

EDITORIAL

JOHANNES MÜLLER, SPEAKER OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

A new group of PhD students initiated its projects in the Graduate School in early November. I am convinced that they will contribute enormously to our research community. The new research topics include studies on landscapes, the organization of social space, the biographies of artefacts and the perception of environmental changes from the Palaeolithic to medieval times.



During the last weeks, the Graduate School hosted seven workshops in various fields connected to socio-environmental research, such as XRF applications or "Philosophy, Archaeology, and the Enlightenment Heritage". The idea was to give small, highly specialised scientific communities an opportunity for an

intense exchange of ideas and the development of new projects. According to the feedback I received from the organizers, all workshops were a full success.

Concerning upcoming projects, I am looking forward to the near future, which includes the 4th International Open Workshop "Socio-Environmental Dynamics over the Last 12,000 Years: The Creation of Landscapes" at the Graduate School from March 24-27, 2015. I hope to meet many of our members, partners, alumni and friends there – abstract submission for the various sessions is open until January 15. Please check the workshop website mentioned above for details.

Another highlight in 2015, which marks the 350th anniversary of Kiel University, will be the construction of a megalithic tomb with ancient methods on May 14. This is a public holiday (Ascension), so hopefully many people will attend the event in front of the Audimax and help to put the cover stone in place.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and wish you a Merry Christmas and a good start into the New Year.

PLoS ONE Paper

EARLY DIETARY DIVERSITY IN AFRICA

Humans in Africa already exploited domestic cereals 7,000 years ago and thus several centuries earlier than previously known. A research team from Barcelona, Treviso, London and Kiel was successful in verifying ancient barley and wheat residues in grave goods and on teeth from two Neolithic cemeteries in Central Sudan and Nubia. The results of the analyses were recently published (online) in the journal PLoS ONE.

Graduate School member Dr. Welmoed Out was involved in the investigation. "With our results we can verify that people along the Nile did not only exploit gathered wild plants and animals but even crops of barley and wheat." These were first cultivated in the Middle East about 10,500 years ago and spread out from there to Central and South Asia as well as to Europe and North Africa – the latter faster than expected. "The diversity of the diet was much greater than previously assumed," states Out and adds: "Moreover, the fact that grains were placed in the graves of the deceased implies that they had a special, symbolic meaning."

The research team, coordinated by Welmoed Out and the environmental archaeologist Marco Madella from Barcelona, implemented, among other things, a special high-quality light microscope as well as radiocarbon analyses for age determination. Hereby, they were supported by the fact that mineral plant particles, so-called phytoliths, survive very long, even when other plant remains are no longer discernible.



One of the graves at the Neolithic cemetery in Nubia (Sudan), containing a skeleton and plant material deposited behind the skull (white structure at the left picture margin).

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Africa 7000 Years Ago. PLoS ONE 9(10): e110177. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0110177

Link to the original publication in PLoS ONE: www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0110177

New Graduate School Book

FIELDWORK IN A NUTSHELL

Since 2007, doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows and professors have been investigating the interplay of man and landscape in past millennia. They trace the development of human societies with expeditions, excavations and in archives. 68 of these enlightening projects are outlined in the recently published book "Exploring Landscapes – The Reconstruction of Social Space", which was compiled in the Graduate School Human Development in Landscapes and the Johanna Mestorf Academy.



Each project is described on a double page in English and German. Numerous coloured pictures and photos illustrate the 170 pages of the volume. Many of the topics could be taken from this morning's newspaper; however they root thousands of years ago. For example, the book broaches the issues of inequality as a social threat, of networks, mobility and technologies, of climate change and the over-exploitation of the environment. Geographically, the chapters span from Poland to Peru, with a main focus on northern Germany.

The book is available at Habelt Publishers (www.habelt.de) or directly at the Graduate School (office@gshdl.uni-kiel.de).

Johannes Müller (Ed.): Exploring Landscapes – The Reconstruction of Social Space. Habelt, Bonn 2014

Special Issue of *internet archaeology*

HOW HUMANS USED LIQUID LANDSCAPES

A recently published special issue of the peer-reviewed e-journal *internet archaeology* focuses on the human exploitation of aquatic landscapes. The issue was edited by Graduate School member Ricardo Fernandes together with John Meadows, Leibniz Laboratory for Radiometric Dating and Isotope Research, Kiel and Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology, Schloss Gottorf.

The ten papers of the issue address the manifold ways in which past societies interacted with rivers, lakes and seas. The geographical range extends from Sweden over France to East Africa, while the spectrum of topics covers shellfish from a Bronze Age site, the exploitation of *Euryale ferox* during the Lower Palaeolithic, and fish consumption in Swahili communities from 700-1400 CE.

Link to the issue: <http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue37/index.html>

GSHDL ALUMNI (VIII): HANNES KNAPP

Most PhD students of the first generation which started in 2008 have finished their dissertation by now and found 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?

He is one of the “mountain men” of the Graduate School: After finishing his dissertation on “Habitat Harz: The Environmental History of a Mountain Area and its Foothills” in September 2012, palaeobotanist Hannes Knapp went from Kiel to Mainz University to analyze glacial-interglacial vegetation dynamics through the last 600.000 years. Currently, he is engaged in an EU-funded project about medieval mining in Saxonia and Bohemia (“ArchaeoMontan”).

“This brings along close cooperation with investigators from many different fields, such as archaeologists, historians, geologists and pedologists, and from several countries, mainly Germany and the Czech Republic – just like the interdisciplinary and international research environment I encountered at the Graduate School”, Hannes says. “Besides the inspiring atmosphere, the School helped me a lot by guiding me in proposal writing and by financing not only my PhD scholarship, but also my attendance at various conferences and workshops, where I met among others my new cooperation partner from ArchaeoMontan.”

In this project, Hannes is responsible for archaeobotanical analyses of charcoal and botanical macro remains on- and off-site the archive in the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge). The purpose is to reconstruct woodland composition on a local scale and to elucidate human resource management (wood, charcoal) and the sustainability of forest management in the Ore Mountains during the Middle Ages. “Furthermore, we aim at reconstructing the vegetation and settlement history of the Ore Mountains in connection with climate development and the impact of mining, smelting and charcoal production on the creation of the modern landscape”, Hannes explains.



Hannes Knapp

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Sarah Diers passed her disputation on “Mensch-Umweltbeziehungen zwischen 4000 und 2200 cal BC: Vegetationsgeschichtliche Untersuchungen an Mooren und trichterbecher-zeitlichen Fundplätzen der Altmark” on December 3.

Monica de Cet passed her disputation on “Long-Term Social Development on a Mediterranean Island: Menorca between 1600 BCE and 1900 CE” on November 26.

Silvia Balatti passed her disputation on “Mountain People in the Ancient Near East: The Case of the Zagros in the 1st Millennium BC” on November 11.

Jelena Steigerwald organized a workshop in Berlin about the system of forced labor under the Nazi Regime from June 21-22. This was part of her beginning post-doc-project about “Memorial Landscapes of the Holocaust and Massacre during World War II”, which started in August 2014. The self-organized workshop was co-financed by the Graduate Center of Kiel University.

Jessica Susanne Krause and **Chiara Matarese** presented aspects of their PhD research at “Iranian Worlds”, the Eighth Symposium of the Melammu Project, held at Kiel University on 11-15 November. Jessica’s talk was titled “Greek and Near Eastern Hero Concepts”, Chiara’s “Deportations in the Achaemenid Empire”. **Kleoniki Rizou** attended the conference with a poster titled “The Greek Muses”. The event was organized by **Josef Wiesehöfer** and **Sara C. Boysen**.

Anna-Elena Reuter has been invited to present aspects of her PhD project at the conference on Environmental Archaeology of European Cities, which will be held in Brussels between 27 and 29 May 2015. Her talk is titled “Walnuts, Grapevine and Rye – Urban Food Production and Consumption of the Early Byzantine City Caricin Grad “Justiniana Prima” (Southern Serbia)”.

Karina Iwe presented aspects of her PhD research at the PhD course “Encountering Imagery: New strategies for using images as a source material for studies of the past”. The course was organized by the The Nordic Graduate School in Archaeology “Dialogues with the Past” and was held in Berlin on November 3-6. Karina’s presentation was titled “Encountering images of the Scytho-Siberian Animal Style”.

Julia Menne participated in a conference on the occasion of archaeologist Elisabeth Schlicht’s 100th birthday. At the meeting in Meppen on November 28, Julia gave a talk titled “Große Steine im Emsland . Die Erforschung der Megalithgräber”.

SELECTED EVENTS

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

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Leibnizstraße 1, Room 204

DECEMBER

Friday, December 12, 4:00 p.m. – **GS Plenary meeting** – Leibnizstr. 1, Klaus-Murmann-Hörsaal (afterwards: GS Christmas party in LS 3)

Monday, December 15, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium** – **Konrad Hitzl (Kiel)**: Temenos. Greek Sanctuary Boundaries; **Carl Heron (Bradford/Kiel)**: New approaches to the study of mortuary practices in the Roman Empire

JANUARY

Monday, January 12, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium** – **Julia Gresky (DAI, Berlin)**: Chances of anthropology and paleopathology in archaeology

Monday, January 26, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium** – **Verena Winiwarter (Wien/Klagenfurt)**: Aquatic environmental history as an interdisciplinary challenge

FEBRUARY

February 19-20 – **Introductory Workshop PhD generation 4** – Sandbjerg Gods (Denmark)

MARCH

March 24-27 – **International Open Workshop**: Socio-Environmental Dynamics over the Last 12,000 Years: The Creation of Landscapes IV – Leibnizstr. 1