

## **Interdisciplinary perspectives of Ayahuasca**

**By:** Professor Dr. Luis Fernando Tófoli, MD

“The *Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Ayahuasca* course is an initiative from the research group ICARO – Interdisciplinary Cooperation on Ayahuasca Research and Outreach – coordinated by me, Luís Fernando Tófoli. The course’s second edition counted with twelve participants from six countries: Colombia, United States, Italy, Norway, Chile and Brazil. The participant group was comprised by four medical students, two recently-graduated doctors, one Psychiatry second-year resident and four researchers who have already worked on the field of Neuroscience or Anthropology. The work was conducted by an interdisciplinary team composed by Brazilian instructors and from two other countries, Germany and Estonia. Three of the instructors this year participated as students last year. The German facilitator is now a post-graduation student at the School of Medical Sciences (SMS) and the Estonian one is now involved with scientific production at the ICARO group. This demonstrates that the project is generating long term products. Considering 2017 and 2018, we’ve already had the participation of students from the following countries: Germany, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Colombia, United States, Estonia, Netherlands, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom and Sweden.

Regarding the 2018 edition, we take it as a success. The course, based on active learning methodology resources, allowed a free idea circulation between participants from various areas and different backgrounds about the theme, generating, beyond the knowledge enrichment and expressed satisfaction with the course, an *esprit de corps* that facilitates a generation of new research projects (at least one new project was envisioned during this 2018 version of our Winter School). The participants emphasized how they learned a lot during the course, as well as complimented the teaching methodology and the interdisciplinary approach, which covered from neurosciences to botany, from human sciences to psychometrics, from analytical chemistry to the ayahuasca therapeutical potentials, and other items. We’re really happy with the result and are hoping to repeat this again in 2019.”

### **WS-2018**

*Interdisciplinary perspectives of Ayahuasca* participating students:

Aldana Valero P. Juan – Colombia National University, Colombia.

Christopher Timmermann – Imperial College London, United Kingdom.

Ingrid Autran C. Morais Correia – Fortaleza’s University, Brazil.

Laura C. Mejia – Colombia National University, Colombia.

Marcelo Parra – UNICAMP (Campinas State University), Brazil.

Martin Bjerke Draganov – Ringerike and Diakonhjemmet hospitals sykehus, Norway.

Olivia R. Marcus. – University of Connecticut, United States of America.

Perez M. Daniel – Colombia National University, Colombia.

Piera Talin – Amsterdam University, Netherlands.

Valenzuela A. Gaviota – Colombia National University, Colombia.

Zachary Levine – Duke University, United States of America.