



INSTITUTE *for the* STUDY
of HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

2024 ISHK Annual Report

Progress & Plans

As we approach the year's end, we want to take a moment to review our progress in 2024 and our plans for the coming year—and most importantly, to thank you and all of our supporters, contributors, and volunteers for enabling ISHK to continue making widely available the essential information about our nature, our origins, and our potential, that our current crises so urgently demand. We hope this news of our 2024 achievements inspires your continued support.

As Sally outlined in her September update, we've made exciting changes to our administration. Most importantly, Safia Shah will replace Sally as ISHK's Executive Director. Safia and Sally are working together to ensure this gradual transition. As many of you know, Safia, Idries Shah's youngest daughter, has already taken over the direction of [Hoopoe Books](#) and its programs and has made amazing progress, creating an online library that will be launched by the end of the year and will provide over 32 Hoopoe titles available in 26 languages in written, audio and animated formats.

Other staff changes include the addition of managing editor Sian Griffiths and marine biologist Archie O'Shaughnessy. And we've also added website SEO to John Zada's blog and social media responsibilities. In 2025 we will continue to invite interested and qualified young people to ensure that our work will continue well into the future. We will keep you posted.



Our Accomplishments This Year

Your support has allowed us to add an array of new additions and updates to the Human Journey website. Along with continued improvements to the design and functionality of the site, we've added many important new articles and reports:

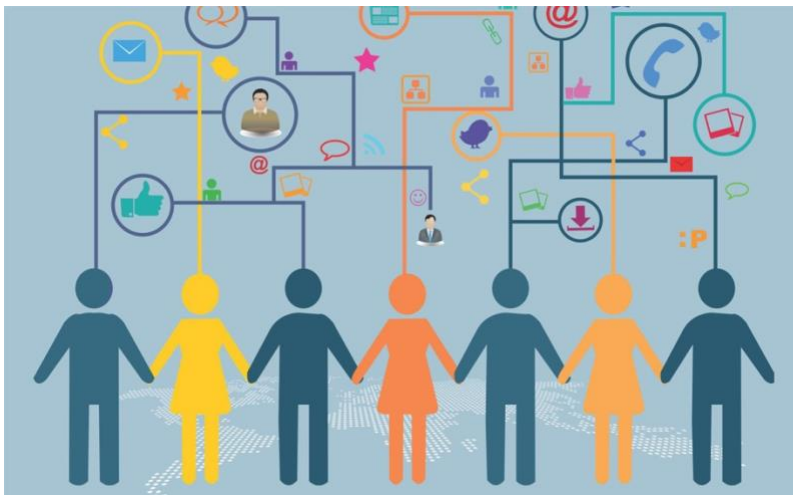
- A series of essays examining the evolution, science, and importance of [*Stories and Storytelling*](#).
- A major new section highlighting Robert Ornstein's work, entitled [*Our Mind in the Modern World*](#). This is a consideration of how the human mind, after evolving in a world that changed little over tens of thousands of years, now faces new challenges from a world transforming at an unprecedented pace.
- A timely report by Kathleen Mazor on the important book [*The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*](#), by Jonathan Haidt.
- John Zada's report on a fascinating history, [*End Times: Elites, Counter Elites, and the Path of Political Disintegration*](#), by the Russian-American author and complexity scientist Peter Turchin. It examines the complex interplay of socio-economic factors that, the author asserts, repeatedly throw societies into decay, crisis, and often violent collapse. We're approaching a decline of that nature now in the US – but the right decisions could thwart and delay these processes as they have in the past.
- New essays from Kathleen Mazor in the Education section, including [*Unlocking Potential: Nurturing Young Minds in Early*](#)

[Childhood](#), and a new series on [The Challenges of Adolescence](#).

- A compelling collection of articles by Margaret Caudill-Slosberg on [The COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Lessons](#).
- A new, collection of essays by Steve Matthews and Archie O’Shaughnessy in [the Sustainable Planet section](#) discussing Earth’s uniqueness, the history of climate change, and the role of humans in our current climate predicament.

John Zada has also continued development of [the Human Journey blog](#), and we remind you that you are invited to suggest topics and submit entries for consideration. Please do follow the latest postings and share them through your social media networks. Once the younger team join us in the new year, John will set up a 'Field Notes' section to be a venue for more colloquial, informal and readable write-ups to increase our audience.

Charles Swencionis, Rob Mancinelli and the rest of the CE@Home team continue to add new courses and assure that the CE program provides psychologists with the latest research for continuing education credit while also providing operational support for all ISHK programs.



Our Plans for the Coming Year

In 2025, artificial intelligence expert Hans Uszkoreit will bring his considerable knowledge to a series of Human Journey articles on AI,

artificial general intelligence (AGI), and their implications for the future of humanity.

Next year we will continue to enhance the design and features of the website, extend our social media outreach, and expand our audience through audio recordings, additional books and videos. Be sure to come back often to learn, explore, and see our progress—and encourage your friends and family to do so as well!

With your support, we hope to break new ground in 2025-2026 with updated and expanded versions of our *All About Me* series, providing an up-to-date understanding of our human nature and its potential to Gens Z and A. These will be in both graphic paperbacks and online versions—the latter including animations and audios in multiple languages published through the HSLF HoopeShare website.

As soon as we can, we also plan to reprint smaller Malor editions of Robert Ornstein's work, updating the science where necessary, and including passages of unpublished material that he left and that are timely.

Thank you to all our contributors and volunteers for your continued support of our projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel Raff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "f".

Mel Raff
C.F.O.
ISHK