

**Communities of Research, Communities of Practice
Towards a Transformative Transdisciplinarity
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**Poster Section – Abstract Submission
Julia J. Turska, KTI WUR**

Title:

What is the Caipora (to you)? Polyphonic mixed-method ethnography of the Caipora forest being and the process of interpretation in cross-cultural dialogue.

Abstract:

Caipora is a spirit and a forest being, a herdsperson of the wilderness, and a significant agent in the regulation the usage of natural resources. In this empirical philosophy project, we observe the presence and the practices related to the Caipora to reflect on the process of interpretation in cross-cultural dialogue. The ethnographic research presented on the poster describes multiple perspectives on the Caipora narrative, from the members of the traditional fishing community of Siribinha, Bahia, Brazil, to the researchers working in the community (author included). In the study, mixed methods such as participant observation, semi-structured interviews, autoethnography and phenomenological interviews, were used to describe the spirit in a polyphonic manner. Does each perspective and method give insight into a different aspect of the Caipora spirit? Or is the object of consideration different in each account? Can cross-cultural understanding be achieved in the face of ontological radical alterity? While we leave these questions open-ended, the resulting analysis illuminates how the ontological and the embodiment-oriented views on alterity are reflected in competing interpretations of the observed instance of radical cultural difference between Caipora-present and Caipora-absent ontological frameworks.