

Climate Change and History Research Initiative (CCHRI) 2019 Annual Colloquium

Organised jointly by the Princeton University
and the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History
(IRG Palaeo-Science and History & Department of Archaeology)

Resilience, environmental change and society Perspectives from History and Prehistory

March 18-20, 2019

Jena, Germany

The aim of our annual meeting is to bring together – for the first time – interdisciplinary projects on climate and environmental change that work on two different “human pasts”: history and prehistory. We want to see whether the levels of social and cultural complexity and the types of evidence we study lead to different conclusions about human capabilities of coping with environmental challenges; or perhaps our approaches are complementary and their synergy increases our understanding of the mechanisms of human resilience to climatic change and other “natural” stressors. As always with the CCHRI Colloquia, we plan to publish the results of our discussions either as a special issue in an interdisciplinary journal, or as one or two multi-author articles in highly-visible journals.

Monday, 18 March 2019

12.00-13.15 Lunch for the conference participants (in the institute)

13.15 Opening remarks – Nicole Boivin, John Haldon, Adam Izdebski

Session 1: Consilient approaches: where do we stand?

Chair: Hugh Elton (Trent, Canada)

13.30-14.30

1. Adam Izdebski, Alessia Masi & Georgios Liakopoulos (MPI SHH Jena & La Sapienza, Rome): *Pollen counts and tax registers: numbers as the common language of palaeo-science & history*

2. Ricardo Fernandes (MPI SHH Jena): *Learning from history: proposal of a complex systems approach to the study of past human lifeways*

14.30-15.00 Coffee break

15.00-16.00

3. Leonor Peña Chocarro & Guillem Pérez Jordà (not attending) (Madrid) *Crop choice, agricultural systems and adaptability in Iberian prehistory*

4. Lisa Onaga (MPIWG Berlin) *Sericulture, genes and the environment in modern Japan*

16.00-17.00

Discussion – Commentator: Martin Bauch (Leipzig) & Kristina Sessa (Ohio)

Tuesday, 19 March 2019

Session 2: Resilience and sustainability

Chair: Elena Xoplaki (Giessen) & Juerg Luterbacher (Giessen)

9.00-10.00

1. Neil Roberts (Plymouth/Oxford): *Resolving the climate-population paradox: an analysis of long-term change in the Mediterranean*
2. John Haldon (Princeton): *What counts as collapse for a historian?*

10.00-10.30 coffee break

10.30-11.30

3. Erika Weiberg & Martin Finne (Uppsala): *The lure of complexity: expansion periods and climate in Bronze Age Greece*
4. Steve Goldstein (MPI SHH Jena): *Small-scale responses to large-scale climate change: A 6000 year record of forager resilience at Lake Turkana, Kenya*

11.30-12.30

Discussion – Commentator: Agata Stasik (Warsaw)

12.30-13.30 Lunch for the conference participants (in the institute)

Session 3: Case studies – disease

Chair: Kirsten Bos (MPI SHH Jena)

13.30-14.30

1. Maria Spyrou (MPI SHH Jena): *Tracing historical plague pandemics through analysis of ancient *Yersinia pestis* genomes*
2. Lee Mordechai (SESYNC-National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center and HU Jerusalem): *Catastrophe or Construct? The Justinianic Plague between history, historiography, and science*

14.30-15.00 Coffee break

15.00-16.00

3. Tim Newfield (Georgetown) & Sabine Hübner (Basel): *Epidemics in the pre-plague Roman world*

16.00-17.00

Discussion – Commentator: Phil Slavin (Stirling)

Wednesday, 20 March 2019

Session 4: Case studies – droughts

Chair: Inga Labuhn (Bremen)

9.00-10.00

1. Michael Petraglia (MPI SHH Jena): *Environmental Variability, Droughts and the History of Human Populations in Arabia*
2. Kevin Bloomfield (Cornell) – *Consilience and The Fossae Marianaee: History and Fluvial Regimes of the Rhône Delta during the Early Empire*

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-11.30

3. Laura Sadori (La Sapienza, Roma): *Drought and adaptation in the Bronze Age Mediterranean*
4. Nicholas Dunning (Cincinnati): *Resilience and Vulnerability: In Failure lie the Seeds of Success; In Success lie the Seeds of Failure. Perspectives from the Maya Lowlands*

11.30-12.30

Discussion – Commentator: Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

12.30-13.30 Lunch for the conference participants (in the institute)

Session 5: Case studies – “success” stories

Chair: Dominik Fleitmann (Reading)

13.30-14.30

1. Andrew Dugmore (Edinburgh) *Norse Greenland's Glory Days: successful adaptations from the Western frontier of Medieval Europe*
2. Piotr Guzowski (Białystok): *The Little Ice Age as the Golden Age? The case of early modern Poland*

14.30-14.45 Coffee break

15.45-16.45

3. Huw Groucutt (MPI CE Jena): *How humans crossed the Saharo-Arabian arid belt and spread across the world*
4. Tristram Kidder (Washington University in St Louis): *“A heartbreaking story of the improvidence of man” or a self-evident success story? 4000 years of vulnerability and resilience in the lower Yellow River Valley*

15.45-16.45

Discussion – Commentator: Piotr Filipkowski (Polish Academy of Sciences)

17.00-18.00 Final discussion

Commentator: George Adamson (King’s College London). Chair: Warren Eastwood (Birmingham).