



Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change

Athens, Greece – This fall, the University of Athens, UCLA, Simon Fraser University, and Sacramento State University will host a conference, entitled “Envisioning the Greek Landscape: From Thera to Climate Change”. This interdisciplinary conference will bring together academics and policymakers from ten countries around the world to discuss the perception and exploitation of the Greek environment, from antiquity to the present. Specifically, the conference seeks to explore how the various peoples and institutions who have overseen the Greek landscape have understood its natural wealth and how they have overcome natural climatic challenges.

The volcanic explosion of Thera not only destroyed the Minoan civilization, but represents one of the most significant environmental events in the ancient world. It also had tremendous environmental consequences that are still being examined and researched today. This event is not just history, but also a lesson for contemporary societies dealing with climatic and environmental catastrophes. Currently, Greece is on the forefront of climate initiatives in Europe. Greece was the first European country to recognize Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in its laws and policies. These KBAs play a critical role in the planet’s overall health.

This conference complements these initiatives by providing a fresh approach to the investigation of the environment and climate change. By exploring the past in terms of climatic challenges and society’s responses to them, new perspectives and possible solutions can be developed. Too often, academics and politicians discuss the matter in isolation, meaning that policy is determined without insights from academics. The conference will overcome this challenge by bringing together relevant stakeholders in order to discuss climate change and its impact on society.

Using the lessons of the past will help shape the policy of today and the future. As climate change and environmental challenges dominate the headlines worldwide, looking to the past for sources of inspiration will generate ideas for policymakers. “Envisioning the Greek Landscape” hopes to begin this conversation.

For more information on the conference scheduled for October 19 – 21, 2023 at the Kostis Palamas building (University of Athens), and Cotsen Hall (Gennadius Library), please contact Dr. Katerina Lagos: lagosk@csus.edu or www.hellenicoutreach.org.