

Rivers vs past and present climate changes : effects, stakes and adaptations

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Session Description

It is now well known that rivers are deeply impacted by climate changes. The effects may be multiple, ranging from drying out of riverbeds, to channel shifts and changes in alluvial style, major floods or ice dams. In this session, we would aim to discuss the ways these alterations or events touched the infrastructures build in riverbeds, as bridges, mills, fisheries, dykes, etc., as well as the ways to cope with these unusual situations. It is intended to encompass the past changes as the Little Ice Age, as well as the current climatic context: from the archaeological or historical study of past infrastructures, to the way they are now exposed to new pressure. The process of understanding, the stakes of maintenance or the solutions of adaptation set up by riverine population in the Middle Ages and Modern times would be a first axis of discussion. A second one would deal with the archaeological strategies and methods to develop in order to inventory and study this heritage impacted by the current global warming and all the linked arrangements.

Keywords

River Anthropisation; Climate Change; LIA; River Archaeology; Middle Ages; Modern Period