

IMPACT WORKSHOP

CENTRE FOR ANCIENT ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Monday May 27, 2024

Funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Past Perspectives:

How can premodern environmental research be made useful in the climate emergency?

The human species has forever been adapting to dynamic environmental conditions. The premodern world provides a laboratory of various experiments in human-environment interactions: a rich history of successes and failures, acute and chronic pressures, false-starts and path dependencies, resilience and vulnerabilities—all operating on a global scale over the longue durée. How should we collate, compare, and engage critically with this past record in order to drive change in the modern climate crisis?

NB: Keynote presentations will be hybrid, while all other events will be in person only (in the Physics Building at the University of St Andrews).

- 9:15-9:35** **Welcome and Presentation 1**
Andrea Brock (St Andrews Classics):
Flood Risk and Response in the City of Rome
- 9:35-9:55** **Presentation 2**
Liz Macwhirter (Glasgow): *Theopoetics: Giving voice to Julian of Norwich and trauma spirituality in the climate crisis*
- 9:55-10:15** **Presentation 3**
Justine Firnhaber-Baker (St Andrews History):
Into the Woods: Negotiating Landscape and Power in Post-Plague France
- 10:15-10:35** **Presentation 4**
Althea Davies (St Andrews Geography & Sustainable Development):
Where's the climate story? Scottish woodlands past and future
- 10:35-11:00** **Coffee break**
- 11:00-11:20** **Presentation 5**
Rowan Jackson (Edinburgh): *Information, Perception and Learning: Intergenerational adaptation to environmental change in Medieval Greenland*
- 11:20-11:40** **Presentation 6**
Lilah Grace Canevaro (Edinburgh):
The Environment and the Subaltern: focusing on the margins in Greek literature
- 11:40-12:00** **Presentation 7**
Rhyne King (St Andrews Classics):
Sustainable Water Management: Qanats in the Ancient Persian Empire

12:00-1:00

Keynote 1

Christopher Schliephake (Augsburg):

*'Ecological wisdom', cultural sustainability and the reception of ancient texts
(the example of Homer's Odyssey)*

1:00-2:00

Lunch Break

2:00-2:45

Discussion Panel 1

Sian Lewis (St Andrews Classics), **James Palmer** (St Andrews History), and **Richard Oram** (Stirling) with responses to the morning presentations, considering opportunities for capitalizing on popular fascination with the ancient/premodern world

2:45-3:15

Coffee Break

3:15-4:00

Discussion Panel 2

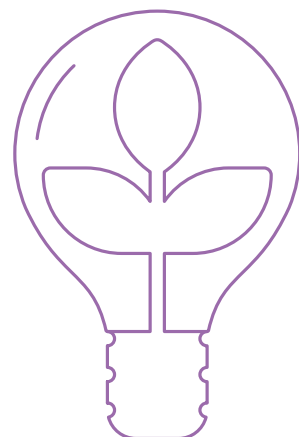
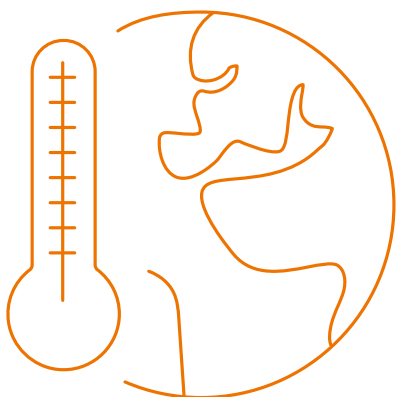
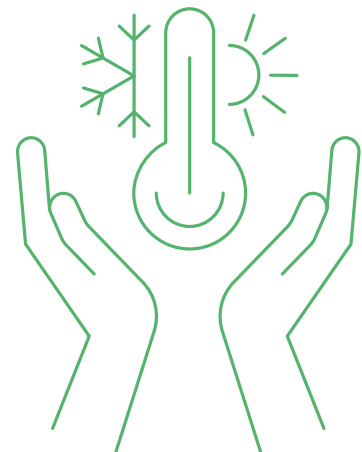
James Rae (St Andrews Earth & Environmental Science), **Robert Wilson** (St Andrews Earth & Environmental Science), and **Nicki Whitehouse** (Glasgow) on the strengths and limits of the popular reception of climate change science

4:00-5:00

Keynote 2

Rebecca Hardin (Michigan):

Creating, curating and comparing case studies of the premodern to inform the present



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