

SOCIETIES IN BALANCE

**Gender Equality in
Matrilineal,
Matrifocal,
Matriarchal Societies**



**World Congress
on Matriarchal Studies
Luxemburg September 5 – 7, 2003**

A new millenium. A new science. A new policy

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(Advance Notice)**

Range of topics

Theory and Policy

Societies Past and Present

Spirituality – Medicine – Arts

The Congress

- The purpose of this World Congress is to initiate and encourage multi-cultural scientific exchange, networking, and collaboration between scholars occupied with non-ideological research on what can be described as matrilineal, matrifocal, and matriarchal societies. While „matrilineal“ and „matrifocal“ are clearly defined anthropological terms, the significance of „matriarchal“ as a specific cultural complex will be explored.
- The knowledge brought to light by a scientific study of „matriarchal cultures“ is not commonly known or accessible to many people. The World Congress will provide the first major forum for exploring the existence of such balanced societies.
- A major intention of the Congress is to foster worldwide awareness and appreciation for the many marginalized and threatened ethnic groups that have preserved matriarchal patterns to the present day.
- Women have always been creators of culture although this great history is often invisible. The Congress celebrates women’s multi-dimensional contributions to culture – past, present and future.

- The relevance of this research will be emphasized in order to generate concrete alternatives and practical solutions toward the creation of societies today in which women are considered equal citizens and their cultural contributions are encouraged and respected.

Patterns of matriarchal societies

- The social order of matriarchal societies is based on intelligent principles cultivated over thousands of years of human experience. These are „societies in balance“ that practice *reciprocal equality* in which every individual, regardless of sex/gender and age, is treated with respect.
- Furthermore, this is a non-violent social order, without the exploitation of humans, animals and nature, in which all living creatures are respected.

Matriarchal Studies

- During the last twenty years, a scientific theory and methodology has been practiced called „Modern Matriarchal Studies“. This new science explores historical, as well as contemporary societies that exhibit features defined as „matriarchal“.
- This methodology uncovers matriarchal cultural roots and recognizes the role of women in the development of human societies. In this way, it creates a new paradigm of research and cultural development.

The scientific researchers

- The women and men of science who will speak at the Congress are coming together for the first time from various nations of Europe, the United States and China.
- Their research focuses on Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and a broad range of world cultures. The invited speakers include:

Veronika Bennholdt-Thomsen, Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, Hélène Claudot-Hawad, Michael Dames, James DeMeo, Kurt Derungs, Shanshan Du, Riane Eisler, Heide Göttner-Abendroth, Isaure Gratacos, Annette Kuhn, Uschi Madeisky, Joan Marler, Carola Meier-Seethaler, Christa Mulack, Ruxian Yan, Peggy R. Sanday, Claudia von Werlhof, and others.

Location: Center of Congress, Hémicycle Room
Luxembourg Congrès
1, rue du Fort Thüngen Luxembourg-Kirchberg

Date/Time: Friday, September 5 all day
Saturday, September 6 all day
Sunday, September 7 all day

Price:

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| 3 days | 80 Euro |
| 2 days | 65 Euro |
| 1 day | 40 Euro |
| half day | 25 Euro |

Tickets available from September 5 at the congress bureau in the Center of Congress

Please request the detailed Congress program from:

„International ACADEMY HAGIA:

Academy for Modern Matriarchal Studies and Matriarchal Spirituality“

Weghof 2 D-94577 Winzer/Germany

Phone & Fax: +49 (0) 8545 / 1245

Internet: www.hagia.de Email: akademieHagia@aol.com

Cover picture: Myriam Thyès. Program of Academy HAGIA 1995

Excursion following the Congress organized by HAGIA ACADEMY:

**THE CULTURE OF THE GODDESS IN THE ALPS.
International Travel in Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland**

This informative travel will lead us to some of the main cultic sites of the matriarchal goddess in four countries of the Alps. Some of the highlights are: Black Madonnas in Germany and Switzerland, the mythic landscape of Lenzburg, the holy mountains of Rigi and Pilatus, the rock carvings of Val Camonica, the garden of menhirs at Yverdon.

Dates: September 15 – 23, 2003

Please request the detailed program