What can we learn about the Classical Maya collapse?

Josué Polanco-Martínez*[1,2]

[1]Basque Centre for Climate Change. (BC3) – Alameda Urquijo 4 , 4ª 48008 Bilbao Bizkaia - SPAIN, Spain

[2]UMR CNRS 5805 EPOC (Environnements et Paléoenvironnements Océaniques et Continentaux), Université de Bordeaux (EPOC) – UMR CNRS 5805 EPOC, Université de Bordeaux. – Allée Geoffroy St Hilaire, Bâtiment B18 CS 50023, 33615, Pessac, FRANCE., France

Abstract

There are many evidences that socio-political conflicts, human pressure on environmental and climate forcing (e.g., climate change) were of the main mechanisms that triggered the disintegration of classical Maya civilization (750 - 950 A.D.) (Demarest et al., 2004; Gill, 2000; Hodell et al., 2005; Hodell et al., 1995; Medina-Elizalde et al., 2010; Medina-Elizalde and Rohling, 2012; Medina-Elizalde et al., 2016). This historical event brings a unique opportunity to study the role of climate change in this complex phenomenon and how several factors interact among them. The aim of this talk, which is open to discussion with the attendees, is threefold: 1) present a state of the art of this topic, 2) to build a link between researchers that are working in paleoclimate, ecology and human sciences and 3) to obtain knowledge and a wide perspective on the role of climate change in the classical Maya collapse and how this can be used to face the current and future climate change in the Yucatan Peninsula. Demarest, A. A., Rice, P. M., and Rice, D. S., 2004, The terminal classic in the Maya lowlands: collapse, termination, and transformation, Boulder, CO, University Press of Colorado, 676 p.

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*Speaker

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