

Hearing Voices Across Cultures: From the Voice of God to the Voices of Psychosis presented by

Dr. Tanya Luhrmann, Anthropology Department, Stanford University

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 7:00pm – 9:00pm Cubberley Community Center, Room H-1, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

This talk draws from many interviews with different types of voice hearers from all over the world, from those diagnosed with psychosis to those who seek to have auditory and quasi-auditory experiences (e.g. charismatic Christians, people who create "tulpas"). The discussion will explore the wide range of voice hearing phenomena as observed through different patterns of experience, training/education, cultural contexts/practices, and the lived experience of the subjects. Professor Luhrmann is one of the world's leading researchers on hearing voices across cultures. Her presentation aims to illuminate the many facets of the common human experience we call "hearing voices."

Tanya Marie Luhrmann is the Watkins University Professor in the Stanford Anthropology Department. In general, her work focuses on the way that objects without material presence come to seem real to people, and the way that ideas about the mind affect mental experience. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003 and received a John Guggenheim Fellowship award in 2007. When God Talks Back was named a NYT Notable Book of the Year and a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year. Of Two Minds was widely acclaimed and widely reviewed. Her new book, Our Most Troubling Madness: Schizophrenia and Culture, will be published by the University of California Press in 2016. She has worked with people with psychosis for nearly twenty years.