

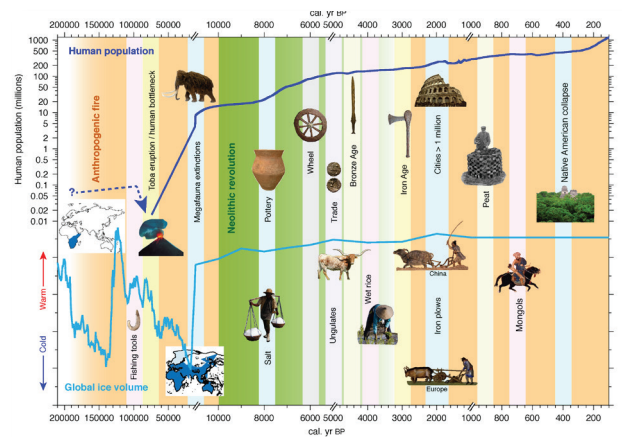
Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

From forest to farmland and meadow to metropolis, or, when did the Anthropocene begin?

Donnerstag, 2. Februar 2016 - 16.15 Uhr

Jed O. Kaplan
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Did humans affect global climate before the Industrial Era? While this question is hotly debated, the co-evolution of humans and the natural environment since the last Ice Age had an undisputed role in influencing the development and present state of terrestrial ecosystems, many of which are highly valued today as economic, cultural, and ecological resources. Yet we still have a very incomplete picture of human-environment interactions over the last 21,000 years, both spatially and temporally. In order to address this problem, I have prepared a new synthesis of demographic, technological, and economic development over preindustrial time, and a database of historical urbanization covering the last 8000 years. These data are combined with a dynamic global vegetation model to quantify the magnitude and timing of global anthropogenic land cover change in the late Pleistocene and preindustrial Holocene.



Prof. Dr. Jed Kaplan was born in Berkeley, California USA. He graduated from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire USA with a double degree in Earth Sciences and Geography with honors in 1994. In 1995, he started his Ph.D. studies in Plant Ecology at Lund University, Sweden, where he was advised by Prof. Colin Prentice. He subsequently held postdocs at the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena, Germany and the Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. From 2003-2005 he was a Marie Curie Fellow at the European Commission Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. In 2005 he returned to Switzerland and was an Oberassistent in the Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern. A year later he became a senior scientist at the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research in the Land-use Dynamics Unit. From 2008 to 2013 Jed was a Swiss National Science Foundation Professor in the Environmental Engineering Institute of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). In March 2014 Jed left Geneva and joined the Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics in the faculty of Geosciences and Environment at the University of Lausanne.



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