

**2025 Conference, Association for the Study of Women and Mythology**

**"Sacred Stories of the Sentient Earth: Scholarship for Collaboration,  
Intervention, and Reciprocity"**

**March 27-29, 2025**

**Westward Look Inn, Tucson, Arizona**

With the precursor of Donna Haraway's early work pointing out how dogs socialized people as much as we them, subsequent work that supports the same for cats, and Haraway's *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* (2016), a whole new interdisciplinary literature is emerging exploring the hidden lives of plants and animals and the earth herself. To name a few: *The Soul of an Octopus* (Sy Montgomery), *Relational Reality* (Charlene Spretnak), *The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth* (Zoë Schlanger), *What Would Animals Say if We Asked the Right Question?* (Vinciane Despret), and *Finding the Mother Tree* (Suzanne Simard).

Overlooking or dismissing animal, plant, and earth intelligence is rooted in the hubris of Western culture. With rising consciousness, we turn instead to wisdom from Indigenous Cultures in conjunction with newer scientific discoveries and timeless mythologies to find inspiration and answers to our connection with every aspect of life on our planet.

Our 2025 Conference focuses on meanings and relationships among mythology, science, and culture regarding animals, the green world, the earth and her ecosystems.

With our primary focus on interconnectedness, we welcome academic and artistic presentations concerning mythological, ecological and scientific scholarship. In particular we seek work that addresses collaborations between humans and other sentient beings, foundational myths about the intelligence of nature, and scientific and cultural solutions to transgressions against the balance of nature.

Such topics may include (but are not limited to):

- *Oasis: The Intersection of Hospitality, Survival, and Water in Desert Cultures*
- *Dialogues between Western scientific findings and indigenous science and insights*
- *Cautionary tales of animal guardians redressing human folly and greed*
- *From Drought to Plenty: Strategies for Transforming Scarcity into Abundance*
- *Patterns of cross-species companionship in science and contemporary fiction and arts*
- *Mythical Waters: Exploring the Legends and Preservation of Life-Giving Springs and Wells*
- *Embodying the Divine: Visual and Performing Arts Inspired by the Sacred Feminine*
- *The stories in the rocks: rock art, symbolism, and decolonization*
- *Comparative mythologies and science about pollinator-plant symbiosis*
- *"O Mother Sun" Exploring Female Solar Deities and gender in the cosmos*
- *Mythologies and goddesses of origins, transitions, liminalities, and migration*
- *Myths of reciprocity and partnership among sentient beings*
- *Drops of Dew and Ephemeral Streams: Sacred Sites of Temporary Waters and Their Cultural Significance*
- *Water Wisdom: Tales of Integrating Traditional Practices with Modern Water Conservation*
- *New Discoveries and Ancient Wisdom: Labyrinths and Rings of Connection \**

\*Note that there is an outdoor labyrinth at the Westward Look Inn.

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We especially encourage proposals from Native American/Indigenous scholars and women of color. We welcome scholars from all fields with contributions to further

expanding our understanding of our universal relatedness in the community of sentient beings.

### Guidelines:

Individual presentations should be 15 minutes in length, which allows an additional 5 minutes for questions and discussion.

We accept either individual presentations or proposals for panels of 3 or 4 speakers.

The planning committee will create panels based on topics. If you want your abstract to be considered for a particular topic, please indicate that in Notes on the submission form. All panel sessions are limited to 90 minutes in length.

Presenters from all disciplines are welcome, as well as creative artists and practitioners whose work engages mythic themes in a scholarly manner.

Presentations are presumed to be in person; under special circumstances we may consider presentations by Zoom.

All presenters must have up to date memberships in ASWM

*To submit your proposal, please complete the attached **form**.*

Proposals must include:

- A 250 word abstract (Microsoft Word)
- Bio of up to 70 words (Microsoft Word)
- Contact information including email, mailing address, and phone number.
- Presenter time zone if requesting to present via Zoom

### Timeline

- Dec 1, 2024 - Proposal due by 11:59 pm EST
- January 2, 2025 - Presenters will be notified of acceptance

- January 30, 2025 - Presenters must confirm participation
- March 1 - Program finalized and announced publicly

See [www.womenandmyth.org](http://www.womenandmyth.org) for program updates and registration.

Questions? Email [submissions@womenandmyth.org](mailto:submissions@womenandmyth.org).