

Call for Papers

Submit 200-word abstract by 30 OCT 26 via webform at: <https://otsf.org/ancienteath> or by email to: info@OTF.org

Notification by 16 NOV 26.

WORLD CONGRESS *Song of an Ancient Earth*

An unprecedented international multi-disciplinary conference exploring Behavioral Addiction and the Genetic & Social Human Legacy of the Neolithic Transition

Our purpose is to broaden scholarly exchange and cement a framework through which archaeological knowledge and contemporary human research in addiction studies can be translated into living public remedial initiatives adaptable by museums, educational institutions, cultural organizations, and communities worldwide. We will be taking a hard look at an uncomfortable situation that is currently being played out in U.S. courtrooms.

We spend enormous effort studying all the marvelous “advanced” things that civilization has achieved -- spending comparatively little time asking what it may have cost us. What if some of our modern mental-health struggles have roots in the major social transformation that began 12,000 years ago?

The human mind before civilization was very different from what we know now. The language of prehistory is a voice that has no science and understands the world through a primitive lens. It comes from a place of mysticism and raw nature with loads of emotion attached. That can work for us!

The archaeological record has revealed one of the most consequential transformations in human history: the transition from mobile societies to settled communities and the emergence of new forms of social organization, technology, symbolism, and relationship with the natural world. Recent discoveries, particularly in Anatolia and other regions of the ancient world, have expanded our understanding of this transition and raised profound questions about the human experience. At the same time, research across many contemporary disciplines has generated important new insight into human connection, cognition, wellbeing, learning, resilience, and the conditions that allow individuals and communities to flourish.

Song of an Ancient Earth brings diverse fields together in an international multidisciplinary congress to explore a central question: **What can the deep history of humanity, combined with current knowledge of human development, teach us about creating stronger communities and a healthier human future?** The congress seeks scholarly and institutional perspectives on profound questions raised by both the archaeological record and contemporary human sciences.

Deep Human History

What can evidence from the Neolithic reveal about human adaptation, cooperation, creativity, identity, and community? Questions may include:

- How did early communities organize relationships, resources, and shared responsibilities?
- What can the emergence of the first large communities teach us about human cooperation and belonging?
- How should we understand the transformation from collective relationships with land and resources toward concepts of ownership and individual control?
- What aspects of prehistoric societies have yet to be fully considered in public understanding?

Human Sciences and Contemporary Understanding

What can current research across disciplines reveal about the needs and capacities that have shaped human flourishing? Perspectives are invited from fields including:

Anthropology * Psychology * Neuroscience
Genetics and Human Evolution
Gender Studies * Education
Indigenous Studies * Social Sciences
Architecture and Environmental Design
Public Health * Integrative Sciences
The Arts and Cultural Practice

The congress welcomes research and perspectives that illuminate questions of human connection, cultural value systems, social resilience, creativity, learning, identity, and well-being.

From Knowledge to Application

The congress will explore the development of prototype pilot programs that translate interdisciplinary knowledge into meaningful public initiatives.

A Conversation About the Future

At a time when societies face growing challenges related to isolation, mistrust, fragmentation, and declining community connection, questions about the human past are no longer only historical questions. They are questions about the future.

What conditions have allowed human beings to thrive? What human capacities and vulnerabilities have accompanied us through our long development? How can deeper understanding of ourselves contribute to healthier communities?

Song of Ancient Earth invites researchers, educators, cultural institutions, and practitioners from diverse fields to contribute perspectives that can help shape this emerging conversation. The goal is not only scholarly exchange, but the creation of a framework through which archaeological knowledge and contemporary human research can be translated into living public humanities initiatives adaptable by museums, educational institutions, cultural organizations, and communities worldwide.

Timeframe: 25-28 March, 2027
Mediterranean Island of Malta

Proceedings will be published, along with resulting model for museum and other institutional outreach.

Updates & Reference:
<https://otsf.org/ancienteath>

Hosted by:
The OTS Foundation for Neolithic Studies