

EDITORIAL

JOHANNES MÜLLER, SPEAKER OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

During the last months, the Graduate School was filled with vibrant activity. Teaching for the new generation of PhD students commenced in the Clusters and Platforms, and many GS members assembled for an introductory workshop in Denmark (see text and photo in this newsletter). Certainly a highlight among the GS activities is the International Open Workshop we have held every second year since the establishment of the GS. The latest one was in March and brought together researchers of all levels from all around the world. More than 240 scholars from disciplines connected with human development



in landscapes generated an event full of scientific exchange, networking, new insights, and – last but not least – much fun. I am particularly delighted about the engagement that our PhD students showed in the workshop: They did not only present their research projects, but also chair and organize whole sessions. The same applies for the post-doctoral fellows, principal investigators and international partners of the GS. In addition to emphasizing the Graduate School's focus on early-stage researchers, the workshop also mirrored the interdisciplinarity that we enjoy in the School every day: archaeologists and archaeobotanists organized sessions as well as classicists, aDNA and isotope researchers. I already look forward to the next International Open Workshop in 2017!

In addition to all these activities, the Graduate School is also involved in the celebrations for the 350th anniversary of Kiel University. On May 14, members of the GS, the Institute for Pre- and Protohistory, and the Priority Programme 1400 are going to erect a megalithic tomb on campus, based on the recently excavated grave Wangels LA69. The public framework programme includes flint and crop processing, shooting with bow and arrows, a poster exhibition and a lecture on megaliths. I wish you a pleasant read and a smooth start into the summer term.

FOR PHD ON IRANIAN MOUNTAIN PEOPLES

ANCIENT HISTORIAN SILVIA BALATTI RECEIVES JOHANNA MESTORF AWARD



Silvia Balatti (second from left) received the Johanna Mestorf Award 2015 from the hands of Lutz Käppel. Mara Weinelt and Johannes Müller (from left) were the first to congratulate her.

Ancient historian Silvia Balatti receives the 2015 Johanna Mestorf Award for outstanding dissertations in the field of human-environmental research and landscape archaeology. The prize, endowed with 3,000 €, is issued by the Johanna Mestorf Academy and the Graduate School Human Development in Landscapes at Kiel University.

Silvia Balatti is the first alumna of the Graduate School who has been awarded this prize. She received her PhD for her dissertation on "Mountain Peoples in the Ancient Near East: The Case of the Zagros in the 1st Millennium BC", an analysis on the socio-political organisation and the way of life of the mountain peoples of the Zagros (now Iran) in the first century BC. In addition to inscriptions from the area of research and writings of Greek and Roman authors, the results of pollen analyses also flowed into the findings of her dissertation in order to reconstruct the former environmental conditions. "Ms. Balatti's dissertation is a major step forward for Assyriologists, archaeologists and historians alike", stated Professor Dr. Lutz Käppel in his laudatory speech during the award ceremony on March 24. Included in the results, continued Prof. Käppel, are insights about the surprising plurality of lifestyles between climatic, economic and political processes instead of results about an expected tight central government with imperial influences.

After completing her doctorate, Silvia Balatti continues her research as a postdoctoral fellow in the Institute of Classical Antiquity Studies, Kiel University. She is investigating ancient environmental conditions in south-western Iranian Fars within a joint German-French project.

The Johanna Mestorf Award is named after the first female professor of Prussia. Johanna Mestorf (born 1828 in Bramstedt, †1909 in Kiel) had a significant impact on archaeological research. As of 1868, she worked in the Museum of National Antiquities in Kiel. The award, which has been endowed in her name, is being granted this year for the second time. In 2013, the classical archaeologist Sabine Neumann (Munich) shared the award with the anthropologist Katherine Mary Grillo (USA).

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP: FROM TRIPOLIAN MEGA-SITES TO MEDIEVAL GENTRIFICATION



Over 40 Graduate School members from PhD to PI level gathered near Søndersborg, Denmark for the Introductory Workshop of the 4th PhD generation from January 19-20. The old estate Sandbjerg Gods, now a convention centre of Aarhus University, provided an ideal environment. Besides talks and discussion concerning the research projects of the new doctoral students – ranging from Tripolitan megasites to "medieval forms of gentrification" (nobles from Holstein purchasing

castles in Schleswig to extend their political sphere of influence) – the programme also included insights into the public outreach activities of the GS. The senior researchers from post-doc level upwards were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their specific research foci. Excellent meals and the cosy atmosphere of the old farm house added to the retreat-like character of the gathering. Our picture shows the participants in front of Sandbjerg Gods.

NEW ARCHAEOBOTANY SERIES

Graduate School members Wiebke Kirleis and Welmoed Out have recently launched, together with their colleague René Cappers (University of Groningen), a new series focused on people-plant interactions. *Advances in Archaeobotany* has been initiated to provide a dedicated publication venue for research excellence in archaeobotany and related interdisciplinary work. The first volume in this new series is now available: *Reconstructing vegetation diversity in coastal landscapes*, by Mans Schepers of the University of Groningen.

“Archaeobotany has become an indispensable component of archaeological investigation, providing a baseline for a holistic understanding of past societies and past environmental dynamics”, stated co-editor Wiebke Kirleis. “As a series specializing in the field of archaeobotany, *Advances in Archaeobotany* offers a centralized, easily recognizable publication venue for the growing research output of the world’s archaeobotanical community. *Advances in Archaeobotany* aims to foster connections in a field of research with highly diversified publication strategies and to increase archaeobotanists’ international visibility.”

For more information about the series and its first publication, please visit www.archaeobotany.eu.

GSHDL ALUMNI (IX): ANNEGRET LARSEN

Many PhD students of the Graduate School have finished their dissertation by now and successfully fill positions in diverse academic fields. We keep in touch with them and trace their next steps after they leave the Graduate School. Where have they gone after their PhDs, and what are they doing there?

Annegret Larsen focuses her research on hillslopes, fluvial systems and the linkages between them. At the Graduate School, she completed her dissertation titled “Past natural and anthropologically altered sediment flux in the Spessart Mountains” in early 2012. “I am strongly interested in how humans and climate influenced geomorphic processes over historic, Holocene and Quaternary timescales. Interactions between geomorphology and ecology are also very intriguing to me”, Annegret says.

During her PhD at the Graduate School, she worked on human alterations of sediment flux in a Spessart headwater catchment, and her first post-doctoral project was about the influence of historic damming in mountain streams. “I believe that the proposal for this project was only successful because of our hard training in proposal writing techniques every semester at the GSHDL”, Annegret underlines. She is now doing a part-time post-doc at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia: “This allows



GS alumna Annegret Kranz



The landscapes which Annegret Kranz investigates in Australia are rather difficult to compare with the Spessart Mountains.

me to do both – take care of my young son and pursue my studies.” However, research in Australia is different and exiting in many ways: “Most importantly, there is still a lot to discover”, says Annegret. “Especially past human impact on landscapes remains unclear, but also basic processes and mechanisms in the highly variable landscapes of Australia are often not well understood.” Among the latest discoveries are the yet undescribed feedbacks between geomorphology, hydrology and ecology just 1 km downstream from a famous tourist attraction, Wangi waterfall. “While we were working on the Holocene fire history in the region, we found by chance that the extension of wet monsoon forests in the area are controlled by local hydro-geomorphologic conditions and not by fire, as previously thought”, Annegret explains, and adds her ‘down under motto’: “Always make jokes, especially in situations in which you don’t feel like it at all.”

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Milinda Hoo was awarded the 2nd place out of 32 nominations for the national Dutch Volkskrant-IISG (International Institute of Social History) master thesis prize 2014 in the field of national or international history. The title of her thesis is “Culture at the Crossroads: a study into the development of a transregional artistic style in ancient Central Asia, fourth century BCE – first century CE”.

Katharina Fuchs presented aspects of her research at two international conferences in St. Louis (USA). At the North American Meeting of the Paleopathological Association, held from March 24-25, she showed a poster on “Comparative Analyses of the Mandible. Pathological case studies from the prehistoric North Caucasus and Turkey”. On March 26, Katharina gave a talk at the 84th annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Her presentation, co-authored by Julia Gresky, was about “The prevalence of caries in Bronze Age populations from the Northern Caucasus”.

SELECTED EVENTS

(COMPLETE CALENDAR: WWW.GSHDL.UNI-KIEL.DE/CALENDAR)

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Leibnizstraße 1, Room 204

APRIL

Monday, April 27, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium – Thomas Raab (TU Cottbus)**: Opencast mines in South Brandenburg (Germany) - archives of Late Quaternary landscape development and human-induced land use changes

MAY

Monday, May 11, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium – João Zilhão (University of Lisbon)**: How early is the modern human settlement of Europe? Issues of sample accuracy, sample association and sample context

JUNE

Monday, June 1, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium – Vince Gaffney (University of Bradford)**: New Maps? Landscape Archaeology and the Remote Sensing of Landscapes