

World Early Childhood Conference Dornach 2019 – Information and an Update on Preparations



**INNER FREEDOM -
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:
FINDING WAYS INTO
A HUMAN FUTURE**

INNERE FREIHEIT -
SOZIALE VERANTWORTUNG:
WEGE FINDEN IN EINE
MENSCHLICHE ZUKUNFT

April 15 – 19, 2019

Goetheanum, Dornach,
Switzerland

Waldorf 100 World Early Childhood
Conference
Waldorf 100 Welterziehertagung

www.iaswece.org
www.paedagogik-goetheanum.ch

 **IASWECE**
International Association for
Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood

**Pädagogische Sektion
am Goetheanum**

 **WALDORF
100** | **LEARN
TO CHANGE
THE WORLD**

 **mercurius**
art makes sense

The conference will begin at 4 PM on Monday, April 15, 2019 and ends at 12:30 PM on Friday, April 19th. Registration will begin on September 15 (tentative date) online only, at either www.iaswece.org or <http://paedagogik-goetheanum.ch/>

Below is an update on the conference preparations thus far:

Thoughts on the Theme, by Philipp Reubke

Someone recently remarked to the planning group: it is odd that the theme of the 2019 World Early Childhood Conference is not pedagogical, but instead has to do with adults. Of course, the relationships among the adults are an important part of the surroundings of the child and have a strong influence on the child's development, but what could we do to bring about a real improvement in these relationships, so that they become more harmonious? It is not enough to just try to be nice to one another.

This comment is of course fully justified, as is the observation that one often talks about certain topics or themes when one is no longer able to achieve them. This means that those who talk a lot of about quality of relationships probably have difficulties themselves with relationships.

In order to take this a step further, our conference planning group members intend to work on three suggestions as concretely as possible and to encourage one another to find the courage to act on them:

- The field of self-education (the personal level). Difficulties in coexistence and working together are related to a particular soul-spiritual characteristic, which we all have today to a greater or lesser extent: lack of interest, lack of compassion, indifference, a tendency to become encapsulated in our own Inner life, or what Rudolf Steiner calls a tendency to live out "antisocial drives"¹. This is expressed, for example, by the fact described by the English newspaper, The Daily Mail, that "[an epidemic of loneliness is flooding the western world](#)".
- The area of social agreements (the structural level). The forms that we give to our collaboration, the agreements we make, the policies we write, all help or hinder possibilities for intensive, harmonious collaboration. Or, as Michaela Glöckler put it after a working group at the last Whitsun conference in Hannover: We need social forms "so that egoism can not let off steam" - forms that help us to "find the spirit". Or, as Rudolf Steiner says in a lecture recommended for this conference², forms that allow each person to "lovingly indulge in one's own actions "(without being inhibited by constant criticism and scrutiny) and "to enter into the actions of the others with understanding" (without being forced to do so by a supervisor).
- The field of education. How do we live and work with children so that they can later balance the necessarily prevalent antisocial tendencies with social skills? How can we lay these foundations deeply enough and not stop at superficial exhortations? Steiner points out that certain social qualities are otherwise unimportant: "Gratitude lives in the body, and it must live in the body, otherwise it would not sit sufficiently in the human being."³

Study Material as Preparation

- Lecture 6 in *The Child's Changing Consciousness*, by Rudolf Steiner. GA306.

¹ Rudolf Steiner, Social and Antisocial Forces, lecture December 12, 1918 (GA 186)

² Rudolf Steiner, The Child's Changing Consciousness, lecture 6, April 20, 1923 (GA 306)

³ *ibid.*

- Social and Anti-Social Forces, Lecture by Rudolf Steiner on December 12, 1918, GA 186.
- „How Can the Soul Needs of the Times be Met?“ Lecture by Rudolf Steiner on October 10, 1916. GA 168.

We have created a page on the IASWECE website for further articles, suggestions, suggested reading, etc regarding the conference: [Resources for World Early Childhood Conference](#). If you have suggestions or contributions, please contact info@iaswece.org.

Preliminary Schedule, Tuesday through Thursday (April 16 - 18)

8:30	Singing, Verse, Eurythmy
9:00	Lecture
10:15	Break
11:00	Discussion Groups on the Conference Theme
12:30	Lunch
2:30	Workshops I
4:00	Break
4:45	Workshops II
6:15	Supper
8:15	Evening program

Lectures

For each lecture we have been able to find a "team" that will introduce us to key aspects of the topic: Stefanie Allon (Israel) and Claus Peter Röh (Dornach / Switzerland), Clara Aerts (Belgium) and Christof Wiechert (The Netherlands), Gerald and Sabine Haefner (Dornach / Switzerland), Silvia Jensen (Brazil) and Florian Osswald (Dornach / Switzerland), and Dr. Lakshmi Prasanna (India) and Michael Kokinos (Australia).

Discussion groups after the lectures each morning

Through discussion, as well as artistic and / or social-artistic exercises, participants will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the topics of the lectures and the theme of the conference. Two facilitators will lead each group. Each group will work in two languages, so that the participants do not (only) find themselves with colleagues whom they already know from their own country. The conference organizers will attempt to create a particularly workable "mix" as they form these groups and will organize translations in advance. Upon arrival in Dornach participants will learn which group they will work in.

Workshops I

Here the emphasis is placed on practical exercises, craft and artistic activity.

Workshops II

Above all, methodical / didactic questions, as well as the conference theme, will be the focus. Participants need to register in advance for working groups I and II. The list of working groups and leaders thus far can be found [here](#).

Evening Events

The evening program is not yet finalized. We are planning a mix of eurythmy from all over the world, fairy tales, music and humor. On the last evening, the participants are once again invited to offer humorous and artistic contributions on the topic of 100 years of Waldorf education - How have these hundred years been in reality - And how will things develop in the next hundred years?

Costs

The price of the conference has not yet been finalized. As with the 2012 and 2015 conferences, it will probably be between 450 and 500 CHF (including meals).

For colleagues arriving from far away, there will be a possibility to apply for a travel allowance and / or reduced conference fee after September 15th.

Visits to kindergartens before or after the conference

The conference planning group has written a letter to the kindergartens in Switzerland and southern Germany, asking if before or after the conference they could host a colleague who has traveled from far away to attend the conference. Anyone interested (as a visitor or host) can contact info@iaswece.org.