

History and Environment: an Introductory Workshop

7-8 September 2020

Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), Istanbul

Workshop Presenters

- 1. Murat Akar** received his BA in Archaeology and the History of Art from Bilkent University, MSc in Settlement Archaeology from Middle East Technical University, and PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University of Florence in Italy. A former research fellow at ANAMED and the Archaeology and History of Art Department of Koç University, he has been teaching at Mustafa Kemal University, Department of Archaeology since 2016. He is the director of the Amuq Valley Regional Survey Project, the Acting Director of the excavations at Tell Atchana, Alalakh, and a senior member of the rescue excavations at Toprakhisar Höyük run by the Hatay Archaeological Museum. His research areas include architecture, memory, and landscape studies, particularly relating to second millennium BCE Anatolia, the Near East, and the Levant. His current research addresses the role of climate over the *longue durée* for understanding the continuously shifting population dynamics and cross-cultural encounters in eastern Mediterranean contexts as part of the recently accepted Tübitak 1001 project “The Geological and Archaeological Traces of Climatic Changes in the Amuq Valley of Hatay during the Holocene.”
- 2. Sena Akçer-Ön** was born in İstanbul, Turkey, in 1979. She received her B.E. degree in geological engineering from the İstanbul Technical University (İTÜ) Mining Faculty in 2001, and the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in climate and marine sciences from İTÜ Eurasia Earth Sciences Institute, in 2003 and 2011, respectively. She studied *chironomidae* in her post-doc at the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, University of Bern in 2012. Also in 2012, she was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geological Engineering at Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (Turkey), where she serves as a specialist on Holocene micropalaeontology (benthic foraminifera & ostracods) and marine/lake geochemistry. She took her Associate Professor degree in Marine Geology and Geophysics in 2019. Her current research interests include Quaternary palaeoclimate, palaeoceanography, and palaeolimnology. Dr. Akçer-Ön’s research area is western/central Anatolia in particular, and the eastern Mediterranean in general.
- 3. Ulaş Avşar** got his BSc and MSc degrees from the Geological Engineering Department of Middle East Technical University (METU), and PhD degree from Universiteit Gent. His main area of research has been sedimentary records of past climates, earthquakes, and tsunamis. During his PhD studies, he revealed the sedimentary traces of past earthquakes in lakes located on the North Anatolian Fault, Turkey. Similarly, during his postdoctoral fellowship at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), he did research on the sedimentary traces of past earthquakes in lakes located on the Húsavík-Flatey Fault, North Iceland. Later on, he was supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships Programme to

investigate the sedimentary records of historical eastern Mediterranean tsunamis in lagoons located along the southern coasts of Turkey. Currently, he focuses his efforts on geoarchaeological investigations of past climate-human interactions, mainly within the scope of a recently accepted TÜBİTAK 1001 project; “The Geological and Archaeological Traces of Climatic Changes in the Amuq Valley of Hatay during the Holocene.” Since 2017, he has been teaching at the Geological Engineering Department of METU.

4. **Warren Eastwood** is a biogeographer and palaeoecologist who researches past environmental and landscape change in the eastern Mediterranean region over the past 25,000 years or so, focusing mainly on the elucidation of natural versus human-induced vegetation change via the analysis of pollen, spores, non-siliceous fungal and algal microfossils (palynology), and charcoal recovered from peat and lake sites in the eastern Mediterranean. He also investigates eastern Mediterranean climate change through the analysis of stable isotopes on authigenic carbonates recovered from lake sediments. A core member of Princeton’s *Climate Change and History Research Initiative* (CCHRI), his research interests extend to the impacts of major volcanic eruptions in effecting environmental and landscape change (tephrology) together with the dating of volcanic ash layers preserved in sediment cores (tephrochronology).
5. **Yılmaz Selim Erdal** is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Hacettepe University, Turkey. He is a specialist in human bioarchaeology. He has participated in more than 35 excavations in Turkey and Azerbaijan. He focused mainly on reconstructing the human behavior of past people. His research focuses on the dietary habits, lifestyle, socioeconomic status, and burial customs of Anatolia and surrounding areas. Nowadays, he is working on prehistoric human skeletons to understand the effect of agriculture on human beings. He has published articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals and chapters in international edited volumes.
6. **Alan Greaves** is an archaeologist and ancient historian whose research focuses on Anatolian settlement and environment in the second and first millennia BCE. He is particularly interested in the Ionia and Lycia regions and the interactions between geographical, archaeological, and historical data. His work questions the way in which Anatolia has historically been portrayed as a passive “bridge” between East and West when it was, in fact, a network of complex regionalized cultural units and identities. He has been working at the University of Liverpool for the past twenty years, during which time he has run a number of archaeology field projects and excavations across Turkey, most recently at Çaltılar and the ancient Lycian city of Telmessos, both near Fethiye.
7. **John Haldon** is a historian of the medieval eastern Roman (Byzantine) empire, in particular in the period from the seventh to the twelfth centuries; on state systems and structures across the European and Islamic worlds from late ancient to early modern times; on the impact of environmental stress on societal resilience in pre-modern social systems; and on the production, distribution, and consumption of resources in the late ancient and medieval world. He is Director of the Princeton *Climate Change and History Research Initiative* (<https://cchri.princeton.edu/>), and of the Avkat Archaeological Project (Turkey: <http://www.princeton.edu/avkat>).

8. **Adam Izdebski** teaches at the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Since the summer of 2018, he has been leader of the “Byzantine Resilience” Independent Research Group at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena. A core member of Princeton’s *Climate Change and History Research Initiative*, he works on Late Antiquity, Byzantium, and environmental history with a focus on integrating natural scientific and humanities approaches. Among others, recent publications include: *Environment and Society during Long Late Antiquity (LAA 12 & 13, 2018)* and *Medieval Romans and Nature* (Kraków 2018, in Polish).
9. **Ceren Kabukcu** is an archaeological scientist specializing in the identification and analysis of carbonized botanical remains from prehistoric sites. She is currently based at the University of Liverpool as a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Research Fellow researching plant use by hunter-gatherer groups in Anatolia and the Zagros range. Her research interests include woodland management practices in the past, vegetation ecology and climate change, landscape use, and impacts on the environment by prehistoric societies.
10. **Onur Hasan Kirman** is a graduate student in Archaeology at Mustafa Kemal University. He is a member of the Tell Atchana and Toprakhisar Höyük Excavation Projects. His research focuses on the geochemical characterization of mud bricks used in buildings levels at the sites mentioned above. The mud brick data currently under study spans the end of the third millennium BCE and the beginning of the first millennium BCE to define the traces of climatic fluctuations and agency through construction materials in the Amuq Valley of Hatay.
11. **Georgios Liakopoulos** has a doctorate in Ottoman History from Royal Holloway, University of London (2009), and has taught Modern Turkish Language (2010–13) and Ottoman History and Palaeography (2016–18) at the University of Athens. His publications are mainly focused on the Ottoman inscriptions of Greece, the edition of Ottoman archival material, and the economic history and historical geography/demography of Greek Lands under Ottoman rule. As a senior postdoctoral researcher at the “Byzantine Resilience” Independent Research Group in the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, he is examining the Ottoman and Venetian cadasters pertaining to the Peloponnese in the 15th–18th centuries; the findings of this study will then be collated with the environmental data acquired from coring sites in the region.
12. **Lee Mordechai** is Senior Lecturer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and an Associate Director and co-PI of Princeton’s *Climate Change and History Research Initiative*. He works on late antique and Byzantine history, focusing on the interactions between premodern societies and their environments. One of his current research projects examines cities and natural disasters in the eastern Mediterranean during the sixth century; another proposes an alternative paradigm to understand the Justinianic Plague. Lee employs digital tools in his work extensively and is also the director of the FLAME (*Framing the Late Antique and Early Medieval Economy*) project.
13. **Z. Bora Ön** received his BSc degree in mathematics from Boğaziçi University and, in 2018, his PhD in the Earth System Science Program of İstanbul Teknik University. His PhD thesis was about applying statistical and information theoretical methods to paleoclimate data. Currently, he works at the geology department in Muğla University and lectures on statistics, computing, and

climate. His scientific curiosity mainly evolved into application of Bayesian techniques on climate data.

- 14. Çetin Şenkul** is a Quaternary palaeoecologist and a biogeographer. His main scientific interest lies in exploring microscopic biological remains (especially pollen) in all kinds of sediments all over Anatolia for reconstruction of environmental settings, natural versus human-induced vegetation changes, and climate dynamics in the past. His research interests also include endemic plants and biogeographical modeling. He likes to establish connections between extant and fossil taxa and discover their values as palaeoecological indicators. In Quaternary palaeoecology, he focuses in particular on the Holocene dynamic of the forest-steppe ecotone working in Turkey in an archaeological and historical perspective.
- 15. Theodoros Vakkas** is the CTO of GEOSPATIAL ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES (GET). He has the key role for the design and implementation of solutions and projects in the field of Geo-ICT, open geospatial data, earth observation/remote sensing data and geospatial web mapping applications for public and private sector. He has more than 12 years of professional experience in Geo-Informatics and high-level expertise in GIS software, free and open source software and proprietary source software, spatial database management systems, web applications for geospatial data analysis, management, editing and disposal (environmental, urban, etc.). He has an MSc in Geoinformatics (NTUA 2008) and Diploma of Rural and Surveying Engineer (NTUA 2004). He is the Project Manager for national and European projects implemented by GET, managing and coordinating GET's team consisted by developers and engineers.
- 16. Nikos Tsvikis** is a post-doctoral researcher at the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz and a member of the Commission for Byzantine Archaeology of the International Association. He is responsible for field projects both at Messene in the Peloponnese (GR) and Amorion in Asia Minor (TR), where he publishes on the systematic stratigraphic excavation of Byzantine levels, including cemeteries. Additionally, he has a growing interest in landscape archaeology and paleoenvironment and currently leads a new comparative project bridging mainland Greece and Asia Minor: *Byzantine Agricultural Landscapes across the Aegean* (BALAA).
- 17. Nükhet Varlık** is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University–Newark and the University of South Carolina. She is a historian of the Ottoman Empire interested in disease, medicine, and public health. She is the author of *Plague and Empire in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: The Ottoman Experience, 1347–1600* (2015) and editor of *Plague and Contagion in the Islamic Mediterranean* (2017). Her new book project, “Empire, Ecology, and Plague: Rethinking the Second Pandemic (ca.1340s-ca.1940s),” examines the six-hundred-year Ottoman plague experience in a global ecological context. In conjunction with this research, she is involved in developing the Black Death Digital Archive and contributing to multidisciplinary research projects that incorporate perspectives from palaeogenetics (ancient DNA research in particular), bioarchaeology, disease ecology, and climate science into historical inquiry. She is the Editor of the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*.

18. Elena Xoplaki is an expert in Mediterranean climate change research and is a member of the Steering Committee of the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC). She has conducted analysis on extremes (heat waves, floods, droughts, etc.), paleoclimatology, climate impacts on societies, climate reconstructions / model comparison, and the influence of circulation on European and Mediterranean climate. She is a core member of the *Climate Change and History Research Initiative* at Princeton University. Her current focus is also on the human health aspects of renewable energies, wind power production, and climate change.