



Universität
Basel

Département
Altérumswissenschaften



CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE BREADBASKET OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

RECONSTRUCTING NILE FLOODS FOR THE ROMAN PERIOD

An interdisciplinary conference held at the
Swiss Institute in Rome – January 23/24, 2020

Organizer: Sabine R. Huebner, Institute of Ancient History, University of Basel (Switzerland)



Location:

Istituto Svizzero di Roma
Villa Maraini, Via Ludovisi 48, Rome (Italy)
ancientclimate.philhist.unibas.ch

Registration:

There is no conference fee, but please
register with Sabine R. Huebner
sabine.huebner@unibas.ch

Image: »Blue Nile Falls« by Justin Clements, 28.08.2005, shared on Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

Program

January 23, 2020

Session 1:

The Nile over the longue durée
(chair: Markus Stoffel, Geneva)

14:30–15:00 **Welcome and Introduction**

15:00–15:30 **Henry F. Lamb (Aberystwyth):**
Lake Tana and the Blue Nile:
the last 150,000 years

15:30–16:00 **Cecile Blanchet (Potsdam):**
Flood dynamics during the
last Saharan Humid Period:
clues from a laminated record
from the Nile deep-sea fan

16:00–16:30 **Elena Xoplaki (Giessen):**
Precipitation variability and
changes in monsoonal
Africa - Associations with
northern Egyptian
hydroclimate in new
comprehensive earth
system models prior to CE 700

16:30–17:00 **Coffee**

17:00–17:30 **Judith Bunbury (Cambridge):**
Evidence for Graeco-Roman
Climate and environment;
tying climate records to
observations from the field

17:30–18:00 **Response by Irene Soto Marín**
(Basel) and General Discussion

20:00 **Dinner**

Program

January 24, 2020

Session 2:

**Historical case studies of Nile flood
extremes during Roman times**
(chair: Marco Maiuro, Rome)

9:30–10:00 **Anna Arpaia (Pavia):**
The Nile breaks the banks:
unfavorable floods in some
documents from the 1st
century BC Herakleopolite

10:00–10:30 **Katherine Blouin (Toronto):**
Good Flood, Bad Flood:
Environmental entanglements
in the Roman Northeastern
Delta

10:30–11:00 **Sabine R. Huebner (Basel):**
Did shifts in the African
Monsoon lead to the decline of
the Roman Fayum from the
third century CE?

11:00–11:30 **Coffee**

11:30–12:00 **Christophe Corona (Clermont):**
Multi-proxy approach provides
insights into climate variability
in Central Italy at the End of
the Roman Empire: Insights of
Work in the Nile river

12:00–12:30 **Response by Elio Lo Cascio**
(Rome) and General discussion

12:30–13:30 **Lunch**

Program

January 24, 2020

Session 3:

Natural proxies for reconstructing Nile floods during the Roman period (chair: Sabine R. Huebner, Basel)

13:30–14:00 **Matthieu Ghilardi**
(Aix-en-Provence):
Nile River evolution during
Graeco-Roman times in Egypt:
what we learn from sediment
archives?

14:00–14:30 Markus Stoffel (Geneva):
Tracking changes in Nile
floods with tree rings:
Possibilities and limitations

14:30–15:00 Coffee

15:00–15:30 Kevin Anchukaitis (Tucson):
Inference from the periphery:
large-scale climate variability
and Nile floods during the
Common Era

15:30–16:00 **Response by Federico de Romanis (Rome) and General Discussion**

Organization

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