

Investigation Project: Rescue, pedagogic insertion and communal of the ancestral games of the Native Towns of Abya Yala or America, the emigrated Africans and those enslaved in this continent.

Stela Maris FERRARESE CAPETTINI

Investigator and Director of the Project



The project starts with the objective of recovering ancestral games of the native peoples from Abya Yala (named America by the Europeans) that during the Conquest and the following centuries of dominance have been prohibited and lost, of which few remained as a daily practice and others were modified due to the social and economic pressures and the cultural imposition generated by the Conquest from 1492 on.

To recover these games means to accompany the process of recovery of the own ethnic identity along with other cultural components of which the games form part.

The traditional pattern which Westerner exported to our countries formed an erroneous image of the towns that preceded those that arrived in 1492 in the Abya Yala town (Quechua language) name that was given to this territory by its indigenous peoples. That missed image generated a xenophobia transmitted from one generation to the other without any grounds. The need for a revision of history and for facts leading the truth to appear will ensure that games, songs, works of art, theater, etc. appear too.

But AbyYala was not the only one to be invaded and impacted by the biggest genocide or humanity's holocaust of its kind about which so far nothing or hardly anything is said. More than 70 million human beings died and their cultures were erased due to the greed and imposition of a way of thinking and of a single religious credo. It is not the only existing case of domination of humanity, as Africa is also another continent affected in this whole disastrous action of some Kingdoms and feuds. More than 33 million people were enslaved due to the avarice of a group of ruling europeans.

The towns ethnically different of Abya Yala or America are not a "minority", neither are the Africans, because a western nationality does not exist, therefore westerners living in these territories descend from minorities of ethnic groups which had their own territories like the indigenous ones and were dominated in Europe by different feuds who transformed them into Nation States or countries. One should stress that nowadays all countries are constituted by different ethnic minorities; otherwise the author does not accept the concept "minorities" as native peoples of Abya Yala and Africa in this land. The author does not accept either, and it does not appear in her writings, the concept of indigenous language and language for the Europeans. We all are alike therefore the concepts should be once and for all: language, art (craft is rejected for lack of proven grounds), literature (ethnic literature is rejected) and all other concepts that lead like it has always been the case, to xenophobia and discrimination of human.

If we speak of human rights and within this framework, of the right to cultural inheritance: Therefore all towns are entitled to develop their own cultural inheritance without the interference and cultural imposition on the part of other towns. The respect for diversity and its acceptance lead to the true defense of the inalienable rights of all towns of the world and within them to natives of Abya Yala or America and Africa, of its own recreational culture and that of its children who are entitled to receive the

transmission of its cultural inheritance from which the recreational also forms part. We should remember that the concept of sport is a western concept which was created rather with more commercial and hedonists purposes than with cultural ones. Therefore it is well known that the concept of game includes the same ones as long as they can be practiced by everyone. Nevertheless the sport concept does not take into account because its purpose is the selection of people for physical skills and it does not represent any culture. Neither should it be ignored that on the one hand all western sports settle their bases in appropriate games to different ethnic identities and on the other hand the new sport peak of certain native games is due to the imposition of a hegemonic, hedonist, spiritually empty and accultured model of the capitalist process which only pursues the spiritual vacuity and the dominance under classist and competitive patterns without cultural meaning which is not a homogeneous pseudostructure.

The rescue investigation and insert of the ancestral games or ethnic games of Abya Yala (which means natives of here ethnically own and alienated in some cases) not traditional (I consider as such the games imposed from and for the European societies emigrated to these lands) it has been carried out ad honorem in the framework of the Humanities Faculty, Comahue National University in Neuquén City, Argentina and it is part of the tasks that are carried out in support to the Towns Natives in the Free Class Atahualpa Yupanqui of the same one.

Starting from the year 2001 the proposal of the curriculum change began in the degree curriculum in physical education and the curriculum school at different levels of this topic (you Confer on the topic in www.juegoseticos.com.a)

Step 1º: Approach to the societies ethnically differed as native in the Argentinean Patagonia. Report and rescue work of games and ancestral toys. Collaboration in other matters concerning these towns.

Step 2º: Approach to other towns of Abya Yala or America. In situ works and bibliographical revision. Collaboration in other matters.

Step 3º: Continuity of the investigation.

Beginning of different stages of community and pedagogic insert, collaborating directly or indirectly with the partner towns.

Presentation of proposals to create an intercultural physical education for Abya Yala or America to training institutions and education departments.

A summary of the results of the investigations and works of the pedagogic proposals is published in books Series "The Sower" or Ngankongife (in mapuche language):

Nº1 2006: Ethnic games of America and Documents about Intercultural Physical Education, Edition The Author, Neuquén, Argentina. CD, 204 pages, 16 color pictures and 12 drawings.

Booklet on Intercultural Physical Education, Edition The Author, Neuquén, Argentina 60 pages, 20 drawings and 15 illustrations.

It corresponds the material "The Ethnic Games in the EGB 3" written for the Document Contributions for the Classroom Number 10 of the Ministry of Education of the Argentina Nation, Physical Education Area, november 2001, Edition in Notebooks of Physical Education Nº 10 (it was not published by the abrupt government change at national level)

Nº 2: 2007 co-authored with Don Adriano Rocha: Ethnic games of África and Notes about Intercultural Education, Edition The Author, Neuquén, Argentina. 158 pages, with 26 pictures and 14 drawings.

Different works about games and studied toys are published in the following website www.juegosetnicos.com.ar

With this work it is offered:

- To create the interest to know and to appreciate the recreational inheritance of girls and boys belonging to native towns of Abya Yala or America and in this way eliminate prejudices created from the West towards them for centuries, and to encourage the protection of these games of the western advance on their culture like part of the humanity's recreational inheritance giving them the same value that they are given to the games and historical toys of occident.

Encourage the use of these games creating and applying a real intercultural physical education.

Together to give to know the toys (the creation of the Ancestral Games Museum in the town of Zonda in San Juan's Argentinean county for which the toys were designed was supported).

To make a report on the state of the girls and boys' games and toys who live in Yala or America due to the process of human globalization that one experiences at present.

I would like to emphasize the idea that:

"While sometimes suffering under the poverty, the illness and oppression of children are at the same time the active participants creating the society and cultivating in that they grow to. Consequently, the culture of children should be recognized properly like an entire part of humanity's tangible and intangible inheritance." (Jean-Pierre Rossie, www.sanatoyplay.org).



Stela Maris FERRARESE CAPETTINI
Licenced in Physical Education
Schoolmaster in Sciences of the Communication (Doctored)
Specialist in Interculturality
www.juegosetnicos.com.ar
juegosetnicos@yahoo.com.ar (sferrarese@neunet.com.ar)