

Professional Biography for Marguerite Rigoglioso, Ph.D.

Marguerite Rigoglioso, Ph.D., is the founding director of Seven Sisters Mystery School and a scholar/practitioner of the ancient Mediterranean mystery traditions. She is the author of *The Cult of Divine Birth in Ancient Greece* and *Virgin Mother Goddesses of Antiquity*, pioneering volumes emerging from her doctoral dissertation at the California Institute of Integral Studies that explore women's shamanic abilities in a (r)evolutionary new light.

She teaches unique and leading-edge courses on the sacred feminine and women's spiritual leadership at the California Institute of Integral Studies, Sofia University (formerly Institute of Transpersonal Psychology), and Dominican University of California.

Her research on female deities and women's religious leadership in the ancient Mediterranean world and beyond has appeared in anthologies and journals, including *Feminist Theology*, *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, *Societies of Peace*, *She Is Everywhere*, *Trivia*, and the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, where her paper on the cult of Demeter and Persephone in Sicily received an honorable mention for the New Scholar Award. She is also the editor of *Where to Publish Articles on Women's Studies, Feminist Religious Studies, and Feminist/Womanist Topics 2008*.

A speaker at conferences and numerous public venues around the world, in 2009 she delivered a James C. Loeb Classical lecture at Harvard University on her research. She is also a featured interviewee in the films *The Vanishing of the Bees* and *The Search for Local Honey*.

Marguerite combines lifelong study of the religious history of the ancient Mediterranean world and beyond with her own spiritual growth work and intuitional skills, which have been cultivated through years of ceremonial practice as well as intensive study at the Foundation for Spiritual Development in San Rafael, CA. She has been a professional freelance writer for the past 25 years, as well, working for clients such as Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Boston University, and numerous nonprofits, businesses, and authors.