**Proposal for**

**Inspiring Earth Ethics: Linking Values and Action**

**23rd 24th Nov., 2017, Griffith University Nathan Campus, Brisbane**

**Presenter’s Name:** Glenys Livingstone Ph.D.

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**Conference Focus Area Relevant to this Proposal:**

Faith, eco-spirituality and eco-theology

**Type of Participation Proposed:**

Mini-workshop and faciltated practices

**Title of Presentation:** A Cosmic Walk: Celebrating Origins

**Abtract:**

This presentation facilitates an experience of our habitat as a multilayered reality of self, Earth and Universe. Humans, including many environmentalists, often story themselves as an addendum to Earth; and also often veer away from the larger story of the Universe, considering it to be the realm of religions. This workshop will present a western scientific cosmology – the work of cosmologist/physicist Brian Swimme, cultural historian Thomas Berry, Miriam MacGilis, evolutionary biologist Elisabet Sahtouris, Lynn Margulis and others, wherein we may contemplate our human selves as integral to the whole cosmic unfolding, since the original Flaring Forth. According to Thomas Berry: *The greatest single need … is for an integral telling of the great story of the universe. This story must provide in our times what the mythic stories of earlier times provided as the guiding and energizing sources of the human venture.*

The Universe story will be presented in ceremonial style – a Cosmic Walk - for all participants as one person walks a 30 meter spiral laid out with forty moments of significance marked. Each of these moments will be named and celebrated briefly as the walker proceeds. The process is concluded with each participant lighting a small candle to represent themselves as an outcome of this whole story. There will be a sharing with another, verbal or non-verbal.

I will summarize Thomas Berry’s three qualities of Cosmogenesis in a short meditation that incorporates a yoga mudra with poetic imagery, offering it as a method for remembering the empowering sacred origins present in every moment.

I envision being able to create a version of this experience that could fit into an hour.

**Biographical Statement:**

Glenys Livingstone Ph.D. is the author of *PaGaian Cosmology*, which fuses a practice of seasonal ceremony with contemporary Western science, feminism and a poetic relationship with place. She lives in the Blue Mountains where she has facilitated Seasonal ceremony, taught classes, and mentored apprentices. Glenys is a contributor to *Goddesses in World Culture* edited by Patricia Monaghan (2011), and to *Foremothers of the Women’s Spirituality Movement* edited by Miriam Robbins Dexter and Vicki Noble (2015). She recently produced PaGaian Cosmology Meditations CDs, and teaches a year-long on-line course "Celebrating Cosmogenesis in the Wheel of the Year". Her website is <http://pagaian.org>