



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Humanities



THE NEW
INSTITUTE

Centre for Environmental
Humanities (NICHE)
at Ca' Foscari
University of Venice



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People and their Environments in the First Millennium CE

This seminar series focuses on relationships between people and their environments in the Mediterranean in the first millennium CE. The papers explore social, intellectual, religious and political contexts from around the Mediterranean in the first millennium CE, and draw on evidence and methodologies from the disciplines of history, archaeology and environmental science. The seminars will all take place online; one seminar (10th November, Prof. Alessandro Fontana) will also be an in-person event (and therefore hybrid).

Register for the seminar:



Organisers:

Prof.ssa Helen Foxhall Forbes
Dr Michele Abballe
Dr Massimiliano Borroni
Dr Jakub Sypiański
Dr Vicky Manolopoulou

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Seminars

14/10/2025, 16.00 CEST

Prof. Johannes Preiser-Kapeller
(Universität Wien)

About volcanoes, icons, solar storms, and toads. The identification and interpretation of extreme events and celestial phenomena in 8th and 9th century Byzantium and in trans-Eurasian comparison.

10/11/2025, 15.00 CET

Prof. Alessandro Fontana (Università di Padova)

The Diluvium Aquarum: geoarchaeological constraints of extreme floods in Northeast Italy during the Early Middle Ages

IN PERSON (HYBRID) – Aula B,
Ca' Bottacin, Dorsoduro 3911, Venice

09/12/2025, 15.00 CET

Prof. Paolo Squatriti (University of Michigan)

The Material Eucharist in the Early Middle Ages: Bread, Theology and Ecology

12/01/2026, 15.00 CET

Prof. Carole Nehme (Université de Rouen)

Climate pattern and social unrest in Cyprus

09/02/2026, 17.00 CET

Prof. Andrew Marsham (University of Cambridge) and **Prof. Philip Booth** (St Peter's College, Oxford)

Nile Floods and Delta Revolts in the Eighth and Ninth Centuries CE

09/03/2026, 15.00 CET

Dr. Noemie Lucas (University of Edinburgh) and **Dr. Dalia Hussein** (University of Edinburgh)

People and Taxes: The Functioning of the Fiscal Cycle in Abbasid Egypt

12/05/2026, 16.00 CEST

Dr. Carlo Scardino (Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf)

The Role and Significance of Syriac and Arabic Translations of Late Antique Agricultural Treatises in the First Millennium CE around the Mediterranean

09/06/2026, 16.00 CEST

Prof. Edward Schoolman (University of Nevada, Reno)

New Resources and Shifting Landscapes: Human Activities and Environmental Change in Rieti and Lucca, 600-1000 CE

15/07/2026, 15.00 CEST

Dr. Rob Witcher (Durham University)
Imperial ecologies in the northern hinterland of Rome: environment and society on the metropolitan doorstep