



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



הקרן הלאומית למדע
ISRAEL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Societal Consequences of Climatic Changes - The Medieval Climate Anomaly

International Workshop | December 3-7 2017

Mount Scopus Campus, Mandel Building, Room 530

photo: Doron Adar



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, Euchaita 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 Preisner-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 as reflected in Geniza correspondence
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)

- 8:00-09:30 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)