



Over the coming weeks, we will be introducing our conference speakers and their topic. We are kicking-off this series with Donald Johanson, part of our session on Earth, Climate Crises & Global Health.

Next Breath & WFF 2021

From Water to Air; Scientific Pathways towards a Clearer, Cleaner Future.

Donald Johanson

Founding Director and Virginia M Ullman Chair in Human Origins
Faculty w/Admin Appointment, TEMPE Campus, Arizona State University
Founding Director of the Institute of Human Origins



Talk Title — Our Place In Time

"When we look at humans in the perspective of time, it is humbling and disconcerting to see how much we have impacted the planet, for better or for worse since our relatively recent arrival."

Don Johanson

Donald C. Johanson is the Virginia M Ullman Chair in Human Origins in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change and the Founding Director of the Institute of Human Origins. For the past 30 years, he has conducted field and laboratory research in paleoanthropology. Most notably, he discovered the 3.18 million year old hominid skeleton popularly known as "Lucy." Through grants from the [National Science Foundation](#), the [L.S.B. Leakey Foundation](#), and the [National Geographic Society](#), Johanson has carried out field research in Ethiopia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Tanzania. He is an Honorary Board Member of the [Explorers Club](#), a Fellow of the [Royal Geographical Society](#), a member of many other professional organizations and recipient of several international prizes and awards. In 1975, Johanson was appointed curator of physical anthropology at the [Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#) and, beginning in 1976, developed a laboratory of physical anthropology that attracted scholars from all over the world. He has written, among other books, the widely read [Lucy: The Beginnings of Humankind](#) (with Maitland Edey), 1991, and numerous scientific and popular articles. In 1994, he co-wrote ["Ancestors: In Search of Human Origins"](#) and narrated a companion NOVA television series seen by more than 100 million people worldwide. Most recently, he published ["From Lucy to Language"](#) (with Blake Edgar, principal photography by David Brill), 1996. Johanson is a frequent lecturer at university and other forums in the United States and abroad.

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