

## CALTECH WOMEN'S CLUB NOVEMBER PROGRAM

# Exploring the Past with New Technology: Climate, Epidemics and the Fall of an Empire

At its height, the Roman Empire stretched from Britain to Egypt, from Spain to Iraq. The western Roman Empire lasted almost a thousand years. How such a mighty civilization fell – and why – has been a preoccupation of historians since at least the 18th century. But today, as new technology develops that can be applied to the field science of archaeology, we are able to understand more about the past than ever before. Innovations in environmental and biological sciences are giving us tools to add another significant piece to the puzzle that is the “fall of Rome.” Rome’s relationship with the environment, the dynamics of climate change, and the biological consequences of both are now understood to have heavily impacted the great empire, and contributed significantly to its ultimate demise. This presentation explores an integrated approach and the ways in which the science of the present helps us understand the events of the past, and how climate change, environmental exploitation and epidemic disease contributed to the collapse of one of the world’s greatest civilizations.



Sarah Yeomans is an archaeologist specializing in the Imperial period of the Roman Empire with a particular emphasis on ancient science and religion. Currently pursuing her doctorate at the University of Southern California, she also consults on educational programming at the Biblical Archaeology Society in Washington D.C. and is adjunct faculty at both St. Mary’s College of Maryland and West Virginia University. Her current research involves ancient Roman medical technology as well as the impact of epidemics on Roman society. A native Californian, she is generally happiest when covered in dirt, roaming archaeological sites somewhere in the Mediterranean region.

**Thursday November 21st**

**5:00 - 5:45 p.m. Wine/Light Appetizers**  
*Room 235 Gates-Thomas Laboratory*

**5:45 p.m. Lecture by Sarah Yeomans**  
*Jim & Sandy Hall Auditorium  
Gates-Thomas Laboratory  
Just off the Olive Walk*

\$5 per person

*Please RSVP by Monday November 18th*

<https://www.cwccaltech.org/novemberprogram2019>

Or by mail: Send completed RSVP form and check payable to Caltech Women’s Club to: Natalie Cohen, Attn: November Program, 1725 Homet Road, Pasadena, CA 91106

Questions? Contact [events@cwccaltech.org](mailto:events@cwccaltech.org)

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### Thursday, November 21st Program RSVP Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_