

CHATTING ONSEA

JOINT EVENT



ONSEA LEADER

Dr. Matthieu Giaime,
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Matthieu is a geomorphologist and geoarchaeologist interested in the spatio-temporal evolution of coastlines in order to assess the role of climatic impacts and human activities in the evolution of socio-ecosystems during the Holocene. Over the past 10 years, he has been working on several coastal sites in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. He is Maître de conférences (Associate professor) at the Department of Geography, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 - UMR 5140 ASM (France). Matthieu is Associate Editor and part of the steering committee (as head of the Ethics team) of the Diamond Open Access Journal Geomorphica).

Geoarchaeology of Akko ancient harbors

Akko/Acre, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2001, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited site in the eastern Mediterranean. Tel Akko was a major maritime center of the southern Levant from the Middle Bronze to the Late Persian period. The natural and anthropogenic evolution of Tel Akko area is reflected by persistent geographical and habitation pattern changes. This presentation aims at present the results of multi-disciplinary geoarchaeological research combining sedimentological and faunal analyses of radiocarbon dated cores with ground penetrating radar and electrical resistivity tomography investigations to propose an up-to-date palaeogeographical reconstruction of landscape/environmental changes of the Akko coastal plain in order to understand the extent to which environmental pressures have played a role on the position of anchorage and habitation patterns. We highlight how the local population make use of the natural advantages of the area and adapted to environmental pressures. Following a constant sedimentary input and simultaneous coastal progradation of the Haifa/Akko coastal plain the main anchorage areas were forced to move. While the 2nd Millennium BCE anchorage was on the southern area of the tell, the late-1st Millennium BCE (Phoenician-Persian) anchorage was relocated on the western area. The city and the anchorage were moved 1500 m to the west on the Akko promontory, where the 'Old City' of Saint-Jean d'Acre is located, during the Hellenistic period (3rd-2nd centuries BCE). Vicissitudes in settlement pattern noted in archaeological excavations and surveys on Tel Akko have, most likely, been the consequence of the changes in the position of the coastline.

ONSEA
INQUA PROJECT

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GRUPPO DI LAVORO AIGEO
Evoluzione e Gestione delle Coste

31 May, 15:00 CET

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International Association of Geomorphologists