

Ronnie Ellenblum is Professor at the Department of Geography at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a member of the Israeli Academy of Sciences and humanities. Ellenblum specializes in Medieval Geographies, in the History of the Levant in the Middle Ages, in the history of the Crusades, in the history of Jerusalem and in Climate History.

He is the author of *Frankish Rural Settlement in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), *Crusader Castles and Modern Histories* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), and *The Collapse of the Eastern Mediterranean: Climate Change and the Decline of the East, 950–1072* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Ellenblum heads the *Vadum Iacob* and the *Historic Cities* research projects.

He is involved in the creation of several data bases dealing with the history of Jerusalem together with the Palestinian al-Quds University. He initiated, together with the Late Prof. Jonathan Riley Smith of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, a DB of the entire compendium of Crusader documents and charters.

Ellenblum develops a comprehensive theoretical approach to 'Fragility,' claiming that a decade or two of climatic disturbance (droughts, untimely rains and severely cold winters) could lead to severe societal effects, and that the amelioration and even stabilization of climatic conditions for several decades can lead to a period of affluence. Ellenblum bases his theory of Fragility on a thorough reading of a wealth of well-dated textual and archaeological evidence, pointing to periods of Collapse (in the eastern Mediterranean and northern China during the Medieval Climate Anomaly), and affluence in the entire Mediterranean Basin during the Roman Optimum.