

MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Introduction to Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Astronomy and Culture

Secondary Sources: Optional Reading

Astronomy, literature and the arts: The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena (INSAP)

<https://insap.org/>

The INSAP conferences have been held every few years since 1994 and the accumulated publications offer an unparalleled archive of presentations on astronomy and the arts. Of the published conference proceedings all are available online except those for conferences three and nine.

Publications.

INSAP1. Specola Vaticana, Castel Gandolfo, Vatican State (1994).

Publication: the papers were published in *Vistas in Astronomy* Vol. 39, Part 4 (1995) and *Leonardo* Vol. 29, No. 2 (1996) and are available on JSTOR.

INSAP III: Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo, Italy (2001).

Publication:

The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena III

[Published in *Memorie della Società Astronomica Italiana (Journal of the Italian Astronomical Society)* Special Number 1 (2002). Salvatore Serio (ed.)]

INSAP IV: Magdalen College, Oxford, UK (2003).

Publication:

The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena. Proceedings of the Fourth Conference, published in *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 8, Nos. 1 & 2 (Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter 2004). Nicholas Campion (ed.)

Link: [Culture and Cosmos](#)

INSAP V: Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, Chicago, USA (2005).

Publication:

Engaging the Heavens: Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena V, San Francisco: [Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series](#) Vol. 468 (2012). Marvin Bolt and Stephen Case (eds.)]

Link: [Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series](#)

INSAP VI: Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, Venice, Italy (2009).

Publication:

The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena VI – Proceedings

[San Francisco: [Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series](#) Vol. 441 (2011). Enrico Maria Corsini (ed.)]

Link: [Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series](#)

INSAP VII: Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution, Bath, UK (2010).

Publication:

The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena VII — Proceedings

[[*Culture and Cosmos*](#) Vol. 16 Nos. 1 & 2 ISSN 1368-6534 (2013). Nicholas Campion and Rolf Sinclair (eds.).]

Link: [*Culture and Cosmos*](#)

INSAP VIII: American Museum of Natural History, New York City (2013)

Publication:

The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena VIII: City of Stars

[San Francisco: [*Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series*](#). Vol. 501 (2015). Brian Abbot (ed.)]

Link [*Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series*](#).

INSAP IX: Gresham College, London (2015)

Publication:

Imagining Other Worlds: Explorations in Astronomy and Culture

[Studies in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology, Vol. 9. Lampeter, Wales: [*Sophia Centre Press*](#), 2018. Nicholas Campions and Chris Impey (eds.)]

Gunzburg, Darrelyn (ed.), *The Imagined Sky* (Sheffield: Equinox, 2016). Another important volume, available through the University library.

We have two other major edited volumes online via the University Library

- David Valls-Gabaud and Alec Boksenberg (eds.), *The Role of Astronomy in Society and Culture*, International Astronomical Union Symposium 260, UNESCO, Paris, 19-23 January 2008, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011),
- Clive Ruggles (ed.) *Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy: Building Bridges between Cultures*, Proceedings of International Astronomy Union Symposium 278, (the 9th "Oxford" International Symposium on Archaeoastronomy), Lima, Peru, 4-14 January 2011 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011),

As usual the optional reading is not to be read in its entirety. Instead you should make choices in line with your available time. In the optional reading you will see material by Campion. First, perhaps, you should read the work by Holbrook and Iwaniszewski, both of whom are established insiders in the discipline.

Belmonte, Juan Antonio, 'Finding Our Place in the Cosmos: The Role of Astronomy in Ancient Cultures', *Journal of Cosmology*, 2010, Vol. 9.

<http://journalofcosmology.com/AncientAstronomy102.html>

Juan Antonio Belmonte is, along with Clive Ruggles, one of the most prolific researchers in the field.

Campion, Nicholas, 'Introduction: Cultural Astronomy', in Nicholas Campion, Patrick Curry and Michael York (ed.) *Astrology and the Academy*, papers from the inaugural conference of the Sophia Centre, Bath Spa University College, 13-14 June 2003 (Bristol: Cinnabar Books, 2004) pp. xv-xxx.

MACAA ONLINE LIBRARY

This is a paper of its time. It was an attempt to sum up the state of Cultural Astronomy in 2003, but much has been published since then.

Campion, Nicholas and Jarita Holbrook, 'Cultural Astronomy: A Conversation about Degree Programs and Research Questions from Both Sides of the Pond', *Innovations in Teaching Major and Graduate Studies*, Part 1, Spark: The American Astronomical Society Education Newsletter, June 2008, issue 6, pp. 9-11..

http://aas.org/files/Spark_2008_06_June.pdf

This paper discusses the kind of subjects and approaches relevant to the teaching of Cultural Astronomy.

Esteban, C. (2009). Is cultural astronomy an interdisciplinary science? An astrophysicist's reflections. *Complutum*, Vol. 20 (2): 69-77

<http://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/CMPL/article/viewFile/CMPL0909220069A/28997>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/137368339/Interdiscipliniedad-en-Astronomia-Cultural>

This article is in Spanish. We plan to have it translated into English but if you can read Spanish, it's for you!

Holbrook, J.C., 'Ethnoastronomy: Pondering Celestial Diversity', *Spectrum*, January 2008, pp. 4-5, 8-9, 12, 17-18,

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csma/newsletter/Jan2008/spectrum_jan08_final.pdf

Iwaniszewski, Stanisław, 'Ancient Cosmologies: Understanding Ancient Skywatchers and their Worldviews', *Journal of Cosmology*, 2010, Vol. 9.

<http://journalofcosmology.com/AncientAstronomy118.html>

Stanisław Iwaniszewski is one of the key figures in the argument that theory is vital to work in archaeoastronomy

Miley, George, 'Influence of Society on Astronomy', Paper presented at the International Astronomy Union 17th General Assembly, 3-14 August 2009, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, *Proceedings of Science*,

<http://pos.sissa.it/cgi-bin/reader/conf.cgi?confid=99>

D.S. Raevsky, "Ancient astronomy as the mirror of the history of culture." *Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions* 15, no. 1-4 (1998): 299-305.

<http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu//full/1998A%26AT...15..299R/0000299.000.html>

Williams, Robert, 'Astronomy and the Culture of Discovery',

Paper presented at the International Astronomy Union 17th General Assembly, 3-14 August 2009, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, *Proceedings of Science*,

http://pos.sissa.it/archive/conferences/099/001/sps5_001.pdf

Saad-Cook, Janet, Charles Ross, Nancy Holt, and James Turrell, "Touching the Sky: Artworks Using Natural Phenomena, Earth, Sky and Connections to Astronomy." *Leonardo* 21, no. 2 (1988): pp. 123-134.

JSTOR

We have suggested this paper because it may take you in new directions, thinking about the relationship of astronomy and culture.

Archaeologia Baltica, 10:1 (2009), Astronomy and cosmology in folk traditions and cultural heritage. 42 conference papers presented at the SEAC (La Société Européenne pour l'Astronomie dans la Culture) and ISAAC (The International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture) conference, 22-31 July, 2007

http://www.ku.lt/leidykla/files/2012/09/Archaeologia_BALTICA_10.pdf

The Sociology of Astronomy

Holbrook, Jarita, 'How odd is odd? Studying Astronomers', paper delivered at the Conference of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture, Ljubljana, 2012.

There is very little available published work on the sociology of astronomy. We may be able to add more in future but for now Holbrook's paper is a rare example. This is Holbrook's own text. It was later published in Ivan Šprac and Peter Pehani (eds), *Ancient Cosmologies and Modern Prophets* (Ljubljana, Anthropological Notebooks year XIX, supplement, 2013), pp. 529-536.

PDF.

https://www.academia.edu/28392367/%C5%A0prajc_Ivan_and_Peter_Pehani_eds._2013._Ancient_cosmologies_and_modern_prophets_Proceedings_of_the_20th_Conference_of_the_European_Society_for_Astronomy_in_Culture._Anthropological_Notebooks_XIX_supplement_Ljubljana_Slovene_Anthropological_Society

Kevin Krisciunas, 'Strange Cases from the Files of Astronomical Sociology', draft, *Astronomy Magazine* 1993.

<http://arxiv.org/pdf/astro-ph/9305036v1.pdf>

This is a rare example of a paper on the sociology of astronomy

Michael J. West, 'Public Perception of Astronomers: Revered, Reviled and Ridiculed' in David Valls-Gabaud and Alec Boksenberg (eds.), *The Role of Astronomy in Society and Culture*, International Astronomical Union Symposium 260, UNESCO, Paris, 19-23 January 2008, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 411-420.

ON LINE VIA UWTSD LIBRARY

Astronomy and Politics

Campion, Nicholas, 'Astronomy and Political Theory', in David Valls-Gabaud and Alec Boksenberg (eds.), *The Role of Astronomy in Society and Culture*, International Astronomical Union Symposium 260, UNESCO, Paris, 19-23 January 2008, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 595-602.

ON LINE VIA UWTSD LIBRARY

Astronomy and Heritage

Clive Ruggles, 'The IAU's involvement in the Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative: achievements and challenges', International Astronomical Union. Proceedings of the International Astronomical Union; Cambridge Vol. 11, Iss. A29A, (Aug 2015): 89-92.
ON LINE VIA UWTSD LIBRARY

Peter Redfield, 'The Half-Life of Empire in Outer Space', *Social Studies of Science* Vol. 32, No. 5/6 (Oct. - Dec., 2002), pp. 791-825

<http://redfield.web.unc.edu/files/2015/08/half-life-empire-SSS.pdf>

Astronomy and Heritage

Influence of Lunar Cycles

Nishida, A.K., The lunar-tide cycle viewed by crustacean and mollusc gatherers in the State of Paraíba, Northeast Brazil and their influence in collection attitudes, *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, December 2006, 2:1, 4 January 2006.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/1746-4269-2-1>

Zimecki, M., 'The lunar cycle: effects on human and animal behavior and physiology', *Postepy Hig Med Dosw*, 2006, 60: 1-7.

<http://www.phmd.pl/api/files/view/1953.pdf>

Foster, Russell G., and Till Roenneberg, 'Human Responses to the Geophysical Daily, Annual and Lunar Cycles', *Current Biology*, Vol 18, issue 17, September 2008, pp. R784-R794.

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982208008658

Hanson, K.C., S. Arrosa, C. T. Hasler, C. D. Suski, D. P. Philipp, G. Niezgoda, S. J. Cooke, 'Effects of lunar cycles on the activity patterns and depth use of a temperate sport fish, the largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides*', *Fisheries Ecology and Management*, 2008, 15, 357-364.

<http://fishlab.nres.illinois.edu/Reprints/FME%202008.pdf>

Law, Alan, 'Influence of lunar phases, weather and tidal patterns on the nesting of leatherbacks in Tobago', University of Glasgow, Division of Environmental and Evolutionary Biology, 30 Dec, 2010.

https://issuu.com/sostobago/docs/alan_law_glasgow_university_sos

Web Sites: Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture

The European Society for Astronomy in Culture

<http://www.archaeoastronomy.org/>

Conferences on the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena

<http://www.insap.org/>

The International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture
<http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~tlaloc/archastro/>

CUIP Digital Library, Cultural Astronomy
http://ecuip.lib.uchicago.edu/diglib/science/cultural_astronomy/

This is an educational website aimed at schools and the general public. For academic purposes it is a good indication of the kind of information which is thought worthwhile.

<http://astunit.com/tutorials/glossary.htm>
glossary of astronomical terms

<http://www.galex.caltech.edu>

NASA's History Office at
<http://history.nasa.gov/>

NASA Histories at
<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/on-line.ht>

You Tube

In 2012 the Smithsonian Institute ran a symposium on Cultural Astronomy which you can watch here:

Stellar Connections: Explorations in Cultural Astronomy - Complete Symposium
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGjuvxPhGn8>

The individual presentations can also be viewed separately.

Stellar Connections: Explorations in Cultural Astronomy - Pt. 1, Gary Urton
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPhMN5b8tSM>

Stellar Connections: Explorations in Cultural Astronomy - Pt. 2, Michael Wassegijig Price
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVny6LnTOLg>

Stellar Connections: Explorations in Cultural Astronomy - Pt. 3, John MacDonald
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkbbXqoBgp0>

Stellar Connections: Explorations in Cultural Astronomy - Pt. 4, Babatunde Lawal
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCkhZZP3HfQ>
(Required viewing)