

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE is the founder and director of the international non-profit organisation, [Local Futures](#), a pioneer of the new economy movement, and the convenor of [World Localization Day](#) and the [International Alliance for Localisation](#).

Helena is the author of several books, including [Ancient Futures](#) (“the inspirational classic” -- Random House), an eye-opening tale of tradition and change in Ladakh, or “Little Tibet”. Together with a film of the same title, *Ancient Futures* has been translated into more than 40 languages, and sold half a million copies.

Her latest book is [Local is Our Future: Steps to an Economics of Happiness](#) (“Localization is the only hope for the future. Read this book!” -- Iain McGilchrist).

The impact of the global market on food and farming has been a focus of Helena’s work for almost 40 years, including two books ([From the Ground Up: Rethinking Industrial Agriculture](#) and [Bringing the Food Economy Home: Local Alternatives to Global Agribusiness](#), as well as a *Local Food Toolkit*, which won a prestigious UK award for investigative journalism.

Helena is also the producer of the award-winning documentary [The Economics of Happiness](#), which has been described by the media-activism site Films for Action as “truly one of the most important and useful films for inspiring change that has been made in a generation”.

Educated in Sweden, Germany, Austria, England and the United States, Helena specialized in linguistics, including studies at the University of London and with Noam Chomsky at MIT. Her work, spanning almost half a century, has received the support of a wide range of international figures, including Jane Goodall, HH the Dalai Lama, HRH Prince Charles and Indira Gandhi.

Helena has lectured in seven languages and appeared in broadcast, print and online media worldwide, including MSNBC, *The Times*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Guardian*. She has written numerous articles and essays, and her work has been the subject of thousands of articles worldwide. *The Earth Journal* counted Helena among the world’s “ten most interesting environmentalists”. Most recently, Helena was profiled in *The New York Times*, titled ‘[What if Local and Diverse Is Better Than Networked and Global?](#)’.

Helena was the first outsider in modern times to become fluent in the Ladakhi language and began working with the people in 1975, to find ways of enabling their culture to meet the modern world without sacrificing social, spiritual and ecological values. In 1978, along with her husband John Page, she founded the Ladakh Project (which later became the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC), and today Local Futures).

The Ladakh Project helped to establish several important indigenous organizations, including the [Ladakh Ecological Development Group \(LEDeG\)](#), the [Women’s Alliance of Ladakh](#), the [Amchi Association](#), and the [Ladakh Environment and Health Organisation \(LEHO\)](#).

Helena has helped to initiate grassroots movements on every continent, particularly in the area of local food, and co-founded the International Forum on Globalization, the Global Ecovillage Network, and the International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture. In Japan, she co-founded an Ancient Futures movement and in South Korea an Economics of Happiness / localisation movement.

Helena is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Right Livelihood Award (aka the “Alternative Nobel Prize”), the Arthur Morgan Award and the Goi Peace Prize for contributing to “the revitalization of cultural and biological diversity, and the strengthening of local communities and economies worldwide.”