

LUNCHTIME SEMINARS

Joy Singarayer

Mega-lakes in the Desert



Lakes in Southern Africa's arid regions, such as Lake Makgadikgadi (currently a salt pan) in the Kalahari Desert, reveal a history of dramatic environmental change. During the Quaternary, areas that are now dry desert have at times hosted vast lakes, home to palaeolithic peoples. In this talk I'll be exploring these transitions between wet and dry phases using climate models and simple hydrological models in conjunction with palaeo-shoreline and climate-proxy records to identify the primary drivers of these shifts. I will look at how orbital configuration changes, abrupt millennial change, and lake catchment changes influenced the formation and disappearance of these lakes. Additionally, I explore the potential for a future Lake Makgadikgadi wet phase under projections of climate change, including the potential weakening of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation.

Tuesday 10 December, 13:00–13:50 in GU01

and on Teams / Meteorology All / Internal (Tuesday) Seminar Series