



## Greenhouse climates in the past: what the past can tell us about our future

**Press conference: Tuesday 15 April, 11:00-12:00, Press Room**

**Session: CL36 Wednesday 16 April, 8:30-10:00, Lecture Room 26, [Programme >>](#)**

**Some of today's most important questions relate to understanding how human activities are modifying our planet's climate and what the future holds for life on Earth. Speakers at this press conference will be looking back at the distant past in order to provide us with significant clues for our future.**

To improve the understanding of future climate evolution, several warm climate intervals are examined. The geological record indicates that these climates are related to elevated greenhouse gases, changes in the geography, and climate factors.

Will Earth enter again an extreme warm climate state due to rising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations? If so, what animals and plants are likely to evolve and adapt, and which might face extinction? Will warming lead to a "permanent" El Niño-like state, or will the system exhibit variability that allows for periods of increased and decreased marine productivity? What warming effect will decreased polar snow and ice cover have on climate?

These are just a few of the questions addressed by scientists who study intervals in Earth history when surface temperatures were higher than today's and when atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations were comparable to those expected in the next century.

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