



The Author

Eike Hinz, born in 1945 in Goslar/Harz (Germany), studied Ancient American Languages and Cultures, Ethnology and General Linguistics, and, in addition, Philosophy, Sociology, and Psychology at the University of Hamburg (1964-1969). He received his Ph.D. in 1969 (1970) and spent one and a half years as a Visiting Scholar at the University of California at Irvine on the basis of a 'Habilitation' grant from the German Science Foundation (1972-74) for the *"Analysis of Aztec Systems of Thought"* (published in German by F. Steiner in 1978) and for Cognitive Anthropology. He received his 'Habilitation' (equivalent to 'Docteur d'État') in 1975 and became a 'Privatdozent' (equivalent to a 'Maître de conférence' or 'Associate Professor'). Since 1977 he has been a life-tenured Professor of Ancient American Languages and Cultures at the University of Hamburg. He participated in the one-month Cognitive Science workshop "Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing" in 1978 at Yale University, New Haven. He did his fieldwork among the Q'anjob'al Maya of Guatemala (1980-1981 and 1983; *"Mistrust leads to Death"*, in German, 2 vols., published by Wayasbah in 1991). In 1991, he took early retirement because of a working accident in Guatemala. He has conducted private studies in Cognitive Neurobiology. He has since lived predominantly in the regions of the Inian Ocean and the Pacific, and in 2005, served as Honorary Research Fellow in Anthropology at the University of Western Australia, Perth. Part of his more theoretical research and experience is summarized in his book *"Outline of a Philosophical Anthropology. Regulators of Freedom: Reciprocity and Self-organization"*, American translation, Books on Demand 2006. In 2009 he started to study the early Swiss Cantonal Assembly. The results were published in 2016 as *"Landsgemeinde und Bundesbriefe"* (Research Gate). A streamlined presentation of his arguments focusing on cogent reinterpretations of key documents and theoretical explanations of the forces and functions of the early Swiss Cantonal Assembly was published as *"The Political Anthropology of Inner Switzerland in the 13th and 14th Centuries. The Struggle for Freedom and Mutuality"* (in English, 2017).

The Book

"Existence and Identity..." was first published in 2008 by BoD but was partially blocked from distribution. The book is based upon my fieldwork (15 months altogether; 1980/81 and vacations 1983-86) in the Q'anjob'al (Kanjobal or Kanhobal) area in the north-western highlands of Guatemala. It covers my collaboration with a diviner who uses the pre-Hispanic 260-day calendar in his consultations. This calendar and the divination system associated with it represent a "prescientific" theory of the order of life. The diviner's consultations constitute a psychosocial therapy in which the existential problems and preoccupations of the clients are interpreted. The resolution of the problem is out-lined and explained by me in theoretical terms. Various ethnographic and anthropological discoveries are highlighted in this book. Contents: I. Introductory chapters: A. Plan of the book: Overview / B. The 260-day calendar in Mesoamerica and divination as a folk theory of action / C. Fieldwork in San Juan Ixcay / D. Ethnographic context / E. The cult of the holy bundle (*Ordenanza*) in San Juan Ixcay. II. Core chapters: 1. Divination and counseling: Terminology, concepts and beliefs as a system / 2. Day-name associations: Cultural themes and basic needs / 3. The analysis of the client's problems / 4. Techniques of interpretation and the derivation of interpretations / 5. Therapy, counsels and psychosocial healing / 6. Reinforcing social identity and social control / 7. Existential domains: Corresponding divination cases and beliefs / 8. An analysis of a complete case / 9. Learning how to participate in consultations (and how to divine) / 10. Theoretical considerations of Q'anjob'al Maya divination and consultation. III. Data appendices. IV. Photographic documentation: Color plates. Glossary. Index. Addendum.

Eike Hinz Q'ANJOB'AL EXISTENCE AND IDENTITY

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Existence and Identity: Reconciliation and Self-organization through Q'anjob'al Maya Divination

Re-creating Social and Subjective Order
in San Juan Ixcay and San Pedro Soloma, Guatemala

