

**Call for Abstracts for the Special Section on “Ethnobiology of Bats”  
for the *Journal of Ethnobiology*.**



Although elusive due to their mostly nocturnal behaviour, bats have fascinated humans for millennia. From the association of the bat god *Camazotz* to death in Mayan mythology, to being regarded as symbols of good fortune in the Middle-to-Late Qing Dynasty of China, bats have been both feared and celebrated. They have oftentimes been considered as important sources of nourishment and guano or perceived as vermin and prosecuted. Recently, negative stigmas towards bats have been reinvigorated due to exaggerated representations in the media as a direct threat to human health. As such, assessing the relationships between humans and bats from an ethnobiological perspective becomes timelier than ever, as bats continue to be prosecuted and their roosts destroyed because of their dark reputation and frightening headlines in newspapers worldwide.

Thus, we are seeking papers for a Special Section devoted to the “Ethnobiology of Bats” for *Journal of Ethnobiology*. We invite case studies, reviews, methodological papers, descriptive assessments and experimental studies examining bat-human relationships through an ethnobiological lens. We encourage submissions examining the cultural, symbolic and spiritual values of bats in different corners of the world, including both the cultural ecosystem services that they provide locally (e.g., guano harvesting) and the customary institutions and traditional management practices for the conservation of their habitats and roosting sites (e.g., sacred caves). We welcome case studies highlighting the biocultural place of bats across different spatio-temporal contexts, examining traditional ecological knowledge in relation to bats (e.g., position in local ethno-taxonomies), representations of bats in local folklore (e.g., songs, storytelling) and bat iconography in archaeological sites. We also invite authors to submit articles examining local perceptions and attitudes towards bats in different ethnobiological contexts, as well as highlighting the role of education in shaping (or re-shaping) these attitudes. Finally, papers looking at how demonization of bats by disease-related speculation is eroding the cultural values that different societies have traditionally placed on them are also welcome.

It is our hope that this Special Section will contribute to significantly expand our understanding of human-bat inter-relationships in order improve and optimize long-term bat conservation efforts from local to global scales.

Deadlines: Interested participants should send an abstract of no more than 500 words by Nov 1, 2019 to [adria.baucells@gmail.com](mailto:adria.baucells@gmail.com), [ricardo.nature@gmail.com](mailto:ricardo.nature@gmail.com) and [alvaro.fernandez-llamazares@helsinki.fi](mailto:alvaro.fernandez-llamazares@helsinki.fi). Selected authors will be informed by Nov 15 to prepare a full manuscript for submission to the editors by June, 2020. The aim for publication is early 2021.