

# S/HE

An International Journal of  
Goddess Studies

Volume 1 Number 2 2022  
Mago Books

S/HE:  
S/HE: An International Journal of Goddess Studies  
Volume 1 Number 2 (2022)

**S/HE**



AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GODDESS STUDIES

**Mission Statement:** *S/HE: An International Journal of Goddess Studies* is a web-based, peer-reviewed international scholarly journal committed to the academic exploration, analysis and interpretation, from a range of disciplinary perspectives, of Goddesses and the Female Divine in all religions, traditions, and cultures, to be ancient, historical, or contemporary. The journal is a multi-disciplinary forum for the publication of feminist scholarship in Goddess Studies and for discussion, comparison, and dialogue among scholars of differing feminist perspectives.

**Citation:** *S/HE: An International Journal of Goddess Studies*, V1 N2 (2022)

**Publisher:** Mago Books (<https://magobooks.com>)

**Mailing address:** 785 Melody Ln, Lytle Creek California, USA

**Website:** <https://sheijgs.space>

**Published date:** October 31, 2022

**Publisher:** Helen Hye-Sook Hwang, Ph.D.

**Mago Books Editorial Representative:** Matthew Kim Hagen, M.A.

**Co-founders:** Mary Ann Beavis, Ph.D. and Helen Hye-Sook Hwang, Ph.D.

**Editorial Advisor:** Mary Ann Beavis, Ph.D.

**Co-editors:** Krista Rodin, Ph.D. and Kaalii Cargill, Ph.D.

**Subscription for individual and institutes:** <https://sheijgs.space>

ISSN: 2693-9363

Cover art: Quilt art by Kaarina Kailo (2020) Olemne kaikki Afrikasta,  
photographed by Alpo and Arja Huhmarniemi. Cover designed by Mago Books  
Editorial

## Table of Contents

“Editors’ Introduction” by Krista Rodin, Kaalii Cargill, Helen Hye-Sook Hwang, and Mary Ann Beavis (1-3)

“Unveiling an Ancient Silla Korean Testimony to the Mother World: An Introductory Discussion of the Budoji (Epic of the Emblem Capital City), the Principal Text of Magoism” by Helen Hye-Sook Hwang (4-70)

“Birthing Love through a Thealogy of Birth with Carol P. Christ” by Nané Jordan (71-95)

“Space-Age Goddess: The Overview Effect as a Feminine Archetype, Evolving Myth and Participatory Transpersonal Practice” by Lila Moore (96-129)

“Rebirthing Finnish Ancestral Mothers and Goddesses through Art and Research” by Kaarina Kailo (130-174)

“Goddess Related Special Exhibitions at State-Supported European Museums in 2022” by Krista Rodin (175-225)

### BOOK REVIEWS

Kaarina Kailo. *Finnish Goddess Mythology, the Golden Woman and Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Climate Change to Indigenous Earth Democracy and the Gift* (Oulu, Juvenes Print, Lore & Loom/Myyttikehrä, 2021, c.2018), reviewed by Krista Rodin (226-229)

Mary Ann Beavis and Ally Kateusz, eds. *Rediscovering the Marys: Maria, Mariamne, Miriam* (London/New York/Oxford/New Delhi/Sydney: T&T Clark, 2020), reviewed by Bojana Radovanović (230-235)

Mary Ann Beavis and Helen Hye-Sook Hwang, eds. *Goddesses in Myth, History and Culture* (Lytle Creek, CA: Mago Books, 2018), reviewed by Jenny Cameron (236-239)

CONTRIBUTORS (240-241)

SUBSCRIPTION AND SUBMITTING TO S/HE (243)

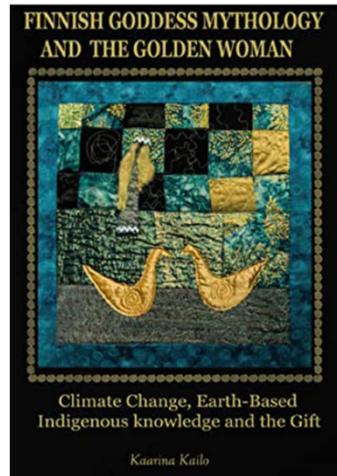
## BOOK REVIEWS

**Kaarina Kailo.**

***Finnish Goddess Mythology, the Golden Woman and Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Climate Change to Indigenous Earth Democracy and the Gift***  
**(Oulu, Juvenes Print, Lore & Loom/Myyttikehrä, 2021, c.2018)**

**Reviewed by Krista Rodin**

Dr. Kailo's recently reprinted her 2018 work. *Finnish Goddess Mythology* is a detailed analysis of how indigenous Finnish and Ugric female spiritual figures fit within the broader context of pre-Christian societies' approach to the natural world. Pre-Christian sacred female figures are not widely portrayed in many accounts of Finnish history. Even the main National Museum in Helsinki lacks substantial references to the indigenous goddesses of the region, and starts their history section with the country's Swedish heritage. Dr. Kailo's work, however, fills this gap by structuring her book into five main themes that lead into her presentation of the regional goddesses and feminine figures. She starts with a brief introduction of Modern Matriarchal structures as understood by people she has worked closely with including American Peggy Reeves Sanday, Ohio Bear Clan Seneca Barbara Alice Mann and German Heide Goettner-Abendroth. This cross-continent approach highlights these three authors agreement that matriarchy is not the direct opposite of patriarchy, but rather a different form altogether; one that stresses the equitable role distribution and respect for both, and all, genders. This leads into the second chapter, which is an examination of how the equitable distribution is based not on an exchange economy, but rather on a gift economy as framed by



Genevieve Vaughan and her International Network of Feminists for a Gift Economy. Kailo goes a bit further to coin the term Gift Imaginary to describe “indigenous matriarchies that offer more mother-woman, and nature friendly attitudes than the hegemonic ones” (11). Her premise with the second chapter is that the exchange economy of patriarchy has led to the current climate crisis and depletion of natural resources and that a return to a gift economy, based on giving and giving back rather than on taking and depleting would create a more balanced approach thereby helping the planet and all those who live on it heal. She stresses a Traditional Ecological Knowledge system (TEK) throughout the chapter. The third chapter is on Indigenous Knowledge and Earth-Based Feminism. Here she discusses the work of primarily North American indigenous wisdom keepers including Lakota Vine Deloria, Jr. and Seneca Chief Oren Lyons. After introducing their ideas, as well as those of many other authors, she places them a local Finnish geographical context of a place she visited every summer as a child. These three introductory chapters form the general, yet highly personalized and therefore detailed, background investigation into Finnish herstory as regards a Finnish relationship with the land. She recognizes that not a few authors have mentioned that the Finns hate and fear their woods, but she clearly demonstrates that this attitude is neither ubiquitous nor, in most cases, accurate. These three chapters also set the stage for new perspectives on the female figures in the Finnish national epic, *The Kalevala*, which is the subject of chapter four, The Golden Women – Earthbody Warnings from Prehistory. *The Kalevala* is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century epic poem by Elias Lönnrot that consists of compilation of Finnish oral folktales and myths. It starts with the story of the Creation of the Earth and then goes into the battles between the peoples of Kalevala and the “realm of women” Pohjola that include the fight for Sampo, a mythical machine that brought ‘good luck’ to its owner. How this ‘good luck’ brought through a blacksmith’s tool is defined is one of the many alter-native (this is the way she writes the term) perspectives Kailo raises in her interpretation of the work. She also reinterprets the realm of women, Pohjola, as follows: “Pohjola for its part refers to the vast cross-cultural areas of history when different ethnic and language groups shared mentifacts and artifacts, i.e. ideas, concepts, beliefs, values, and the diverse artifacts that

expressed these worldviews (bronze casts, jewellery, rock art, etcetera)” (16). This interpretation is in line with a aforementioned gift economy. Throughout the first three chapters and now more focused in the fourth, she mentions “Terra Feminarum,” a mythical place in Antiquity that was supposedly run by women. Tacitus, among others, mentioned it. As to date, no archeological evidence of its existence has been found. It is generally considered to be fable-based. Kailo, on the other hand, believes that it really existed somewhere between current day Estonia and Finland. She plans an upcoming book on the topic, but uses chapter four to introduce her findings and explain how the oral transmissions mutated over time, especially since the Middle Ages when Christianity either coopted or demonized indigenous female figures. Her work on “Terra Feminarum and the Golden Woman” is a key element to the reconceptualization of the figures in *The Kalevala*. The final chapter introduces and analyses Finnish Goddesses and Great Mothers, based on Kailo’s proposed Finnish Traditional Ecological Knowledge system. She includes figures from the Kalevala including the Creators, Ilmatar and Veenemo, the Three Sisters, Helka, Pälväätär and Kuutar, the Sun and Moon goddesses, Hongatar, the Bear Mother, Louhi and others. She goes into detail about the connection between sacred female figures and bears as an example of the close interspecies connections that are part of TEK. Kailo has also written extensively elsewhere on this topic. This book concludes with a list of Finnish Guardian Spirits, Haltijas, and Goddesses to show the transition from one way of understanding to another. In her words:

I emphasize that Totemistic Animal Mothers, Mother Goddesses, Spirit Guardians and Great Mothers are historically and geographically contingent references to the primordial feminine life force which has shifted from being expressed with animal metaphors to supernatural Spirits, and then the more anthropocentric concepts of human deities. (16)

*Finnish Goddess Mythology and the Golden Woman* is not the usual compendium of goddesses that the title might presuppose, but rather an introspective introductory inquiry into the pre-

Christian ecological and spiritual knowledge of the Finns, in other words, a Finnish Traditional Ecological Knowledge system, that Kailo intends to build upon in her upcoming work on “Terra Feminarum.” She demonstrates how folktales and myths “transmit ecological knowledge and ecosocially sustainable lifeways” (2) and why this knowledge is so necessary in these times of a climate crisis that we have brought upon ourselves through the exchange economy model. Interspersed throughout the book are images of her quilts and ancient woodcuts that highlight the figures and topics mentioned. Dr. Kailo has showcased her quilts in gallery exhibitions throughout Finland.

Dr. Kailo spent many years studying and living with First Nations cultures in Ontario and Quebec, Canada, before returning to her homeland in Finland. The experiences she had in Canada influenced her decision to learn more about the seemingly forgotten stories of goddesses and great mothers from her own culture. Her academic background with degrees in Comparative Literature and academic appointments in Literature and Women’s Studies in Canada and Finland makes her an ideal person to help reframe perceptions and interpretations of the role(s) of sacred female figures in traditional Finnish mythology and to illumine how the revised understandings can help reframe current approaches to the natural world in order to create a more gift-based ecologically sound model.

## CONTRIBUTORS

### **Jennifer Cameron**

B.A.(History) Master of Enterprise Innovation, Graduate Diploma Environmental Sustainability, Diploma of Education. Jennifer is author of the recent publication *Ancient Ways for Current Days – Women, Goddess and Communities of Peace*. She teaches Goddess Studies at a community level; she is Co-Convenor of the Gaia Temple of Melbourne and has a lifetime of interest in the subject matter of the book under review. merrymeetjenny@gmail.com

### **Mary Ann Beavis**

Dr. Beavis is Professor Emerita of Religion and Culture, St. Thomas More College, the University of Saskatchewan. She is the author of several books and many articles in the areas of feminist biblical interpretation, parable studies, goddess studies, and religion and popular culture. Her most recent publications attempt to reconstruct the experience of enslaved persons in early Christianity. She is the co-author of the Wisdom Commentaries on Hebrews and 2 Thessalonians.

### **Helen Hye-Sook Hwang**

Dr. Hwang is the researcher, writer, publisher, and advocate of Magoist Cetaceanism, the matriversal consciousness embodied in the socio-historical-cultural expressions of traditional Korea and beyond. After earning her MA and Ph.D. in Religion with emphasis on Feminist Studies from Claremont Graduate University, CA., she pursued M.A. degree at UCLA, CA. Hwang's authored and co-edited books include *Goddesses in Myth, History and Culture*, *Mago Almanac*, *The Mago Way*, *She Rises* trilogy, *Celebrating Seasons of the Goddess*, *She Summons*, *The Budoji Workbook*, and *Return to Mago E-Magazine*.

### **Nané Jordan**

Dr. Jordan is a Goddess scholar, birth-keeper, artist-researcher, community worker, and mother of two daughters. She is dedicated to an artful, relational, spirited scholarly pathway for women's thriving and wellbeing. Dr. Jordan completed her PhD in Education

at the University of British Columbia, her Master's degree in Women's Spirituality at New College of California, and held a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Paris 8, France, in Women's and Gender Studies. Her scholarship explores goddessing and women's spirituality through matricentric birthing threads, placental wisdom, the maternal gift economy, and feminist eco-arts. She publishes widely, including the anthologies: *Placenta Wit: Mother Stories, Rituals, and Research*, and *Pagan, Goddess, Mother* (Demeter Press).

### **Kaarina Kailo**

Dr Kailo is a writer, former professor of women's studies and self-made artist who illustrates her books, integrating color and visuality to science. She has published hundreds of articles regarding folklore, spiritual bathing, saunas and sweatlodges, modern matriarchal studies, Northern women's culture, gift economy and the bear religion. She has held positions as scholar in Canada and Finland, and as senior fellow of the Finnish academy. She has held art exhibitions in Kiiminki, Oulu, Jyväskylä and Lusto Forestry Museum, Punkaharju in Finland. Kaarina.kailo at gmail.com.

### **Lila Moore**

Dr Lila Moore is a pioneering artist film-maker, choreographer and visionary theorist. She holds a PhD in Dance on Screen, Middlesex University, 2001, MA and M.Phil in Film and Fine Art, Central Saint Martins, Postdoc in Technoetic Arts, Planetary Collegium, and her articles were published in academic journals. She is a lecturer and dissertation supervisor for the Alef Trust, MSc degree in Consciousness, Spirituality and Transpersonal Psychology, and recipient of the Outstanding Lecturer Award from the Department of Mysticism and Spirituality, Zefat Academic College. Her artworks are exhibited in curated exhibitions and archived by SIGGRAPH and Archive of Digital Art. cyberneticinstitute.com. cyberneticfutures.com.

### **Bojana Radovanović**

Bojana Radovanović was born in Belgrade, Serbia, where she finished her BA studies in Classical Philology, and her MA in

Classical Archaeology. After having worked at the Institute for History in Belgrade, she moved to Vienna, Austria, where she finished her doctoral studies and obtained her PhD Diploma in History with the topic of early medieval „language of heresy“ in Greek and Latin selected texts. She is currently in the second year of her Postdoctoral fellowship funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) at the Institut fuer Mittelalterforschung in Vienna on medieval dualist heresies. She is currently preparing her monograph and regularly publishes scholarly articles, as well as purely literary texts. Her research interests include: dualist heresies in the Middle Ages; historical and archaeological quest for the Great Goddess on the Balkans; pagan heritage of the medieval philosophical and theological concepts; dualist heresies in the Middle Ages; Slavonic apocrypha; inter-cultural transmission between Byzantium and the Latin West. Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands (bojana.radovanovic@ru.nl)

### **Krista Rodin**

Krista Rodin is Emerita Professor of Humanities at Northern Arizona University where she taught a variety of interdisciplinary courses relating to ancient cultures and sacred traditions. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Salzburg, Austria. During her lengthy academic career in Europe and the U.S., Dr. Rodin held a number of administrative positions, including Dean and Vice Provost of Continuing Studies and Engagement programs in Maine and Connecticut, and Campus Executive Officer for the Yuma campus of NAU. After retiring from NAU she moved back to Austria, where she continues her research on ancient and living goddess traditions, and teaches part-time for Salzburg College. Dr. Rodin’s extensive travel blog can be accessed at: <https://journals.worldnomads.com/krodin/>.

## SUBSCRIPTION AND SUBMITTING TO S/HE

A PDF form of article(s) or the whole issue will be sent to you via email.

**\*Individuals by donation (recommended US\$5.00 per article or US\$20 per volume)**

- A. US\$5.00 for 1 article
- B. US\$10.00 for 2 articles
- C. US\$15.00 for 3 articles
- D. US\$20.00 for the whole volume

**\*Institutions US\$30 per volume.**

- E. US\$30.00 for the whole volume

**\*One-time or monthly donation**

- F. US\$ your gift amount

Please indicate your subscription details (i.e. “A, xxx article in Vol 1” or “E, Vol 1”) as a note during your PayPal donation process. Or email Dr. Helen Hye-Sook Hwang ([magoacademy@gmail.com](mailto:magoacademy@gmail.com)) for your order content and/or questions and inquiries.

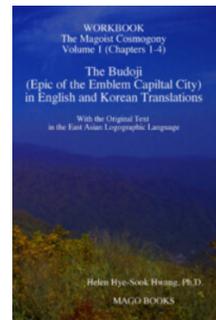
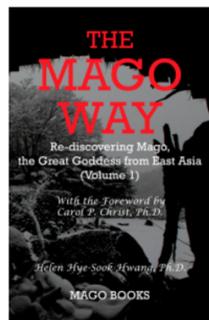
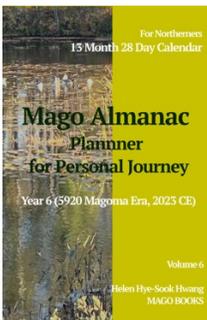
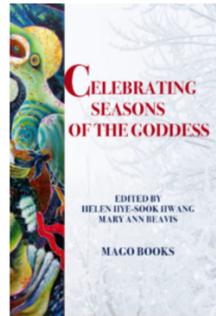
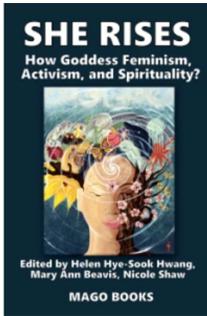
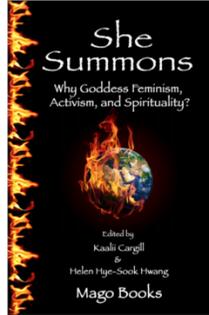
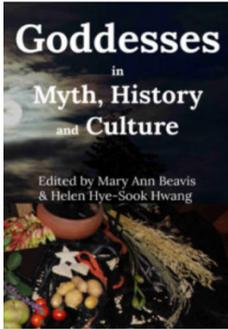


### **Submission to S/HE: An International Journal of Goddess Studies**

*S/HE: An International Journal of Goddess Studies* is a web-based open-access double blind peer reviewed international scholarly journal published by Mago Books. The journal is committed to the academic exploration, analysis, and interpretation of Goddesses and the Female Divine from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Papers are welcomed on Goddesses and the Female Divine from all religions, traditions, and cultures, ancient, historical, or contemporary. *S/HE* is accepting reviews of scholarly books in the field of Goddess Studies (click here: “Submissions” for submission details). The journal is a forum for the publication of feminist scholarship in Goddess Studies and for discussion, comparison and dialogue among scholars of differing feminist perspectives.

## Mago Books

(See all books at <https://magobooks.com>)



## Online Periodicals

S/HE: An International Journal of Goddess Studies  
(<https://sheijgs.space>)

Return to Mago E-Magazine (<https://magoism.net>)