

# HISTORICAL CLIMATE DATA FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION



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# Stone decay and conservation

**STONE: *Building material***  
**Weathering depends on**

## Stone:

- Petrography
- Physical properties
- Chemical composition

## Environment:

- Climate
- Pollution

Changes: stone adaptation to new conditions

*WEATHERING: patina of age*

*DECAY: Physical - Aesthetical*

social context

implications:

*Thresholds*

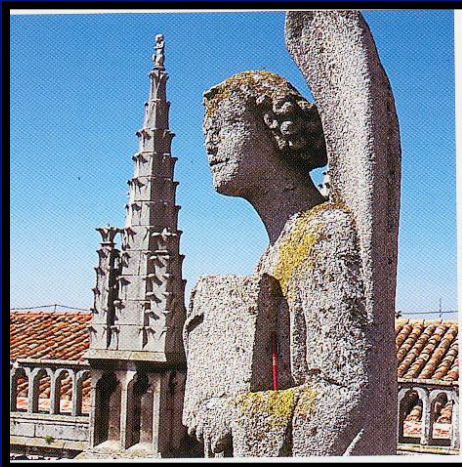
**HERITAGE CLIMATOLOGY**



# Heritage climatology

- **Climatology** science that studies weather averaged over time
- **Heritage Climatology** the study of the climate parameters that affect monuments, materials and sites.
- *The parameters used in heritage climatology differ from those typical in meteorology (e.g. temperature or relative humidity) and focus on cycles and combinations of meteorological parameters that relate to material damage.*

BRIMBLECOMBE (2009) Heritage Climatology



***Blackening, frost and salt damage, surface recession, in different points in Europe***

# Historical data for heritage climatology: CLIMATE

- Climate events from the Bible
- History of climate that covers the period of our architectural heritage: documentary records and instrumental records from recent centuries. ***The particular focus of our interest in areas of human occupation makes documentary observations, especially important.***
- At a very local level is possible to examine climate change at specific buildings (Trajan Column, since AD 105).



BRIMBLECOMBE & CAMUFFO (2002) Long term damage to the built Environment. *Air Pollution Reviews*, v.2, pp: 1-30.

# Historical data for heritage climatology: POLLUTION

Urban pollution: known from classical times, burn of wood in Rome: blackened temples. Estimation of changes in pollutant concentration possible by modelling fuel use.

Sources of information: Documentary data, supplemented by pictorial sources (blackening and discolouration).



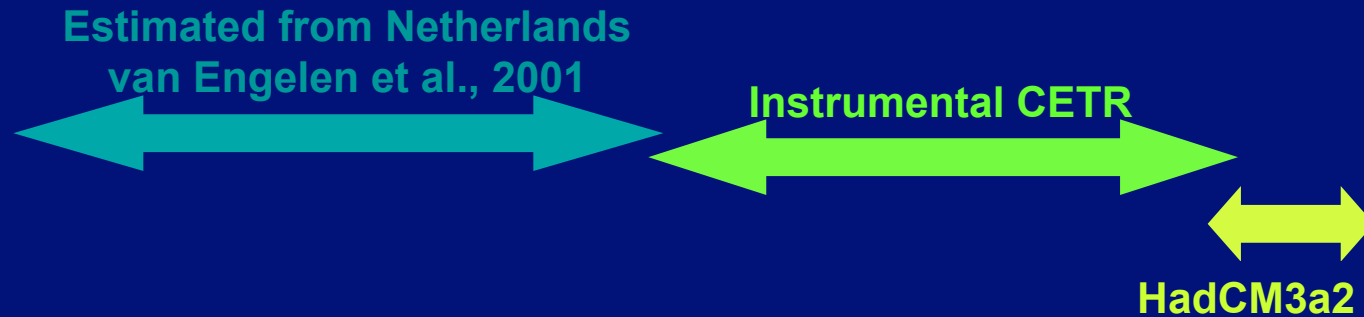
Modelling: known past concentrations can be used to estimate depositions of pollutants to buildings.

Crust layers analysis: gives data for studying past pollution

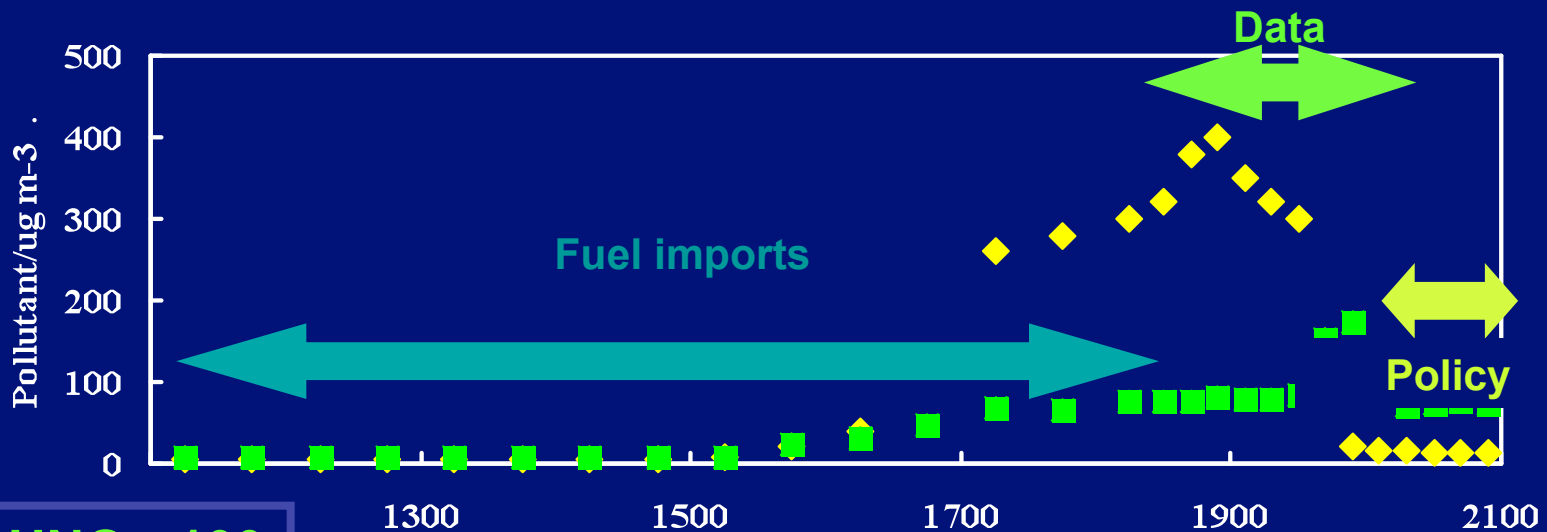
BRIMBLECOMBE & CAMUFFO (2002) Long term damage to the built Environment. *Air Pollution Reviews*, v.2, pp: 1-30.

# Urban Climate & Pollution Input:

Historical data sets relating to damage



**TEMPERATURE**



**SO<sub>2</sub> & HNO<sub>3</sub>x100**

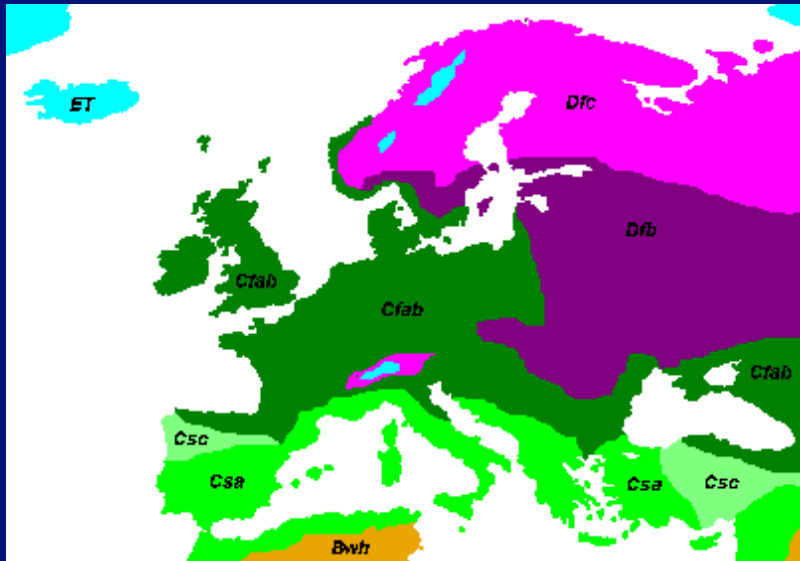
BRIMBLECOMBE & GROSSI Millennium-long recession of limestone facades in London *Environmental Geology* 56, 463-471 (2008)

# Classical Climatology

## Köppen-Geiger

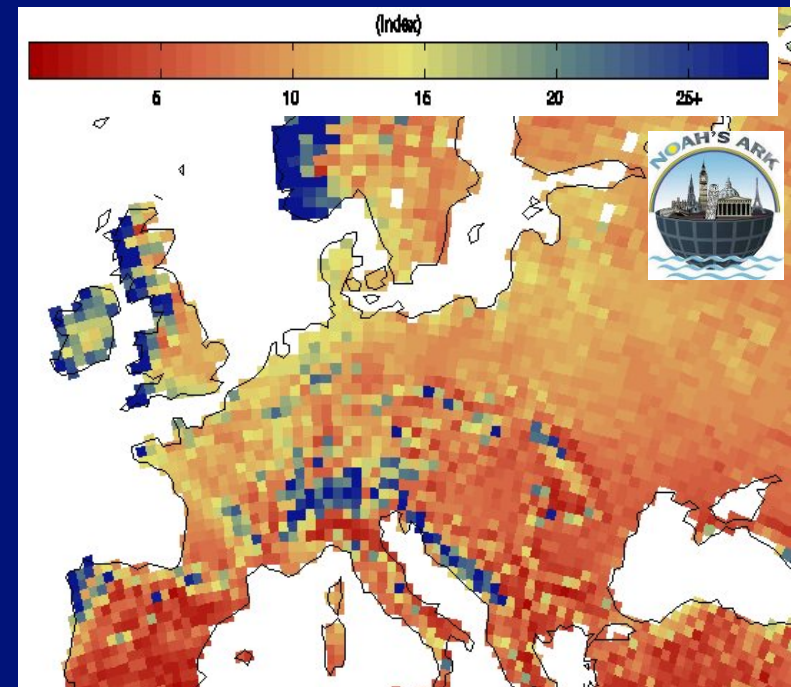
Vegetation/climate origin

## Heritage climatology



For heritage this water-temperature climatology misses out wind etc...

- Salt climatology
- *Colour changes*
- *Propagation of climate indoors: Indoors damage*



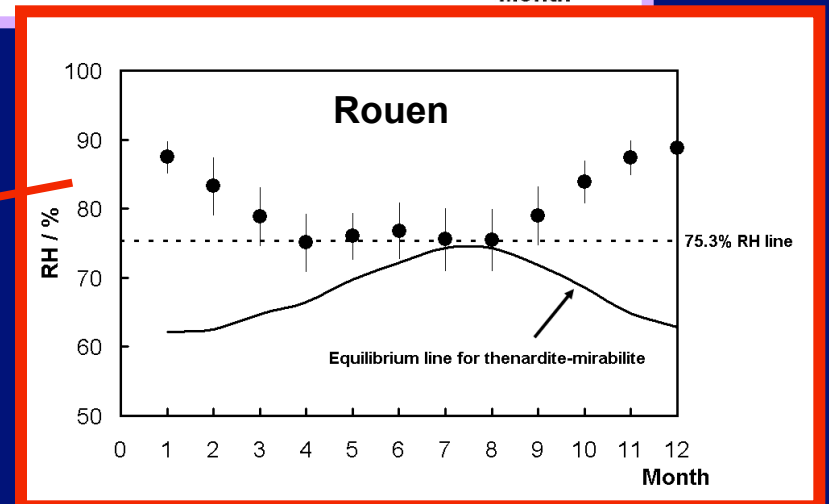
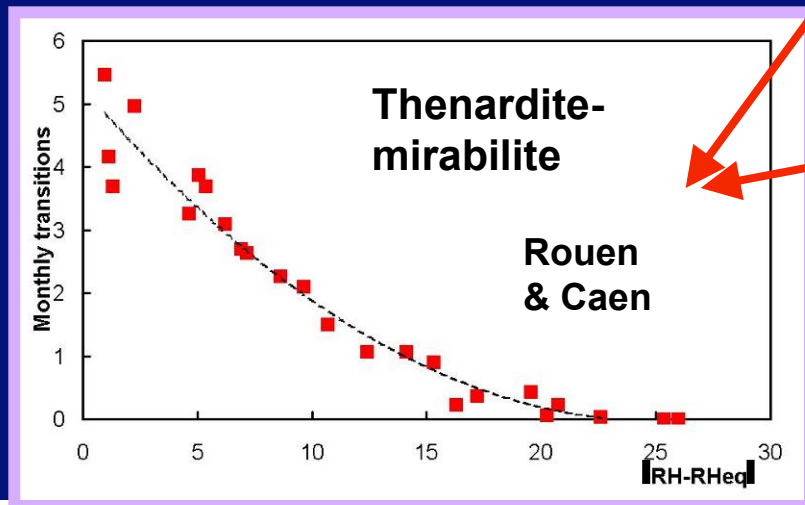
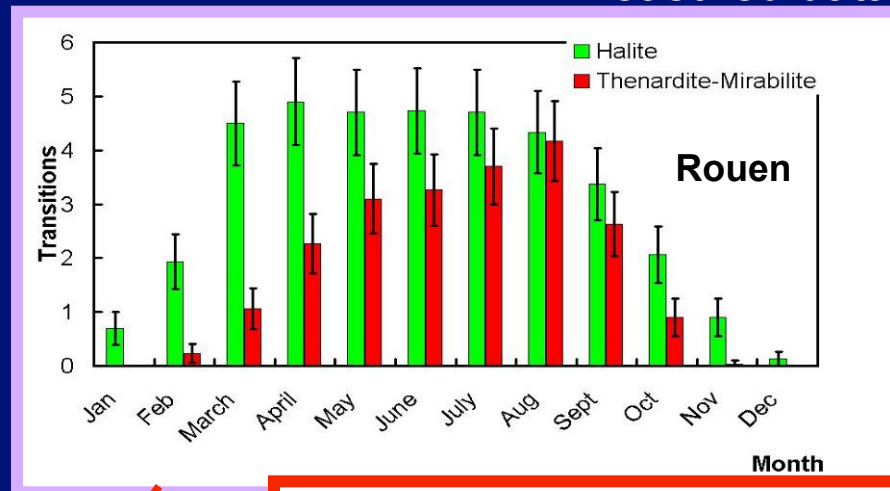
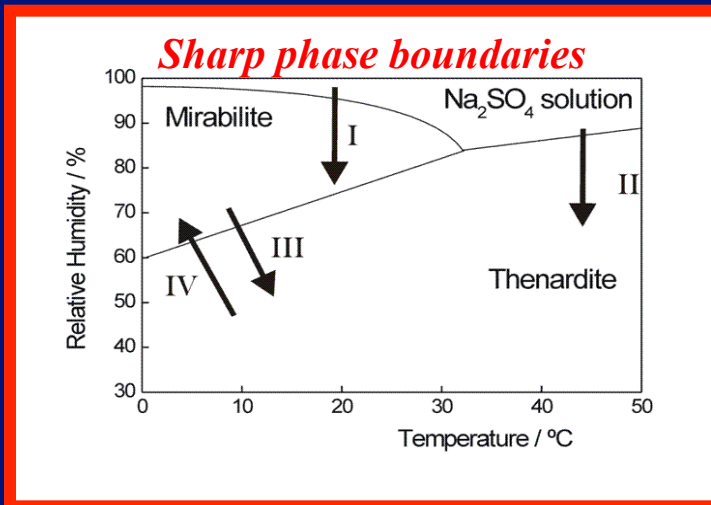
Wind driven rain- high in coastal areas/mountains

# Salt climatology: Seasonality

Parameterisation: transitions

- Halite (RH = 75.3%)
- Thenardite - mirabilite: % RH =  $59.11 + 0.8759 T$

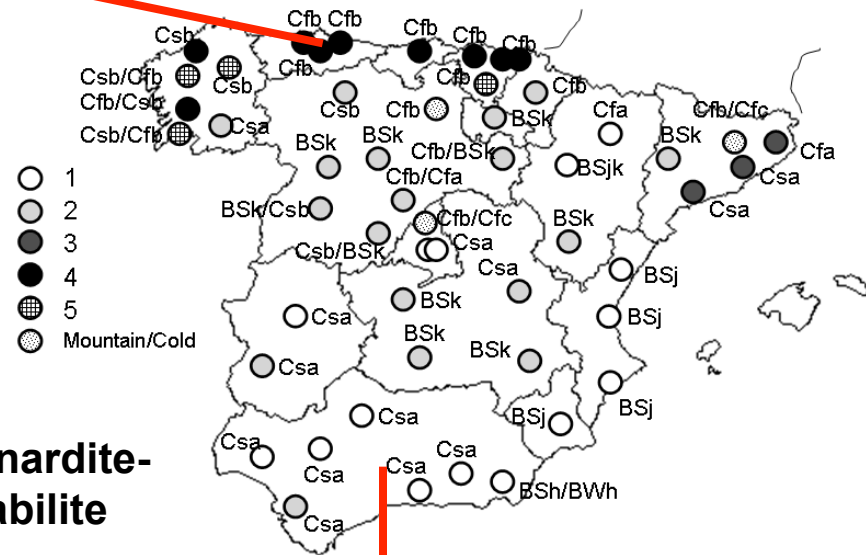
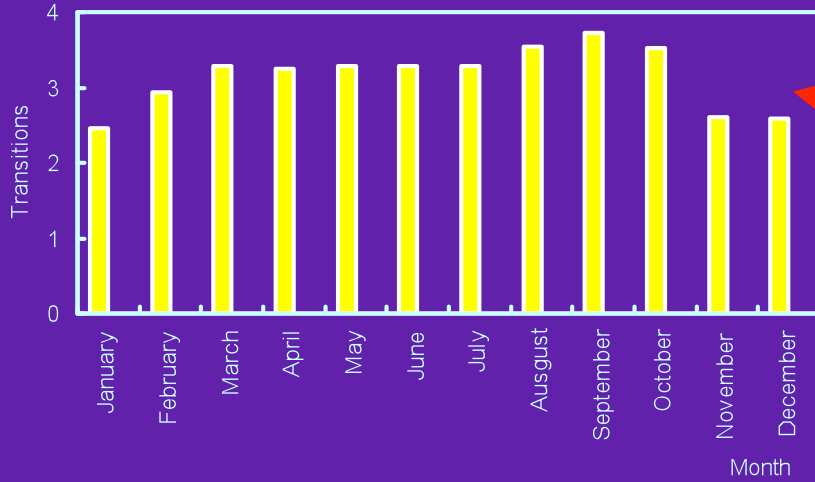
Measured data 1970-99



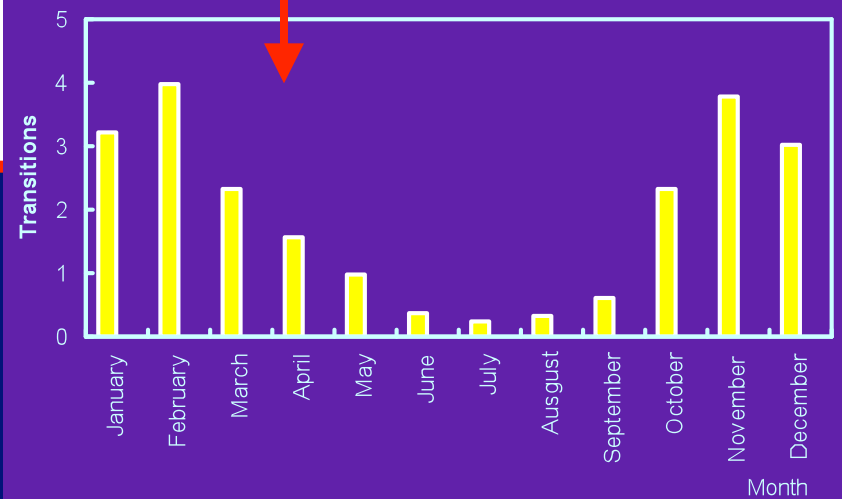
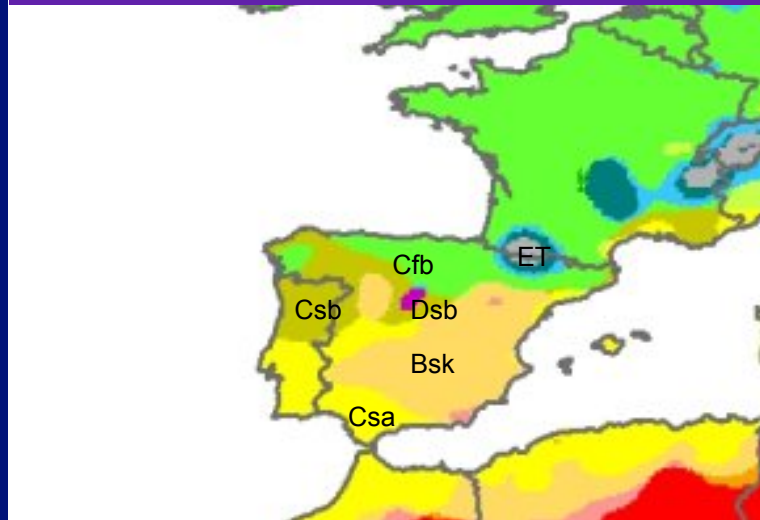


# Salt climatology- Peninsular Spain

Measured data from 52 stations 1971-2000



**Thenardite-mirabilite**



# ENSEMBLES

## 16 RCM

SUMMER Precipitation/mm

<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/projects/ensembles/ScenariosPortal/RegionalCaseSt.htm>

100

1960 Low frequency of winter salt transitions

### PARIS

Hadley 1961-1990  
.0002

Cfb

Cfa

.0004

Hadley 2021-2050

.0006

50

.0008

.0010

.0012

.0014

Hadley 2070-2099

Csb

Csa

Paris projection  
2021- 2050 Scenario A1B

2090 Low frequency of summer salt transitions

.0016

SUMMER T

0

17

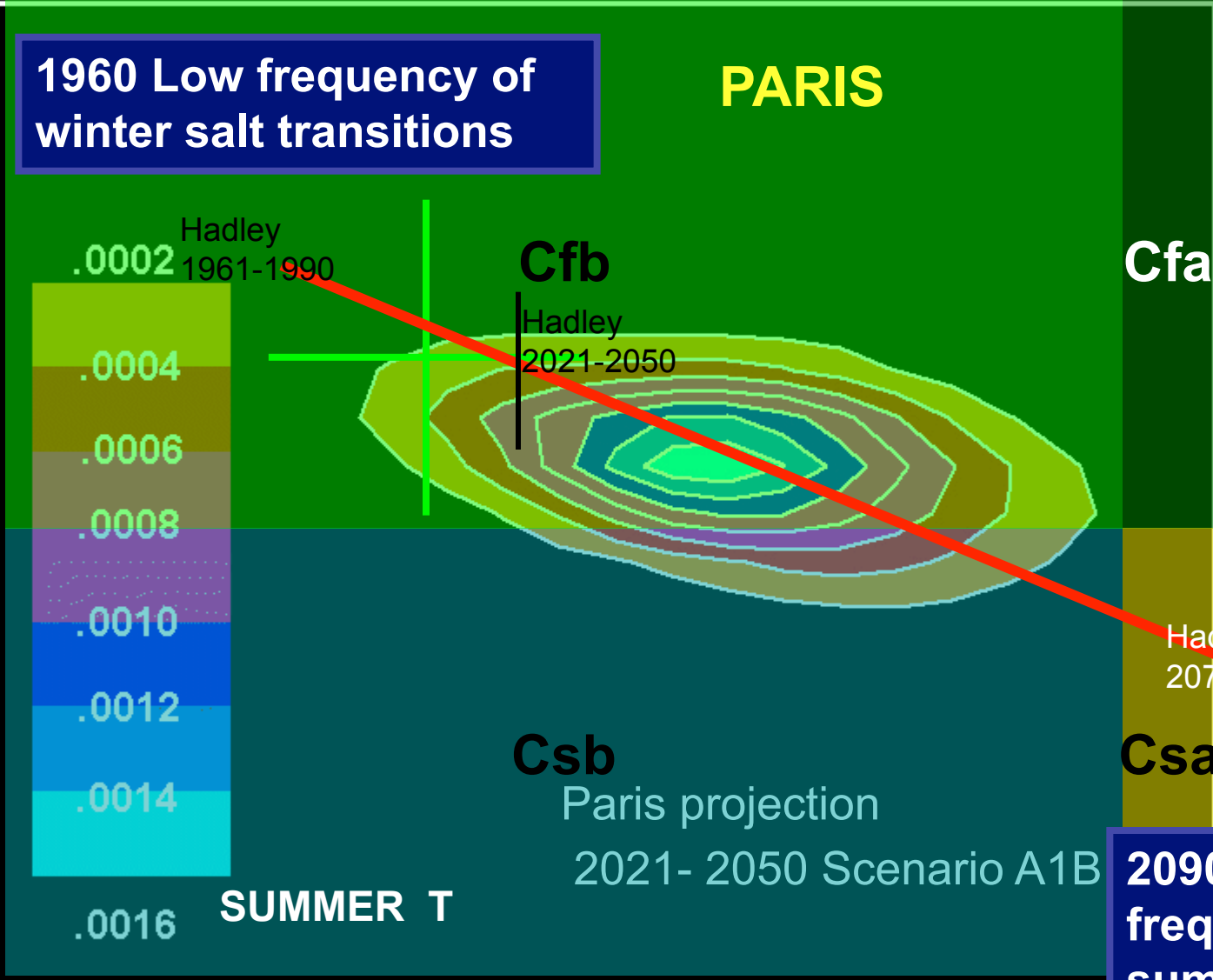
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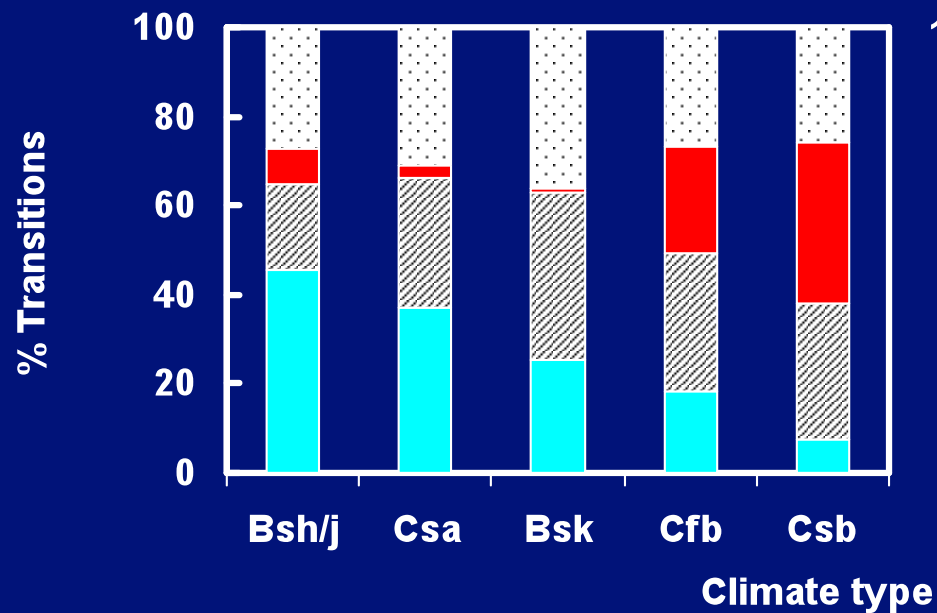
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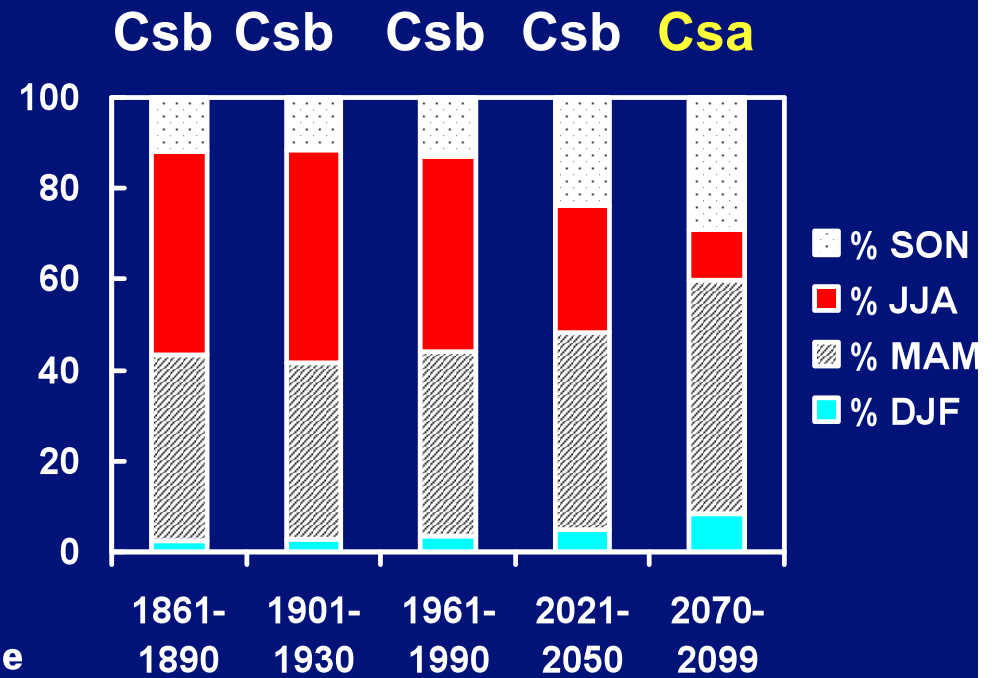
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# Salt climatology



Spain salt climatology

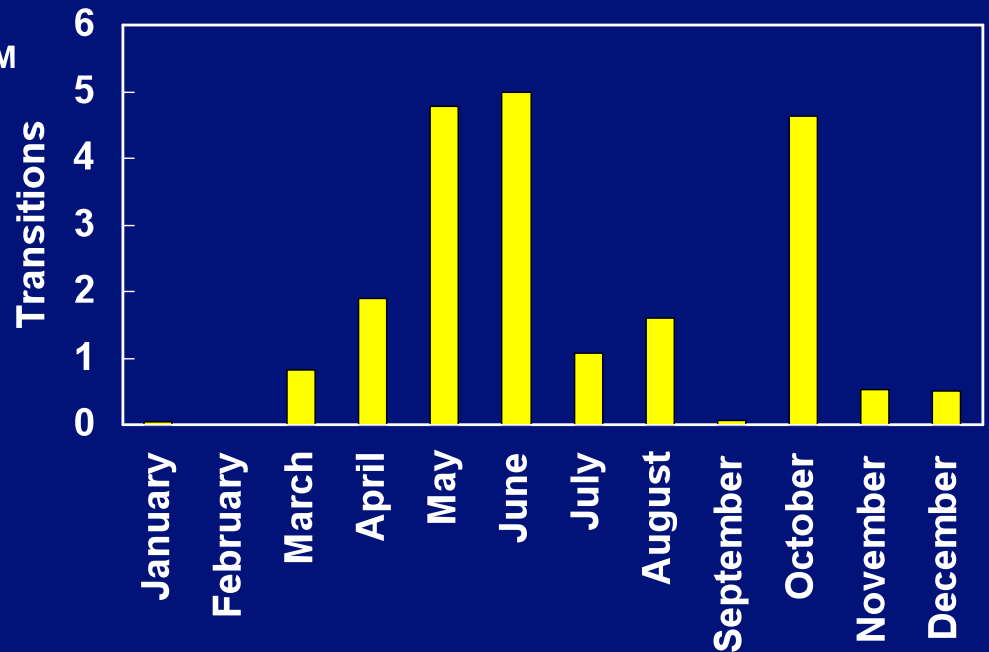
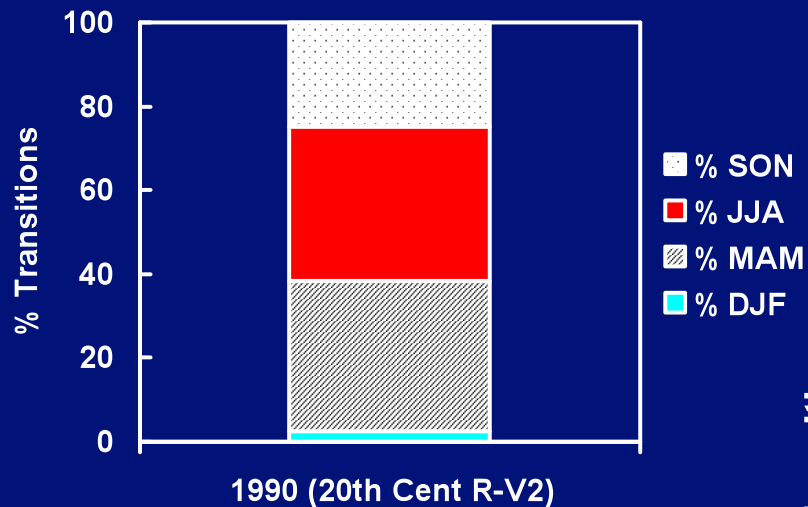


Paris projections (HadCM3a2 "calibrated")



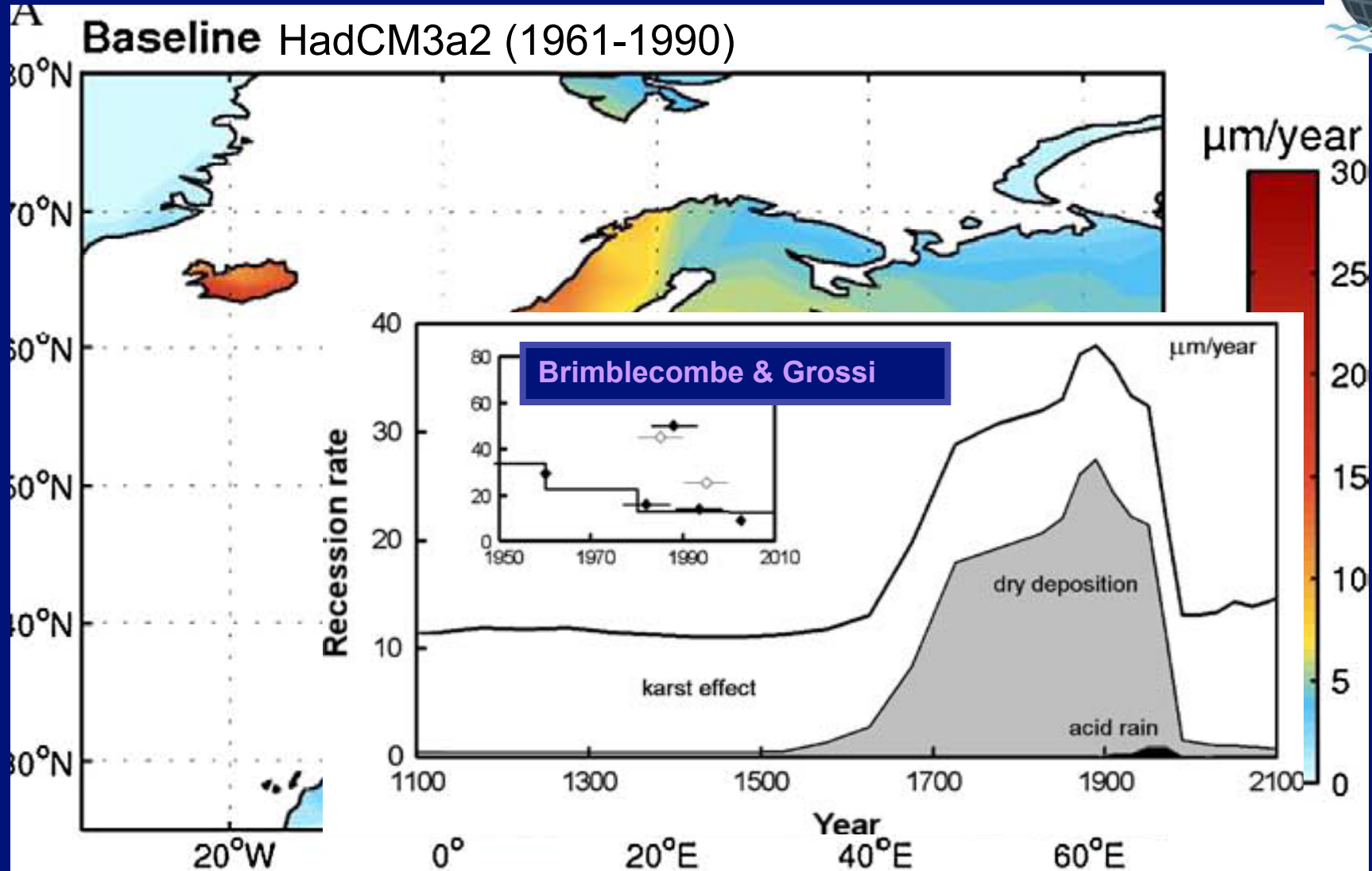
# Salt climatology

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reanalysis V2



Air T and RH, Lat 48.4N-48.6N, Long 2.15E  
– 2.25E, Daily ensemble mean, P levels

# Surface recession: mapping Europe

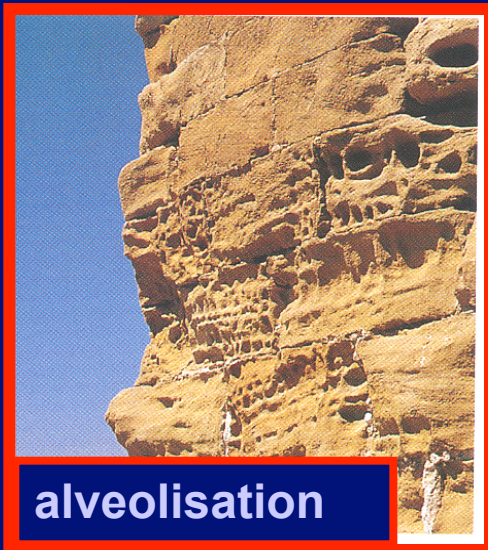


Bonazza et al, 2009. Mapping the impact of climate change on surface recession of carbonate buildings in Europe . Science of the total Environment

# Salt climatology: parameterisation



- The parameterisation focussed in salt transitions, no kinetics or efflorescence
- Limited to mono-salt systems instead of salt mixtures.
- A new heritage parameterisation using documented historic damage would define the predominant damage in different climate areas.



Damage  $\longleftrightarrow$  Weather (pollution)



# Colour of buildings



Desire for cleaning increases with the amount of blackening

REDISTRIBUTION FUNCTIONS:  
patterns

These may be the most important climatic driven aspects of blackening: strong aesthetic impacts

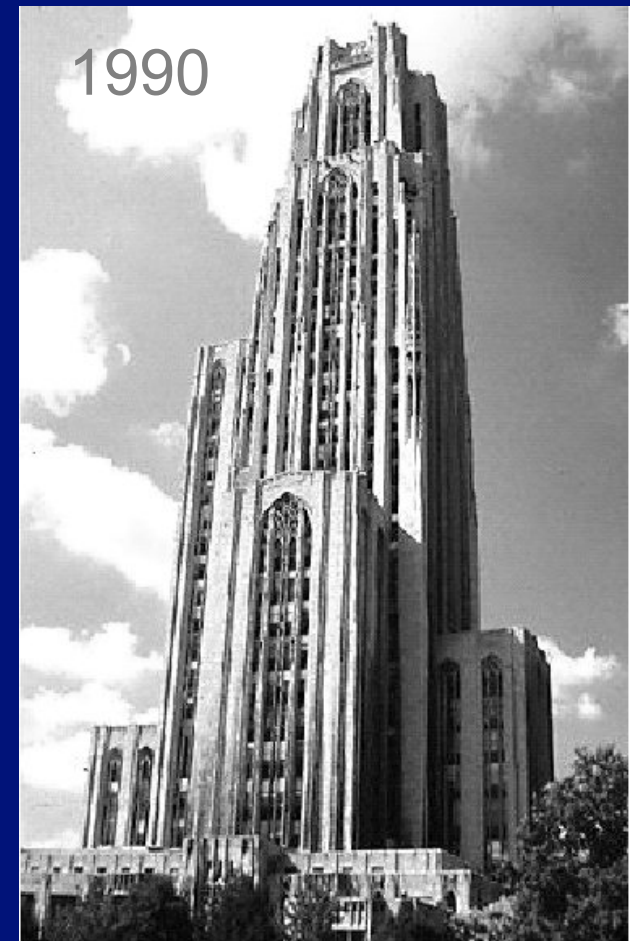
*Data gathering:*

- *Documental*
- *Photographic*
- *Surveys: public opinion*

# CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING - Pittsburgh

Built in the late 1930's  
– rapidly soiled, but  
loss of steel industry  
meant building  
became cleaner...

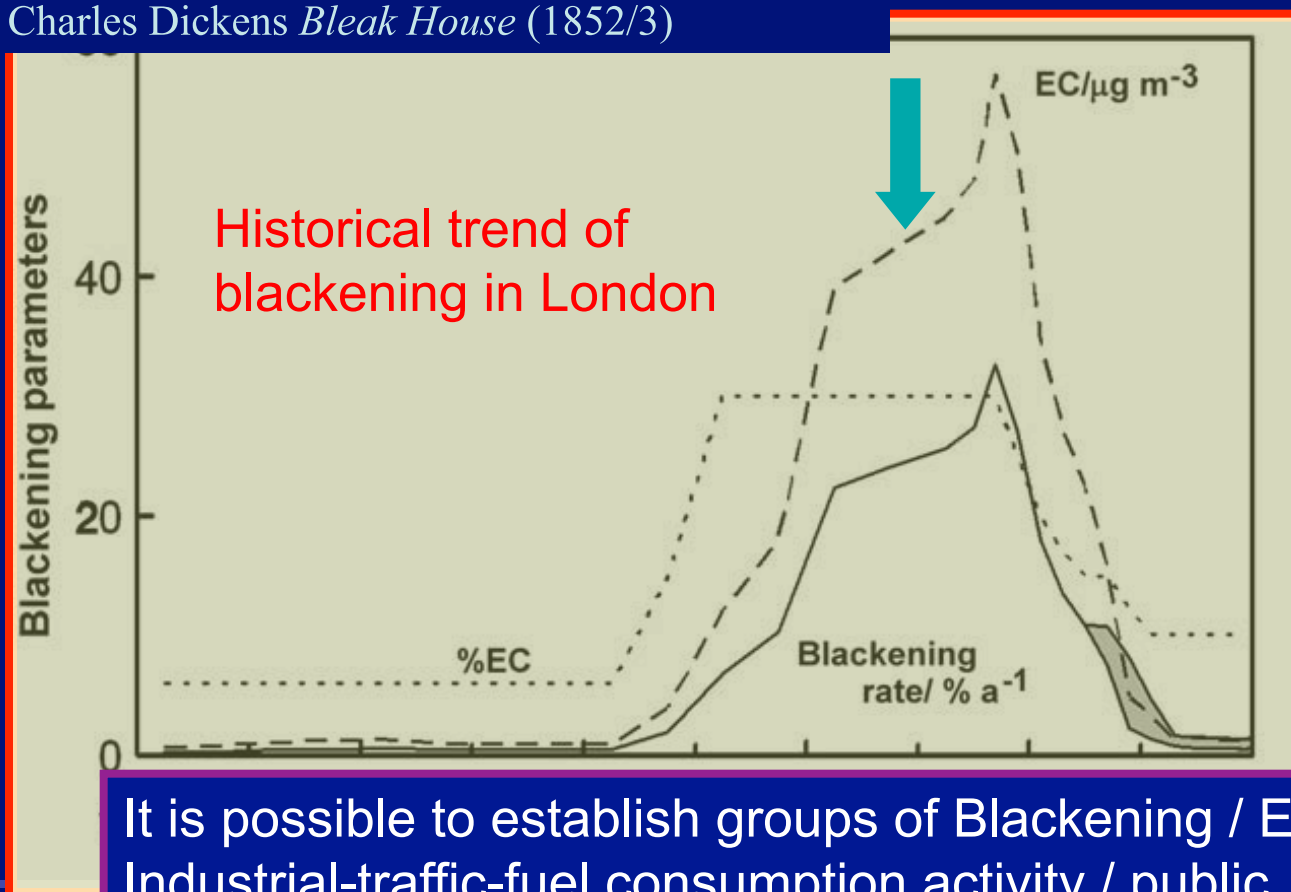
CI Davidson *et al*



# Blackening Of London Facades

“For smoke, which is the London ivy, had so wreathed itself round Peffer's...dwelling-place that the affectionate parasite quite overpowered the parent tree.”

Charles Dickens *Bleak House* (1852/3)



It is possible to establish groups of Blackening / EC / Industrial-traffic-fuel consumption activity / public response



# Colour changes: Tower of London

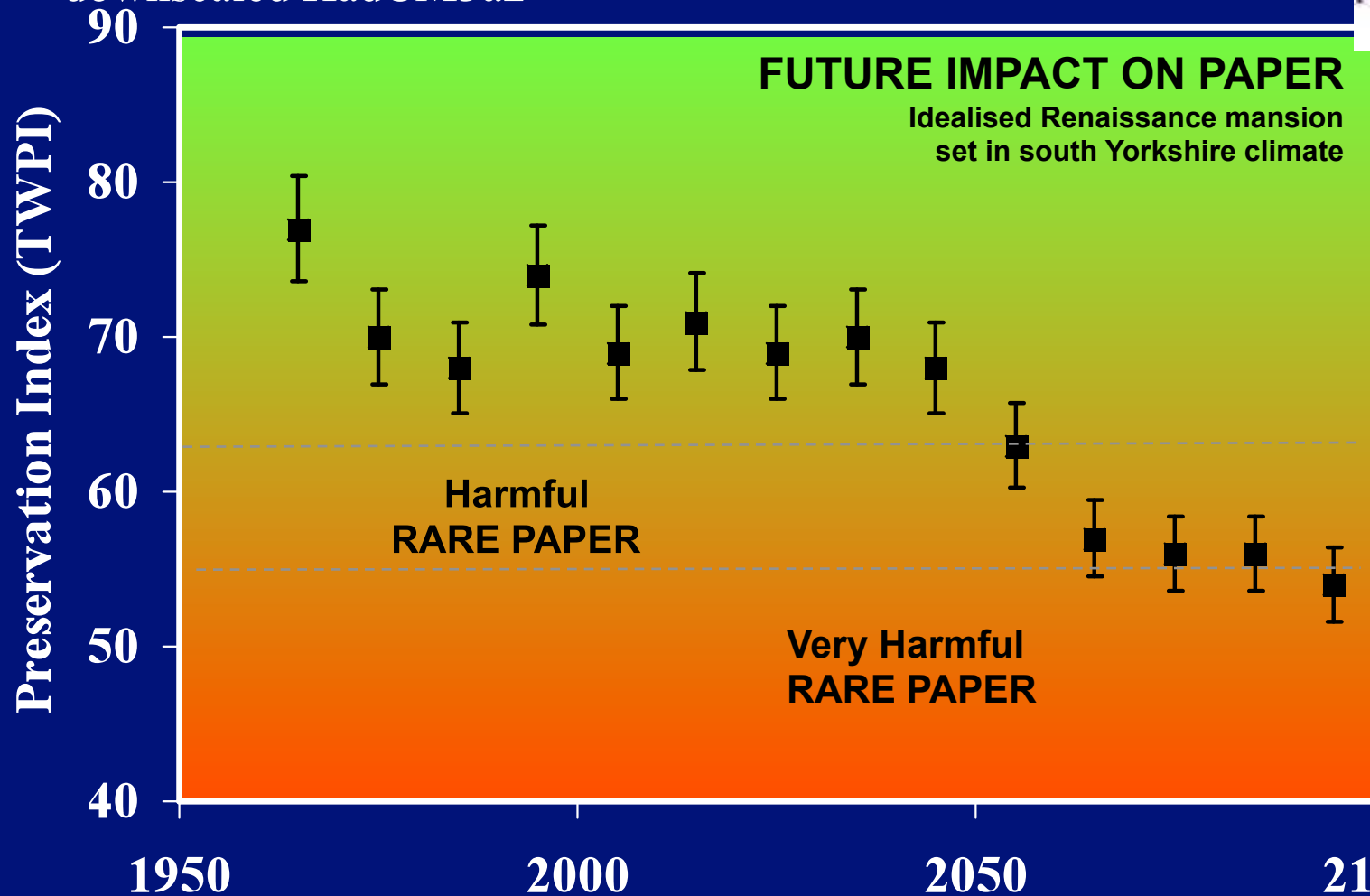
Yellowing at London's *White Tower* oxidation of soot by ozone?

Changing biology – less SO<sub>2</sub> more NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and warmer conditions



# Propagating Climate Change Indoors

Simple indoor/outdoor transfer model for T and RH coupled to downscaled HadCM3a2



Decadal accumulations of damage – crude estimate of error from yearly standard deviation

KNOLE

Paul Lankester, UEA