

# The Medieval Warm Period Redux – Where and when was it warm?

22-24 September 2010

Lisbon, Portugal

<http://mwplisbon2010.fc.ul.pt/>



## Organizers

Henry Diaz  
[University of Colorado](#)

Ricardo Trigo  
[CGUL-IDL, Portugal](#)

Michael Mann  
[Pennsylvania State University](#)

David Barriopedro  
[CGUL-IDL, Portugal](#)

Elena Xoplaki  
[The Cyprus Institute & University of Bern](#)

Malcolm Hughes  
[University of Arizona](#)

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FOUNDATION

**FCT**  
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia  
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR

## OVERVIEW

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In recent years, a bewildering array of studies has been published describing elements of the climate of the so-called 'Medieval Warm Period' (MWP), also referred to as the Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA). The general time frame for this epoch is generally taken to span the years from ~950–1300 C.E. We are taking up the question posed already in 1994 by Hughes and Diaz in their Climatic Change review "Was there a 'Medieval Warm Period', and if so, where and when?" and the important point made more than ten years later in the report of Working Group I of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report that "Regionally restricted evidence by itself, ... is of little practical relevance to the question of whether climate in medieval times was globally as warm or warmer than today" and we propose to revisit the Medieval Climate Anomaly epoch assimilating widespread and continuous paleoclimatic evidence in a homogeneous way and scale them against recent measured temperatures to allow a meaningful quantitative comparison against the 20th-century pace and magnitude of warming (IPCC Fourth Assessment Report).

Given the substantial heterogeneity of proxy climate records and climate reconstructions published in the last two decades, in concert with the fact that the MCA/MWP has been alluded to by some questioning whether recent warming is due to an enhanced greenhouse anthropogenic forcing, we propose to evaluate and discuss the various records with the aim of producing a more definitive monograph of the MCA/MWP vis-à-vis 20th century climate. It is the goal of the organizers to focus attention on this topic, so that the latest results will be considered in the next (fifth) assessment report of the IPCC. Among the topics to be discussed are:

- Reconciling multiple proxy climate records—what do the differences indicate regarding the scale of MCA/MWP climate?
- What do the latest modeling results tell us about possible forcing mechanisms during this period?
- What are some other impacts of climatic variability during the MCA/MWP regarding such topics as changes in ocean basin tropical cyclone activity?
- What were some of the key regional patterns of climatic anomalies during this time? How do they compare with 20th century patterns?
- In what specific ways does the post-1980 period, considered a time when the global warming signal is evident, differ from the largest anomalous multidecadal periods of the MCA/MWP?

The symposium research focus covers the physical climate system, ecosystem processes, and human dimensions, covering the last 1000-2000 years, topics that are of relevance for PAGES. The participants of the symposium are all MCA/MWP research experts spanning from regional to global scales. The symposium seeks to achieve a better understanding of MCA/MWP regional and global climatic and environmental dynamics through comparison of reconstructions and model simulations and will contribute towards homogeneous assimilation and evaluation of climate reconstructions, a better understanding of past modes of climate variability and their teleconnections with special focus on the MCA/MWP period.

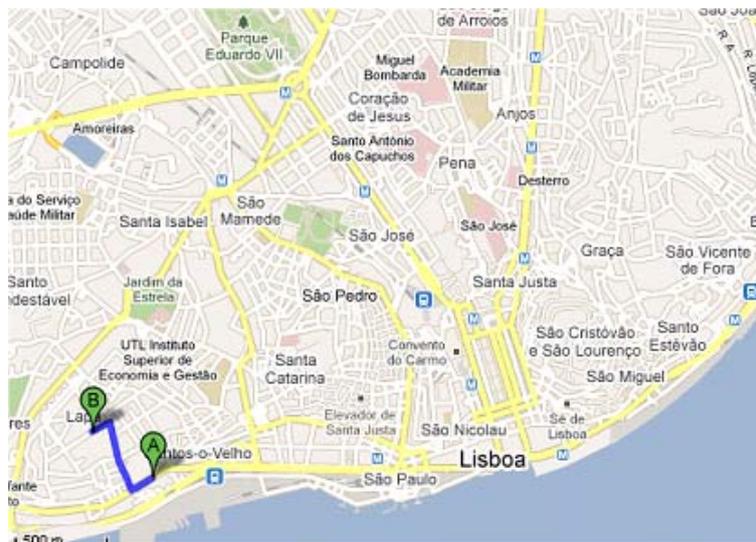
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## LOCATION

The meeting will be held at the [Portuguese-American Foundation](#) in Lisbon. A room has been booked at special rates for each participant in [YorkHouse](#) and [As Janelas Verdes](#), two small and pleasant hotels, 650 meters from the Portuguese-American Foundation, in the *Lapa* neighborhood of Lisbon, close to the historical center. The price of each single room is 135€ per night (breakfast included).



Local arrangements will be covered through the support of the Portuguese-American Foundation. Partial travel support for scientists in North America will be provided by the NOAA. Partial costs may be covered by [PAGES](#), the [Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia](#) (FCT) and the [Instituto Dom Luiz](#) (IDL) of the University of Lisbon.



- A - [York House Hotel](#). Rua das Janelas Verdes 32, 1200-690 Lisboa, Portugal.
- [As Janelas Verdes Hotel](#). Rua das Janelas Verdes 47, 1200-690 Lisboa, Portugal.
- B - [Fundação Luso-Americana](#). Rua do Sacramento à Lapa 21, 1249-090 Lisboa, Portugal.

## CONTACTS AND WEBSITE

For details concerning the scientific program contact: [Henry.F.Diaz@noaa.gov](mailto:Henry.F.Diaz@noaa.gov)

For details regarding accommodation and transports contact: [dbarriopedro@fc.ul.pt](mailto:dbarriopedro@fc.ul.pt). **Please do not contact the hotel.**

For further information, visit the website of the symposium: <http://mwplisbon2010.fc.ul.pt/>

# PARTICIPANTS

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[Fatima Abrantes](#)  
INETI

[David Barriopedro](#)  
Univ. of Lisbon

[Raymond Bradley](#)  
Univ. of Massachusetts

[Kim Cobb](#)  
Georgia Tech Univ.

[Rosanne D'Arrigo](#)  
Columbia Univ.

[Henry Diaz](#)  
Univ. of Colorado-Boulder

[David Fisher](#)  
Geological Survey of  
Canada

[Dominik Fleitmann](#)  
Univ. of Bern

[Fidel González-Rouco](#)  
Univ. Complutense  
Madrid

[Hugues Goussé](#)  
Univ. of Louvain

[Nicholas Graham](#)  
HRC and Scripps  
Institution of  
Oceanography

[Joël Guiot](#)  
CNRS-CEREGE

[Malcolm Hughes](#)  
Univ. of Arizona

[Phil Jones](#)  
Univ. of East Anglia

[Darrell Kaufman](#)  
Northern Arizona Univ.

[Fredrik Charpentier  
Ljungqvist](#)  
Stockholm Univ.

[Juerg Luterbacher](#)  
Univ. of Giessen

[Michael Mann](#)  
Pennsylvania State Univ.

[Celia Martín](#)  
GFZ German Research  
Centre for Geosciences

[Danny McCarroll](#),  
Swansea Univ.

[Gifford H. Miller](#)  
Univ. of Colorado

[Anders Moberg](#)  
Stockholm Univ.

[Ana Moreno](#)  
Pyrenean Institute of  
Ecology

[Lousie Newman](#)  
PAGES

[Bob Oglesby](#)  
Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln

[Jonathan Overpeck](#)  
Univ. of Arizona

[Richard Seager](#)  
Columbia Univ.

[Drew Shindell](#)  
NASA/GISS

[Ricardo Trigo](#)  
Univ. of Lisbon

[Valerie Trouet](#)  
WSL

[José Manuel Vaquero](#)  
Univ. Extremadura

[Andre Viau](#)  
Univ. of Ottawa

[Bo Vinther](#)  
Univ. Of Copenhagen

[Eugene Wahl](#)  
NOAA/NCDC

[Heinz Wanner](#)  
Univ. of Bern

[Elena Xoplaki](#)  
The Cyprus Institute &  
Univ. of Bern

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