

Newsletter
September 2013



HAGIA
International Academy
for Modern Matriarchal Studies

Since 1986

Direction: Dr. Heide Goettner-Abendroth and Cécile Keller
www.hagia.de

E-mail: akademiehagia@aol.com

1. New book by Heide Goettner-Abenroth in English and new books in German language
2. Lecture tour in Canada and the U.S.
3. Program of Matriarchy Conference in Colombia
4. Fund for Modern Matriarchal Studies

1. New book by Heide Goettner-Abendroth in English

“Matriarchal Societies.
Studies on Indigenous Cultures across the Globe”

Peter Lang Publishing. New York, Fall 2013

Paperback version, 533 pages \$ 49.95

Please send your order to customerservice@plang.com

Bringing the world back into balance means creating equilibrium and peace at every level: between the genders, the generations, different social groups, and different peoples. Over the past decades a new socio-cultural science offering definitive insights for this process has been developed: research on matriarchal societies, known as modern Matriarchal Studies.

Widespread misconceptions about matriarchy notwithstanding, women’s strong position does not mean that matriarchies are women’s autocratic rule. Contrary to this, matriarchal societies are based on gender equality. Their social rules have developed out of thousands of years of experience, and demonstrate a perfectly balanced relationship between women’s and men’s spheres of action. All political decisions are reached through consensus among community members, and insightful, thoroughly worked out principles and social guidelines ensure that unanimity will eventually be achieved on each issue. The resulting social structure is non-violent, and enables a good life for all.

This book is the mainwork on modern Matriarchal Studies. It gives the philosophical and theoretical foundation of this new field of knowledge, the matriarchy paradigm of human history and society.

At first the history of research on matriarchy is briefly given, in its various contexts and academic disciplines. It sheds new light on old theories, and re-evaluates newer theories in light of modern Matriarchal Studies. The chapter ends with a brief review of various feminist and indigenous approaches to matriarchy research. They differ fundamentally from traditional matriarchy research, both in their ideological criticism of patriarchy and their liberative context.

In the main part, the complete and detailed new definition of matriarchy, which presents the deep structure of this form of society, is given, a definition which was missing in traditional research on this subject.

Based on a vast case-by-case cross-cultural research, the structures and guidelines that function across all levels of matriarchal societies are elaborated. This has been done by investigating and presenting most of the still existing matriarchal societies across the continents of Asia, South and North America, and Africa, which exhibit a fascinating richness of matriarchal forms and patterns. The focus is not only on the *microstructures*

of matriarchal societies, i. e. the guidelines and customary practices that make up family and clan systems, but also on their *macrostructures*, i.e. the institutions that refer to larger social structures, which can even extend beyond one single matriarchal people to encompass connections of several matriarchal peoples.

Topics include:

Philosophy and Methodology of Modern Matriarchal Studies

- A Critical History of Perspectives on Matriarchy
- Matriarchy in North-Eastern India
- Matriarchal Cults in Nepal
- Ancient Queens Realms, and Group Marriage in Tibet
- Matriarchal Mountain Peoples of China
- Women Shamans in Korea
- The Islands of Japan: Women's Cultures of the South and North
- "Alam Minangkabau" – the world of the Minangkabau in Indonesia
- Matriarchal Patterns in Melanesia
- Pacific Ocean Cultures

- Matriarchal Cultures in South America
- The Spread of Matriarchy to Central America
- North America: Matriarchal Immigrants from the South
- North America: At the Cultural Crossroads of South and North
- Matriarchy in South India
- Ancient Matriarchy in Central Africa
- Matriarchal Queen-Kingship in West Africa
- Matriarchal Pastoral Peoples in North Africa

Voices on the book "Matriarchal Societies"

With the publication of this important book, Heide Goettner-Abendroth's brilliant critical conceptualization of the deep structures shared by matriarchal societies around the world becomes fully available in English. Her theory has developed, not abstractly, but inductively from the analytical investigation of numerous societies by non-indigenous and indigenous researchers. It provides the basis for a full fledged interdisciplinary and cross-cultural field of Matriarchal Studies where previously only isolated studies were possible.

Matriarchal Studies is a deeply political and liberatory field grounded in an understanding that the destructive patriarchal power structures pervasive today are a historically recent development. Scholars of matriarchy, some of whom are members of remaining matriarchal societies, are uncovering and reclaiming cultures created mainly by women. Their research offers support for indigenous peoples' struggles on every continent for land and cultural rights and brings hope to us all that we can build a better world. – *Angela Miles, Professor of Adult Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto.*

If in the millenium of women, future generations look back to find the origin of their peaceful societies, they will find that the work of Heide Goettner Abendroth opened the way. Modern Matriarchal Studies break through patriarchal capitalist ideology, and provide the new/old models for viable ways of life of which our present globalizing market is only a destructive aberration. – *Genevieve Vaughan*, Author of the books *For-Giving, a Feminist Criticism of Exchange and Women and the Gift Economy: A Radically Different Worldview is Possible*, and *Founder of the International Feminists for a Gift Economy*.

For decades, Dr. Heide Goettner-Abendroth has worked as a serious scholar on the deep history and on-going traditions of matriarchy in Europe. Her extensive research has taken her through strong, historical matriarchies, both on her own continent and on other continents, drawing together the research of the most modern, international scholars on matriarchy. Her book now brings to undeniable light the matriarchal alternatives available to humanity. Dr. Goettner-Abendroth should be on the reading list of every Women's Studies program. – *Barbara Alice Mann*, *Ohio Bear Clan Seneca*, Assistant Professor at the Honors College, University of Toledo, Co-director of the *Native American Alliance of Ohio*.

Heide Goettner- Abendroth has devoted her life to the study of matriarchal societies and the development of Modern Matriarchal Studies. This monumental work is presented in this book. As a Western feminist and peace activist this knowledge has transformed almost every facet of my thinking, theorizing and activism as well as my daily life. My work on, among other things, motherhood, sexuality, racism and above all peace and peace building has been significantly altered by Goettner-Abendroth's scholarship. I believe her work offer Western feminist and other progressive scholars as well as social change activists a new, innovative vision of an alternative society - a society of peace and balance, insightful ways to heal the many harms Western civilization brought about, and groundbreaking passages of doing politics, peace building and conflict resolution. – *Erella Shadmi*, *feminist and peace activist and scholar*, *Israel*, *Former Head of Women's Studies Program, Beit Berl College*
Isha L'Isha - Haifa feminist center.

Films in English

“Societies in Balance”

Documentary of the First World Congress on Matriarchal Studies, 2003
By Uschi Madeisky and Gudrun Frank- Wissmann, 84 minutes

“Celebrating the Year of the Earth”

A poetic presentation of the Matriarchal Mystery Festivals at the Academy HAGIA
By Uschi Madeisky and Gudrun Frank-Wissmann, 90 minutes

(The films are available at Academy HAGIA, Email: akademiehagia@aol.com)

New books in German

For those of you who can read German, we would like to announce new books by Heide Goettner-Abendroth in German:

„Am Anfang die Mütter. Matriachale Gesellschaft und Politik als Alternative“
 (“In the Beginning the Mothers. Matriarchal Society and Politics as an Alternative”)
 Kolhammer Verlag 2011, Stuttgart.

This book includes 20 lectures and essays which show the wide range of topics of modern Matriarchal Studies.

„Die Göttin und ihr Heros. Die matriarchalen Religionen in Mythen, Märchen, Dichtung“

(“The Goddess and her Heros. Matriarchal Religion in Myths, Fairy Tales and Medieval Literature”)

This book has become a classic. It was at first published in 1980 and had 11 editions. In 2011, it was published again in a revised and broadened version by the publisher Kohlhammer, Stuttgart.

A new film has been edited in 2011 which gives a portrait of Heide Goettner-Abendroth as a founder of modern Matriarchal Studies.

„Ein Leben für die Matriarchatsforschung“ by Gudrun Frank-Wissmann
 (“A Life dedicated to modern Matriarchal Studies”)

The film includes many interviews with the friends of modern Matriarchal Studies all over the world.

(Books and film are available at Academy HAGIA, Email: akademiehagia@aol.com)

2. Lecture tour in Canada and the U.S. on Matriarchal Studies and Matriarchal Politics by Heide Goettner-Abendroth

Itinerary of the Lecture tour in Canada, USA, and Colombia,
 October/November 2013

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| 1. | October 2-4 | Toronto/Canada | University of Toronto,
Adult Education and Community
Development Program, OISE
Contact: angela.miles@utoronto.ca |
| 2. | October 8 | Toledo/Ohio | University of Toledo,
Dept. of Women and Gender Studies
Ingman Room of the Student Union
7:00-9:00 pm
Contact: sharon.barnes@utoledo.edu |
| 3. | October 12-13 | San Francisco/
California | California Institute for Integral Studies,
Philosophy and Religion Dept.,
Women's Spirituality Program |

- Two days class
4. October 16 Orange County/
California The Goddess Temple
7:00-9:00 pm
 5. October 20 Sebastopol/
California Women's Salon
Contact: jmarler@archaeomythology.org
 6. October 23 Greeley/Colorado University of Northern Colorado,
University Center, Panorama Room
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Contact: joan.shannonmiller@unco.edu
 7. October 25 Boulder/Colorado University of Colorado,
Dept. of Anthropology and
Women and Gender Studies
Hale Sciences Room 230, 4:00-5:50 pm,
Followed by a Reception:
Hale Sciences Room 450.
 8. October 26 Albuquerque/New
Mexico University of New Mexico
Dept. of Anthropology
10:00 am until 5:30 pm
All day seminar
Contact: callirhoedreams@gmail.com
 9. October 28 San Marcos/Texas Texas State University,
Center for Multicultural and Gender
Studies
LBJ Student Center, room 3-14.1
12:30-1:50 pm
Contact: lm64@txstate.edu
 10. November 7-9 Cali, Nashira/
Colombia Conference on Matriarchy
Contact: angela.dolmetsch@gmail.com

3. Matriarchy Conference in Colombia

“Matriarchal Circles”

In Nashira, the Women's Eco-village

Palmira Colombia, November 7-9, 2013

Organized and guided by Dr. Angela Dolmetsch de Cuevas

Welcome words of Rocio Alvarez and Angela Dolmetsch

Keynote speakers: Heide Goettner-Abendroth (Germany)

Genevieve Vaughan (USA)

Bernedette Muthien (South Africa)

Marianne Cardalle (UK)

Magdalena Frey (Austria) Exhibition

Carmaña Navia and Alba Stella Barreto (Colombia)

Cécile Keller (Switzerland)

Nancy Mota (Colombia)

And the Magdala Group, Colombia

4. Fund for Modern Matriarchal Studies

We started this fund as a part of the Association of the Academy HAGIA in order to support modern Matriarchal Studies. It is a challenge to spread this new field of reserach in the international world, because expensive translations in diverse languages have to be done and lecture tours have to be organized.

It is not possible for us to accomplish this by our own financial means. Therefore, we are asking you for donations which would enable us to fulfill these new and exciting tasks.

The account number of the Fund is:

Raiffeisenbank D-94577 Winzer, Passauer Str. 62, Germany

IBAN-Code: DE30 7416 1608 0000 0512 92

BIC-Code : GENODEF 1HBW

We send our kind regards to all of you, wishing plentiful and beautiful days to you in this season of fall.

The directors:

Dr. Heide Goettner-Abendroth and Cécile Keller

