

*Are there cultures oriented by a perspective of gift instead of exploitation?*

*Is it possible to live in a world that has alternative solutions to conflict, instead of violence? A world in which children can live in love and safety?*

*What happens when women also take on roles of leadership?*

*What happens when men, sitting in a circle, are willing to share a common vision of their own good qualities, attitudes, rights and duties, rediscovering a masculinity far from commonplace clichés and prejudices?*

*How relevant is a feminine-oriented spirituality for a society of peace?*

*Indigenous Cultures of Peace offers an outlook on various societies of peace still existing in the world today, living instances of egalitarian communities without any form of violence against women or children, let alone warfare.*

*Three days of meeting and sharing aimed at understanding how these societies, mainly matriarchal, manage to achieve an active collaboration between women and men both in the private and in the public spheres, and exploring new models of gylanic education, based on gender equality.*

*Indigenous Cultures of Peace is an attempt to answer today's need of connecting to our fellow women and men, and to the environment that sustains us by rediscovering and revising the real meaning of the Sacred in our daily lives and in our body-mind, through our feminine and masculine gendered bodies.*

*Design: Marco Lampis / Illustrations: Simona Guardamagna*

*Since the beginning of time, indigenous cultures of peace have been spinning a thread that has now found its way to contemporary society and its need for change.*

*Indigenous Cultures of Peace is organized by Laima, an association created as a tribute to Marjia Gimbutas with the objective of promoting a matristic culture, based on the values of care and mutuality.*

#### **DIRECTIONS**

**Palaginnastica - via Pacchiotti 71, Torino**

Public transportation: the conference venue is situated near the **Massaua** metro station. Driving: from Milan or Aosta, exit the beltway at **C.so Regina Margherita**; from Genoa, Piacenza, or Savona, take the **C.so Francia/Cascine Vica** exit.

#### **ACCOMODATION**

**Palaginnastica Guestrooms, Torino**

Four person rooms with bunk beds and shared bathroom for 27 €, breakfast and bed linen included.

Info: sarahlpd@yahoo.it

**Tomato Backpackers Hotel, Torino**

Special prices for the conference participants: single room 32 €; double room 50 € (ensuite bathroom in all rooms).

Info: Tommaso +39.011.0209400 – www.tomato.to.it

**Residence Villa 5, Collegno (To)**

Metro station Fermi: two-, three- and four- people rooms available, ensuite bathroom.

Info: Susanna +39.348.2803467

#### **REGISTRATION**

**To participate a contribution of 50 € is asked for.**

**Special discount for students: 30 €**

After receiving the availability confirmation, a payment of 25 € by way of account is required for the initial registration.

The settlement sum will be paid at conference's registration desk.

**Last date for initial registration february 15, 2012**

#### **INFORMATION**

**www.associazionelaima.it**

Tel. +39.393.0738407 / 340.6220363

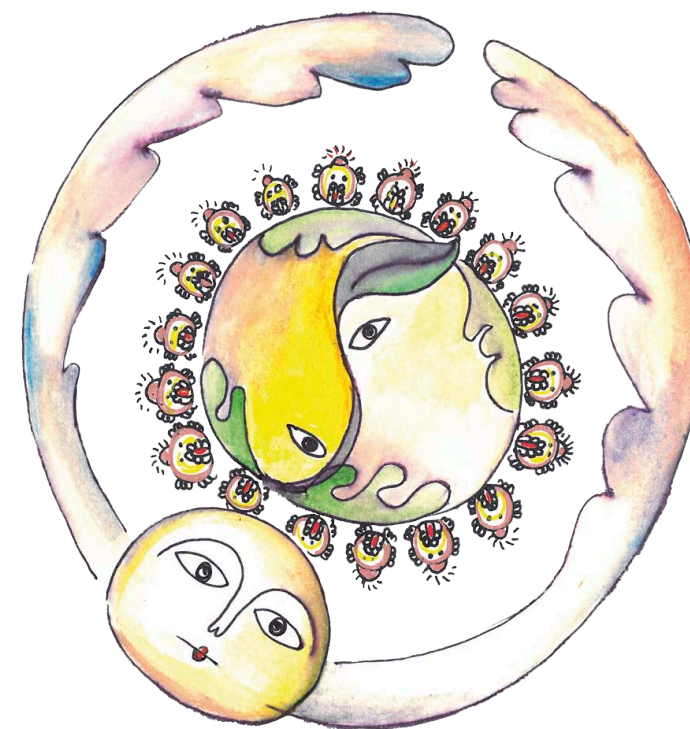
Facebook: **Culture Indigene di Pace**

The event is supported by **Tides Foundation** and by the following patron institutions: **Municipality of Turin, Piedmont Equal Opportunity Commission**. The conference was made possible through private donations and thanks to a network of people that spent years studying and realizing new and more egalitarian models of living. The conference was not sponsored by any public funds.



# Indigenous Cultures of Peace

**WOMEN AND MEN  
BEYOND CONFLICT**



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**TORINO, 16/18 MARZO 2012**  
*Palaginnastica, via Pacchiotti 71*

## FRIDAY 16

6.00 pm

### **Matriarchè. When all the Women and the Men in the World...**

This documentary shares the different perspectives of several scholars studying matrifocal societies of the past and of the present. These experts studied matrifocal and egalitarian societies to suggest alternative development models and to inspire a crucial new outlook on the future of our planet.

Authors: **Monica Di Bernardo** e **Francesca Colombini**.  
Director: **Aldo Silvestri**.

9.30 pm

### **Dances of the World**

An evening of dances presented by our international guests; Occitan dances led by **Gabriella Irtino**.

## SATURDAY 17

9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Opening: Greetings from the Patron Institutions  
Speakers: **Maria Cristina Spinosa** - Councilor for Equal Opportunity of the Municipality of Turin, **Cristina Corda** - President of the Piedmont Equal Opportunity Commission, **Emiliana Losma** - member of the Piedmont Equal Opportunity Commission, **Laura Cima** - coordinator of the Producing Ideas Political Lab.

### **Indigenous Cultures of Peace. Women and Men Beyond Conflict.**

Conference presentation.  
Speakers: **Luciana Percovich**, **Morena Luciani**, **Sarah Perini** and **Monica Smith**.  
Guest speaker: **Genevieve Vaughan**.

### **Rematriating Love: The Gift of the Egalitarianism KhoeSan.**

Speakers: **Benedette Muthien**, co-founder of the NGO Engender, and **Jean Burgess**, spokesperson of the KhoeSan people of South Africa.

Two indigenous women raise their voices to advocate the restoration of the original, pre-colonial culture of their people, reclaiming the ancestral knowledge system of a society in which men and women lived in balance with themselves and with the natural world around them.

### **Incanti. Enchantments of Truth and Love for Solo Voice.** FIRST PART

Chants from the African and Balkan oral tradition.  
Performing artist: **Barbara Zanoni**.

### Debate

LUNCH BREAK

3.00 pm

### **Societies in Balance. Re-thinking Matriarchy in Modern Matriarchal Studies**

Speaker: **Heide Goettner-Abendroth**, German philosopher, founder of HAGIA (International Academy for Modern Matriarchal Studies).  
The relevance of Modern Matriarchal Studies for the vision of a sustainable and egalitarian consensus-based society will be explored in terms of its economical and socio-political issues.

### **Special theatrical event**

by **Nadia Nardi** and **Maura Raviola**,  
Ass. Cult. Stregatocacolor

### Debate

4.30 pm – 7.00 pm

### WORKSHOP

### **Poetry: Rhythms, Plays and Words of the Little Moon Girl.**

Led by **Mario Bolognese**, author and educator. His work is based on an intercultural and interreligious perspective, with a special focus on the languages of fairy tales and poetry.

This lab is addressed to all those who are interested in or curious about gylanic pedagogy. Through poetry – intended both as language and rite, as play and corporeity – we will symbolically bless the Circle of the Earth by offering gifts. The coordinator will facilitate a poetic re-weaving of our words and our bodies with the sacredness of the universe.

► **max 50 participants**  
To make your reservation, please register on our website / **Workshop**

### WORKSHOP

### **The Deep Breath of a New Era. The Upcoming Degrowth.**

Facilitated by **Daniela Degan**, coordinator and catalyst for the Travelling Degrowth Lab, and **Alberto Castagnola**, economist, member of the Degrowth Association, active in the Città dell'Altraeconomia in Rome.

From where do we start building the many different facets of degrowth? Is Gylany already in our minds? This Lab weaves together various theories and practices through thought and play: masculine and feminine, rationality and instinct for an unexpected curing and caring for our world.

This workshop offers a place from where to start investigating, acting and connecting, in search for new

matrices that don't refer to living beings in a utilitarian, profit-oriented way.  
► **max 50 participants**  
To make your reservation, please register on our website / **Workshop**

BREAK

9.00 pm

### **Women's circle**

Coordinated by: **Cerchio di Luna Torino**, **Gruppo Italiano Dakini**, Ass. Cult. **Argiope - Donne nel sacro**, Ass. **Talanith**  
Share this ecstatic experience with the main figures of Italian Women's Spirituality movement.

► **max 50 participants**  
To make your reservation, please register on our website / **Women's Circle**

### **Men's circle**

Coordinated by: **Rodolfo Brun**, psychologist, author and singer-songwriter of the **Cerchio Guerrieri** and of the **Altrove association**.  
The coordinators will facilitate a debate on the masculine and lead a meditation experience based on the search for one's own inner self.

► **max 50 participants**  
To make your reservation, please register on our website / **Men's Circle**

## SUNDAY 18

9.00 am – 12.30 am

### **The Discriminating Role of Family Name in the Italian Patrilineal System**

Speaker **Iole Natoli**, journalist, painter, founder of the **Iter del Cognome Materno** in Italia  
[Facebook page](#).

The following themes will be explored: taking a surname as a means of forging our personal identity;

the symbolic denial of women and female ancestors in the current patrilineal descent system; children's personal right to be related to their sisters or brothers born from other marriages or relationships of their mother.

### **Special theatrical event**

by **Nadia Nardi** and **Maura Raviola**,  
Ass. Cult. Stregatocacolor

### **The Minangkabau Matriarchaat: Motherhood as a Guiding Social Principle.**

Speaker: **Peggy Reeves Sanday**, anthropologist, professor at the University of Pennsylvania.  
The Minangkabau of West Sumatra, Indonesia, are widely known as the largest matrilineal society in the world today. Among them motherhood and nurture are dominant social symbols affecting daily life, including the disbursement and use of property, decision making, and the life cycle ceremonies of birth, marriage, and death.

### **Towards a Gylanic Childhood... And we, we are the Word and the Earth...**

**Mario Bolognese**, author and educator.  
We need to find our way to new educational models, re-integrating feminine symbols in the learning context; an exchange of gifts between adult wording and child wording to re-discover the Sacred in the universe.

### Debate

LUNCH BREAK

2.30 pm – 6.30 pm

### **The Moso: a Source of Inspiration for an Egalitarian Society of Peace.**

Speaker: **Francesca Rosati Freeman**, author, teacher and documentary film-maker. Guest speakers:

**Ake Dama** and **Najin Lacong**, members of the Moso people.  
The Moso. A society without conflict or gender violence, two elements usually portrayed as part of "human nature".

### **Women and Matriarchy**

Video contribution by **Russell Means**, Lakota native American.

### **The Great Spirit Resourcing a Goddess Culture**

Speaker: **Diarmuid O'Murchu** (Ireland), member of the **Sacred Heart Missionary Order**, and social psychologist.  
The role of the Goddess within a gylanic society, the point where metaphysics and the natural world come together.

### **Incanti. Enchantments of Truth and Love for Solo Voice.** SECOND PART

Chants from the oral traditions of Arabia and Romagna.  
Performing artist: **Barbara Zanoni**.

### **Final debate and feedback on circles and workshops.**

A photographic exhibition set up in the building hosting the conference.

### **Bhubaneswari. Universal Harmonies in Dancing Bodies from Orissa.**

Concept: **Luisa Spagna**, dancer and researcher; Photography: **Paolo Pacciolla**, musician, ethnomusicologist.