



GERMAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
ISTANBUL



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Understanding Past Human–Environment Interactions in Anatolia –

A Socio-Ecological Approach

Special Issue: Aims and Scope

This co-edited **BYZAS** volume aims to bring together original research that examines past human-environment interactions in Anatolia through a socio-ecological perspective. The volume builds on lively discussions and intellectual exchange fostered by the 7th Research Network organized by the Istanbul Department of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in collaboration with Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) and Princeton University's Climate Change and History Research Initiative (CCHRI) for exploring Socio-Ecological Approaches to the History and Archaeology of Anatolia, held between 2023 and 2025.

Across six thematic meetings, the international and interdisciplinary research network has moved beyond deterministic or collapse-centred interpretations of environmental change, instead emphasising adaptation, resilience, feedback mechanisms, and multi-scalar socio-ecological dynamics. In line with previous research in the field of human ecology, the network has treated cultural, economic, and environmental processes as integrated human–environment systems rather than isolated domains.

The planned **BYZAS** volume seeks to consolidate these discussions into a coherent analytical framework, positioning the Anatolian Peninsula as a key comparative laboratory for socio-ecological research across deep time, while contributing to broader interdisciplinary debates in archaeology, environmental history, and human ecology.

Contributions to the volume are expected to engage with one or more of the following topics:

- Longue durée analyses of human–environment interactions
- Processes of resilience, vulnerability, and transformation in socio-ecological systems
- Multi-scalar approaches (micro-regional, regional, supra-regional)
- Integration of archaeological, historical, and environmental datasets
- Explicit discussion of methodological limits, uncertainty, and inference

As a collected volume of the **DAI BYZAS** series the book aims to combine empirically grounded case studies with conceptual and methodological reflections that advance socio-ecological approaches to past human-environment systems.



Indicative Research Themes

We invite paper submissions for publication in this upcoming **DAI BYZAS** volume focusing on any archaeological period. Submissions from all relevant disciplines are encouraged to engage with one or more of the following themes:

1. Socio-Ecological Systems and Long-Term Dynamics in Anatolia

- Continuities and transformations in human–environment relations
- Environmental variability and societal responses

2. Methods, Modelling, and Uncertainty

- Chronologies, proxies, and inferential challenges
- Quantifying and communicating uncertainty in socio-ecological research

3. Landscapes and Micro-Regional Systems

- Changing Ecologies: Lakes, wetlands, deltas, and mountain environments
- Agricultural land use, pastoral farming, and resource management

4. Urban–Rural Interactions and Economic Ecologies

- Production, circulation, and spatial/institutional organisation
- Agricultural systems and hinterland relations

5. Agriculture, Technology, and Labour Organisation

- Agricultural practices under environmental constraints
- Energetics, labour, and governance

6. Disasters, Climatic Stress, and Societal Responses

- Droughts, fires, floods, and seismic events
- Impact of climate change, short- and long-term adaptive strategies

7. Global Perspectives and Policy Relevance

- Anatolia within wider socio-ecological systems
- Memory, ritual, and environmental knowledge systems
- Translating historical socio-ecological knowledge into public and policy discourse

8. Perception and Representation of Human–Environment Interaction

- Environmental perception in religion, ritual, and cult practices
- Representations of landscapes in literature, visual arts, and architecture
- Cultural narratives of environmental change



Types of Contributions

The editors welcome:

- Single-authored or co-authored research papers, joint papers are welcome
- Comparative or synthetic contributions drawing on multiple case studies
- Methodological or conceptual papers reflecting on socio-ecological approaches

Participation in the 7th DAI Research Network is not a prerequisite; however, all submissions should clearly engage with the volume's socio-ecological framework.

Editorial Structure

This edited **BYZAS** volume will be coordinated by four co-editors, working collaboratively to ensure conceptual coherence and analytical consistency within a genuinely interdisciplinary human-environment research framework.

- **Julia M. Koch** (*Archaeologist, DAI, Istanbul Department*)
- **Lee Clare** (*Prehistorian, DAI, Istanbul Department*)
- **Özlem Sert** (*Environmental Historian, Hacettepe University, Urban Studies Center*)
- **Sena Akçer-Ön** (*Geoscientist, Muğla S.K. University, Dept. of Geological Engineering*)

Together, the editorial team brings complementary expertise spanning archaeology, pre-history, environmental history, and geosciences, supporting the volume's aim to examine past human-environment interactions in Anatolia through an integrated socio-ecological perspective.

Depending on the final structure of the volume, section editors or invited discussants may be appointed to strengthen thematic coherence and facilitate cross-disciplinary dialogue.

Abstract and Paper Submission Process

We look forward to receiving abstract submissions from interested authors applying archaeo-environmental approaches for exploring any period of Anatolia's past. All abstracts and papers should be written in English, Turkish summaries will be included before final publication.

- Abstracts of **300–600** words should clearly outline:
 - Research questions, data, and methodology
 - Engagement with socio-ecological approaches and themes (1–8)
- Abstracts should be submitted to soc.eco.book@gmail.com by **1st of June 2026**
- Editorial feedback and invitations to submit papers by **1st of July 2026**
- Final date for full paper submission: **16th January 2027**