



EDITORIAL

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

Business as usual? The Graduate School, as always, is on its way to gathering scientific results on neolithisation, climate change and vegetation history, modelling of historical processes, excellent case studies. Visibility of the humanities within joint research projects, integration of natural scientists into the theoretical discussion of landscape topics? Open Access policy? For relaxing and corporate identity: sailing around the Baltic Sea? Business as usual!

But that's still not as easy as we initially thought: The pressure on projects has increased since the government is trying to reduce its spending and



Photo: private

investment policies. Additionally, the universities are trying to juggle with the effects of these policies to the best of their abilities. The Graduate School is spanning the umbrella of a lasting infrastructure at the CAU: the cooperative PhD-program, the research groups and the centres of innovative thinking. Still this is only possible by human

activities on the ground: Thus, many PhD-projects will intensify their data collection during the summer...

PEDOANTHROLOGISTS STRENGTHEN NETWORK

Charcoal is found everywhere in soil and soil-sediment contexts. Pedoanthracology, the discipline which studies soil wood charcoals to reconstruct past vegetation composition and fire events, was "invented" some 30 years ago. Now the first international workshop of pedoanthracology took place in Aix-en-Provence in France, at its "birth-place". The workshop was jointly organised by the Institute Méditerranéen d'Écologie et de Paléocéologie (IMEP) of Université Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III (Dr Brigitte Talon) and by the Graduate School "Human Development in Landscapes" (Professor Oliver Nelle and graduate student Vincent Robin).

Two days of presentations including nine contributions by the six participating members of the GS and intensive discussions increased the collaboration between the different working groups from five countries. Some outcomes of the meeting will be the production of a methodological handbook in a joint effort and will be published both in print and electronically via internet, as well as a special thematic section in an international scientific journal.

It was stressed by several participants that an interdisciplinary cooperation between anthracologists and soil scientists as well as geomorphologists is needed for a better understanding of the contexts in which soil charcoal is found, sampled and interpreted. The webpage <http://pedoanthracoworkshop.free.fr> gives further information and will continue to serve as an exchange platform. The event was an initial start for an increased international visibility of pedoanthracology. The next workshop is intended to take place in Kiel three years from now. *Text & Photo: nel*



The focal point of pedoanthracology: charcoal.

OPEN SEMINAR "NEOLITHIC TRANSITIONS" IN LUND

On 28th of May a workshop was held in Lund which is the outcome of a cooperation between the Graduate School "Human Development in

Landscapes", the Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology in Kiel and the Archaeological Institute at the University of Lund. Guests from Britain and Denmark helped shape a truly international discussion; it was therefore a real follow-up for the Meeting of the European Megalithic Studies Group in Kiel two weeks earlier. The overall topic was "Neolithic Transitions". Four Researchers from Lund and four from Kiel presented their research and new findings. The focus was on the transition from hunter-gatherers to farmers, taking place from 4000 to 3000 BC as well as the development of the farming societies. Emphasis was laid on the relationship of continuity, innovations and social conflicts. In autumn, a second joint Kiel-Lund-workshop is going to take place in Kiel. *Martin Furholt*

WHAT SEDIMENT TELLS ABOUT TELLS

The second Graduate School generation of PhD students started their projects in spring. By now, some of them have already experienced their first field trip, for example, Tim Schroedter. He went to Iclod (Romania) together with Dr Carsten Mischka and Dr Helmut Kroll from the Institute for Pre- and Protohistory of the CAU. The aim of the trip was to process sediment samples from an initial archaeological investigation of a Neolithic settlement which had been carried out in March 2010.

Back in Kiel, the floated sediment samples were analyzed. Investigations of macro-remains (by Dr Kroll) and charcoal (by Tim) were carried out. The results show a wide range of different species used by the Neolithic inhabitants and suggest a further investigation of the settlement in both archaeological and botanical ways.

Tim's PhD project aims at reconstructing the woodland vegetation in the vicinity of several tell-sites and the woodland management of different tell-inhabiting societies in Southeast Europe and Turkey. Furthermore, the intra-site analyses should reveal new knowledge about the use of wood in the single settlements. In comparison with off-site analyses, this will help to estimate the degree of human involvement in the selection of special woods for different purposes. *Tim Schroedter/jnm*



Dr Helmut Kroll and Tim Schroedter floting soil samples in Iclod.

Photo: C. Mischka

FINAL TEST PHASE FOR NEW DATABASE

In the year 1999 RADON, a database for radiocarbon dates of the central European neolithic, was developed during discussions between Dirk Ratzel-Fabian, Hans-Peter Wotzka, Johannes Müller and Christoph Rinne. Out of a first MS Excel sheet a Microsoft Access database was designed and the file was made available for downloading on the website jungsteinsite.de. The main idea of the first members of the working group was to foster scientific exchange and open access to this valuable information pool. RADON has been widely used since then and has been well received.

Following a long stagnation period in respect to the available data and the database version, computational archaeology students in Kiel undertook a renewed effort to enhance the operability in 2009. However, to date, the major shortcoming of RADON was the difficulty of entering new ¹⁴C-dates in order to share them with other scientists. This was caused by the structure of the database, because Access file requires a back-end work

to upgrade the dataset.

With the new version as a real online database, we are trying to overcome this deficit in respect to the original idea to foster our work. At the moment, the system is only available within the Graduate School network as a final test phase but will soon be published and made available to for the whole community. *Christoph Rinne/ Martin Hinz*

MENTORING – WHO & WHY

The Graduate School mentoring system has some similarities with fire-fighters: It is good to know they are somewhere nearby, but you hope you will never have to call them in a case of emergency. Regarding the GS, this emergency could e.g. mean differences between a PhD student and his supervisors or between the two supervisors about the PhD project. Michael Teichmann has not faced such problems yet. Nevertheless, he contacts his mentor Dr Marie José Nadeau regularly: "She often gives me valuable advice and support from a different perspective than my supervisors do." In the eyes of Professor Oliver Nelle, speaker for Platform 1 and who is also responsible for the mentoring system, Dr Nadeau is a role model: "She is based in Kiel and a member of the School", he explains. "The physical proximity and the integration into the network of the GS is important for a fast reaction in case of problems."

More information: www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes/school/platforms1.shtml
jnm

PRESENTATION SKILLS TRAINING

Platform 1 has arranged a special training possibility for graduates who are about to give a presentation at an important conference or workshop. GS PhD students who face this challenge in the next month can now apply for personal coaching to improve their skills.

In several sessions the coach and the graduate student will analyse structure, time management, and strategy of speaker and presentation.

If you are interested, please send your application (mentioning the conference you are going to participate in) to Professor Oliver Nelle: onelle@ecology.uni-kiel.de. *jnm*

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

September

Modelling Workshop

21st to 24th September, 9:00-16:00 - Neufeldtstr. 10, Building 32, Room 7

October

Introductory Workshop Part II

29th to 30th October - Kulturzentrum Salzau

Academic Staff Retreat

30th to 31st October - Kulturzentrum Salzau

Landscape discussion

The Platform 1 landscape concepts discussion is now online! You will find the contributions from the different disciplinary views collected on the LandscapeLibrary of Platform 3. Please join in the discussion and check the GS calendar for future "analogue" meetings of the group. As a first "product" of the discussion, we are working on a paper summarising disciplinary landscape concepts, and are attempting to develop a common concept for working within the GS.

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Frank Förster MA MLIS is going to participate in the "World Library and Information Congress: 76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly" in Gothenburg (Sweden) from August 10th to 15th. On August 12th he will present a paper related to the data model providing bibliographic and universal access for research data which is the background for the Humanities Database.

Dr Rebecca Renneberg left the GS at the end of June. She said goodbye to all GS members with a presentation reflecting aDNA analysis spanning from Dinosaurs to the Romanovs. Her successor in the aDNA lab is **Dr Esther Lee**.

Professor Dr Wiebke Kirleis organized a symposium on "Human landscapes and climate change during the Holocene" together with Dr Elena Marinova (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) within the 8th European Palaeobotany – Palynology Conference (EPPC) in Budapest, Hungary, from 6th to 10th July. **Dipl.-Biol. Hannes Knapp** and **Dipl.-Biol. Magdalena Wieckowska** contributed to the EPPC with poster presentations of their PhD projects.



Philipp Meurer MA, Ben Krause-Kyora MA and David Bergemann MA represented the Graduate School in the preliminary round of the Alumni Cup 2010 on July 4th in Schilksee. They performed very well and took 3rd place, which means they are qualified for the finals on September 4th. The result is remarkable because Philipp, Ben and David had never sailed together before and the Mantra 28 yacht was completely new to them. The crew would like to thank the GS board members for their financial support. Congratulations and best wishes for the finals!

Q&A - Dr Vassiliki Pothou

Since October 2009, Dr Vassiliki Pothou has been working at the Institute of Classical Philology at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel. As a post-doctoral researcher, she is a member of the Graduate School. Vassiliki was born in Crete and grew up in Athens. After her studies in Athens, she completed her Master and PhD in Paris in 1994 and 1998 on Thucydides. After that, she worked as Assistant of the Diccionario Griego Espanol in Madrid. From 2006 to 2008 she was a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and worked at the University of Regensburg at the Institute of Classics. Vassiliki has published two books and various articles on Thucydides and related issues.

What motivated you to become a member of the Graduate School?

Vassiliki Pothou: The possibility to participate in a very promising interdisciplinary project, which will allow me to do innovative research in my own field of classical philology.

If you had unlimited access to money and manpower, which research issue would you investigate?

I would like to write a new historical commentary on Thucydides in modern Greek relating to the main issues and perspectives of our environmental project.

Your opinion about Kiel?

The city has a British flair, and I have the impression that I am not in Germany. The seaside and the harbour give me the illusion that I am in Piraeus.

What do you do on a free weekend?

I am afraid that I actually don't have any free weekends.

Please share your favourite proverb with us!

"Do not ever consider someone has lived a blessed life until he meets his end" (Herodotus) and "He who laughs last, laughs longest".



Vassiliki Pothou