The Medical Anthropology Forum presents

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Global Mental Therapy

There is a kind of global mental therapy, which has been used by virtually everyone, in every culture and during all periods of human history. It is called “ritual.” But the therapeutic aspects of healing rituals have never been adequately investigated by psychology and psychiatry, nor are these disciplines sufficiently aware of the degree to which their own practices are ritualized. What explains this lack of interest in what is likely the most ubiquitous type of global mental therapy? Why does the topic remain so dreadfully under-researched? Can “rituals” be effective in treating mental suffering, and if so, how? Drawing on several decades of ethnographic research on ritual healing in Asia, Africa, and Europe, I suggest a number of provisional answers to these questions.

All are cordially invited

Tuesday, January 21
CATS, Room 010.01.05

17:15–18:45