"Past Answers to Current Concerns: Historical Cases of Navigating Socio-Environmental Stress"

This Pursuit uses two rich historical case studies from the premodern Mediterranean and North Atlantic worlds to interrogate the linkages between different types of socio-environmental interactions over decadal and centennial scales. It will consider the possibility of socio-environmental asymmetries in which different degrees of socio-political complexity and population density precondition the potentials for inherent resilience under climate stress. By synthesizing historical, archaeological, and natural science-derived data, this Pursuit illuminates these interactions and disentangles a range of causal relationships that generated the historical outcomes we can see in our data, identifying in the process factors that contribute to resilience and those that introduce vulnerabilities. By analyzing these societies as complex adaptive systems, this Pursuit hopes to contribute to contemporary thinking about societal-environmental interactions in policy and planning. This research group brings together a diverse and interdisciplinary team of scholars (historians, archaeologists, ecologists, palaeoscientists, and risk analysts, among others) from North America, Western and Eastern Europe, and the Middle East to establish a common methodologically innovative framework that may be applied to both the study of the past, as well as to broader scholarly and public science discourse.

To learn more about the Pursuit, click [here](https://www.sesync.org/events-announcements/mon-2020-02-17-1554/pursuit-adaptation-optimality-and-risk-management-what-do).