Prehistoric Human Landscapes are Hidden in Rivers, Lakes, and the Sea - Considering The Seemingly Impossible Possible and Finding Interdisciplinary Explanatory Models

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Session Description

In 2022, marine geologists discovered an almost one-kilometer-long row of stones in 21m depth at the Baltic Sea floor. After intensive discussions with geologists, (underwater) Stone Age archaeologists, as well as anthropologist, our current hypothesis interprets it as a man-made structure with a functional interpretation as a Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene megastructure for hunting reindeer herds. As a follow-up of this discovery, we came aware of other similar structures in the western Baltic Sea, which archaeological significance was initially overlooked and hastily dismissed as 'geological' without intensive consultation with marine geologists.

This experience teaches us that:

1. under favorable conditions, late Pleistocene/ early Holocene human landscapes in areas such as the western Baltic Sea are much better preserved than previously thought.
2. initially unrecognizable artificial features are hastily dismissed as 'geological' or 'natural' without consulting the relevant scientists for appropriate explanatory models. This often happens for fear of becoming a pawn in the hands of so-called 'alternative archaeologists' or Atlantis researchers.

These two points should be the main subjects of discussion in our session, by asking several questions:

- Where are similar stretches of prehistoric human landscapes preserved close to the seabed?
- What kind of natural, as well as possible anthropogenic structures exist and why are they preserved?
- What reductions in archaeological evidence are likely?
- Are there other examples of difficult-to-identify archaeological features with no plausible natural geological or biological origin?
- What kind of features are these?
- How can the artificial origin of these features be proven beyond doubt?