



Laima
ASSOCIAZIONE
CULTURALE

INDIGENOUS PEACE CULTURES CONFERENCE 2016 PATHWAYS OF THE EARTH

March 18-20 2016, Torino

Presentation

Many are the paths that have not been nominated for such a long while that to retrace them now may seem an arduous task. We call upon the earth unto which they open so as to restore them to new life and dignity according to the principles pronounced by Mary Daly in her Quintessence.

For even where western culture defines Earth a Mother and a source of nourishment, a neutral ecological vision yet prevails, detached and anthropocentric, engendered by a scission of Spirit and Matter amongst realms separated by artificial boundaries that seem to defy communication forever. The living matriarchal societies to which Culture Indigene di Pace has been dedicating studies and conferences throughout these past years never forgot to honor the life of the soil that nurtures us, taking care of this subtle surface so that it may continue to regenerate itself and maintain its fertile balance, a result of billions of cells and organisms constantly at work. Communities flourish and thrive where seeds are conserved, and the interconnections between plants animals humans and bacteria are respected and assisted.

How do such societies relate to Nature? How do they perceive and defend the gifts of the earth, the seeds that we have been entrusted with as a common heritage by our ancestors?

And what of the ideas and theories that have been developing in the western world towards a vision that might be more responsible and mature, after thousands of years spent ruthlessly exploiting the immense riches and the very lifeblood of the Earth?

Do we still have the means and the desire to correct the blind and arrogant course we have been taking for so long?

This year's conference is intent to lend a voice not only to indigenous cultures, but to all those who have been nurturing close bonds with the Earth and all of her creatures.

The She-Bear will be Symbol of this event, ancient manifestation of Mother Earth throughout the northern regions of the boreal hemisphere, Primeval Mother devoutly nurturing her offspring, healing wounds, ancient and potent Lady of Animals and Plants, mighty as the star-lit heavens.

We call upon the healing powers of the She-Bear to cleanse our polluted waters and our parched and eroded soil, the modified food we eat, and protect all suffering and endangered plants and animals.

And may she guide us as a Polar Star, redirecting our paths on this earth, our ways of engendering and protecting life, our capacity to listen to animal and plant life, and thus return to create in harmony with the wisdom of Traditions.

PROGRAMME

Friday 18

h18.00

Nadia Stepanova - Visions of a Buryata Shamaness,
documentary by Costanzo Allione and Anna Saudin

This documentary was filmed in 1994 during the first post-perestrojka years in the Siberian region between Lake Bajkal and Mongolia, casting light onto the shamaness Nadia Stepanova. After the long period of Stalinist repression, the Spirits of the Buryat lands call upon Nadia to unearth the traditions and ceremonies that once governed life in the Taiga for centuries, and thus pass this ancient spiritual heritage on to future generations, teaching them how to respect the Eternal Blue Heavens and Mother Earth.

Dinner break

h 21

Celebration of the She-Bear and the Equinox

Ritual Performance by Morena Luciani Russo and Sarah Perini

Inviting all participants to pay homage to the Lady of Nature .

Saturday

H.9.00-12.30

A Step beyond, Opening with **Barbara Colombo, Daniela Degan, Emanuela Grasso e Elena Dojmi Di Delupis** Daniela Degan,

Presentation by **Morena Luciani Russo**

Greetings from Institutions

Maria Teresa Panchillo, *Elements of Mapuche Cosmology*

An inquiry into the Cosmic vision, structure and importance of the family in Mapuche (-che, "people", and Mapu, "of the Earth") communities living in Chile and Argentina, and the values and principles that have distinguished their culture, before and after the Spanish conquest of their homelands. And what kind of challenges are Mapuche women facing today?

Yessica Huenteman, *The Femmine in earth-shaped contemporary pottery ware*.

Art is a bridge, the moment and vehicle of cultural transcendence: So can we attempt a reading of the cosmological elements of Mapuche pottery? And how do some of these manufactures relate to the role of women in Mapuche society?

Angelo Vaira, *An empathic approach to our relationship with animals.*

Awareness of the emotional and social life of animals provides biological roots for Peace. An empathic relationship with animals may contribute to a deeper understanding of our role as human beings on this planet, and to the natural development of a peace culture.

Jeremy Narby, *Intelligence in Nature* - Skype -

Lunch break

H.14.00

Susun Weed, *The Wise Woman Tradition: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World*

By reclaiming the paradigm of healing through nourishment, and by reclaiming the power of women's fluids, women's sacred blood, the Wise Woman Tradition offers modern women a way to reclaim themselves.

Clara Scopetta, *Born in Avalon, an Elf Community House. A recent, but nonetheless vital experience.*

The Elf community came to life in 1981, and at least 300 children have been born into this community since, most of them without any outside medical or obstetric assistance. These 35 years constitute an interesting experience, especially in their implications on our understanding of motherhood. Does giving birth outside hospitals, such as in an alternative Hippy community, necessarily preclude any assistance from outside? Does it permit us to go

beyond the deep conditioning of perinatal habits and rituals? And to what degree does the birth experience influence the mother-child relationship, and thus shape the entire community's perception?

Michel Odent, *Childbirth: Science Versus Tradition*

We'll provide examples of discrepancies and contradictions between tradition/cultural conditioning on the one hand and, on the other hand, the point of view of emerging and fast developing

16.00 -19.00 Simultaneous Workshops

Workshop 1

Malika Grasshoff, *Kabyle Women as Earth Mothers. Shaping the vessels of humanity.*

An account of how Kabyle women and mothers (the Berber women of Algeria) live in an oral culture in which a series of rituals accompany daily life, and relate it to the life of the earth and the laws of the heavens. Kabyle cosmogony associates the birth of a human being with creative activities such as pottery or weaving. Even agriculture is guided by rituals reminiscent of those performed during pregnancy.

Workshop 2

Pietro De Marinis and Rossella Semino, *Experimenting the Agricultural Community*

Learning to return to be part of a community of plants, animals, microorganisms and human beings might constitute the beginning of a transformation that implies a multitude of practical changes in everyday life, comprising food, living spaces and how we relate to each other within the entire community.

This workshop invites us to participate in a playful learning experience, and to experiment the essence of communitarian life and the relational matrix uniting all the elements of an agricultural ecosystem. This is going to be followed by a more manual session comprising the construction of a small sistem of vertical cultivation.

Key words: ecology, permaculture, project, communities, relationship. Suited for adults and children supervised by adults. Necessary equipment for roleplay and the manual session will be provided.

Workshop 3

Grazia Dentoni, *Matrilinear. The Sardinia Peace Theatre*.

This project employs poetic action to heighten sensibility towards pregnancy, birth and mothering, and thus towards life and the evolution of the species.

The approach adopted uses the language of voice and body in their relationship to space. Exercises and theatrical play invite participants to elaborate forms, rhythm and group experience in order to discover the potential of their own body and acquire a common idiom of expression. Most of our work will be dedicated to creating a single body, a choir, enabling each and everyone to develop his or her own particularities and grow in unison with the single individual elements that constitute the entire body.

Workshop 4

Michel Odent e Clara Scropetta, *Can humanity survive reproductive medicine?*

One of the effects of recent spectacular advances in reproductive medicine has been to neutralize the laws of natural selection. Human beings who are not fertile can have the same number of children as those who are very fertile. Women who cannot give birth by themselves have the same number of children as those who can give birth easily, etc. We'll raise unprecedented questions inspired by this new phase in the history of life.

Dinner

Sunday

H9.30-12.30

Simultaneous Workshops :

Workshop 1

Susun Weed, *Herbal Medicine – the Wise Woman Way*

The Wise Woman tradition focuses on nourishment. This workshop will delve deeply into optimum, holographic, wild nourishment. We will span the arc from naked people in the plants to white-coated lab technicians synthesizing fake foods. Susun will attempt to answer some important questions about nourishing ourselves.

Workshop 2

Maria Teresa Panchillo - Yessica Huenteman, *Mapuche Art*

This workshop will provide a practical approach to some of the arguments that have been addressed by the Mapuche women present at the conference, using threads of coloured wool and small pieces of ceramic to compose a small canvas which is to represent a synthesis of individual ideas and impressions, and a tangible record of shared experience. Participants of this workshop are invited to bring threads of coloured wool and four wooden sticks of about 20 cm length.

Workshop 3

Contrada Lusci, *Getting Connected. Exploring the Music of Plants.*

This workshop intends to weave a relationship of Love between humans and plants, exploring our inner world through meditation and body play, and developing its awareness in a creative and joyous manner. In this way, participants are invited to perceive the tangible connections with plants, aided by electronic instruments that translate plant biorhythms into signals of light and sound. Plants are, in fact, a Guide influenced by the presence, by the thoughts and emotions of the persons in their presence.

Workshop 4

Luciana Percovich and Francesca Rosati Freeman, *Visions of the Sacred from the first Paleolithic Civilizations of Europe to the living matriarchal societies of today.*

The origins of humanity suggest that the first civilizations were able to create social and spiritual structures inspired by balance, and centered around the wisdom of the Mothers. From the cavern sanctuaries of the Paleolithic age to Neolithic architecture, settlements and burials, evidence suggests the existence of pacific societies that lived in harmony with the natural circles of life and death. Studies of still existing matriarchal societies seem to confirm this hypothesis, and lead us to question modern Occidental concepts of “civilization”. The workshop features a first screening of Francesca Rosati Freeman's new documentary dedicated to Moso society, “*Gammu, Mountain Mother*”.

Workshop 5

Mario Bolognese and Stregatocacolor, *The Ballatella of Earth and Animals*

This workshop educates us to bring together the adult and the infant world in peace and solidarity, through interactive play that opens to all cultures of this world, and where just like in a fairy-tale, everybody is embraced, and none remain isolated.

La Ballatella forms part of a gylanic pedagogical project composed of thirteen poems emphasising the resources of gender difference, and stimulating the empowerment of the body's sensorial and emotional sphere within a sacred universal dimension. Our choice to privilege animals reflects both the particular love with which children endow them and their specific symbolic and initiatory meaning: all the animals we will call upon are connected to the Goddess.

This workshop is particularly suited for teachers and parents .

Lunch break

H. 14:00-18:00

Malika Grasshoff, *The Magic Art and Writing of the Berber Women of North Africa*

Within the traditions of North African Berber society, women's art provides a powerful means of expression for mothers as a claim of their full independence through singing, pottery, wall-painting and weaving.

Luciana Percovich, *Symbiotic Revolution. The Microcosms of Lynn Margulis*.

Would it be possible to rewrite the story of our planet from its inanimate origins up to the present day, for once going beyond the myth of an evolution propelled by competing single biological entities? The biologist Lynn Margulis writes: "Evolution is largely based upon cooperation, interaction and the interdependence of organisms. Life did not colonize earth through combat, but by means of interconnections". This is to say that complex forms of life were able to evolve due to the fact that bacteria grouped in cooperative and symbiotic relations, forming more complex organisms : a statement that might have interesting implications on our way to perceive the planet's past, present and future.

Alberto Castagnola, *Gylanic Women and Men for an Earth-rooted Society. Starting the Transition*.

The planet's predicament seems to be growing worse by the day: a profusion of wars of seemingly contained dimensions and migratory movements that may prove to be well beyond our control are upheaving a web of international relations more than intricate by themselves. Given these changes, radically and profoundly motivated women and men today are faced with the necessity to commence to share experiences that will be completely new. A possible agenda might comprise the following issues to be approached together, while respecting cultural diversities: creativity, imagination, group energies, contacts with Mother Earth, reprising manual abilities, experimentation, assuming responsibilities, a new dignity for labour, developing relationships beyond the laws of productivity, a fundamental new gift economy, expressions of solidarity meeting essential needs, unconditioned safeguarding of cultural heritage, intense and ongoing intercultural cooperation, in the first place with the earth-rooted native cultures yet existing.

Bruna Bianchi, *Nurturing the World, Inventing the Art of Peace. The Pacifist and Feminist Work of Jane Addams*

This paper is dedicated to the work of Otis Tufton Mason and Jane Addams. Otis Tufton Mason, curator of the United States National Museum's section on Woman's Share in Primitive Culture, through his studies on the art of American native women came to consider their creativity as an origin of the “arts of piece”. Jane Addams, American feminist, pacifist and reformer, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, was a firm believer in the ancient wisdom of women, as cherishing life, and in their ability to change human existence in a world ravaged by economic violence and war .

Pierre de Vallombreuse, *Endangered Cultural Diversity. Documenting the Autochthonous as an Act of Awareness.*

The project presented comprises eighty photographs depicting ethnic minorities, and topics ranging from peace to genocide. Each ethnic group highlights its own answer to conditions imposed by nature and history. The first nations have often been victims of ecological disaster: food shortage, deforestation, global warming, wars fought about water... issues that humanity is still struggling with today.

Pierre de Vallombreuse's latest book describes four traditional societies in which women have always been holding a crucial social and spiritual role .

Final discussion