



Knowledge, Resilience and the Environment in the Mediterranean, 1–1000 CE

8–10 September 2026
Ca' Foscari University
of Venice



www.unive.it/sse1k

Organization: Helen Foxhall Forbes, Isidora Freris, Michele Abballe,
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link zoom
<https://tinyurl.com/sse1k-sept-2026>

8 September 2026

Aula Baratto, Ca' Foscari

9.00 Registration and coffee

10.45 **Welcome and introduction**

11.00 **Resilient landscapes**

Chair: **Helen Foxhall Forbes** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Thomas Meier (Universität Heidelberg): Planned adaptation or evolution by change? A conceptual perspective on landscape resilience and landscape change

Sam Turner (Newcastle University): Early Medieval Mani: shaping a sustainable and resilient landscape

Athanasios Vionis (University of Cyprus): Landscape approaches to resilience and 'capacity-to-change' in late antique and early medieval Cyprus (5th-10th century CE)

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **Rural and urban resilience**

Chair: **Dan Lawrence** (Durham University)

Andrew McNey (University of Oxford): Living Reciprocally with the Desert: Investigating the Hamlets of the Negev as Sites of Resilience During the Late Antique Little Ice Age

Helene Simoni (University of Patras), **Kostas Papagiannopoulos** (University of Cyprus; Institute of Local History, Greece): Archaeological insights from rescue excavations and probabilistic modelling into urban resilience in the Peloponnese during the first millennium CE

Madeleine Duperouzel (University of Oxford): 'For I know such properties': women and resilience in rural communities and landscapes, 4th-7th centuries AD

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 **Agriculture in the Islamic Mediterranean**

Chair: **Vicky Manolopoulou** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Jakub Sypiański (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): Nile yields: LLM-powered computational analysis of the Islamic Green Revolution in Egypt

Carlo Scardino (Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf): Old Knowledge for New Conditions? Agronomic Compendia and Environmental Variability in the First Millennium Mediterranean

Dominique Aviñó McChesney (Regional Ministry of Education, Valencia): The trace of the Nabatean Book of Agriculture in the landscapes of Al-Andalus

17.30 End

9 September

Aula Baratto, Ca' Foscari

9.00 **Agriculture and resilience strategies**

Chair: **Mateusz Fafinski** (Universität Erfurt)

Conor Dube (University College London): Staple Goods as Structural Resilience in Early Islamic North Africa

Anastasia Nikulina (Universiteit Leiden): Simulating Rural Resilience and Vulnerability: Agricultural Decision-Making in the Mediterranean throughout the First Millennium CE

Olga Palacios (Durham University): Modelling the Drivers of the Islamic Green Revolution across Egypt

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 **Crisis and community**

Chair: **Massimiliano Borroni** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Greta Hawes (Macquarie University, Sydney): Mythic connections under crisis

Sebastian Hanstein (Universität Siegen): Interpreting Crisis, Sustaining Society: Salvian of Marseille, Religious Knowledge and Community Resilience in Fifth Century Gaul

Vicky Manolopoulou (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): The Euchologion in context: Ritual, Emotion and the Agricultural Landscape in Byzantium

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **Environment and Society**

Chair: **Michele Abballe** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Ismeni Lypiridou, Dominik Fleitmann (Universität Basel): Hydroclimate reconstruction from Uzuntarla Cave (Thrace, Türkiye) and the connection to the water supply of Constantinople

Giacomo Vinci (Università degli Studi di Padova): What follows ancient industrial abandonment? Landscape dynamics in Roman coastal Friuli

Massimiliano Borroni (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): Society and the Environment in Early Islamic North African Legal Literature

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 **Knowledge and risk**

Chair: **Kristina Sessa** (Ohio State University)

Rocío Suárez Vallejo (Universität Innsbruck): Landscape as a sensor of environmental risk in the late antique west (6th century)

Sara Baldin (Universität Basel): Constrained Resilience: Agricultural Knowledge, Environmental Variability and Risk Management in Roman Egypt's Fayum (2nd-3rd century CE)

Marsha McCoy (Southern Methodist University, Dallas): Knowledge and Resilience in a Volcanic Environment: Pliny, Vesuvius and the People of the Bay of Naples

17.30 End

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 **Concluding discussion**

Chair: **Helen Foxhall Forbes** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

17.30 End

10 September

Aula Magna Silvio Trentin, Ca' Dolfin

9.00 **Settlements and resilience**

Chair: **Olga Palacios** (Durham University)

Michele Abballe (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): Reconstructing population dynamics in the Italian Peninsula: a focus on the first millennium CE

Mauro Buonincontri, Giovanna Bianchi (Università degli Studi di Siena): Settlement, environment and resilience in northern Maremma (Tuscany, central Italy): a multidisciplinary approach to landscape knowledge (1st-11th centuries CE)

David Laguna Palma (Universidad de Granada): Landscape, Resilience and Settlement Dynamics in Roman and Late Roman Crete: A socio-ecological approach

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 **Resilience in the sixth century**

Chair: **Sam Turner** (Newcastle University)

Mateusz Fafinski (Universität Erfurt): As per my last letter: Gregory the Great and local resilience at the end of late antiquity

Helen Foxhall Forbes (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): Knowledge, resilience and acorns in the sixth century CE

Mischa Meier (Universität Tübingen): Strategies of Resilience in the sixth century

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **Disaster and crisis**

Chair: **Jakub Sypiański** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Nidanu O'Shea (University of Oxford): Catastrophic Tremors: Calamity Responses in the Chronicle of Zuqnān

Jacob Lollar (Durham University): Foreign Waters: Understanding and Responding to the Floods of Edessa in Late Antique Historiography

Kristina Sessa (Ohio State University): Everyday Disasters in Late Antiquity