EDITORIAL

JOHANNES MÜLLER, SPEAKER OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

The ‘classroom’ part of this summer term is over. During the semester, we enjoyed a mixture of inspiring talks at the Biweekly Colloquia, this time ranging from Stonehenge and phytolith analysis to the Greek world around 40 BCE. In addition, guest fellow Selina Delgado Raack provided insight into her main field of expertise, the analysis of stone tools. During the next semester, we will be hosting Carl Heron from Bradford University – he will come to Kiel as a Humboldt Research Award winner, nominated by Berit Eriksen and me for the Johanna Mestorf Foundation. Carl Heron is a specialist in the analysis of organic compounds from archaeological artefacts and deposits – a skill that many research projects in Kiel and Schleswig will surely benefit from.

Until the end of August, we will welcome applications by outstanding young researchers in all fields related to human development in landscapes. 11 doctoral positions and up to 4 PhD scholarships are to be filled. For more information please check our website.

Many members of the Graduate School are about to or have already set off for field campaigns and other research trips. For example, archaeological excavations are planned in Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine (western part) and Wangels (Eastern Holstein). I am looking forward to hearing about their results and their experiences. I wish all members, partners and friends of the Graduate School an inspiring summer.

WORKSHOP FUNDING: SUPPORT FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

The Graduate School invites seven smaller workshops organized by its members and related to its core research topics. The successful proposals cover a broad range of research fields from stable isotopes in archaeology, results of portable XRF analyses and Slavic-German mixed toponyms (place names) to an “Archaeology of Rebellion”. Among the events, which will primarily take place in October and November 2014, are two that are being organized by PhD students (*). The remaining workshops are being planned by Principal Investigators or mixed groups of PIs, postdoctoral fellows and PhD candidates. “Our aim is to foster joint research advance within the often very small communities working on highly special topics”, explains Mara Weinelt, Scientific Coordinator of the Graduate School. “The funds provided by the School allow the organizers to invite international guests to Kiel. Ideally, joint publications will prove the success.” Just as the subsequent organization of the workshops, the process of applying for funding already served as a valuable skills training exercise for the young researchers at the Graduate School.

Approved workshops (in chronological order):
July 29-31: Emblematic Strategies (organized by *M. Biederbick and H. Pahl)
October 8-9: Philosophy, Archaeology, and the Enlightenment Heritage (V. Arponen and A. Ribeiro)
October 16-18: Multilingual language landscapes? The problem of the Slavic-German mixed toponyms. (*K. Marterior)
November 2-4: Archaeology of Rebellion: Social change in socialscapes (J. Müller)
November 6-8: Coming of Age? Stable isotopes in archaeology (C. Makarewicz)
November 6-9: Environmental, climatic and cultural change in the Aegean during the last 5000 years (I. Unkel, C. Schwab)

Research highlight: PNAS paper

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF MOUSE DIET

Graduate School members Ricardo Fernandes and Marie-Josée Nadeau have co-authored a paper recently published in the online edition of the journal “Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences” (PNAS). A group of researchers headed by John Baines, Professor of Evolutionary Genomics at Kiel University and the Cluster of Excellence “Inflammation at Interfaces”, has detected that dietary changes in wild house mice are associated with quick shifts in their intestinal microbiome composition. Such changes may already be observed within a week from the time when a mouse is taken from its natural environment with a variety of different food sources to a laboratory and given a standard lab chow diet. This is of interest to the researchers as the house mouse is an important model organism to study chronic inflammatory disorders such as inflammatory bowel disease.

“Indeed, wild mice display significant differences in the relative intake of carbohydrate-rich food sources according to their enterotype classification”, says Ricardo Fernandes, alumnus of the Graduate School and now a post-doctoral fellow at the Universities of Kiel and Cambridge. His contribution to the research project included interpretations of the isotopic measurements and reconstructions of the mice diet using the statistical model FRUITS (Food Reconstruction Using Isotopic Transferred Signals) that Fernandes developed.

Original publication:

SUCCESS WITHOUT COMPETITION

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL PAYS TRIBUTE TO MAGDA MIDGLEY (EDINBURGH) AND KLAUS SCHMIDT (BERLIN)

Two archaeologists, who were closely associated with the Graduate School/ Johanna Mestorf Academy, passed away at the end of July. We remember Magdalena Midgley and Klaus Schmidt as scholars and friends who lived their “archaeological” lives in a manner of team-oriented work. For both, the success of their enterprises was linked to their timeless passionate handling of human science. Magda Midgley († 21 July 2014) was a Professor of the European Neolithic at Edinburgh University. She was a specialist on non-megalithic and megalithic barrows as well as on the development of Neolithic societies between the Atlantic and the Baltic Sea. Her huge research record includes three very influential monographs. She was preparing a fourth monograph before an ill-
ness took her away. Magda joined us in the Graduate School at different times as an international partner. She was also closely engaged in the Priority Program “Early monumentality and social differentiation”. Klaus Schmidt (* 20 July 2014) was an archaeologist at the German Archaeological Institute Berlin and was well-known as the excavator of Göbekli Tepe (North Mesopotamia). His profound monographs on silex technology in Neolithic Egypt and on special architectures of the Near Eastern Pre-Pottery Neolithic made him a well-known scholar. His passion and courage in fieldwork helped him to discover one of the most important archaeological sites: Göbekli Tepe. Klaus Schmidt managed the excavations of big structures, a task which most archaeologists are not able to handle today. His open mind and his readiness to assist his fellow colleagues and students made him a most respected archaeologist. He became familiar with our students both in workshops of the Graduate School as well as on an excursion to Anatolia. Johannes Müller

TALAIOITS UNDER INVESTIGATION

PhD student Maria Gelabert Oliver is currently conducting fieldwork and bibliographic research on Mallorca for her doctoral project “Landscape distribution of Talaiotic monuments as markers of social space”. This is her third field campaign after February and April 2014, when she inspected 50 of the tower-like monuments called Talaiots and recorded 35 of them topographically. Her project aims at establishing the social relationships between settlements during the Talaiotic period (early Iron Age) on Mallorca. Fieldwork campaigns have allowed her to study the construction methods of Talaiotic monuments, estimate the work invested in their construction, and define their distribution throughout the island. The fieldwork would not have been possible without the collaboration of a colleague from the GSHDL, Artur Ribeiro, who provided an important contribution through his knowledge of fieldwork techniques. Furthermore, Maria also had assistance from several students of archaeology from the University of the Balearic Islands, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and the Museum of Son Fornés on Mallorca.

TEAM SPIRIT IN LANDSCAPES

The best way to overcome obstacles is to team up. This applies not only in science, but also in sports, as three members of the Graduate School recently proved: Maren Bie derbick, Doris Jansen and Sandra Kiesow (from left to right) participated in the Fun Run 2014. Unlike other running events, there were barriers on the track which had to be passed by all team members concertedly. Relevant for the list of results was not the time of the fastest runner, but of a whole group of runners. The GSHDL ladies needed less than 43 minutes for 5 kilometres of muddy track bristling with obstacles. No need to mention that the team mirrored the interdisciplinarity of the Graduate School, including an art historian, a biologist and an agronomist, brought together by research.

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS


Marta dal Corso, doctoral student of the Graduate School, successfully completed her oral thesis defense on “Environmental history and development of the human landscape in a northeastern Italian lowland during the Bronze Age: a multidisciplinary case-study” on June 25.

Jessica Susanne Krause presented aspects of her PhD research project at the conference “New approaches to the temple of Zeus at Olympia” in Budapest, May 8-10. Her presentation was titled “Lucianus, Herodotos and the Westpediment”.

Together with Bisserka Gaydarska (University of Durham), Graduate School alumnus Bettina Scholz Paulsson has edited the volume “Neolithic and Copper Age Monuments – Emergence, function and the construction of the landscape”. It has recently been published in the British Archaeological Reports International Series (BAR S2625) and contains, among others, an article by Schulz Paulsson about megaliths on Corsica, Sardinia and Malta, a contribution by GS alumnus Fevzi Kemal Moetz on Early Neolithic buildings in Upper Mesopotamia, and a paper by former GS member Doris Mischka concerning plough marks in Early Neolithic Northern Central Europe. The volume is primarily composed of papers presented during a session at the 15th annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists. A preview of the contents is available here: http://bit.ly/1vPKzJR

Christian Horn and guest researcher Anne Lene Melheim, who spent some time at the Graduate School earlier this year, have recently published a paper on the complexity of Early Bronze Age weapons depositions, see: Melheim, L. and Horn, C. (2014): Tales of hoards and broken. Norwegian Archaeological Review 47 (1), 18-41. It is available as a PDF via the GS website: www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes/allgemein/download/Melheim_Horn_2014.pdf

Karina Iwe participated in a workshop for doctoral students on “Erkundungs- und Entdeckungsfahrten bis an die Grenzen der Okoumene (9. Jh. v. Chr. – 2. Jh. n. Chr.)” (“Exploration and discovery trips to the boundaries of the Oecumene”) in Madrid from June 16-20 with a presentation titled “Netzwerksystem in den Grenzregionen” (“Network system in border regions”). The workshop was organized by the DAI Madrid and the École des Hautes Études Hispaniques et Ibériques.

SELECTED EVENTS

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

OCTOBER

October 8-9 – Workshop: Philosophy, Archaeology, and the Enlightenment Heritage

October 16-18 – Workshop: Multilingual language landscapes? The problem of the Slavic-German mixed toponyms.

October 20 – Biweekly Colloquium – Leibnizstr. 1, Room 204