



# TOTEMISM and its role for a ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.



**Lic. Samuel Kigen**, PhD-  
Student at the Faculty of  
Theology, University of Vienna

The ecological crisis we are currently experiencing calls upon us to re-think the quality of our relationship with one another and our nature. Therefore to be human can be thought of as an adventure of relationship. The indigenous communities and their beliefs can be of great value to our modern society. One particular kind of relationship between human and nature is Totemism.

Totemism is the belief that a group of blood relatives have special relationship with particular animals, plants and natural phenomena. Nature is given a sacred meaning. This sacredness of nature forms the basic world view of indigenous people and that belief reveals the complex system of connections between human beings and nature.

If someone would like to become a development partner of indigenous communities, it will be necessary to understand the basic world view of these people. Only with that knowledge development seems really sustainable. The presentation revisits the topic of Totemism for an ecologically Sustainable Development.

**Termin: Mo, 18.05.2015, 17:00 Uhr (s.t.)**

**Seminarraum des Instituts für Sicherheits-und**

**Risikowissenschaften (BAR4-01/20),**

**Borkowskigasse 4, 1190 Wien**



Anmeldung erbeten bis 15.05. an:  
[risk@boku.ac.at](mailto:risk@boku.ac.at)