



THE SYMPOSIUM OF HUMAN AND ECOLOGY RELATIONS THROUGH THE AGES



CALL FOR PAPERS

We cordially invite you to submit papers for the symposium organized by **Ege University Faculty of Letters Archaeology Department** with the kind support of the **SAYGINER Archaeology Foundation** entitled “Human and Ecology Relations Through the Ages” on **4-6 December 2024**.

Since the late 19th century, the relationship between humans and non-humans has been one of the topics of archaeological research. Over time, humans have developed a strong connection with their natural surroundings, which has resulted in the presence of animal bones, shells, seeds, pollen, coal fragments, metals, and minerals in settlements and campsites which have been preserved in archaeological layers for extended periods of time. In the previous century, archaeologists analysed these remains through a human-centric lens, focusing on the dichotomy between humans and nature. However, with the onset of climate and ecological crises in the 21st century, researchers are exploring a new perspective, one that seeks to break down the barriers between nature and culture. Advanced archaeological techniques and analysis are now being employed to delve deeper into this complex relationship.

Some scholars consider the Anthropocene to be the era in which humans have become a major ecological-climatic actor through their industrial and consumption-oriented activities. Although the Anthropocene has not been recognized as a geological epoch, the destructive effects of human activity on the biosphere are becoming increasingly evident and new

adaptations, technologies, and ways of thinking and behaving are urgently needed to overcome these impacts.

In this era of global climate change and biodiversity loss, the study of the complex, entangled, and multi-layered relationship that past societies developed with non-human beings takes on a new significance. The shape and intensity of the human relationship with sentient and/or non-sentient beings and the reciprocal effects of this relationship can be made visible through archaeological record, and archaeology can even pioneer studies in this field.

For archaeologists, it is now questionable how far back the constructive and/or destructive effects of human beings on the earth go, under what circumstances they increase or decrease, and in what forms they display themselves. Therefore, discussing issues such as how humans have adapted to ecological conditions, resisted sudden changes, or in which cases they have been unable to survive can be seminal in understanding and overcoming today's ecological crisis.

With this symposium, the **Archaeology Department of Ege University** would like to examine and discuss the interactions developed by past societies with their climate, biosphere, lithosphere, and ecological environments, from the first emergence of human beings to the end of Antiquity, to reinterpret archaeological data and turn it into an opportunity to understand and overcome the contemporary ecological crisis.

Papers may include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Abrupt climate changes in the Holocene and adaptation processes of past societies
- The past human relationship with its ecological environment: Constitutive or destructive relationships
- History of fauna-human relations
- History of flora-human relations
- Relationships with marine and freshwater ecosystems
- Human-ecology relations in the face of natural disasters
- Pre-agricultural and post-agricultural human-ecology relations
- Relationships with the natural environment in raw material supply and exploitation
- Relationships between humans and non-humans that develop during trade
- The political ecology of states and empires
- Impact of agriculture, maritime trade, mining, ceramic production, etc. on deforestation and biodiversity loss
- Impacts and consequences of human activity on biological evolution and biodiversity loss

You can submit the titles of your papers until July 1st, 2024 by emailing them to egeinsanekoloji@gmail.com.

Important Dates:

Title submission: July 1, 2024

Abstract submission: September 1, 2024

Symposium Dates: December 4–6, 2024

Correspondence: Ege University, Faculty
of Letters, Archaeology Department,
35100, Bornova-Izmir - TÜRKİYE
Phone: +90 232 3111325 (Secretary)

E-mail: egeinsanekoloji@gmail.com
Websites: <https://arkeoloji.ege.edu.tr/>
<https://sayginerfoundation.org/>



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