

*Environment and Empire at the Transition  
from Antiquity to the Middle Ages*  
A Workshop

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Program

8:30 – 9:00 Breakfast  
9:00 – 9:15 Welcome

**9:15 – 10:00**

**SESSION 1**

**THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

Chair: Teresa Shawcross (Amherst and Mt Holyoke Colleges)

**An Eternal Peace for an Eternal Empire?**

**Romans, Persians and Barbarians**

Geoffrey Greatrex, University of Ottawa

10:00-10.15

Coffee Break

**10:15-11:45**

**SESSION 2**

**ENVIRONMENT, ETHNICITIES AND EMPIRE**

Chair: Sergey Glebov (Amherst College)

**Environment, Empire, and the Character of Human Communities:**

**Sixth Century Perspectives on the Classical Tradition**

Michael Maas, Rice University

**'The Broad-Fronted Enemies whose Land is Broad':**

**The Huns in the Iranian Imperial Imaginary**

Richard Payne, Mt Holyoke College

**11:45 – 12:30**

**SESSION 3**

**CATASTROPHE OR TRANSFORMATION?**

Chair: Richard Lim (Smith College)

**Unlucky for Some? David Keys' CATASTROPHE Thirteen Years On**

Peter Sarris, University of Cambridge

12:30 – 1:30

Lunch

**1:30 – 2:45**

**SESSION 4**

**THE PLAGUE: NEW PROBLEMS**

*A round table discussion introduced by Lester Little, Smith College  
and moderated with the assistance of Peter Sarris and Michael Maas*

2:45 – 3:15

Coffee Break

**3:15 – 4:45**

**SESSION 5**

**THE PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE**

Chair: Ted Melillo (Amherst College)

**The Early-Medieval Climate Anomaly and the Early-Medieval  
Agricultural Transformation of Europe: A Research Agenda**

Fredric Cheyette, Amherst College

**Non-Agricultural Landscapes of Byzantium:**

**From Greco-Roman “Improvement” to Benign Neglect?**

Archie Dunn, University of Birmingham

**4:45-5:30**

**SESSION 6**

**ANCIENTS AND MODERNS**

Chair: Fred McGinness (Mt Holyoke College)

**Plus ça change:**

**Empire and Environment in Recent Environmental History**

Robert Schwartz, Mt Holyoke College

Concluding remarks

6:15

Dinner for the speakers and chairs in town