



EDITORIAL

Johannes Müller, Speaker Graduate School 'Human Development in Landscapes'

The Graduate School has reached half-time of its initial five-year funding period; therefore, the time is right to review what we have achieved so far. The concept of "research by learning and learning by research" is supported by three new Junior Research Groups for Environmental Anthropology, Environmental Archaeology and Environmental History. The linkage of cultural theory, environmental studies and the analyses of past material culture intensifies the insights into human behaviour and the social production of landscapes. Thus, 30 graduates are now successfully entering the final year of their PhDs and have developed abilities to integrate net-



Photo: private

working activities: both within research clusters of the GS as well as at transdisciplinary field projects and international conferences. This is also reflected in a number of publications. GS principal investigators have intensified joint research activities, e.g. within a new priority program "Early monumentality and social differentiation".

Shortly 25 new PhD students will start research projects in Kiel on topics related to ancient European and Near Eastern societies. Beside archaeological environmental science, concepts of cognition and perception will play an important role in reconstructing the interrelation of humans and material culture within landscapes. We are looking forward to the April introductory workshop to welcome our new members. At the same time the workshop will be the prelude of next terms teaching programme.

COLD WAR PICTURES ILLUSTRATE THE 4TH MILLENNIUM BC

Old satellite images help archaeologists in Mesopotamia

Andrea Ricci, doctoral student at the Graduate School, is investigating the formation of cultural landscapes along the Middle Euphrates Valley. To gather information about 4th and 3rd Millennium BC settlements, Andrea and his advisor, Tony Wilkinson from Durham University, use a combined approach. Examining survey materials and gathering information about old settlement sites from local people is common procedure for them. In contrast, analysing NASA satellite imagery from around 1970 is, to say the least, unusual. Andrea explains its advantage: "These pictures, once taken for espionage purposes, conserve the state of the landscape before it was significantly altered by modern urbanization processes and intensified agricultural practices." As these processes started quite late in northern Syria compared to Europe, many ancient tells, paths and fields which are now covered by modern streets, houses and water reservoirs can still be identified on the images taken from the late 1960s onward. Thus, the Cold War that dominated the second half of the last century has now been endowed with at least one positive aspect.



Satellite image of Tell Jerablus Tahtani in northern Syria (black-white spot). The dark line extending from the mound in a south-western direction is probably an old irrigation ditch. It is barely visible when standing on the ground.

Photo: NASA Archives

Using this mixed method, Andrea has already made some interesting discoveries. Their interpretation will be part of his PhD thesis. For example, he found some prehistoric tells located like pearls on a string. This is remarkable as they are not situated along the Euphrates River but at right angles to its densely populated valley – did they line up along a communication route from East to West? *jnm*

"GENTES TRANS ALBIAM" IN TORONTO

International Conference co-organized by Graduate School members

Landscape transformations east of the Elbe in Medieval Europe are the principal theme of the 4th international workshop of the Interdisciplinary Association "Gentes trans Albiam – Europe East of the Elbe in the Middle Ages". The region, mainly characterized by its absence of Roman traditions, offers an interesting field of work for archaeologists, historians, palaeozoologists and many more who will meet at the conference.



Venue of the conference: The Research Tower at York University.

Photo: Rossignol

The list of participants includes some doctoral students from Kiel as well as young scholars from international universities such as Laval, Montreal, Tallinn, and Wrocław.

The event is jointly organized by Dr Sunhild Kleingärtner and Donat Wehner from the Graduate School and Dr Sébastien Rossignol from York University. It will take place at York University in Toronto, Canada on the 26th and 27th March.

"We expect the workshop to be a forum for constructive discussions and exchanging ideas among young interdisciplinary scientists from North America and Europe", Dr Kleingärtner states. *jnm*

More Information:

http://www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes/allgemein/conference_toronto.pdf

EXPLORER OF ANCIENT MARBLE QUARRIES

Dr Donato Attanasio, marble expert from the Istituto di Struttura della Materia in Rome, visited the Graduate School on 8th February. We took the opportunity to ask him a few questions.

1 What can marble tell us about past times?

Attanasio: Marble has much to say about the history of ancient societies because it is not only connected with their artistic life, but also with their economic history and social organisation.

2 What was your most fascinating research result or project?

I would say that the search for and discovery of unknown ancient marble quarries is certainly the most fascinating and exciting part of this work. Finding half-finished objects abandoned there, writings and sometimes reliefs carved into the walls of the quarries by the ancient workers in order to obtain the favour of the gods is a highly emotional experience.



Dr Attanasio lecturing at the Graduate School.

Photo: jnm

3 Which projects are you planning for the future?

My main work in the future will be that of continuing to search and explore new sources of white and coloured marbles that were exploited in antiquity, trying at the same time to understand the use of such marbles and the patterns of trade and export as well as to identify the artefacts that were made using these marbles.

4 What do you expect from your visit to Kiel?

Visiting Kiel, as well as other universities in Italy and abroad, I hope to find, as often happens, young, motivated people willing to continue the work described above. I hope to transmit to them some of the experience and knowledge that we accumulated so that they are not lost as has happened all too frequently in the past.

NEXT PHD STUDENTS GENERATION "ANTE PORTAS"

The graduate school is preparing for a second generation of PhD students. The announcement of stipends published in November 2009 has attracted an overwhelming response from young researchers all over the world tackling "human development in landscape" (HDL) issues.

Finally the responsible committee selected 25 proposals for research projects out of a total of 116 submissions to best address the required criteria (excellent potential, innovative ideas towards HDL).

Research suggestions by the successful candidates range from exploring trade and exchange in the Baltic Sea region since Mesolithic to investigating the palaeoecology of oases of the Arabian Peninsula, just to name a few of the truly innovative ideas.

"We are particularly delighted to have received an array of excellent applications addressing questions of "Society and Reflection", which will greatly invigorate research in Cluster 1", says Professor Josef Wiesehöfer.

It is expected that the majority of the candidates will arrive in Kiel in April and participate in the introductory workshop (19th to 20th April) jointly held by the principal investigators and first-generation PhD students, meanwhile having become "senior" young researchers who are then entering the final year of their GS scholarship. *mwe*

CLIMATE DEVELOPMENT IN WATER-SCOPES

Good neighbourship: Frank Förster spent a day out with ISOS

For someone being deeply into the works of Joseph Conrad, a day trip on a research ship (although not a sailing boat) is an adventure in itself. What's more, being a consistent landlubber has consequences especially when faced with stormy weather and heavy swell in the Baltic Sea. Overcome by obvious signs of sea-sickness, I decided to go below when reaching the open seas and have some sleep underneath in the mess after nibbling a few sea biscuits.



The Kieler Förde has enough room to 'drop the anchor' and research what is going on below the surface. Watching ferries crawling like bugs over that water table, and being amazed by a quadruga of tankships moored off the Eastern Coast which appear to anticipate at least a revolution, I would never have thought

that from only a few capsules of ocean water you could learn so much about climate change and the future of earth history. The 'Alkor' left the IFM Geomar quay at 9 o'clock, stopped four times (Schwentine mouth, Kiel Canal, Bay of Kiel, and Stoller Grund), and was back home at half past four. Two dozen diploma students learned and questioned what the oceanographic instruments 'CTD' (Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth), Secchi disk and some filters gave answers to. Microscopes showed a diversity of plankton and microorganisms which were identified and classified; rare objects were warmly welcomed. Thanks to the hospitality of our ISOS colleagues and friends, especially Dr. Avan Antia. *Text & Photo: Frank Förster*

SELECTED EVENTS (complete calendar: www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes)

March

Landscapes and Societies in ancient and medieval Europe east of The Elbe
Workshop organized by GSHDL and York University
26th to 27th March 2010 - Keele Campus of York University, Toronto, Canada

Biweekly Colloquium: Professor Daniel T. Potts (Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney)
Monday, 22nd March 2010, 17:00 - Neufeldstr. 10, Room 4

April

MARBLE – CHANGE – LANDSCAPE

Interdisciplinary Workshop on Marble Studies in Past Societies
15th to 17th April 2010 - Graduate School

Introductory Workshop

19th to 20th April 2010 - Kunsthalle, Düsternbrooker Weg 1

Cinarchea – International Archaeology Film Festival

22nd to 24th April 2010 - Kunsthalle, Düsternbrooker Weg 1

THE FIRST FOUR



Four new graduate students have started their PhD projects at the Graduate School in February: Elke Hänßler, Christian Heymann (both Environmental History), Robert Wulff (Computational Archaeology, from left), and Dr Andrej Mitusov (Soil Science, not in the picture). They are forerunners of the second regular group of young scholars who will begin their work in April. A warm welcome to our new members! *Text & Photo: jnm*

WHO'S NEW @ GSHDL

Antonia Davidovic is the new Junior Professor for Environmental Anthropology at the Graduate School. She was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1971 and studied Cultural Anthropology, Near Eastern Archaeology, and Pre- and Protohistory at Frankfurt University. Having finished her PhD studies in Cultural Anthropology, Davidovic worked as a postdoctoral research fellow in two successive research projects on the role of community studies in the history of 20th century Ethnology in Germany. Her main research interests include human-environment relationships, practices of landscape production, and production and transfer of knowledge.



Antonia Davidovic.

What was your motivation for becoming a member of the Graduate School?

Antonia Davidovic: I like the combination of European Ethnology/Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology (as addressed in the GSHDL), and I am very interested in the exploration of interdisciplinary knowledge transfer.

If you had unlimited access to money and manpower, which re-search issue would you investigate?

There are so many things to explore but first I would provide funding for research projects conducted by scholars from countries in Africa, Asia or Latin America where no funding systems exist.

Your opinion about Kiel?

Nice town, and interesting landscape – I never expected hills in the north of Germany.

What do you do on a free weekend?

I go for a stroll around the city and its surroundings.

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Svea Mahlstedt MA was invited to present her paper "Between marsh and mountains – The last hunter-gatherers in north-western Germany" at the LAC2010 Conference in Amsterdam on 26th to 28th January. Ricardo Fernandes MSc, Hermann Gorbahn MA, Dipl. Ing. Mykola Sadovnik, and Michael Teichmann MA were invited to present posters of their PhD projects there.

Uta Lungershausen MSc is going to participate in the Geoinformatik 2010 Conference in Kiel from 17th to 19th March. Together with Rolf Gabler-Mieck and Professor Rainer Duttman she will give a lecture on the 3D reconstruction of historic environmental data on 19th March.