

Preface

A conference held in Mainz on 13–14 November 2023 was the starting point for this book. Its title was the same as that of this collection, and so was its aim: to stimulate exchange and to conceptualize ideas that transcend the conventional boundaries of academic disciplines and traditions. The program included the presentations of 15 individual researchers and research teams from eight different countries. We are grateful that almost all of them have agreed to publish their contributions here.

The meeting was made possible by the generous financial and logistical support of the Gutenberg International Conference Center (GICC) at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. We thank its scientific advisory board for including the conference in the “Mainz Ancient Studies” conference program. In particular, we would like to thank Johannes Lipps and Christine Walde for their persisting encouragement and backing. Substantial financial support was further provided by the research area “40,000 Years of Human Challenges: Perception, Conceptualization and Coping in Premodern Societies” at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. We extend our gratitude to its spokeswoman Heide Frielinghaus and to Bianka Nessel for including the volume into the new publication series “Created World”.

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