The Societal Consequences of Climatic Changes -
The Medieval Climate Anomaly

International Workshop | December 3–7 2017
Mount Scopus Campus, Mandel Building, Room 530

Website: asian-sphere.huji.ac.il/conference | Email: mcaconference2017@gmail.com | Phone: 02-5881279
Sunday December 3rd

09:30-10:00  Gathering at the YMCA
10:00-13:00  The Old City of Jerusalem: A reconstruction of the 11th-century city (tour)
             Gideon Avni (Israel Antiquities Authority)
             Ronnie Ellenblum (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
13:00-14:30  Lunch break
14:30-15:30  Mandel Building, Room 530
             Greetings
             Daniel Schwartz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
             Eran Feitelson (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
             Introductory remarks and discussion:
             Ronnie Ellenblum (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Proxies and history:
             The state of the art
15:30-16:00  Coffee break
16:00-17:00  Economy and settlement patterns in a Eurasian perspective
             Chair: John McNeill (Georgetown University)
             Gideon Avni (Israel Antiquities Authority): Settlements and agriculture in the
             southern Levant (9th - 11th centuries): The evidence of quantitative archaeology
             Joshua Wright (University of Aberdeen): Weathering challenges and building
             empires: Agricultural productivity and the Liao Empire in Eastern Eurasia
17:00-18:00  Discussion

Monday December 4th

Mandel Building, Room 530

09:00-09:30  Convening
09:30-10:30  Climate history, nomads and the fate of medieval Eurasian empires
             Chair: Gideon Avni (Israel Antiquities Authority)
             John Haldon (Princeton University): Anatolia, Euchaïta and St. Theodore, c. 500-1000 CE: Environment, resilience and survival
             Gideon Shelach (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Climatic anomalies, political transformations, and wall-building in East Asia during the MCA
10:30-11:00  Coffee break
11:00-12:00  Discussion
12:00-14:00  Lunch break
14:00-15:00  Proxy Dating
             Chair: Yigal Erel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Ed Cook (Columbia University): Hydroclimatic variability during medieval times in the Eastern Mediterranean region: What does the 'Old World Drought Atlas' say?

Shuzhi Wang (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences): Tree-rings of wood remains excavated from archaeological sites as indicators for the Medieval Climate Anomaly in Northern China

15:00-16:00 Discussion
16:00-16:30 Coffee break
16:30-17:30 Moti Stein (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): The Dead Sea Project

Tuesday December 5th
Mandel Building, Room 530

9:00-9:30 Convening
9:30-10:30 Climatic conditions and their effects on nomads and empire building
Chair: Reuven Amitai (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
William Honeychurch (Yale University) and Chunag Amartuvshin (Academy of Science, Mongolia): Pastoralism, climate, and politics: Flexible complexity on the medieval Mongol steppe
Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Austrian Academy of Sciences): Between collapse and heyday: Climate change and socio-political dynamics in the high medieval Caucasus (9th-13th centuries CE)
10:30-11:00 Coffee break
11:00-12:00 Discussion
14:00-15:30 Decline and affluence in Mediterranean cities: resilience and fragility?
Chair: Menahem Ben-Sasson (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Leigh Chipman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Fustat during the long reign of al-Mustansir: Between affluence and collapse
Miriam Frenkel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Climate events and messianic postures in 11th-century Palestine
Anna Gutgarts (Tel Aviv University): Did Rome decline during the 11th century?
15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break
16:00-17:00 Discussion

Wednesday December 6th
Visit to Caesarea and to Ramat Hanadiv (open to invited participants)

07:30-09:30 Departure from YMCA and travel to Caesarea Maritima
09:30-12:00 Peter Gendelman (Israel Antiquities Authority): Analyzing the decline of Caesarea Maritima (tour)
12:00-13:30  Drive to Ramat Hanadiv and lunch at Ramat Hanadiv
13:30-15:00  Avi Perevolotsky (Volcani Center) and Liat Hadar (Ramat Hanadiv): Long-term ecological data collected in Ramat Hanadiv (tour)
15:00-15:30  Coffee break
15:30-16:30  **Ecology of recent and ancient decline**
Chair: Dror Hawlena (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Avi Perevolotsky (Volcani Center) & Liat Hadar (Ramat Hanadiv): Long-term ecological data collected in Ramat Hanadiv
Roi Ankori-Karlinsky (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Potential impacts of prolonged drought on traditional Mediterranean agriculture
16:30-17:30  Discussion

**Thursday December 7th**
Mandel Building, Room 530

9:30-10:00  Convening
10:00-11:00  **Dating the decline of cities: the archaeological evidence, I**
Chair: Ronnie Ellenblum (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Asa Eger (University of North Carolina at Greensboro): A lost century? North Syria during the tenth and eleventh centuries
Guy Bar-Oz (Haifa University): Crisis on the margins of the Byzantine Empire: Bio-archaeological approaches to resilience and collapse in the Negev Desert
11:00-11:15  Break
11:15-12:15  **Dating the decline of cities: the archaeological evidence, II**
Chair: Ronnie Ellenblum (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Katia Cytryn-Silverman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Tiberias, Ramla and Jerusalem: The archaeological evidence
Robert Kool (Israel Antiquities Authority): Small money and big theory: Were Fatimid gold hoards produced by climate change?
12:15-12:30  Coffee break
12:30-13:30  Discussion
13:30-15:00  Lunch
15:00-16:00  Yochanan Kushnir (Columbia University): Change-causing climate events during the medieval era: Regional aspects of a global mechanism
16:00 - 16:15  Break
16:15-18:00  **Concluding Session**
Chair: John McNeill (Georgetown University)