

## **FIRST CIVILIZATIONS KEY CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Dr JEFFREY ROSE Series Contributor and Consultant**

Dr Jeffrey Rose is an archaeologist and anthropologist specializing in the prehistory of North Africa and Southwest Asia. His areas of interest include: modern human origins, Neolithization, stone tool technology, archaeo-genetics, rock art, geo-archaeology, submerged landscapes and Near Eastern mythology and folklore.

Over the past three decades, Jeff has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Illinois, Wales, Ukraine, Israel, Portugal, Yemen, Oman, and Qatar. Before joining the Ronin Institute in 2013, Jeff worked as a Lecturer at the University of Texas, Arlington and Oxford Brookes University in the UK. He directs the Dhofar Archaeological Project in southern Oman. His research has been featured in documentary series for PBS, BBC, SBS Australia, Arte and National Geographic Channel. In recognition of his ground-breaking discoveries in Oman, he was named one of National Geographic's Emerging Explorers in 2012.

### **Prof PETER TURCHIN Key Contributor in *War***

Peter Turchin is an evolutionary anthropologist who works at the intersection of social and cultural evolution, historical macrosociology, economic history, and the construction and analysis of historical databases. Currently, he is investigating the question of how human societies evolve. In particular, what processes explain the evolution of ultrasociality—our capacity to cooperate in huge anonymous societies of millions? To this end, he is director of the Seshat Databank Project, which is compiling a massive historical database to test theoretical predictions about cultural evolution.

He has authored seven books and published 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including *Nature*, *Science*, and *PNAS*. He was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2012.

### **Prof ARA NORENZAYAN Key Contributor in *Religion***

Ara Norenzayan is a psychologist at the University of British Columbia, and a co-director of the Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition, and Culture. He is the author of *Big Gods: How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict*. His research focuses on explaining religious beliefs and behaviors, their evolutionary origins, psychological impact, and culturally diverse manifestations. He is also interested in documenting and understanding universality and cultural diversity in psychology.

His findings have been covered by major international media: BBC, *New York Times*, *Economist*, *Der Spiegel*, *National Post*, and *New Scientist*. He grew up in Beirut and lives in Vancouver. Herald, Scientific American, Vice, and Newsweek. Explorers in 2012.

#### **Dr MICHAEL MUTHUKRISHNA Key Contributor in *Cities***

Michael Muthukrishna is an evolutionary psychologist at the London School of Economics. His research revolves around three key questions: Why are humans so different from other animals? How is culture transmitted, maintained, and modified? How can we use our understanding of human culture to tackle some of the challenges we face as a species? His answers are inspired by interdisciplinary training and by his experiences living in Botswana, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Canada, and the US.

Michael has written on a variety of topics - innovation, corruption and navigating cultural difference - and his work has been featured in *Nature* and *Science*, and he has been interviewed for PBS, BBC, CBC, The Guardian, The Times, Daily Telegraph, Sydney Morning Herald, Scientific American, Vice, and Newsweek. Explorers in 2012.

#### **RACHEL BOTSMAN Key Contributor in *Trade***

Rachel Botsman is an award-winning writer, speaker and business consultant and author of *Who Can You Trust?: How Technology Brought Us Together – and Why It Could Drive Us Apart*. Her pioneering ideas on trust and technology have been featured in *The Guardian*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The Wall Street Journal* and more. She's also a contributing editor at *Wired*.

Rachel's TED talks have 3.5 million views. *Monocle* named her in the world's top 20 keynote speakers. She was named one of the 'Most Creative People in Business' (*Fast Company*); a 'Young Global Leader' (*World Economic Forum*) and received the Breakthrough Idea Award (Thinkers50).