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SFB 1070 · RessourcenKulturen. Soziokulturelle Dynamiken im Umgang mit Ressourcen

## VORTRAG FORSCHUNGSKOLLOQUIUM WS 14/15

13.11.14 | 18:00 c.t. | Schloss Hohentübingen | R. 165 | Klass. Archäologie

**Prof. Bruce R. James | University of Maryland**

**„The Resilient, Urban Maya of Mesoamerica: Carving Limestone, Farming Wetlands, and Revering Chocolate“**

The Maya civilization emerged in a low-lying region of poorly-drained soils in the Southern Yucatan peninsula. The excess water had to be drained to grow maize, beans, and squash; all of which require well-aerated soil conditions. The use of raised bed agriculture created through the disturbance of wetlands, trading for salt and obsidian, and a reverence for cacao allowed them to thrive for centuries.

Historic variations in and responses to periodic drought over centuries in Mesoamerica provide a poignant example of how modern humans may be able to adapt to current climate change patterns and challenges in positive ways. Based on concepts and data from disturbance-recovery ecology, environmental history, and soil science using an intellectual triangulation method a new perspective on Maya civilization will be offered. The Maya are often treated in an almost iconic way regarding the rapid collapse of a civilization. Prof. James will present evidence that contradicts this popular idea.