

TWENTY-SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



UNSEEN UNSUSTAINABILITY

ADDRESSING HIDDEN RISKS
TO LONG-TERM WELLBEING FOR ALL

Twenty-Second International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability

<https://onsustainability.com/2026-conference>

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Welcome Letters



New Thinking

New Practices

New Societies

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Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Twenty-Second International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability.

Founded in 2005, the On Sustainability Research Network is brought together by a common concern for sustainability from a holistic perspective, where environmental, cultural, economic, and social interests intersect. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "Unseen Unsustainability: Addressing Hidden Risks to Long-Term Wellbeing for All," reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Phoebe Koundouri, Stergios Vakalis, Björn Hassler, David Humphreys, conference chair Dr. Chryssi Vitsilaki, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner University of the Aegean, for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope
Chief Social Scientist
Common Ground Research Networks

Dear Delegates,

A very warm welcome to the Common Ground Research Network's 22nd International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability - this year incorporating the 18th International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses. The overall focus of the conference is Unseen Unsustainability: Addressing Hidden Risks to Long-term Wellbeing for All, hosted by the University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece.

This is an important theme as it gives attention to those areas where often science strong regarding the threat that an issue poses to our collective wellbeing, but which are traditionally marginalised. This may be because climate change as a single issue is taking the headlines, because the issue is less able to grab the imagination, because it is an issue that is much harder for us to tackle – or perhaps just due to chance. In any case, it is vital we keep all these issues very front of mind when making choices about how to act – because they all interact to impact whether life can flourish, or even survive, on this planet.

As well as plenaries and papers on these 'unseen' topics, we will of course showcase a wide range of papers and researchers across the full range of Common Ground Research Network sustainability themes:

Theme 1: Ecological Realities

Theme 2: Participatory Process

Theme 3: Economic, Social and Cultural Context

Theme 4: Education, Assessment and Policy

Please do take time to browse and delve further into, the submissions on the portal.

We are also lucky to have no less than 4 inspiring plenary speakers, including our very own David Humphreys who was the academic lead for this theme for many years.

As well as those lucky enough to be able to join us in person, as always, we there will be people from across the world participating – you are all very welcome to share in this rich experience as fully as possible. We are extremely lucky that Common Ground Research Networks has always been leading in the online research collaboration space, and they have made further investments in this recently which you will benefit from. This effort is core to making the experience truly rewarding regardless of how you intend to join.

When thinking about how to respond appropriately to the 'Unsustainability Emergency' through your professional and personal lives, our wish is that you find inspiration in this years' conference. We hope, through this conference, that you lead, learn, grow and develop the leadership skills you seek to play your part in the urgent change needed. Please do take time to explore the various aspects of this year's online forum and remember you can browse more than 20 interdisciplinary Research Networks of CGRN.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Victoria



Dear conference participants,

A very warm welcome to Rhodes, Greece for the Twenty-Second International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability. Rhodes boasts an impressive array of natural sites and cultural heritage. The medieval old town of Rhodes is a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site. Our warmest thanks to our hosts at the University of the Aegean, and in particular to the local conference chair, Professor Chryssi Vitsilaki.

This year's conference theme – Unseen Unsustainability: Addressing Hidden Risks to Long-Term Wellbeing for All – encourages us to examine the often-invisible drivers of environmental degradation and climate change that we may not always notice as they are embedded and normalised in mundane, routine and everyday actions. These may include, for example, buying food or charging a mobile phone.

The conference theme challenges us to reflect on what we can do to contribute to the social, political and economic transformations that are necessary if environmental degradation is to be arrested and more sustainable forms of governance nurtured. What is our role as teachers and educators in promoting concerted action to address problems such as unsustainable resource use? How can we build the alliances and sense of global community necessary to address the hidden risks to a sustainable future so as to maximise wellbeing across generations? What are our options for generating durable solutions for sustainability and environmental stability?

I am sure we shall have some stimulating and important debates on these questions with our deliberations being greatly aided by the plenary speakers we have lined up. They are Professor Phoebe Koundouri of the Athens University of Economics and Business and of the University of Cambridge; Dr Stergios Vakalis of the National Technical University of Athens; and Professor Björn Hassler of Södertörn University, Sweden.

I have been attending this conference for 20 years now. I have always found meaningful and enriching these annual gatherings of educators, researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders. Ten years ago I was honoured to be invited to serve as the research network chair for Common Ground's On Sustainability community. This will be my last conference in this role. From 2007 Dr Victoria Hurth will serve as research network chair for the On Sustainability community while continuing to lead the Climate Change community. I wish Victoria every success in this role.

Wishing you a productive and enjoyable conference.

Most cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Humphreys".

David Humphreys
Emeritus Professor of Environmental Policy, The Open University



On Sustainability Research Network

Founded in 2005, the **On Sustainability Research Network** is brought together by a common concern for sustainability from a holistic perspective, where environmental, cultural, economic, and social interests intersect. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

Environment

Nature is a dynamic thing in and of itself, and sometimes convulsively so. Humans are its beneficiaries and, at times, its victims. They are also increasingly agents, interacting in and with natural processes. Over several millennia, the human species has become one of the forces of nature, a critical part of its destiny, and ever more so today and tomorrow. Perhaps even, the human species may be a catalyst in another convulsion in the course of natural history. As nature more and more becomes an object of human artifice, its prospects move to the forefront of human consciousness. "What have we done with nature?" we may well ask ourselves. What have been the forms and effects of our interventions? What are the implications of our species-role as a force of nature, and what are the responsibilities that accompany this role? How can we create a viable home for ourselves alongside the other lifeforms of the planet?

Culture

Culture is the representation of our human natures, our subjectivities, our shared meanings, and our memories. Culture is the glue of similarity ("identity," literally) that grounds our sociability. It is also a matter of difference or cultures in the plural, the multilayered combinations of which form persons in the plural: ways of seeing, ways of thinking, ways of meaning, ways of relating to each other, ways of connecting with nature. The challenge of culture is as much to forge a productive diversity for the human species (ethnos, gender, eco-systemics) as it is to nurture the sources of cohesion and commonality.

Economy

Here we consider the dynamics of our material life, where in our social relations and using our tools we mix our energies with the natural world to meet our human needs. The challenge is to create economic systems that are environmentally viable, not destroying or damaging our life sources as natural beings. Such systems also need to be culturally viable, not harming our identities and ultimately what is humane in our natures. And they need to be socially viable, not creating destructive tensions and unsustainable injustices around axes of inequality of access to material and social resources.

Society

To these perspectives we need to add our systems of regulation, governance, and resource distribution. What allows for all our participation as autonomous yet social beings? What makes for good citizenship? How do we create, manage, and propagate knowledge? How do we ensure justice? How do we integrate the four fundamentals of environment, culture, economy, and society so we can address our human futures and live to the full our human potentials?

The On Sustainability Research Network seeks to offer a space to engage these questions, and others, to provide an epistemic community in which we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic and cultural boundaries.

Theme 1: Ecological Realities

How do Ecological Realities Necessarily Frame Our Planetary Existence?

Living Tensions:

- Common spaces: Ecological footprints, atmospheres, biospheres, eco-spheres
- Shared danger signs: rising sea levels, desertification, soil degradation
- Relations of human and ecological value: static or dynamic
- Biological diversity: its past and prospects
- Universal and variable impacts on environments

Theme 2: Participatory Process

Whose Sustainable Future?

Living Tensions:

- Who or what deserves equal concern?
- Can we act locally without thinking globally?
- Living personally without knowing politically?
- Politics of boundaries: natural, public, private resources?
- Women and men; children and the elderly; families and villages
- Wellbeing and quality of life
- Public knowledge: the role of the media and government

Theme 3: Economic, Social and Cultural Context

What are the Pressing Demands of Our Time?

Living Tensions:

- Diversity and Meanings: cultural sustainability and sustainable heritage development
- Reconfiguring the economic equation: contesting “financial years” and “instant gratification”
- Changing patterns and cultures of consumption
- Science and technology vs environmental sustainability?
- Free trade and fair trade
- Urbanization and the sustainability of human settlement
- Climate change: impacts and responses

Theme 4: Education, Assessment and Policy

Framing Responsibility to Act?

Living Tensions:

- Balancing good governance and responsible citizenship
- Negotiating the hidden hand of personal self-interest
- Biotechnology and its critics
- self-government, self-management, and cultural autonomy.
- Accountability: beyond financial years and bottom lines
- Poverty and its eradication
- Measuring impacts: environmental assessment
- Environmental education in a time of eco-systemic crisis

David Humphreys

Professor of Environmental Policy, The Open University, United Kingdom



Dr. David Humphreys, Professor of Environmental Policy at The Open University, United Kingdom, is proud to work teaching and researching sustainability and environmental policy at what he regards as the world's leader in distance university teaching. He began his career specializing in international forest policy on which he was written two books, *Forest Politics: The Evolution of International Cooperation* (1996) and *Logjam: Deforestation and the Crisis of Global Environmental Governance* (2006). His interests in heritage include the natural and built environments, with a particular interest in the reconstruction of Beirut. He has also published on climate change politics, geoengineering, the democratic regulation of transnational corporations, and the emerging jurisprudence of rights of nature. With Spencer Stober he edited the *Common Ground* volume *Transitions to Sustainability: Theoretical Debates for a Changing Planet* (2014). His academic awards include the International Studies Association's Harold and Margaret Sprout Award (2008) and an Honorary Fellowship from the Institute of Chartered Foresters (2015).

Victoria Hurth

Senior Associate, Institute for Sustainability Leadership,
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom



Dr Victoria Hurth works globally at the intersect of academia and hands-on business to help companies transition to be drivers of long-term wellbeing for all (sustainability). Among other achievements she co-led the 5-year development of the first global ISO standard in Governance of Organizations (ISO 37000:2021), was Technical Author for the first national standard in Purpose-Driven Organisations (PAS 808:2022) and advised the UN on the methodology for SDG 12.6.1 (sustainability reporting). As a Fellow of University of Cambridge's Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) Victoria is engaged in a range of executive and academic leadership programmes. Victoria heads the Sustainability Impact Advisory committee for UnaTerra Venture Capital, a member of SACE's (Italy's national export underwriter) Impact Advisory Committee, a regular UNCTAD review panel member for ISAR Honors and was a member of WBCSD's working group on Governance. Victoria is currently a Non-Executive Director of the organic standards company Soil Association Certification Ltd. She has over 20 years' experience in business transformation having previously worked for 3M and Accenture and developing theory as a full time Associate Professor of Sustainable Business and Marketing.

<https://onsustainability.com/about>

José Gutiérrez-Pérez

Professor, Educational Research Methodology, Faculty of Science Education, Universidad de Granada, Spain **(Spanish)**



José Gutiérrez-Pérez is a Full Professor in Educational Research Methodology at the Faculty of Science Education, Universidad de Granada (Spain), where he teaches program evaluation and research methodologies in environmental education. He is head of the Area of University Evaluation and Institutional Accreditation of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency. Director of PGC of Training Secondary Teachers & Environmental Education Master Degree. Head of the Environmental Education Research Group, awarded the second prize of national educational research in 2004 by the Science & Education Spanish Ministry. His research focuses on the quality criteria evaluation of environmental education centers, educational programs, and climate literacy. He is the Main Researcher of the RESCLIMA Research Project (<http://www.resclima.info/>). He played a key role in the development of the Spanish National Strategy for Environmental Education. He has published a number of books and is a member of the editorial board of several international environmental education journals. Author of 152 articles indexed in international journals and professional journals of the field of educational research, and more than 100 contributions to International Conferences. He is a member of International Committees and Reviews in Indexed Journals such as the International Journal of Environmental Research & Public Health (Q1), Environmental Education Research (Q1), Comunicar (Q1); Journal of Cleaner Production (Q1), Games & Culture (Q1); Frontiers in Psychology (Q1), Sustainability; Evaluation & Program Planning; Psychology: Bilingual Journal of Environmental Psychology; International Journal of Sustainability Education, RIE, RELIEVE, Ecozon@, Mexican Educational Research Journal... Member of International Committees and Review in Congresses: American Educational Research Association, World Congress on Environmental Education, AIDIPE-Interuniversity Association of Pedagogical Research, Ibero-American Congress of Environmental Education.

The **On Sustainability Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

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The International Journal of Environmental Sustainability focuses on sustainable ecosystems, urban environments, agriculture, energy systems, water use, atmospheric quality, and biodiversity.

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Serial Founded: 2013 (Volume 8)
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Indexing

- Biological Sciences (Cabell's)
- CABI
- Environment Complete (EBSCO)
- Environment Index (EBSCO)
- Scopus (Elsevier)
- Social Science Journals (ProQuest)
- Sustainability Reference Center (EBSCO)
- Ulrich's Periodicals Directory



The International Journal of Social Sustainability in Economic, Social, and Cultural Context

The International Journal of Social Sustainability in Economic, Social, and Cultural Context invites research on sustainability practices, including documentation of case studies and exegeses analyzing the effects of these practices.

Collection Founded: 2006
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Indexing

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- Sociology Source International (EBSCO)
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The International Journal of Sustainability Policy and Practice

The International Journal of Sustainability Policy and Practice addresses sustainability agendas and the practices flowing from these in government, corporate, and community sectors.

Collection Founded: 2006

Serial Founded: 2013 (Volume 8)

ISSN: 2325-1166 (Print) **ISSN:** 2325-1182 (Online)

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Past Events

- 2005 – University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Island of Oahu, Hawai‘i, USA
- 2006 – Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam
- 2007 – University of Madras, Chennai, India
- 2008 – Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
- 2009 – University of Technology, Mauritius
- 2010 – University of Cuenca, Cuenca, Ecuador
- 2011 – University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand
- 2012 – UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2013 – International Conference Center, Hiroshima, Japan
- 2014 – University of Split, Split, Croatia
- 2015 – Historic City Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2016 – Portland State University, Portland, USA
- 2017 – Fluminense Federal University, Niterói, Greater Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2018 – The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Cairns, Australia
- 2019 – UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2020 - Pontifical Catholic University of Chile & University of Chile, Santiago, Chile
- 2021 - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands (Virtual)
- 2022 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2023 - University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2024 - University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
- 2025 - Florida International University, Miami, USA

The **On Sustainability Research Network** is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.



Univerza v Ljubljani



Dr. Chryssi Vitsilaki

Professor Emerita and Former Rector, University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece



Chryssi Vitsilaki is Professor Emerita, Former Rector at the University of the Aegean. Since 1990, Chryssi has been a professor in the Department of Pre-School Education and Educational Design and does research, among others, in educational technology, higher education, and adult education. Their most recent publication is E-qualified: An In-depth Investigation of an Innovative Graduate Programme at a Greek University.

Phoebe Koundouri

Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & University of Cambridge; Co-Chair, United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report; Chair, World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Director, AE4RIA, Greece



Professor Dr. Phoebe Koundouri is a globally recognized expert in sustainable development, specializing in interdisciplinary systems that link nature, society, and the economy. Listed among the top 2% of scientists globally by Stanford University, she is a member of the Nobel Prize in Economics Nominating Committee.

She is Professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business, Research Professor at the Technical University of Denmark, and Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Cambridge. She directs the ReSEES Laboratory, the Sustainable Development Unit at ATHENA RC, and founded AE4RIA, a large research and innovation alliance spanning over 120 countries and 100+ interdisciplinary projects.

Professor Koundouri chairs the UN SDSN Global Climate Hub, co-chairs SDSN Europe, and has held academic positions at leading institutions including Cambridge, UCL, and LSE. She has authored over 400 scientific publications and edited journals like *Nature: Climate Action* and *Environmental and Resource Economics*.

An elected fellow of numerous prestigious academies, she has received awards from the European Research Council, EAERE, and the Academy of Athens. She has served as President of EAERE and currently chairs the World Council of Environmental and Natural Resource Economists Associations (WCERE).

Her advisory work spans the UN, G20, World Bank, EU bodies, IPCC, and various governments and organizations worldwide, influencing global climate, sustainability, and innovation policy.

21 April - 09:00 (Greece Time Zone) - Online Only

Stergios Vakalis

Assistant Professor, Department of Environment, University of the Aegean, Greece



Dr. Stergios Vakalis is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Environment / University of the Aegean in the field of "Energy Management and Low Carbon Technologies". He works in the Energy Management Laboratory and his research focuses on the production and analysis of fuels, and the energy efficiency of energy systems. He teaches courses on Renewable Energy Technologies, Energy Modeling & Analysis (LCA / MCA / Aspen Plus / Cantera-MATLAB) and Thermodynamics (Heat and Mass Transfer). He supervises one postdoctoral fellow, two doctoral students and two postgraduate students.

From 2018 to 2019 Dr. Vakalis worked as an Assistant Professor of Research at the Libera Università di Bolzano in the field of thermodynamic analysis and in the production of electricity from renewable sources. In 2016, in the framework of his Postdoctoral dissertation, he was awarded the "National Scholarship of Academic Excellence" by the State Scholarship Foundation. A notable point of his research was the development of the 3T energy efficiency method for the holistic evaluation of waste-to-energy plants. Also, in collaboration with Robert Heimann he has developed the innovative method of frictional pyrolysis which produces biocarbon and bio-oil from agricultural waste and biomass only with the use of friction and without the addition of external heat. Dr. Vakalis is a reviewer for more than 25 scientific journals and has received awards for "Outstanding Contribution to Review" from the following journals: Journal of Cleaner Production (Elsevier), Renewable Energy (Elsevier), Journal of Environmental Management (Elsevier), Energy (Elsevier), Waste Management (Elsevier), Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis (Elsevier). He is a permanent member of the Organizing Committee of the annual "International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management" and is a reviewer and evaluator of proposals for the General Secretariat for Research and Technology. Since 2018, Dr. Vakalis is a member of the WtERT (Waste Energy Research and Technology Council) World Council in collaboration with the Earth Engineering Center of Columbia University in New York.

22 April - 09:00 (Greece Time Zone)

Björn Hassler

Professor, Södertörn University, Sweden



Primary research interest of Dr. Hassler concerns environmental collaboration at the state level in the Baltic Sea region. At present he is mostly working on climate politics, more precisely on how rationality and psychological mechanisms interact and influence how we deal with climate change. Although he assumes that most people behave rationally most of the time, psychological mechanisms must be included as well, to understand how rationality plays out in real life. It is his firm belief that scientific knowledge and political engagement must be separated, to make sure that measures taken are cost-effective and balanced.

Teaching: Environmental policy and related areas on undergraduate (Environment and Development program), master (Environment, Sustainability and Global development programme) and PhD (various courses) levels.

Supervision at all levels, including PhD students.

20 April - 14:30 (Greece Time Zone)

David Humphreys

Professor of Environmental Policy, The Open University, United Kingdom



Dr. David Humphreys, Professor of Environmental Policy at The Open University, United Kingdom, is proud to work teaching and researching sustainability and environmental policy at what he regards as the world's leader in distance university teaching. He began his career specializing in international forest policy on which he was written two books, *Forest Politics: The Evolution of International Cooperation* (1996) and *Logjam: Deforestation and the Crisis of Global Environmental Governance* (2006). His interests in heritage include the natural and built environments, with a particular interest in the reconstruction of Beirut. He has also published on climate change politics, geoengineering, the democratic regulation of transnational corporations, and the emerging jurisprudence of rights of nature. With Spencer Stober he edited the *Common Ground* volume *Transitions to Sustainability: Theoretical Debates for a Changing Planet* (2014). His academic awards include the International Studies Association's Harold and Margaret Sprout Award (2008) and an Honorary Fellowship from the Institute of Chartered Foresters (2015).

20 April - 09:30 (Greece Time Zone)

Emerging Scholars

Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2026 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

Katryn Furnston
Nottingham Trent University,
UK



Caroline Glowka
University of Lincoln,
UK



Krishna Nair J
VIT-AP University,
India



Tatenda Musasa
Midlands State University,
Zimbabwe



Catalina María Maya Iregui
Universidad de Antioquia,
Colombia



Jessica Telfer
Oklahoma City University,
United States



Jason Pang
University of Toronto,
Canada



**Manikya Sai Tejaswini
Vallabhajosyula**
University of North Texas,
United States



Georgios Anagnostopoulos
Panteion University of Social and
Political Sciences,
Greece



Ali Soltani
Flinders University,
Australia



Online Welcome and Training Session

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session.

We are excited to announce the online conference will be delivered on the CGScholar platform – developed by the Common Ground Media Lab, the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks.

This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Microsite so you have a rich online experience by learn how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files.

Monday, 20 April 2026, 6:00 PM (Greece Time Zone)

Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

Tuesday, 21 April 2026, 6:00 PM (Greece Time Zone)

In Person Walking Tour: Highlights of the Medieval City of Rhodes

Highlights of the Medieval City of Rhodes

We will make a visit to the historical medieval city of Rhodes, a monument belonging to UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE declaration.

You'll admire the architecture of the walls and well preserved monuments of medieval city, where we will walk through the D Amboise gate, the historical street of the Knights and many other interesting historical sites while learning about the wonderful heritage of Rhodes.

Date: April 19, 2026

Time: TBD

Meeting Point: TBD

Delegates registered for the tour will receive more information closer to the date.

Conference Dinner: Louis Restaurant

From the restaurant:

"Restaurant Louis was founded by Louis Paloukis in 2008. With his passion for gastronomy and his 30-year experience as a restaurateur, he wished to leave his own personal mark on Rhodes traditional cuisine by creating the restaurant "Louis" with the target of satisfying even the most demanding customer. He created a pleasant environment that reminds of those old long lost beautiful days. After many years of activity and experience, Louis restaurant is welcoming you in a magnificent neoclassical building with a traditional courtyard and a proposal of taste, a fusion of Greek and Mediterranean cuisine. Fresh meat and fish from the island's local market. Original and inspired appetizers prepared with care & served in a special way."

The dinner will begin with a shared starter (village salad, baked pitas, tzatziki, Greek meatballs, and cheese pies). As a main course, guests may choose either lamb shank yuveltsi or veal stew with mashed potatoes (meat options), or stuffed gemista or imam eggplant (vegetarian options). Each guest will be able to select their preferred option (meat or vegetarian) when signing up for the dinner. The meal will conclude with a traditional Greek dessert. Wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are included.

Date: Tuesday, 21 April 2026

Time: 20:00 (8:00 PM)

Location: Ko 5 & Papanikolaou Street, Rhodes Town, Greece, 85 100

Conference Closing Reception

Common Ground Research Networks will hold a closing reception at the University of the Aegean - Rhodes Campus directly following the Conference Closing and Award Ceremony. Join other delegates and plenary speakers to enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres.

Date: Wednesday, 22 April 2026

Time: Directly following the last session of the day

Location: University of the Aegean - Rhodes Campus



Common
Ground
Research
Networks

COMMON GROUND

Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq., (the "Act") or the corresponding section of any future Act.

www.cgnetworks.org



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The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

www.cgnetworks.org/medialab



United Nations
Climate Change

CLIMATE
NEUTRAL NOW

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.

www.cgnetworks.org/about/climate-pledge