

Fall 2015 Workshop Recap

In September the Climate Change and History Research Initiative (CCHRI) invited renowned palaeoclimate modeler Jürg Luterbacher (Justus Liebig University, Germany) and dendroclimatologist Ulf Büntgen (Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Switzerland) to lead our first annual introductory workshop for younger scholars (graduate students, postdocs and junior faculty) interested in incorporating climate sciences in their work. Over 15 participants from Princeton and other universities attended the three-day event focused on dendroclimatology.



Ulf, Robert Morrissey, Mateusz Falkowski and Jürg inspect a tree core sample taken on the Princeton campus. Photo: Denise Applewhite

Write-ups may be found at:

<http://dailyprincetonian.com/news/2015/10/workshop-explores-climate-change-and-history/>

<http://www.princeton.edu/piirs/news-events/trees-offer-clues-to-past/>

Fall 2015 Lectures Recap

On 27 October, Byzantinist Mihailo Popovic (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna) delivered the first of five 2015/16 CCHRI lectures, "Digitizing Patterns of Power in Macedonia (12th-14th centuries): What do Nomads, Pasture, Camels and Hydrography Have in Common?", and on 9 December historical climatologist Francis Ludlow (Yale University, Climate and Energy Institute) delivered the second "Violence and Extreme Weather in Medieval Ireland". Both lectures stimulated discussion of how to address climate change within an historical context.

Spring 2016 Lectures

Three CCHRI lectures are planned for the Spring semester. Environmental historian Adam Izdebski (Jagiellonian University, Poland), who will be residing in Princeton for the semester, will deliver the first on 17 February, palaeoclimatologist Inga Labuhn (University of Lund, Sweden) will deliver the second lecture on 9 March, and Byzantinist Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Austrian Academy of Sciences) will conclude the Spring series on 6 April.

Spring 2016 Colloquium

On 23 May, CCHRI will host a colloquium addressing resilience to climatic change in premodern human societies in the Mediterranean region and the Central Asian Steppe. The event will feature Kevin Anchukaitis, Nicola di Cosmo, John Haldon, Adam Izdebski, Sofia Laparidou, Lee Mordechai, Don Nelson, Tim Newfield, Arlene Rosen and Paolo Squatriti as speakers, while several others will attend as guests. The colloquium is open to the public.

Young Scholar Paper Prize

The CCHRI will award annually a prize of 1,000 USD to a young scholar for best unpublished interdisciplinary essay addressing premodern climate change and resilience. PDF submissions are due 1 June 2016. See the CCHRI website for more information.

Looking Ahead, The Fall 2016 Workshop

Leading palaeoecologists Neil Roberts (Plymouth University, UK) and Warren Eastwood (University of Birmingham, UK) will run the September 2016 workshop which will focus on palynology. A call for applications will be posted on the CCHRI website this Spring.

The Project

The CCHRI's long-term project aims to integrate the research of scholars in all relevant social and natural scientific disciplines in order to evaluate and interpret the evidence for societal resilience to environmental stress and change. The focus is premodern and comparative with case studies on the Eastern Mediterranean and Eastern Eurasia with plans to expand and cover additional regions in coming years. This multi-year project has been funded generously by the Princeton Institute for Interregional and Regional Studies, with additional support from the Center for Collaborative History, the Princeton Environmental Institute, the Program in the Ancient World, the Department of Near Eastern Studies M. Munir Ertegun Turkish Studies Foundation, the Council for the Humanities, and the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, with the support of the Stanley J. Seeger Hellenic Fund.

For more on Project Leaders, Team Members, events, resources and the paper prize please visit:

<http://climatechangeandhistory.princeton.edu>

Best wishes for the holidays!

John Haldon, Professor of History
Lee Mordechai, Graduate Student
Tim Newfield, Postdoctoral Fellow