



PIIRS
Princeton Institute
for International
and Regional Studies



**PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY**

Workshop on Historical Systemic Collapse Friday & Saturday, April 26-27, 2019 Princeton University

Each speaker should plan to present for 10-15 minutes with a straightforward question in mind: what does your area of expertise tell us about the causes and patterns of collapse and resilience? After the speakers, each panel will then have 45 minutes or so for a moderated general discussion.

Friday, April 26, 2019

Robertson Hall 001 (Woodrow Wilson School Building, lower level entrance at 42 Washington Road)

8:30 – Coffee

9:00 – Welcome and Introduction

- Miguel Centeno – Princeton University, PIIRS Global Systemic Risk Research Community
 - Introduction to the topics, goals, and structure of the workshop.

9:30 – Panel 1: Natural Catastrophes

- Simon Levin – Princeton University, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
 - “Systemic Risk and Systemic Opportunity: Alternative Realities in Ecological and Social Systems”
- Stephen Pyne – Arizona State University, School of Life Sciences
 - “Regime Change – Fire and Collapse”
- Nils Christian Stenseth – University of Oslo, Evolutionary Biology
 - “Wildlife Dynamics and Their Consequences for Human Populations: From Natural Catastrophes in the Wild to Catastrophes in the Human Populations”
- Christina Grozinger – Penn State University, Entomology
 - “From Resilience to Collapse: Dual Impacts of Social Organization in Bees”
- Timothy Lenton – University of Exeter, Global Systems Institute
 - “Tipping Points Related to Climate Change”

11:30 – Coffee Break

11:45 – Panel 2: Big Theories and Methods I

- Haydn Belfield – Cambridge University, CSER
 - “Collapse and Existential Risk”
- Luke Kemp – Cambridge University, CSER
 - “Ruin, Resilience, and the Rungless Ladder”
- Richard Bookstaber – University of California, Chief Risk Officer, Office of the CIO
 - “From Wild West to Max Max: The Lifecycle of a Civilization”
- Joseph Tainter – Utah State University, Ecology/Environment & Society

- “How Scholars Explain Collapse”
- Peter Turchin – University of Connecticut, Evolutionary Anthropology
 - “A Historical Crisis/Recovery Database for Testing Theories of Collapse”

13:15 – **Lunch**

14:00 – **Panel 3: Theories and Methods II**

- Stefan Thurner – Santa Fe Institute, IIASA, & Complexity Science Hub Vienna
 - “A Minimalist View on Collapse + an Example”
- Juan Rocha – Stockholm Resilience Centre
 - “Cascading Regime Shifts”
- Gwythian Prins – London School of Economics & Ecole Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr
 - “Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Tame Thinking About Wicked Problems”
- Marty Anderies – Arizona State University, School of Human Evolution and Social Change & School of Sustainability
 - “Sequential Infrastructure Investments and Robustness-Fragility Trade-offs”

15:30 – **Coffee Break**

15:45 – **Panel 4: Case Studies from the Ancient World**

- Eric Cline – George Washington University, Capital Archaeological Institute
 - “1177 BC: The Late Bronze Age Collapse in the Aegean and Near East”
- Walter Scheidel – Stanford University, Classics and History (Presented by John Haldon)
 - “‘Peak Empire’: Roman and Chinese Unravelings”
- John Haldon – Princeton University, History
 - “Systemic Collapse and Institutional Stability: Why Did the Eastern Roman State Survive?”
- Samuel Cohn – University of Glasgow, Medieval History
 - “The Black Death: Collapse, Resilience, & Transformation”

18:15 – **Dinner, 60 Pine Street, Princeton NJ**

- An informal buffet-style dinner will be served at Miguel Centeno’s home located at 60 Pine Street near the Princeton campus. This is a 10-minute walk from the Nassau Inn.

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Louis A. Simpson Intl. Building (20 Washington Road), Room 399

8:30 – **Coffee**

9:00 – **Panel 5: The Americas**

- Tim Kohler – Washington State University, Anthropology
 - “Causes & Patterns of Collapse & Resilience in Neolithic Societies (emphasizing the US Southwest)”
- Ann Kinzig – Arizona State University, School of Life Sciences
 - “Cultural Transformations in the Pre-Hispanic Southwest: Social and Ecological Stressors”
- Deborah Nichols – Dartmouth College, Anthropology
 - “Episodes of the Feathered Serpent: Aztec Imperialism and Collapse”

10:15 – **Coffee Break**

10:45 – **Panel 6: Case Studies from the 20th Century and Beyond**

- Jeffrey Hass – University of Richmond, Sociology and Anthropology
 - “Resilience of the Simple? Lessons about Order from the Blockade of Leningrad”
- Igor Linkov – US Army Engineer R&D Center, and Carnegie Mellon University
Ben Trump – US Army Engineer R&D Center
 - “Civilizational Decline and Collapse: Resilience as a Core Explanatory Variable”
- Zia Mian – Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School
Benoît Pelopidas – Sciences Po, Security Studies
 - “Preparing to End Civilization: Nuclear Weapons, Collapse, and Resilience”
- Anders Sandberg – University of Oxford, Future of Humanity Institute
 - “Statistics of the Lifespan of Complex Systems”

12:15 – **Lunch & Lecture**

- Doug Mercado – Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School
 - “Humanitarian Crises”

13:30 – **Panel 7: Dystopian Futures**

- Ingrid Burrington – USC, Annenberg Innovation Lab & Freelance Writer and Artist
 - “Dads of the Apocalypse”
- Tim Maughan – Author and Journalist
 - “SkyNet is Real and It Wants to Sell You Shoes Made by Child Slaves”
- sava sahel singh – Queen’s University, Surveillance Studies Center
 - “Screening Surveillance”

15:00 – **Coffee Break**

15:30 – **Panel 8: Conclusions and Discussion**

- Miguel Centeno – Princeton University, Sociology, WWS, and vPIIRS Global Systemic Risk
- Paul Larcey – University of Cambridge, Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction

17:00 – **End**