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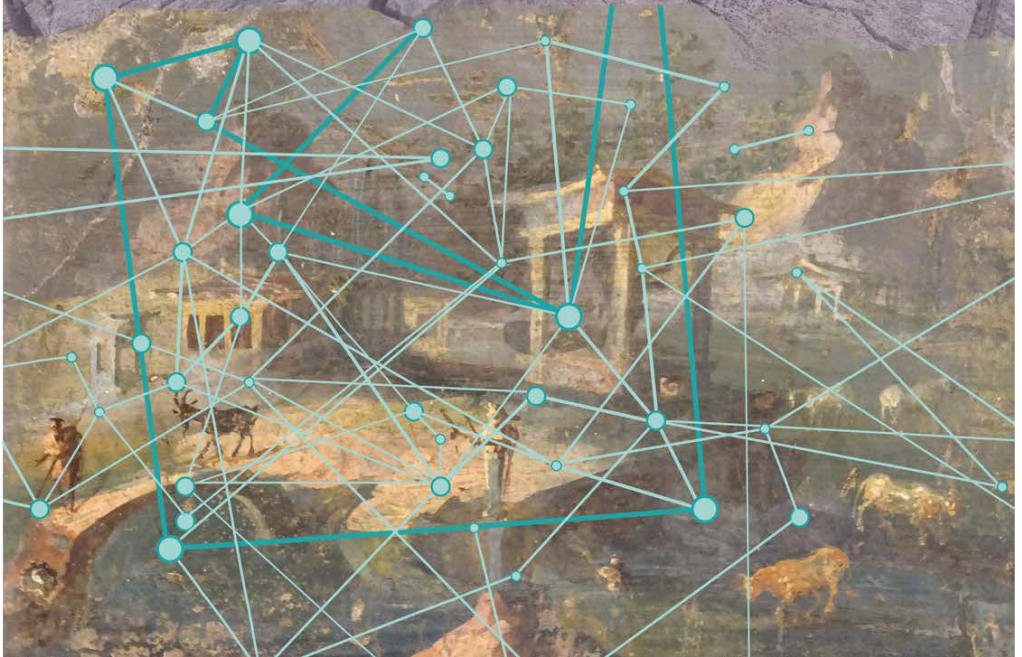


# Building & Managing Historical Climate Databases for the Ancient World: Prospects and Pitfalls

Interdisciplinary Workshop, 14–15 September 2021

The Roman Egypt Laboratory: Climate Change, Societal  
Transformations, and the Transition to Late Antiquity

Institute of Ancient History, University of Basel



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# Program

Papers of 20 minutes plus 25 minutes discussion time

## Tue. September 14, 2021

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9:30–10:00 Welcome and Coffee

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10:00–10:45 **Sabine Huebner, François Blondel, Brandon McDonald, Matthias Stern, Victoria Landau (Basel):**  
The Roman Egypt Laboratory: Climate Change, Societal Transformations, and the Transition to Late Antiquity

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10:45–11:30 **Paul Erdkamp (Brussels):**  
Zooming in on Climatic and Societal Change in Central Italy, First to Sixth Century CE

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11:30–12:15 **Joseph Manning (Yale) & Francis Ludlow (Dublin):**  
Coupling natural proxy records with socioeconomic and political events: The challenge of the papyri

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12:30–14:15 Lunch

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14:15–15:00 **Andrew Wilson (Oxford):**  
Climate databases: challenges of design and curation

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15:00–15:45 **Dominik Fleitmann (Basel):**  
Communicating chronological uncertainties of paleoclimate records more effectively to historians and archaeologists

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15:45–16:30 General Discussion

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16:30–17:15 Coffee

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19:00 Dinner

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## Wed. September 15, 2021

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9:15–10:00 **Sabine Huebner, Stefania Alfarano, François Gerardin, Lucas Gericke (Basel):**  
»Urban Biographies« in Roman and Late Antique Egypt: a multidisciplinary digital archive for the management of papyrological and archaeological datasets

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10:00–10:30 **Sébastien Guillet (Geneva):**  
Major optical depth perturbations to the stratosphere from volcanic eruptions: developing a database of stratospheric dust veil spanning the last 1500 years

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10:30–11:00 Coffee

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11:00–11:45 **Adam Izdebski (Berlin):**  
TBA

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11:45–12:30 **Lee Mordechai (Jerusalem):**  
Databases in Humanistic Research: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly

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12:30–13:00 Lunch

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# About The Workshop

## Building & Managing Historical Climate Databases for the Ancient World: Prospects and Pitfalls

How can an interdisciplinary project, featuring continuous research output in a multitude of fields, efficiently pool all of its results? What methods can be used to connect source types from the historical and the climate sciences? How effective can databases be for the presentation of project results? In what ways can databases be optimized to its users' needs?

Scholars from the fields of Ancient History, Archaeology, Byzantine Studies, Paleoclimatology, Dendrochronology, and more will tackle these questions together, highlighting potential red flags during the conception and management of databases, sharing experiences and developing best-case approaches for the future of transdisciplinary, linked data pools. This open exchange will include a discussion of biases inherent to each discipline, scholarly interpretations and contemporary scholarship, as well as the options for visual representations of highly different types of evidence.

# Organization

## Organizer:

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

The Basel Ancient History and Climate Science Lab

SNSF-Project «The Roman Egypt Laboratory: Climate Change, Societal Transformations, and the Transition to Late Antiquity»  
[ancientclimate.philhist.unibas.ch](http://ancientclimate.philhist.unibas.ch)

## Location:

University of Basel  
Kollegienhaus, Fakultätenzimmer 112  
Petersplatz, 4051 Basel (Switzerland)  
[unibas.ch](http://unibas.ch)

