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**Domestic Offerings in Bali (Indonesia)
as the anchoring point of Balinese Ceremonial Coherence**

PhD Abstract (Nanterre University, Paris, 2015)

The daily offering rituals, small ceremonies integrated into the daily lives of most Balinese families, allowed me, through their thorough analysis and comparison with other ritual and non-ritual levels of Balinese culture, to gain a better understanding of some basic structuring principles of Balinese ritual life.

The Balinese domestic space is a unit that is structured by Balinese culture's central organising principles, and it is also the knot that unites these principles and hence allows their transmission and maintenance. An essential part of what constitutes Balinese culture is anchored into the domestic unit, and brought into attention by daily rituals. It is the case with the hierarchical oppositions of *high* and *low* and the hierarchised cardinal directions, that are reflected even in non-ritual practice like daily orientation or the position in which people sleep. The homology between the microcosm of the body and the microcosm of Bali (or the Universe as a whole) is mediated through the microcosm of the domestic space. The daily domestic offerings create a specific atmosphere that presupposes the attention of invisible entities. The principle of ancestrality, the base through which Balinese are connected with a large series of social groups and even to the island, is also anchored into the domestic space through the ancestor shrine, and the emotional bond connecting the living family members with the deceased ones is also integrated to it through complex funeral rituals. Complex aesthetic style and a specific structure of the offerings can be observed in the small *canang* offerings, and follow structuring principles that can also be observed in larger ceremonies and ceremonial dances.

This exploration reveals a very rich and complex ritual life lead in an urban setting by ordinary respectable people who are neither religious professionals nor intellectuals and often work in tourism. The Balinese domestic space and the offering rituals conducted there appear as important anchoring points of Balinese ceremonial coherence, contributing to the perpetuation of Balinese culture even in the presence of an important international tourism.