

## **NEWSLETTER 5**

### **Academy HAGIA Program 2023**



## **HAGIA. International Academy for Modern Matriarchal Studies and Matriarchal Spirituality**

Since 1986

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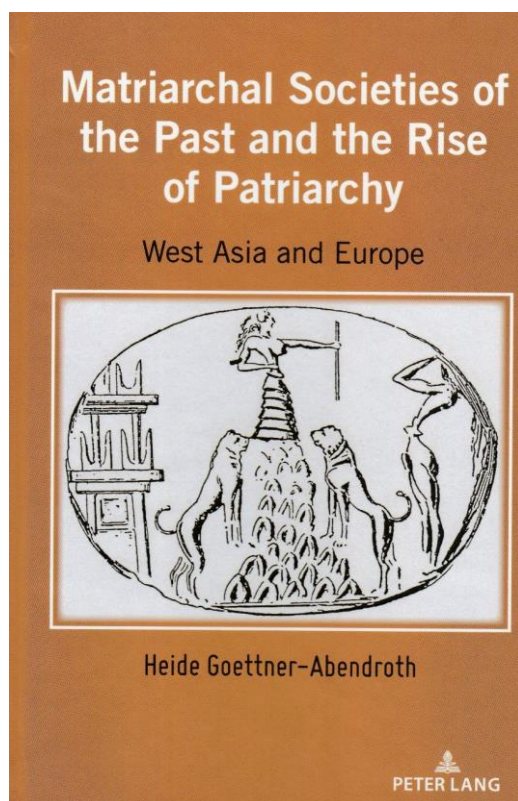
## Special Review in the Attachment

A Critical Review of the book by David Graeber/David Wengrow: *The Dawn of Everything. A New History of Humanity, 2021.*

### 1. New Book by Heide Goettner-Abendroth

*Matriarchal Societies of the Past and the Rise of Patriarchy. West Asia and Europe*

New York, December 2022, Peter Lang



This new book, Heide's second major work on Modern Matriarchal Studies, was published in German in 2019 and is now available in English. In order to write this book, she relied on the detailed knowledge gained from her studies of matriarchal societies that still exist today.

Her aim was to gain greater insight into the history of societies and cultures than what had been achieved to date by archaeologists. Her new book is a serious work based on both earlier archaeological findings and recent discoveries, as is essential in order to avoid speculation. But she is critical of the interpretations provided by conventional archaeology, which are very often patriarchally biased. Her studies of present-day matriarchal societies have helped her to recognize this and to see many of their findings in a different light.

Some clear criticism of ideology was therefore necessary, too.

The book contains some very interesting new evidence on the topic of egalitarian societies in early history, which were women-centred or matriarchal, a fact that's not widely known today. Heide has also visited nearly all the archaeological sites in West Asia and Europe that are included in this book, her travels over three decades giving her the opportunity to see most of them for herself.

#### Some notes on the book

Historiography tends to focus on war; it's concerned about domination, about emperors, kings and other potentates and their expansion of power. As such, it's male history; i.e. the history of the victors. Women don't form part of this history

aside from a few exceptions that, nevertheless, don't alter the patriarchal nature of the narrative. Women and their achievements have been treated as marginal or non-existent by conventional archaeology, as if their practical inventions and the social and cultural patterns they created had never existed.

Consequently, the aim of this book is to help redress this bias, applying an integrating approach in order to *rewrite and rebalance human cultural history*. This provides a new perception, seeing cultural history not only from “above” but also from “below”, the only way to achieve complete understanding.

Above all, it's not simply about the early history of women but rather the history of a very different form of society, *matriarchal society*, with its social, economic and political institutions and its different world view. This form of society was shaped by women and supported by maternal values such as respect for diversity combined with general equality, making it fundamentally *egalitarian*. Such societies have been discovered in early history thanks to thorough research based on archaeological findings.

The emergence of patriarchal patterns is also explained, not through theoretical speculation but again based on archaeological findings. The origins and development of patriarchy differ widely in the various cultural zones of the world, so there's no simple, universal explanatory pattern. This book looks at the emergence of patriarchal patterns in the major cultural areas of West Asia and Europe, as well as the conditions for their subsequent expansion.

#### **Content:**

- The Development of Modern Matriarchal Studies and its Relevance for History
- The new Ideology of "eternal war". Critical Thoughts to early History
- Palaeolithic in West Asia, the Mediterranean, and Europe. The Development of Mother-centred Societies
- Neolithic in West Asia. The Invention of Agriculture and the Development of Matriarchal Societies
- Neolithic in the Mediterranean and Europe. The Unfolding of Matriarchal Societies
- Bronze Age in the Eurasian Steppe. The Origins of Early Patriarchal Societies and the Amazon Question (Female Resistance)
- Bronze Age and Iron Age in West Asia. The Rise of State and Empire
- Bronze Age and Iron Age in South Europe. Late Matriarchal Societies and Increasing Patriarchalization
- Bronze Age and Iron Age in Europe north of the Alps. Matriarchal Elements in a Patriarchal Surrounding

The book's text is further supported by a large number of illustrations.

The book can be ordered at [orders@peterlang.com](mailto:orders@peterlang.com)

## **2. New Intensive Study Course in English, online, 2025-2026**

The aim of the Academy HAGIA Intensive Study Courses is to promote a deep and detailed understanding of matriarchal societies both past and present, as well as to cover the full range of topics included within Modern Matriarchal Studies (see below). It's a high-level course in this field, based on scholarly work. Once participants have completed an Intensive Study Course successfully, they are entitled to work as a "Lecturer on Modern Matriarchal Studies" (Certificate).

The Intensive Study Courses at the Academy HAGIA run for two years, with six teaching modules every year. One teaching module is held every two months, over the course of a weekend: four hours on Saturday and four hours on Sunday, with a 20-minute break.

The Intensive Study Course 2025/2026 is the 9<sup>th</sup> to be organized and taught at the Academy HAGIA. It will begin in January 2025 and the application and enrolment procedures will take place during 2024.

It includes six teaching modules in 2025 and another six teaching modules in 2026; one finalizing module will take place in 2027.

The deadline for application is 31 October 2024.

Bookings can only be accepted for the entire Intensive Study Course; it's not possible to book single teaching modules.

The fee for each teaching module is 180 Euros.

**The following fields of knowledge are covered by the Intensive Study Course:**

- Contemporary matriarchal societies worldwide
- Matriarchal societies in the past
- Matriarchal mythology
- Matriarchal symbolism and art
- Matriarchal medicine
- The rise of patriarchy
- The vision of a new matriarchal society and matriarchal politics today
- Exercises on how to defend Modern Matriarchal Studies (training in good reasoning)

The Intensive Study Course is guided by Dr. Heide Goettner-Abendroth.

The field of Matriarchal Medicine is taught by Cécile Keller (physician).

**See our website:** [www.hagia.de/EN](http://www.hagia.de/EN) (in English)

Key reading list for the Intensive Study Course:

- *Matriarchal Societies. Studies on Indigenous Cultures across the Globe* by Heide Goettner-Abendroth. New York, 2013, Peter Lang (paperback).
- *Matriarchal Societies of the Past and the Rise of Patriarchy. West Asia and Europe*

By Heide Goettner-Abendroth. New York, 2022, Peter Lang (hardcover).

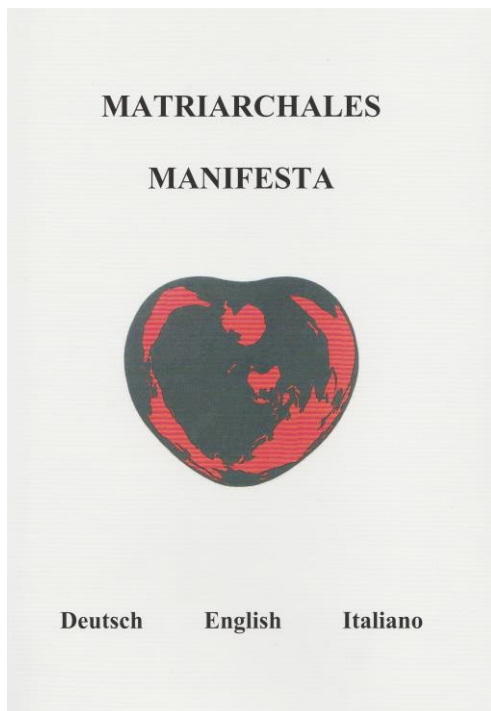
These can be ordered via the publisher [orders@peterlang.com](mailto:orders@peterlang.com) or Amazon.

#### Detailed programme:

If you're seriously interested, please ask for the detailed programme of the 9<sup>th</sup> Intensive Study Course, providing both your email and postal address.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Intensive Study Course in English, online, 2022-2023**, is now running and closed to new applicants. A large number of women and one man from all over the world have been taking part from the beginning, learning about and discussing Modern Matriarchal Studies.

### 3. Matriarchal Manifesta



The Matriarchal Manifesta has been published in *German, English and Italian*, and is now also available in *French, Spanish and Portuguese*. (We call it "Manifesta" because it has been developed by women.)

The Manifesta includes the most important principles of Matriarchal Politics, which are based on Modern Matriarchal Studies. These are also elaborated on and broadened out to a vision of a modern matriarchal society. It's the only political vision created by women which includes all levels of society and also presents a global perspective.

The Manifesta starts from the situation of women worldwide that's researched and published every year by the UN (United Nations Organization), demonstrating the still extreme exploitation of women today. This must come to an end! The last part of the Manifesta provides direct practical guidelines for leaving patriarchy behind and achieving new matriarchal societies.

You can read and download the Manifesta in six languages here: <https://www.hagia.de/en/matriarchy/matriarchal-manifesta/>

It's also available as a small booklet, published by Edition HAGIA. You can order it here: [akademiehagia@aol.com](mailto:akademiehagia@aol.com)

### 4. Conferences and Lectures in 2023

#### 4.1. Conference in Munich, October 2023

After two successful discussion days in Berlin 2021 and Munich 2022, the four women of the MatriForum, Dr. Andrea Fleckinger, Anna Pixner, Martina Engel-Fürstberger and Simone Plaza, are organizing a third event that will take place in Munich on October, 28, 2023.

This year the topic is globalization and life in the regions:

*Global - Regional - Catastrophic.*

*On the ideology of limitless happiness and the human dimension*

Genevieve Vaughan and Dr. Heide Goettner-Abendroth are among the guest speakers.

In the afternoon, an open space will be set up with several discussion circles in order to look at particular issues, examining more thoroughly the possibilities offered by a knowledge of matriarchies and seeking solutions for our present situation.

Time: 28 October 2023, 9 am – 5 pm CET

Contact: <https://matriforum.com/veranstaltungen>

#### 4.2. Lectures (online)

Mexico/U.S.A.:

During 2023, Heide G.A. will give a series of seven teaching sessions on diverse topics related to Modern Matriarchal Studies. She's a guest lecturer at the organization "Morbid Anatomy", which created a book club on her work a year ago. It's possible to take part in single sessions.

Contact: [joanna@astropop.com](mailto:joanna@astropop.com)

Germany:

In 2022, Heide G.A. gave a lecture at the conference of the "Society in Balance" association and will give a second lecture at its annual conference in September 2023, entitled *Ways out of Patriarchy*.

Austria:

In June 2023, she will talk about *Matriarchal Landscape Mythology* at a conference on geomancy in Austria, demonstrating that the roots of geomancy date back to the matriarchal cultures of the Neolithic.

### 5. Reviews of Conferences and Lectures in 2021 and 2022

#### 5.1. Conference in Berlin, 11 and 12 September 2021

The first day of the Berlin conference in 2021 was a brilliant start for the newly founded MatriForum. It was set up by the above-mentioned four women who've all been students of the Academy HAGIA and they decided to organize a day dedicated to the subject of alternative economies.

Among other lecturers, Heide Goettner-Abendroth talked about the matriarchal economy and presented a vision of a new society, contributing to a broader perspective which is necessary for a paradigm shift.

The second part of this conference, organized by Cécile Keller and Academy HAGIA, was a political day dedicated to celebrating Heide's 80th birthday. Throughout her life, she has researched the egalitarian, peaceful patterns of matriarchal societies worldwide and founded Modern Matriarchal Studies through her scholarly work.

Some of her colleagues and friends from several countries were invited to celebrate this day with her. They did so graciously and spoke about their own research as well as the work of Heide, revealing the inspirations and insights it has given them: from Canada, Angela Miles; from Colombia, Angela Dolmetsch; from Finland, Kaarina Kailo; from Italy, Luciana Percovic, Sandra Capri, Nicoletta Cocchi and Luisa Vincinelli; from the U.S., Genevieve Vaughan, Barbara Mann, Joan Marler and Joan Cichon; from Israel, Erella Shadmi; from France, Francesca Rosati Freeman and from Ireland, Mary Condren.

## 5.2. Conference in Munich, October 2022

The MatriForum women organized a second conference in Munich, dedicated to the criticism of social forms in patriarchy and to an alternative way of life in matriarchal societies. Again, Heide G.A. gave a talk, this time about clan and community life in matriarchies, which manage to resolve problems that can never be solved by patriarchal patterns.



In the afternoon, an open space was set up so that participants could talk about their own ideas in several discussion circles.

### **5.3. Big Feminist Conference in Cardiff/U.K., October 2022**

The feminist organisation FILIA, based in London, holds large international conferences every year for women, with participants coming from all over the world.

The organisers became aware of Modern Matriarchal Studies through Heide G.A.'s work and invited us to their conference in Cardiff 2022.

Heide and Andrea Fleckinger lectured on the basic features of matriarchal societies and their talks were complemented by a practical example provided by Angela Dolmetsch, who showed a video of the women's village "Nashira" (Colombia). Cécile Keller also talked about Matriarchal Medicine.

The final event was a workshop on matriarchal politics, where different aspects regarding how to change current patriarchal societies were presented and discussed.



These events focusing on Modern Matriarchal Studies and attended by many women were met with great interest, leading to a desire for further cooperation.

### **5.4. Conference in Zurich, June 2022**

The Discussion Day in Zurich, organized by Christina Schlatter, finally took place after two years of delay due to the COVID pandemic. It was dedicated to the "Rise of Patriarchy" and a highly motivated audience took part.

Firstly, Andrea Fleckinger listed the many theories addressing this topic whilst Heide G.A. presented her explanations for the huge cultural regions of West Asia



and Europe, in which patriarchal patterns came into being in a variety of ways. She provided examples that suggest the origins of patriarchy must be due to different factors in different continents and countries at different times because there's no universal explanation which fits all regions of the world at all times in history.

## 5.5. Lectures (online)

For Heide Goettner-Abendroth, the last few years have been fruitful in terms of lectures and seminars on Modern Matriarchal Studies. Here are a few examples:

### India:

In February 2022, Heide was invited to give a lecture at the R. Tagore University in West Bengal.

### England/U.K.:

On March, 8, 2022, International Women's Day, she gave a lecture in London, organized by the Radical Anthropologists, a critical international group of scholars.

### U.S.A.:

In March 2022, too, she held a workshop on Modern Matriarchal Studies at the "Deep Green Resistance", an alternative association.

In November 2022, she gave a presentation at the annual conference of the Maternal Gift Economy Movement, founded by Genevieve Vaughan.

In March 2023, she presented her new book in English, *Matriarchal Societies of the Past and the Rise of Patriarchy*, at a well-attended salon of the Maternal Gift Economy Movement.

In January 2023, Heide, together with Andrea Fleckinger, held a very well-attended salon on Matriarchal Landscape Mythology at the Association of Women & Mythology (ASWM).

Two lectures on this topic are available at [www.hagia.de](http://www.hagia.de)

See: Matriarchal Landscape Mythology.

## 6. Books and films in English and other languages

### 6.1. Books

The anthropological part of Heide Goettner-Abendroth's magnum opus, in which she presented the matriarchal societies that still exist worldwide (originally in German), has been translated and published in several languages:

#### In English

*Matriarchal Societies. Studies on Indigenous Cultures across the Globe*,  
New York 2012/2013, Peter Lang.

In Italian

*Le Società Matriarcali. Studi sulle Culture Indigene del Mondo*,  
Rome 2014, Venice.

In French

*Les sociétés matriarcales.*  
*Recherches sur les cultures autochtones à travers le monde*  
Paris 2019, des femmes.

Two of her earlier books have been translated into English:

- *The Goddess and her "Heros". Matriarchal Religion in Mythology, Fairy Tales, and Mediaeval Literature.*
- *The Dancing Goddess. Principles of a Matriarchal Aesthetics*

Both books can be read online in their entirety and for free on the website:

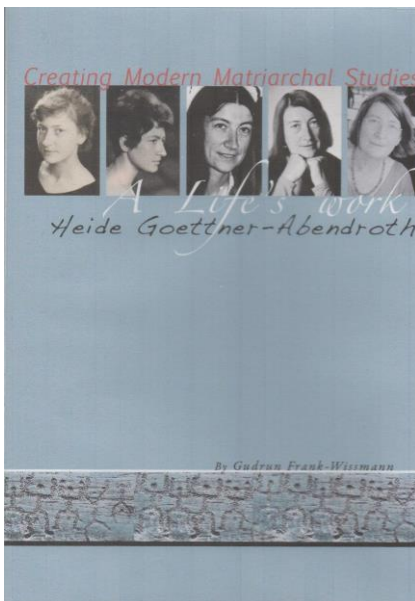
[www.goettner-abendroth.de](http://www.goettner-abendroth.de)

Here is the link:

<https://www.goettner-abendroth.de/en/publications/books/>

## 6.2. Films in English

### *A Life's Work - Heide Goettner-Abendroth*



As the founder of Modern Matriarchal Studies, important phases in Heide Goettner-Abendroth's life are documented in this new film. At the same time, it's a fascinating contemporary record of many voices from all over the world, explaining what Modern Matriarchal Studies means, how it developed and spread.

By Gudrun Frank-Wissmann, 90 minutes, 2021

### *Celebrating the Year of the Earth*

Since the early 1980s, Matriarchal Mystery Festivals have been celebrated at the Academy HAGIA and many women have taken part over the years. A lot of the festivals have been videoed and this film is made up of a rich selection of these recordings. In poetic, evocative images, it shows eight festivals throughout the annual cycle of the seasons of the year.

By Uschi Madeisky and Gudrun Frank-Wissmann, 90 minutes, 2008

***Societies in Balance***

Documentary of the First World Congress on Matriarchal Studies, Luxembourg 2003, under the Matronage of Minister for Women Affairs of Luxembourg, Ms. Marie-José Jacobs.

By Uschi Madeisky and Gudrun Frank-Wissmann, 84 minutes, 2005

All the books and films mentioned can be found on the website:

[www.goettner-abendroth.de](http://www.goettner-abendroth.de)

They are available at the Academy HAGIA: [akademiehagia@aol.com](mailto:akademiehagia@aol.com)

**7. "Matriarchal Studies" Google Group**

In 2005, a listserv dedicated to Modern Matriarchal Studies was created, in which we promote the discussion of this topic and related fields. This is the "Matriarchal Studies" Google Group and it's a closed group.

If you'd like to be included, please send us your email address and a short description of yourself and your particular areas of interests related to Modern Matriarchal Studies.

We will then send you more information and provide you with log-in details.

**8. Association and Fund for Modern Matriarchal Studies****Association of the Academy HAGIA****Membership**

We would like to invite you to become a member of the "Association of the Academy HAGIA". The many activities of the independent Academy HAGIA are only possible thanks to the generous support of the association's members. Each new member is important to us and very welcome.

The minimum annual subscription is 70 Euros.

The Association's account details are:

Germany and EU: Raiffeisenbank D-94577 Winzer, Passauer Str. 62

IBAN: DE30 7416 1608 0000 0512 92

BIC: GENODEF 1HBW

Other countries: please use PayPal.

**The Fund**

We started up this fund as a part of the "Association of the Academy HAGIA" in order to support Modern Matriarchal Studies. It's a challenge to spread this new field of research internationally because expensive translations have to be made into various languages and lecture tours organized.

We would therefore be very grateful for any donations that enable us to continue this work.

The fund's account details are:

Germany and EU: Raiffeisenbank D-94577 Winzer, Passauer Str. 62  
IBAN: DE30 7416 1608 0000 0512 92  
BIC: GENODEF 1HBW

Other countries: please use PayPal.

We send our warmest regards to all of you and wish you a plentiful and happy 2023!

The directors: Dr. Heide Goettner-Abendroth and Cécile Keller