

IEMA

**Institute for European and
Mediterranean Archaeology
Conference 2015**

WATER AND POWER IN PAST SOCIETIES

The Eighth IEMA Visiting Scholar Conference

April 11 – 12, 2015

As the effects of global warming and climate change are increasingly felt world-wide, the political ecology of water has become a major concern. But while the political ecology of water in the contemporary world has drawn much attention, water has always been an essential resource, offering possibilities for differential access and control in the ancient world as well as the modern.

The many ways in which water can be differentially controlled cannot easily be summarized. Water can be managed to increase agricultural production, substitute for labor, provide safety, improve trade and communications, affect health and wellness, and display power. Much of the time, water functions in several of these ways simultaneously, and all kinds of water management offer possibilities to build up inequalities in water access and the benefits that result from it. Flowing through the theme of water management is the fact that water, by nature, can be both persistent and changeable, requiring that the specific temporality of water sources must be mediated by anyone hoping to use them. Water's fluctuations may be highly predictable or totally unpredictable: dependable events like the annual Nile floods can be harnessed to exacerbate existing social inequalities, while unforeseen events like tsunamis can destabilize existing inequalities or create new ones.

Water and Power in Past Societies brings together archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians to offer theoretically-situated, data-rich studies of how water as a resource relates to the formation, maintenance, destruction, or prevention of social inequalities at both intra- and inter-group scales. Examining case studies from Europe and the Mediterranean to the New World, this symposium will explore the many complex relationships we humans have created with our most essential resource.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Leigh-Ann Bedal Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Matt Edgeworth University of Leicester

Jennifer L. Gaynor University at Buffalo, State University of New York

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Kim Van Liefferinge Stanford University

Brenda Longfellow University of Iowa

Sturt Manning Cornell University

Christopher Morehart Arizona State University

Christopher Prescott University of Oslo

Vernon Scarborough University of Cincinnati

REGISTRATION INFO

All are welcome to attend the conference.

Please register through

www.iema.buffalo.edu/conference

For more information contact Dr. Emily Holt
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