

Born on the banks of the Erie Canal, Michael McCormick received his Ph.D. from the Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium) in 1979. He served on the faculty of the History Department of the Johns Hopkins University from 1979 to 1991; was Research Associate at Dumbarton Oaks from 1979 to 1987, and has been at Harvard since 1991, where he is the Goelet Professor of Medieval History, chairs the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past (SoHP) and specializes in research that brings together scientists, humanists, faculty and students from across Harvard and around the world; he is the U.S. Director of the Max Planck-Harvard Research Center for the Archaeoscience of the Ancient Mediterranean (2015-) which, with its sister program in Archaeogenetics directed by Prof. Johanne Krause of the Max Planck Institute (Jena and soon Leipzig) investigates the peopling of the Mediterranean and ancient pathogens from ancient DNA. His research has been supported by the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the A.C.L.S., the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Arcadia Fund, etc. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation honored him with its Distinguished Achievement Award (2002). He is a Fellow or (Corresponding) Member of various learned academies, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, The Society of Antiquaries of London, the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (Paris), the Monumenta Germaniae historica (Munich), the Académie royale de Belgique and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut. His 7 books include the prize-winning *Origins of the European Economy* (2002) and *Charlemagne's Survey of the Holy Land* (2011); among his ~80 articles, he led the first multi-proxy scientific and historical reconstruction of climate under the Roman Empire (*Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 43 (2012)). He has collaborated on co-authored studies that have detected and dated the shift from the Roman gold to the medieval silver monetary standard from a Swiss ice core (*Antiquity* 92 (2018)), defined a new "Little Ice Age" in Late Antiquity (*Nature Geoscience* 9 (2016)), reconstructed the genome of the 6th-century bacillus of bubonic plague (*Molecular Biology and Evolution* (2016) 33 (11)), detected the impact of extreme volcanism on the Carolingian and Byzantine Empires (*Speculum* 82 (2007), 865-895), identified the first aDNA *Yersinia pestis* positive Justinianic Pandemic victims in Mediterranean France and Spain (*PNAS* 116 (25) (2019): 12363-72). He launched the free, student-created online *Mapping Ancient Societies* (formerly *Digital Atlas of Roman and Medieval Civilizations* (<http://darmc.harvard.edu/>)), is active archaeologically in France and Spain, and teaches and mentors undergraduates, graduate students, and junior colleagues. He is a first-generation college graduate.