

# LUKANKA(\*)

by Rudolph C. Rýser

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**“Development,” “self-directed development,” “community trauma,” and “sustainability” are all a part of the lexicon of development literature. The Fourth World tackles the issue from the inside out.**

In this issue we have collected writings from some fine scholars and researchers who elevate to a new level the discussion of self government, traditional medicine and sexual violence in the Fourth World. The Fourth World Journal has been the venue for the discussion of subjects often dismissed or ignored. In the tradition of careful research and thoughtful analysis **Dr. Melissa Farley** presents here a peer-reviewed article detailing her findings of her research on First World prostitution of Fourth World peoples. This extraordinary piece exposes with precision and accuracy the devastating causes of prostitution and its deeply traumatic effects on First Nations women in present-day Vancouver and indigenous women the world over.

She speaks to us about the plight of First Nations women and children forced into prostitution. The triple forces of race, class and sex discrimination that disparately affect First Nations women and the legacy of colonization are openly addressed in "Prostitution in Vancouver: Violence and the Colonization of First Nations Women"

**Monica Charles'** critical voice admonishes people to again listen to their powerful traditions and let traditional foods and ways of life take care of themselves, their whole bodies. In her self-reflective talk Monica Charles emphatically illustrates the urgent need to reintroduce traditional foods into indigenous communities and use holistic forms of health to save lives and heal. **Mirjam Hirsch**, a Center for World Indigenous Studies Fellow for Traditional Health Policy addresses immediate basic human needs, looking at the devastating health care situation of the peoples in Uzbekistan (Central Asia) after independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991. Her focus is on the present prospect of indigenous self-determination efforts and the potential of traditional healers and structures of organization to substantially improve the overall health situation of the diverse peoples in Uzbekistan.

**Sandi Loytomaki's** unique exploration of the cultural intersections of personal healing experiences and self is a reflection of her identity as a “Shamanic healer,” raised in Canada with Sami and Italian ancestry. She raises questions about meaning, belief and understanding, inviting readers to soul search and speculate about culture, belonging and ways humans grasp reality. **Tiffany Waters** a member of the Chinook Tribe delivers an informative piece that delves into the use of blood quantum by the US government to determine Indian tribal membership, which ultimately is facilitating the cultural eradication of Native people and dismantling traditional modes of life. She explores blood-quantum, or the “degree” of blood one possesses of a certain “race,” as a form of self-colonization among American Indians; this involves internalization and continuation of the colonial framework of subjugation and domination. Waters emphasizes the need for traditional modes of enrollment, such as cultural affinity, kinship ties, and descent to reclaim and validate ‘authentic’ modes of inclusion criterion. Finally, **Dr. Leslie Korn, Director of the Center for Traditional Medicine** draws from her rich personal background and clinical experience to present a revolutionary analysis on how to integrate traditional and integrative medicine for the treatment of diabetes in an indigenous community in rural Mexico. Her sharp insight and understanding make clear the intrinsic relationship between land, culture, health and the cosmos which allow the reader to understand illness and chronic disease in a new way.

## Bios:

**Melissa Farley**, is a research and clinical psychologist who has been addressing prostitution and trafficking for the past 10 years. She has worked on issues of violence against women for the past 25 years. Melissa Farley is Director of Prostitution Research and Education, San Francisco Women's

Center.

**Monica Charles'** is a community activist from the S'Klallam nation at Lower Elwah reserve on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. She is a poet, writer and diabetes activist, trying to reintroduce traditional foods and medicines into Native diet, providing methods by which the community can define its priorities and enact self-determination to regain control of its health.

**Mirjam Hirsch** a Hessian from Darmstadt, Germany received her Masters degree in literature, geography and law from the University of Marburg, Germany with a focus on indigenous studies. Currently she is a fellow of traditional health policy at the Center for World Indigenous Studies. She is conducting doctoral research on the ethnogeographic topic of traditional medicine and self-determination, at the University of Cologne, Germany. This involves investigating relations between a geographical reality and the formation of peoples' cultural healing systems.

**Sandi Loytomaki** is a mother of two children, currently residing in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. She is founder of On the Winds of Change Healing Services, a traditional/energy medicine practice offering clinical, educational and research services. Sandi is a graduate of the Center for Traditional Medicine Certificate Program, where she blended traditional and energy medicine. She is trained in many CAM modalities including medical intuition, intuition, channeling, and spiritual healing. Her academic training is in Kinesiology and Psychology, where she specialized in neuropsychology.

**Tiffany Waters** received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2004 at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She received her degree in Geography/Anthropology with a concentration in Archaeology. At the Center for World Indigenous Studies she is presently working as Clinical Coordinator for the American Indian Caregiver Study. Tiffany is of Clatsop Indian, Polish, Norwegian, English, Welsh and German descent.

**Leslie Korn** received her Ph.D. in Behavioral Medicine and Medical Humanities, with specializations in Traditional Medicine and Feminist Theory from the Union Institute. She has a Masters in cross-cultural health psychology from Lesley College Graduate School. She received a Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.) from Harvard University and was a Clinical Fellow in Psychology and Religion and Clinical Instructor in Psychology at Harvard Medical School. She is a licensed psychotherapist, a Registered Polarity Therapy Practitioner, and Board Certified in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

Enjoy reading this issue.  
Rudolph C. Ryser, Ph.D.  
Editor in Chief

(\*) **Lukanka** is a Miskito word from Yapti Tasba meaning "ideas," "thoughts," "thinking."