# Conference Entry Form

**Name** *  
Morgana Sythove

**Job Title** *  
International Coordinator

**Company or Organization's Name and country** *  
Foundation Pagan Federation International / PFI

**Short bio**
Morgana is Anglo/Dutch and lives in the Netherlands. She is a practising Gardnerian High Priestess. Over the years, she has facilitated a variety of Wiccan groups. She is co–editor of the international and bilingual "Wiccan Rede" magazine, which was launched in 1980 and is the coordinator of Silver Circle, a Wiccan network in the Netherlands. As International Coordinator for PFI, she travels extensively giving talks and workshops about Wicca and Paganism.

**Email** *  
morgana@paganfederation.org

**Proposal Title** *  
"Wicca– a modern religion in an old robe."

**Abstract (500 words). Abstracts will be published on the webpage before the conference.** *

Abstract: “Wicca” is a prime example of a revival of ritual practice and custom, primarily in the British Isles. ‘Wicca’, or Modern Witchcraft / Pagan Witchcraft, as a name was introduced in the 1950’s by Gerald B. Gardner after the Witchcraft laws of 1735 were revoked and replaced by the Fraudulent Mediums Act (1951). What motivated Gerald Gardner to revive “The Old Religion”? Which resources in the re–establishment or revival of these dormant customs did he use? In recent discussions about Neo–paganism, where there is a tendency to claim authenticity, it has become more and more apparent that to understand the nature of “Wicca” we need to look at the cultural and social environment of England in the 1950’s. The pagan/heathen heritage in Europe does indeed go back millennia but Wicca is clearly a product of modernity. In this paper I will be looking at the impact of cultural influences and how Wicca has developed in Europe over the last 40 years.

**Session type**
- Presentation

**Short panel description**

**Additional Information**
As a pagan/Wiccan practitioner, I have given several papers at academic conferences. I am currently a member of SIEF/ International Society for Ethnology and Folklore, and have worked specifically in the working group "The Ritual Year".

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