



The Millennium project: a multidisciplinary approach to reconstructing the last 1000 years of European climate

D. McCarroll

School of the Environment and Society, Swansea University, Wales, UK.
D.mccarroll@swan.ac.uk

Ensembles of general circulation model runs predict a range of different possible futures, but the same models also predict different climate histories. The best way to assess such models is to compare them with realistic reconstructions of the climate of the past. A wide range of climate parameters can be used for testing, but the reconstructions must be spatially explicit and have quantified error limits.

The Millennium project, funded under the EU 6th Framework, is a multi-disciplinary consortium of 40 partners, where historians, geologists and climatologists work alongside chemists, physicists and biologists. The aim is to produce multi-proxy reconstructions of a range of climate parameters for different regions of Europe over the last 1000 years. Here I will present the first results, including an overview of the strength of the climate/proxy calibrations for different climate parameters for different parts of Europe. Among the example used will be some of the more novel proxies, including stable isotopes from tree rings, lake sediments and peat deposits.