**The 4.2 ka climatic instability in the Mediterranean: a lesson for the future?**

Giovanni Zanchetta. Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università di Pisa

Given predictions of future climate, changes in meteoric precipitation and water resources seem certain to have important socio-economic and political impacts in the Mediterranean region. Understanding the hydrological variability of this region over different time scales is therefore an essential prerequisite for establishing a baseline for projected future climate change and impact on human society. The end of the mid-Holocene is often considered to be characterized by a widespread climatic event between ca. 4.3 and 3.8 cal. yr BP, (the so-called 4.2 ka climatic event) and it is used as formal boundary between Middle and Late Holocene. There is an increasing number of data supporting the notion that this climatic event also played an important role in the “collapse” of major ancient civilizations in India, China, Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean region and the Levant have returned some of the clearest evidence for the 4.2 event, in particular in cave calcite deposits. Considering the prominent dry nature of this event in the Mediterranean it represents and interesting period to be used for comparing to future climatic changes in this region. However, some regional evidence is controversial and contradictory, and issues remain regarding timing, progression, and regional articulation of this event.

*Giovanni Zanchetta is Professor at the Department of Earth Science (University of Pisa) teaching Global Changes, Stable Isotopes Paleoclimatology and Stable Isotopes Geochemistry. His research activity is mostly devoted to reconstruct Quaternary climatic evolution using geochemical proxies and synchronizing archives using tephra layers. He was a proponent and principal investigator of several national and international projects on climatic changes in different part of the world. He is author and co-author of more than 200 papers on international journals, quoted more than 6000 times (HI: 45). He is in the editorial board of international journals.*