

The first half of the 14th century, with its relatively rapid transition from the Medieval Climate Anomaly to the Little Ice Age, is the first period in history in which climactic change can be detected in comparatively good written records on meteorological and social phenomena of change and scientific data alike. The "Crisis of the 14th Century" is a well-established interpretational pattern for numerous developments and problems of late medieval societies in Europe. But a new focus on the natural framework of the time might help sharpen our knowledge about the processes through which environmental change contributed to socio-economic developments. The increasing frequency of extreme natural events and their impact on societies is hard to deny for the years after 1300. Beyond the analysis of epidemics and famines there is emerging research on epizootics and flood events. At the same time, counteractions of the affected societies can be observed. These include the construction of embankments and dikes, as well as grain provision and the organization of municipal health care. Furthermore, a newly awakened interest in the reception and interpretation of meteorological phenomena by late medieval witnesses can be found.

Hence, the conference focuses on the supposed climatic deterioration from 1300 onwards, discussing its impact on economy and society, and related epidemic, cultural and political phenomena. The meteorological term "teleconnections", adapted for the interests of historical disciplines, underlines the direct and indirect impact of meteorological extreme events on medieval societies between 1280 and 1380 in a broad perspective on all of Europe and beyond.

Conference venue | [Sede dell'incontro](#)
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The Crisis of the 14th Century: "Teleconnections" between Environmental and Societal Change?



Fig.: Dante Alighieri, Divine Comedy, Inferno, Canto VI (Wikimedia Commons)

International Conference
Rome, 24–26 February 2016
Convegno internazionale
Roma, 24–26 febbraio 2016

Wednesday, 24 February, 9.30–17.30

- 9.30 Martin Baumeister | Roma
[Welcome](#)
- 9.45 Gerrit J. Schenk | Darmstadt, Martin Bauch | Roma
[Introduction](#)
- Chair: Francesco Salvestrini | Firenze
- 10.00 Paolo Nanni | Firenze
[Climate Variability in Italy during the first half of the 14th Century: Historical Data and Research Questions](#)
- 10.30 Martin Bauch | Roma
[A truly "Dantean" Anomaly? Bologna and Siena between 1310–1321](#)
- 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.45 Christof Paulus | München
[The Defence of the Crisis, or: An Emperor-monk explains his World](#)
- 12.15 Mihailo Popović | Wien
[Did the Little Ice Age have an observable Impact on the Southern Balkan Peninsula in the first half of the 14th Century?](#)
- 13.15 Lunch break
- Chair: Richard C. Hoffmann | Toronto
- 14.30 András Vadas | Budapest
[When was the Beginning of the Little Ice Age in the Carpathian Basin?](#)
- 15.00 Chantal Camenisch | Bern
[14th Century Sources in the Area of Modern Switzerland and their Potential for Environmental and Climate History](#)
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 Rainer Schreg | Mainz
[Plague and Desertion – a Consequence of Anthropogenic Landscape Change? Archaeological Studies in Southern Germany](#)
- 20.00 Conference dinner (only for participants)

Thursday, 25 February, 9.30–20.00

- Chair: Dominik Collet | Heidelberg
- 9.30 Thomas Labbé | Dijon
[The Crisis of 1315 between Lyon, Mâcon and Geneva: A Study with Rural Economic Sources](#)
- 10.00 Peter Brown | Durham
[The Extreme Windstorm of AD 1362: Contemporary Perceptions and Responses](#)
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 Phil Slavin | Canterbury
[Was Malthus Right? Re-Assessing the Role of Demography in Pre-Industrial Famines – the Case of Late-medieval British Isles](#)
- 12.00 Maximilian Schuh | Heidelberg
[Narratives of Environmental Impacts in English Sources of the Early 14th Century](#)
- 13.00 Lunch break
- Chair: Gerrit J. Schenk | Darmstadt
- 14.00 Ulla Kypta | Basel, Angela Huang | Copenhagen
[Climatic Change and Inter-city Cooperation](#)
- 14.30 Heli Huhtamaa | Univ. of Eastern Finland/Bern
[Climate and the Great Famine in North-East Europe](#)
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 18.00 *Public evening lecture*
Bruce M.S. Campbell | Belfast
[The Environmental Origins of the Black Death](#)
- 20.00 Refreshments

Friday, 26 February, 9.30–12.30

- Chair: Bruce M.S. Campbell | Belfast
- 9.30 Ronnie Ellenblum | Jerusalem
[The first half of the 14th Century in the Eastern Mediterranean – a Period of Wealth:](#)
- 10.00 Tana Li | Canberra
[Climatic Impacts in Vietnam and Southern China 1280–1360](#)
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 Jürg Luterbacher | Gießen
[Climatological Commentary](#)
- 12.00 Gerrit J. Schenk | Darmstadt, Martin Bauch | Roma
[Concluding Remarks](#)