. In the sense expounded by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si* where the moral forces of concern focus both on the environment and people, or in other words both on Nature and on Culture. The term 'integral ecology' has also been adopted by the FORE (Forum on Ecology and Religion at Yale University) group drawing on Thomas Berry's early use of the term. The term 'biocultural' in the name of the non-profit *Sachamama Center for Biocultural Regeneration* conveys this integration between Nature and Culture not only in an ethical sense but also in an ontological as well as epistemological sense: nature and culture are ontologically not separate and our manner of knowing them equally integrates our human concepts/cosmovisions with what we attempt to know as the quantum mechanics of physicist Niels Bohr has shown and which more recently has been shown to exist at the macro level as well.

2. The term Integral Ecology is also used in a pedagogical sense in which the process of learning aims to integrate the mind with the heart, the spirit, the body and beyond the greater Earth body.

Fees for the six weeks program:

\$2,500.00 per person ;

Fees for the additional two weeks:

from August 12 to August 26, is an additional **\$835.00** per person.

These fees include room and board; local course related transport to visited communities; tuition to SCBR and instructors. For the additional two weeks it includes a stay in our rain forest retreat and instruction by its indigenous staff. Participants are responsible for expenses incurred during their free days, although SCBR will provide a picnic lunch as well as breakfast and dinner on the weekly free days. This cost does NOT cover international air travel to and from Peru or to the city of Tarapoto where the nearest airport is located.

To reach Tarapoto in the department of San Martin, you take a flight to Lima (Peru's capital), then a flight to Tarapoto (one hour flight; there are three airlines making daily flights Lima-Tarapoto-Lima) or a bus ride from Lima to Tarapoto (about 28 hours). SCBR will pick up students at the Tarapoto airport for the half hour ride to Lamas.

Application Procedure

One letter of recommendation from a professor or mentor who knows the participant well. Send to fmarglin@smith.edu. Send a brief statement about yourself, your interest in this internship, background to Prof. F. Appfel-Marglin at: fmarglin@smith.edu ; If possible state which of these activities are most appealing to you and whether you are interested in guided readings and writing. Evaluate your level of Spanish if any. Deadline: March 31, 2017. Non-refundable deposit of \$ 300 due on April 15, 2017. (payment information will be forwarded after applicants have been selected) Full payment due on April 24, 2017.

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