



European Society for Astronomy in Culture
SEAC
Société Européenne pour l'Astronomie
dans la Culture

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

We hope you had a great time celebrating Christmas and New Year and wish you all the best in the year that has just started. We know that for those of you following the old Julian calendar, the new year will take place on the 13th/14th of January. **Happy New Year to all of you!**

SEAC2025 1ST ANNOUNCEMENT

Gudrun Wolfschmidt informs us that 32th European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC) & the Gesellschaft für Archäoastronomie will take place in **Hamburg**, in the Geomatikum and Hamburg Observatory, Monday to Saturday, **August 25-30, 2025**, with the topic: "Timekeeping, Navigation, Surveying - Cultural Astronomy and Instruments".

The website (work in progress): <https://www.fhsev.de/Wolfschmidt/events/SEAC-HH-2025.php>

Deadlines:

Jan. 15, 2025 -- Call for papers open (abstracts for lectures & posters)

March 30, 2025 -- Call for papers closes

April 30, 2025 -- Communication if papers are accepted

May 31, 2025 -- Registration - Deadline for presenters to pay the fee

Call for Abstract Submission for Lectures and Posters:

<https://www.fhsev.de/Wolfschmidt/events/pdf/SEAC-2025-Call-for-abstracts.pdf>

We hope to see you in Hamburg!



Looking back

COSMOVISIONES Journal Latest Vol 5(1) issue

The **Cosmovisiones Editorial Team** (**Sixto Giménez Benítez**, **Alejandro López** and **Cecilia Gómez**) informs us that a new issue issue (Vol. 5, num. 1) of the journal **Cosmovisiones** containing those papers and posters presented at the **Oxford XII-VIII SIAC in La Plata**,

Argentina, was published. They invite us to read the journal at this link <https://revistas.unlp.edu.ar/cosmovisiones/index>.

6th International Conference of the Romanian Society for Astronomy in Culture, Timisoara, September 7, 2024

Marc Frincu informs us that the 6th Conference of SRPAC took place at the West University of Timisoara on 7th of September. More info on the website <https://sites.google.com/view/comunicarisrpac/home-en>



Moonrise at Chimney Rock, Colorado, USA

Erica Ellingson informed us back in October about a unique opportunity to witness a Major Lunar Standstill Moonrise on October 21, 2024, at Chimney Rock National Monument (CRNM), near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The moon at its northernmost declination rose between two tall

stone pillars, events that occur only every 18.6 years. This phenomenon may have been observed by the ancestral Puebloan people who inhabited the area for thousands of years, and who built a multi-storied “great house” on a precipitous ridge at the prime observing location a thousand years ago. CRNM offered a moonrise celebration at an accessible outdoor amphitheater by the visitor center. The evening program included scientific and cultural speakers and a view of the moonrise between the pinnacles, broadcast live from the upper mesa at approximately 10 p.m., MDT. For **more information** see <https://www.chimneyrockco.org/puebloan-resources/lunar-standstill/>.

The entire event was livestreamed at <https://griffithobservatory.org/event/major-standstill-northern-moonrise-at-chimney-rock-colorado-oct-24>.

SEAC 2024 in Catania, Sicily

The society’s 31st conference was held in Catania, Sicily between 12-17 November. Those who missed it can check the book of abstracts at <https://www.seac2024catania.com/book-of-abstract>.


Newgrange winter solstice livestream, December 2024

Frank Prendergast informs us that as usual the winter solstice at Newgrange has been livestreamed on the 21st of December. In addition, the UNESCO division of the National Monuments Service (NMS) has just published a [research report](#) on the archaeoastronomy of the monument. NMS issued a press release close to the solstice date.

SEAC webpage call for contributions

The new version of the SEAC webpage is online since November 2024 at <https://www.archeoastronomy.org/>

Not all sections contain material yet and your help is needed to fill the gaps!



1. If you are teaching a course or a whole program related to cultural astronomy, archaeoastronomy or ethnoastronomy please send course information to rita.gautschy@unibas.ch or seaccorrespondence@gmail.com to be added to the SEAC Course registry. Please use the course information sheet which you can download on the bottom of this page: <https://seactest.archeoastronomy.org/content/education/seac-course-registry.html>

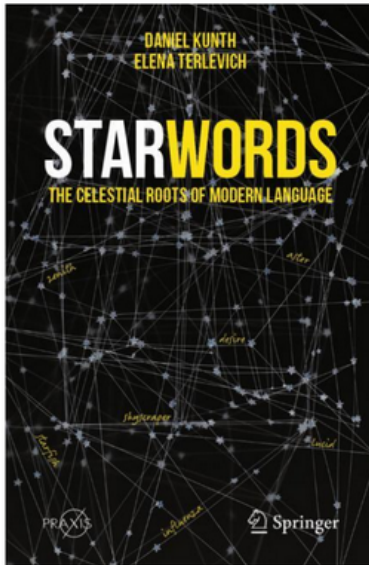
2. If you have images which we may use for the webpage and which others may use as well, please send them to rita.gautschy@unibas.ch together with a short description, a link with further information, licence and copyright information. Examples: <https://seactest.archeoastronomy.org/content/images/>

Please register to access the membership area of the webpage. Use the same email address for registration which we have in our membership list – otherwise you won't be unlocked without further ado. Once registered and unblocked, you can access the **membership area** containing inter alia *meeting minutes* and *the payment details (links) for the annual membership fees*.

Register and log in: <https://seactest.archeoastronomy.org/content/members-area/>

News

Steven Gullberg informs us about an interesting book **StarWords** by Daniel Kunth and Elena Terlevich.



Daniel Kunth, Elena Terlevich

StarWords

The Celestial Roots of Modern Language

- A unique foray into the etymology of words about the sky and cosmos
- Includes a complete glossary of each word along with its origins
- Provides beginner-friendly scientific explanations behind every story

Unbeknownst to many, our modern language contains countless words that were inspired by human observations of the cosmos. We now use words like "zenith", "Monday", "disaster", "dog days", "starfish", "lunatic", flu, and so many others, without a second thought for their celestial roots. Famous French astrophysicist Daniel Kunth invites you on a linguistic and scientific journey through space and time to explore these forgotten origins. You will be astonished to rediscover cosmic language hidden in plain sight through this wonderful collection of historical and cultural stories, famous idioms and delightful puns, along with the real science behind each one. Elena Terlevich is a well known professional astronomer working at INAOE in Mexico, an honorary Professor at La Plata University in Argentina and a regular visitor at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge (UK). Requiring no prior knowledge in astronomy or linguistics, this book's universal contents invite the reader to ponder how our observations of the night sky have shaped our modern tongue and customs. Almost all illustrations featured are crafted by contemporary artists and graphic designers.

Edition No: 1

2024 . XVII, 162 p. 33 illus., 26 illus. in color.

Series

Springer Praxis Books, Popular Astronomy

Soft cover

ISBN 978-3-031-49023-1

25.99 € | £ 22.99 | \$ 27.99

27.81 € (D) | 28.59 € (A) | CHF 31.00

Journal of Skyscape Archaeoastronomy CFP

The Journal of Skyscape Archaeology (JSA) is concerned with **the role and importance of the sky in the interpretation of the material record**. Currently, elements of this study can be found separately in the disciplines of archaeoastronomy, archaeology, cultural astronomy, anthropology and history. JSA brings them together under the aegis of a new academic journal to promote cross-fertilization towards an understanding of the cosmologies of the societies that constructed and used the rich archaeological heritage we study today.

The journal accepts various forms of manuscripts ranging from theory and method, research articles and research notes to commentaries, forums and book/conference reviews.

Those interested can find more on the journal's webpage <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/JSA>.

Journal of Astronomy in Culture CFP

The International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC) is pleased to announce the resumption of publication of its Journal of Astronomy in Culture (JAC), and the journal is open for submissions. **JAC focuses on original research of Cultural Astronomy, emphasizing Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy.** The journal is fully **open access** and practices continuous digital publication of accepted articles on its website, which later will be assembled into periodic issues. Published articles will highlight the advancement of research in the field of Cultural Astronomy and will enhance our understanding of many world cultures that have used astronomy throughout history. As an open-access publication, there are no fees for authors or readers. The new version of the journal will deepen and broaden the impact of its predecessor. The Journal of Astronomy in Culture also has an agreement of collaboration with Cosmvisiones/Cosmovisões, the journal of the Sociedad Interamericana de Astronomía en la Cultura (SIAC), that publishes research on Cultural Astronomy in both Spanish and Portuguese. The two journals publish each other's abstracts and also translate selected articles to be published in the language of the opposite journal for increased world exposure. You can use this link to find the journal or simply put its name into a search engine: <https://escholarship.org/uc/jac>. JAC is one of 92 journals published by the University of California's eScholarship. We look forward to receiving many insightful submissions!

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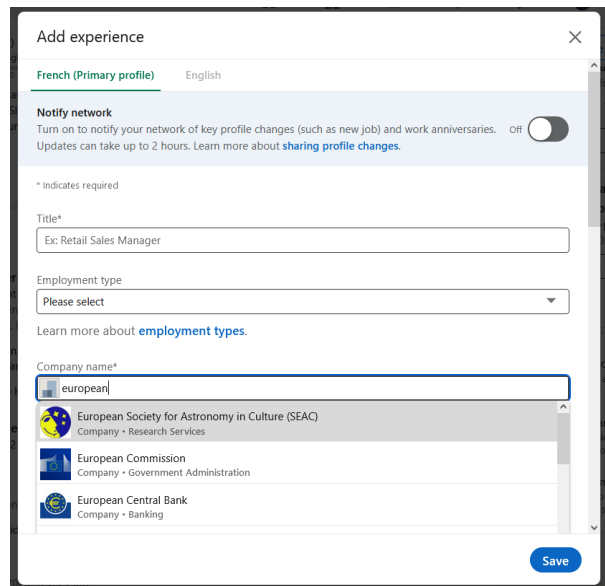
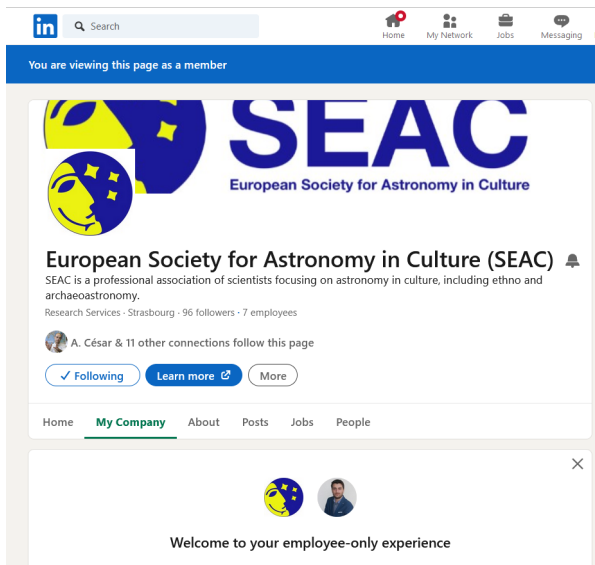
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SEAC LINKEDIN PAGE

Prof. Marc Frincu reminds us that **we can all add to our LinkedIn profiles the SEAC affiliation**. This will not only help promote our society by increasing its visibility but also enable us to proudly share our affiliation. The public [LinkedIn website](#) already has 96 followers and posts regular updates on our society’s activities. The easiest way to add your affiliation is to add a new professional experience and type European Society for Astronomy in Culture in the company name field.



SEAC 2024-2025 FEES

This serves as a reminder for those who did not pay their SEAC fees. While **an email has been sent out** to all of our members we just want to let you know that you can use [Paypal](#) (even without an account) or pay through *bank transfer* (preferred to avoid additional fees - details were provided in the email).

The membership fees are as follows:

- For **fellows and associates**:
 - **Western countries**: 25 Euros
 - **Rest of the World** (including Eastern European countries): 8 Euros
- For **students**:
 - **Western countries**: 10 Euros
 - **Rest of the World** (including Eastern European countries): free

This newsletter is sent to all SEAC members. The contents of this newsletter are based on information provided by members of the SEAC community. SEAC does not take any responsibility regarding the accuracy of the information provided or for any typos occurring during the writing of the news items.

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