EDITORIAL

Johannes Müller, Speaker Graduate School ‘Human Development in Landscapes’

Summer has come to the campus, and the Graduate School is bustling with activity. While staff and Principal Investigators work on the renewal proposal for the second phase of the School, many PhD students of the second generation are researching in the field, e.g. in the Near East, in Greece and in Denmark. In the meantime, the students of the first generation are busy finishing their dissertations. Many will do so shortly – and two have already achieved this goal: Alkaterini Glykou and Christoph Nübel. Congratulations!

In this newsletter issue you can read about two field trips of Graduate School teams to Greece and to Italy. The report about a conference in Delphi includes highlights of the scientific debate on sacral landscapes. Moreover, we introduce PostDoc programme coordinator Hanno Kinkel and invite all readers to a science slam competition during Kieler Woche, in which two Graduate School PhDs participate.

SUCCESSFUL FIELD CAMPAIGN IN GREECE

A team of seven scientists and technicians from Kiel University and the University of Patras (Greece) conducted a very successful field campaign on the Peloponnesus in April this year. The research focus of the group, which is headed by Graduate School Junior Professor Ingmar Unkel, is the reconstruction of the environmental history of the northern Peloponnesus. With regard to the background of the first results from sediment cores taken in the previous campaign in 2010, the group had defined additional sites for coring to extend their database and to increase the reliability of the previous results. One geographical focus is placed in the lagoonal area of the Kotychi-Strofylia-Wetlands on the north-western coast of the Peloponnesus. Here, more than 28 metres of sediment core material were drilled which will be analyzed in the PhD project of Elke Hänßler. Another 36 metres of fresh core material were gained from Lake Stymphalia, the project area of PhD candidate Christian Heymann. Together with the core taken last year, it should be possible to construct a transect through the part of the lake parallel to the shores of the ancient settlement of Stymphalos. Now, a lot of analyses are waiting for Elke and Christian in many different labs associated with the GS to reveal parts of Greek history from an environmental point of view. Ingmar Unkel

ROMAN VILLAS IN LAZIO AND CAMPANIA: DISCOVERING A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Thanks to the Graduate School’s travel fund, PhD students Sara Boysen and Nadine Krüggen were able to make a research trip to Lazio and Campania. From April 7 to May 14, 2011, they visited archeological sites of Roman villas and houses and were able to take a close look at the findings stored in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli and the Museo Nazionale di Roma.

In her dissertation project “Architecture of Roman Villas in Paintings and Mosaics” Nadine wants to evaluate on the one hand whether the images show a real or an ideal landscape and on the other the function of the villa images. Therefore, she searched for analogies between real villa sites and villa images regarding architecture and the surrounding landscapes. Concerning the function, the placement of the villa images in the houses was analyzed. Furthermore, the original images in the museums were studied in detail and some new images could be added. Sara is working on “Roman Villa Landscapes in Ancient Italy. Literary Perception, Development, Utilization”. Therefore, she focused her field study on the comparison between information from ancient literary texts (about villas, Roman ways of living in villas and the Italian landscape) and archeological remains of villa sites, including single excavated items from interior designs, garden layouts and the surrounding landscape today. On site, Sara particularly documented the size of the villas, their location within the landscape, their visibility, the connections between villa and environment and lines of sight within the villas and towards the outside. This will help to underpin the concept of “villa landscapes”.

SACRAL LANDSCAPES DISCUSSED

Researchers from Europe and America came together at the renowned Cultural Centre of Delphi from May 5 to 7 for the conference “Human development in sacral landscapes”. “After the conference, we received a lot of positive comments from our guests. We are very satisfied”, stated one of the organizers Vassiliki Pothou, a postdoc fellow at the Graduate School.

During the conference, Oliver Rackham explored how sacred landscapes in Ancient Greece differed from the rest of the countryside and whether it is possible to identify sacred areas on a landscape scale, for example ancient Delos or modern Mount Athos. Susan Cole discussed the epigraphical evidence for cult sites of Dionysos. Jeremy McInerny examined how sacred space, expressed in divine itineraries and connections between sanctuaries, thereby resembled heroic genealogies, offering legitimacy and identity to the environment inhabited by people. Efrosyni Boutsikas suggested ways in which we may develop robust and methodologically sound interpretations of the role of astronomy in Greek religious practice and their perceptions of the cosmos. Vassiliki Pothou/jnm

One of the sites Sara and Nadine visited: Hadrian’s Villa (picture shows the imperial triclinium).

The “sacral” group in Tholos (Temple of Athena Pronaia).

Photo: Vrachliotis
The reason for both PhD candidates to travel together was the complementary character of the topics of their theses and the similar regional research area. Sara and Nadine were able to support each other concerning ancient literary sources about the villas and the archaeological remains of the villas, thus implementing interdisciplinary exchange to further their projects.

During the field trip, Sara and Nadine visited villas and sites dating from the late Republican (ca. 2nd century BC) to the late-antique era (ca. 4th century AD), like the Villa dei Misteri in Pompeii and the Villa dei Quintili in the suburb of Rome. Besides villas of Roman emperors on Capri, in Sperlonga and Circeo, they were mostly impressed by the size as well as the architectural and functional diversity of Hadrian’s Villa in Tivoli.

Furthermore, they met archaeologists in Artena (excavation director Jan Gadейne, Temple University, Rome), in Castellamare di Stabia (Vincento Sabini) and in Sabaudia (Titti De Russi, Sergio Monti, Parco Nazionale del Circeo). They provided the young scholars from Kiel with their special knowledge about the relative sites and the latest results of their research. In Artena, Sara and Nadine had the chance to take soil samples from three different layers (2nd century BC to 6th century AD), which will now be analyzed by their Graduate School colleague Daniela Moser.

S. Boysen/N. Krütgen/jnm

POSTDOCS AND ALGAE

Dr Hanno Kinkel, born in Wiesbaden in 1968, is the new PostDoc-Programme Coordinator. He joined the Graduate School team last September and is responsible for the development of a PostDoc-Programme, which will be part of the next development phase of the GS. After studying Geology at the CAU in Kiel, he went to Bremen where he received his Dr. rer. nat. at the Geoscience Department working on Late Quaternary coccolithophores from the equatorial Atlantic. Afterwards he spent three years as the Royal Dutch Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) on the island of Texel as a PostDoc within a European Training through Research Network.

Hanno returned to Kiel in 2001 to work in the Paleontology and Historical Geology Department. From 2007 to 2010 he held the post of a “Study Coordinator” being responsible for a number of new Bachelor and Master programmes in Geoscience. His research deals with tiny little algae – so-called coccolithophores – which are present in huge numbers in the open ocean and its underlying sediments, providing an excellent fossil record that can be studied to reconstruct past climate, productivity and evolution. More recently, Hanno discovered these algae, which were assumed to be absent from the Baltic Sea, in the Kiel Bay. Besides organizing the PostDoc-program, he is looking forward to integrating research on palaeoclimate and -productivity into the topics of the graduate school. Hanno Kinkel

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STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Mission complete for first Graduate School students

Historian and Ethnologist Christoph Nübel MA is the first PhD candidate at the Graduate School to complete his degree. Christoph passed his disputation on May 11. This also makes him the first researcher from the Humanities who has graduated within Kiel’s Excellence Initiative institutions. His PhD project was entitled: “Warscapes – Experiences and Landscapes in the First World War”.

Just two days later, the Graduate School had its second degree holder. Archaeologist Aikaterini Glykou MA passed her disputation on May 13. “Neustadt, a Late Mesolithic-Erebtelle and Early Neolithic Funnel Beaker Submerged Site: Research on the Subsistence Strategy of the last Hunters, Foragers and Fishers of the Baltic Coast of Northern Germany” was the title of her PhD project. The Graduate School staff congratulates Christoph and Aikaterini on successfully finishing their PhD studies. jnm


Philipp Meurer MA participated in the workshop “Art & Nature in the Early Modern Period” at Aarhus University on May 12 and 13. He presented a poster on “Pieter Bruegel the Elder’s Large Alpine Landscape and the Problem of Historical Perspectives”. The workshop, which was moderated by the art historians Lisbet Tarp (Aarhus University) and Claire Farago (University of Colorado), had a special focus on interdisciplinary methodology and the relationship between science and art.

Daniel Zwicky MA held a paper on May 25 at the University of Bologna’s International Summer School with the annual theme “The Baltic and Mediterranean: A Cultural Bridge between Northern and Southern Europe” in Cattolica, Italy.

Anja Prust MA and Karina Iwe MA are going to participate in a Science Slam competition during Kieler Woche. The Science Slam is organized by Christian-Albrechts-Universität, it takes place at the University’s Rowing and Canoeing Center at Kiellinie. Anja will talk about “Die Archäologie des Biomülls” (in German) on June 20, 3:40 p.m. and on June 25, 3:40 p.m. Karina presents her research about “Reiternomadenvölker im eurasischen Steppengebiet” (in German) on June 20 at 4 p.m. and on June 25 at 3:30 p.m. Members and friends of the Graduate School are very welcome as spectators, particularly as the presentations will be judged by the audience.

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

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Neufeldstr. 10, Building 32, Room 4

Venue for Graduate School Lecture Series: Audimax, Christian-Albrechts-Platz 2, lecture hall B

June 2011

Monday, June 27, 5:00 p.m. – Biweekly Colloquium: Philippine Della Casa (University of Zürich) – From Archaeological Survey to Model of Behavioral Ecology: An Alpine Transect in the Gotthard Massif (Central Switzerland) in the Bronze and Iron ages

Wednesday, June 29, 6:15 p.m. – Graduate School Lecture Series (in German): Josef Wiesehöfer – Persische Reichsordnung und persische Weltbilder um 500 vor Christus

July

Monday, July 4, 6:30 p.m. – Archaeological Colloquium: Sebastian Ristow (Cologne) – Christianisierung Westeuropas - Johanna-Mestorf-Str. 4, Room 28

Wednesday, July 6, 6:15 p.m.- Graduate School Lecture Series (in German): Wiebke Kirleis, Johannes Müller – Frühe Ökonomie und Ritus: die Wende im 4. vorchristlichen Jahrtausend

Monday, July 11, 5 p.m. – Biweekly Colloquium: Anna-Margaretha Hortschek (Kiel University) – The emergence of knowledge in the early modern period: Conditions, forms, media

Wednesday, July 13, 6:15 p.m. – Graduate School Lecture Series (in German): Oliver Auge, Ulrich Müller – “Stadt – Land – Fürde”. Stadtgeschichte im Ostseeraum

July 14-16 – Cluster 2, Wiebke Kirleis and Walter Dörfler – “Experiencing riverine landscape”: Canoe-excurcion on the environmental archaeology of the Trave region