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SFB 1070 · RESSOURCENKULTUREN. Soziokulturelle Dynamiken im Umgang mit Ressourcen

FORSCHUNGSKOLLOQUIUM SoSe 2019

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## **Maize, Migration, Mounds, and Mississippians: Changes in Socio-Ecological Resource Relationships in the Eastern U.S., A.D. 1000-1650**

The spread of maize agriculture throughout the Eastern U.S. in the Mississippian Period occurred in tandem with major shifts in climate as well as social, political, and religious organization. Through the examination and integration of a broad range of data sets (biological, chemical, cultural, climatological), a complex change is revealed whereby Mississippian migrants formed hybrid social groups with local peoples in an ideal ecological niche during a time of optimal climate. In this landscape, earlier mounds were often reused and integrated into the new site forms. The two distinct lifeways were integrated into dually-organized circular villages with communal rituals focused on feasting and the ritual burning of maize. Here we also find several entangled resource relationships in a persistently used floodplain environment that witnessed the coming together of different peoples leading to the development of a new social identity.