



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

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Mandel Scholion  
Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

## Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

09:30-10:00 Gathering at the YMCA

10:00-13:00 **The Old City of Jerusalem: A reconstruction of the 11<sup>th</sup>-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 (9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>

**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 5<sup>th</sup>

**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 Preisler-Kapeller** (Austrian Academy of Sciences): Between collapse and heyday: Climate change and socio-political dynamics in the high medieval Caucasus (9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> century?

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:00 **Discussion**

## Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>

**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 7<sup>th</sup>

**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)