

Cortona Week 2023

// Cortona and the Wholeness of Life

16 to 23 July 2023

Certosa di Pontignano, near Siena, Tuscany, Italy

Cortona Week is an interdisciplinary, international Summer-School-Retreat, where students and other participants mingle with charismatic teachers and experts in physical and humanistic sciences, with ecologists, spiritual leaders, artists and musicians – a group from all over the world, discussing fundamental questions about life and our world. Workshops, lectures, and discussions in the lavish setting of a beautifully restored old monastery in Tuscany offer a sublime diversity of perspectives to delve into, challenge and stimulate the emergence new growth in a group of dedicated and curious minds, spanning disciplines, nations and generations. The aim is to form a new class of world leaders acquainted with a brighter awareness and an increased capacity to efficiently tackle the problems of our world today.

Cortona Week is named after a quaint medieval town in Tuscany where it was initiated in 1985. It is an annual retreat which provides a systemic and transdisciplinary view of the world, primarily for graduate students and young professionals.

Over the course of one week, students, scientists, artists, philosophers, business and spiritual leaders come together building relationships of an entirely new kind. These new connections form part of a process of transformational learning, expanding the foundation for our actions.

Many problems of our world are systemic, for which conventional education proves to be insufficient as we see looking around us. Cortona Week is a counterpart to the fragmentation of traditional disciplines and complements university education through its interdisciplinary approach.

Cortona Week was initiated at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, by professor Pier Luigi Luisi, at that time Professor of Macromolecular Chemistry, now Professor Emeritus of ETH Zurich.



Programme

Cortona Week 2023 offers transformational learning based on individual and collective experiences. These will expand your horizon and consciousness and therefore provide a new foundation for your actions. At Cortona Week, you will be invited to use your mind, soul, and body.

You will hear insightful and controversial talks, take part in lively discussions and experience workshops with about 100 other participants. In between, break-out sessions will facilitate critical exchange, deepened during lunch, dinner, and beyond. All participants – including speakers – will stay for the whole week, enabling a continuous and focused exchange of ideas, concepts and perspectives. Apart from planned activities, the week will provide space for serendipitous moments such as ad-hoc activities and initiatives that include concerts, performances, city tours with historians and more.



Talks and panel discussions

Theories, narratives and perspectives by scholars of outstanding merit sparking new ways of thinking.



Break-out groups, lunch and coffee breaks

Reflect, discuss, criticise, admire, prove and interpret the talks together with other participants in small groups.



Workshops and ateliers

Do something you have never done before and explore practices that enhance your natural creativity.



Dinners

Enriched by new questions and thrived in the wisdom of elders and the boldness of the young – all committed to sharing with each other in this very special week.



Speakers

Ernesto Burgio European Cancer and Environment Research Institute

Federico Faggin Federico and Elvia Faggin Foundation

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Stuart Kauffman ISB Institute for System Biology

Daniela Lucangeli University of Padova

Barbara Nappini Slow Food International

Kate Peil EFS International

Marko Pogacnik UNESCO Artist for Peace

Antonino Raffone Sapienza University of Rome

Giuseppe Remuzzi Mario Negri Institute

Giovanni Volpe Still I Rise

Morning activities

Varun Agarwal and Vasudeva Rao Morning Meditation

Hans-Peter Sibling Taiji & Qigong

Workshops

Shams Anwari Alhosseyni Islamic Calligraphy

Anna Bacchia An Evolution Coherent with the Life We Are

Susan Eirich Reconnection Ecology: Storytelling Our Way to a Livable Planet

Franco Giovannelli Nuclear Energy - Discussion on Fission Reactors

Tony Majdalani Drumming as Self-Experience and Communication

Marko Pogacnik Spiritual Ecology of the Surroundings

Jörg Rasche Psychological Orientation

Hortense Reintjens On Philosophy and Ethics

Irene Reintjens Uniting Diversity in Dance

Ottavio Rosati Fashion as Art

Doris And Michael Stillwater Transformational Breathwork Techniques

Ateliers

Simone Ferrero Mosaics Creations in Certosa

Andreas Schneider Sculpting Marble and Alabaster

Hong Zhang Painting Together

Federico Faggin was born in Vicenza, Italy, and graduated in physics, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Padua in 1965. Faggin came to the USA in 1968 working for Fairchild Semiconductor where he led the development of the MOS Silicon Gate Technology, a key process technology that was adopted worldwide to manufacture most contemporary integrated circuits.



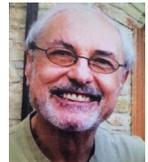
Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela is Professor and Research Chair in Historical Trauma and Transformation in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch University. Her dialogue initiatives and her research on empathy were recognized with the Social Change Award for “the contribution made by a leading psychologist toward social transformation in South Africa.”



Stuart Alan Kauffman M.D. is an American theoretical biologist and complex systems researcher who studies the origin of life on Earth. Dr. Kauffman has published over 350 articles and 6 books, his scientific work has been cited over 67,000 times.



Shams Anwari Alhosseyni was born in Tehran where he passed his examination for the Master diploma in calligraphy with a teaching license as the first calligrapher at the Academy of Fine Arts, Tehran. In Germany he studied medicine, oriental studies, and ethnology at the University of Cologne, where he is currently a university lecturer of Persian language, literature, and calligraphy.



Anna Bacchia, since early childhood, has experienced and developed an *anà-logic*, local and non-local Vision and exploration of the nature of Life. For more than 40 years, she has focused and disclosed unexplored aspects and qualities in the nature of the Cognitive, Creative and Intuitive processes, in relationship with the human sciences and the cognitive sciences.



Susan Eirich is a licensed psychologist, biologist and educator. She has taught at universities around the world, worked in maximum security prisons, directed a Nature Conservancy Preserve, and lived in remote corners of Nepal, the Mid and Far East, the Northwest Territories and the Amazon rainforest. She founded the Earthfire Institute in 2000 in order to give a voice to wildlife and help we humans rediscover how to live in right relation with nature.



Tony Majdalani, born in Haifa, has lived in Switzerland for the last 35 years. He is a musician with many years of experience as a drummer and percussionist. He has toured as a percussionist with a wide variety of music and dance troupes in Switzerland and abroad. For many years he has accompanied Modern and African dance classes.





Certosa di Pontignano – where history and hospitality blend in harmony

The Certosa of Pontignano is the official conference center for the University of Siena, a few kilometers north of the city Siena, in the region of Tuscany, Italy.

The Certosa of Pontignano complex was originally built as a Carthusian monastery and church in the middle of the 14th century. It has an almost rectangular shape, in line with the traditional iconography of charterhouses, divided in three areas. The first was used by the monks and was comprised of twelve cells arranged around a large courtyard; the church was in the second one; and the third was used by the lay brothers.

Few traces of the first monastery remain today since it was completely rebuilt in the middle of the 16th century following a fire that caused heavy damage. In 1703 the Chapel of Saint Agnese was built inside the Certosa, recognized worldwide as a small “Sistine Chapel”, within the province of Siena.



Details and registration

Date	16 – 23 July 2023
Place	Certosa di Pontignano, near Siena, Tuscany, Italy
Cost	Students & under 32: EUR 1000 Non-students: EUR 1500 for room and full board
Registration	www.cortonafriends.org

