Lecture

Climates during the spread of Neolithic

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Beginning with the Holocene period, the Neolithic transition marked a shift from a foraging lifestyle in the Late Mesolithic to an agricultural way of life during the Early Neolithic. In the Fertile Crescent, one of the centres of the farming economy, crop domestication began in temperate climates with dry and hot summers ('Csa' in the Köppen Climate Classification) around 9000 BC. In its early stages (pioneer front of neolithization), crop transfer —more so than animal domestication required areas with similar climate and seasonal patterns (e.g., Growing Degree Days, Temperature). This presentation will examine the spread of farming across the Mediterranean from ca. 9000 to 5000 BC, using quantitative methods (R neonet framework) to analyse over 4,000 curated radiocarbon dates, alongside Köppen Climate Classification past reconstructions (R pastclim package), to assess the spread of the farming economy and changes in the climates inhabited by the earliest farmers in the Mediterranean.

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