



Ca' Foscari University of Venice

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: SSEK1 - Science, Society and Environmental Change in the First Millennium CE

FUNDING PROGRAMME: HORIZON EUROPE

CALL: ERC-2021-COG

KEYWORDS: *Environmental History; Environmental Archaeology; Historical Climatology; History of Science; Intellectual Culture; Climatology and Climate Change*

HOST DEPARTMENT: Department of Humanities

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Helen Foxhall Forbes

FINANCIAL DATA:

| Project total costs | Overall funding assigned to UNIVE |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| € 1.998.963,00 | € 1.293.048,01 |

ABSTRACT:

In the Mediterranean in the first millennium CE, environmental and climatic changes have been identified as causes for significant short- and long-term societal and political processes and events, such as epidemics and the rise and fall of empires. However, the effects of environmental or climatic variation on humans are substantially more complex than a narrative of causation of major events, since culturally specific perceptions and interpretations of environmental or climatic variation can have significant social, religious or political implications. SSE1K builds on state-of-the-art research but goes beyond it to ask novel, important questions about relationships between past societies and environmental / climatic fluctuation. The project will pioneer an approach which is both multi- and interdisciplinary, centring on these questions: How did humans experience and perceive environmental and climatic variation across the Mediterranean in the first millennium CE, and how did they respond both intellectually and socially to these changing conditions? SSE1K addresses issues which have been raised as significant challenges for collaborative study of climate change but have yet to be fully addressed: it will investigate how the circulation of knowledge and adaptability intersect with sustainability and resilience in premodern societies, and how human perceptions and ways of thinking shaped societal, political or religious responses to environmental / climatic change. The project will integrate textual, archaeological and environmental evidence to investigate a large geographical area (the Mediterranean) at a scale which balances human lived experience and climate trends (the first millennium CE) over macro- and microlevels. This integration is crucial in producing a holistic picture of past knowledge, resilience and sustainability, and will change the ways that scholars understand the relationships between past humans and environmental / climatic fluctuation.

Planned Start date
01st January 2023

Planned End date
31st december 2028

PARTNERSHIP:

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| 1 University Ca' Foscari | Venice (IT) | Coordinator |
| 2 Universitat Basel | Basel (CH) | Partner |
| 3 University of Durham | Durham (UK) | Partner |

