EDITORIAL

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

The Graduate School Salzau retreat opened perspectives for the graduates as well as for the lecturers. Whereas the main discussion focused on plans and possibilities of the individual PhD projects, general discussions in the secluded atmosphere of the “Herrenhaus” amidst serene landscape enhanced the task of planning the GS future. While Salzau strengthened exchange and team spirit inside the GS, our international advisory board recently presented us with a clear perspective from the “outside” world: the evaluation of Graduate School standards and conditions of further developments were formulated to elaborate new working perspectives.

Moreover, the workshop about space and networks in the Baltic region from Roman times to late medieval towns combined historical and archaeological perspectives. The workshop was therefore able to offer a profound insight into new sources and theories. The workshop documented, on the one hand, what was discussed in Salzau and on the other, the discussion with the advisory team in Kiel; namely, the role workshops play in research for both the graduates and the PIs. In practical terms this could also be observed in location: an interdisciplinary introduction into different techniques of data gaining was given in the Cluster 2 field workshop at Oldenburg, a Neolithic site. The results (e.g. the discovery of a ploughed Neolithic area) and the crystal clear weather with icy cold November winds will be remembered – as well as the commitment of the PhD students, who play the main role at workshops.

We wish all the members, partners and friends of the Graduate School a wonderful Christmas time and a Happy New Year.

VISITORS WITH GOOD ADVICE

The Advisory Board of the Graduate School convened in Kiel on 25th and 26th November. Professor Dr Reinhold Bichler (Innsbruck University), Dr Simon Haberle (Australian National University), Professor Dr Andreas Lang (University of Liverpool), Professor Dr Stephen Shennan (University College London), and Professor Dr Helle Vandkilde (Aarhus University) were informed about the proceedings within the school. After a welcoming session with the Executive Committee, the focus turned to the graduates’ work. The first generation of PhD candidates presented their projects on posters, and the Board members were guided through the offices and laboratories where the graduate students work. “The original schedule fell totally behind as a result of the interest our advisors showed”, Andrea Ricci stated. Together with Melanie Röpke, Andrea had guided the international guests for several hours around the whole campus.

On the second day of their visit, the feet of the Advisory Board members were less overstrained. They could remain seated while Antonia Davidovic, Lutz Käppel, Wiebke Kirleis and Mara Weinelt presented research projects from Graduate School members. The visit was concluded by a final discussion. “The Board members gave us a lot of good advice. We highly appreciate their help”, GS scientific coordinator Oliver Nelle summed up.

Text & Photo: jnm

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP 2011

National and international experts from various disciplines have an appointment in Kiel: The second Open Workshop of the Graduate School, “Socio-environmental dynamics over the last 12,000 years: the creation of landscapes II”, takes place from March 14th to 18th, 2011. It provides a frame for ten scientific sessions, ranging from tells and social and environmental space to novel technologies in biomolecular archaeology. Guests are welcome to all sessions. The organizers ask for registration until mid-February. jnm

More information is provided here: www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes/allgemein/workshop.shtml

SECOND GENERATION, FIRST RESULTS

Part 2 of the Graduate School introductory Workshop for the second generation of the doctoral students was held in the Landeskulturzentrum Salzau from October 29th to 30th. Salzau lies thirty kilometres east of Kiel in the midst of a serene landscape. The weather, the park and the opportunity to sit in the cozy chimney room were a welcome incentive to foster networking discussions. Against the background of perfect autumn conditions the gathering was able to reflect on about thirty papers which were presented by the new students. They introduced their projects and presented first results gathered during their first six months at the GS. Valuable comments from all participants will serve as a motivation for further studies and teaching activities. Principal GS investigators partook in a long afternoon of crafting plans for the future of the GS. Frank Förster

ANNUALLY ASSEMBLED

The Graduate School held its annual plenary meeting on 22nd November. After an initial discussion on family friendliness, the majority of the GS members voted for scheduling all regular teaching activities (except the bi-weekly colloquia) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the future. This timeframe is suggested by the university as family-friendly because parents can then have better access to external childcare facilities during regular working hours.

When opening the reports of clusters and platforms, Johannes Müller commented on the current situation with two generations of PhD students in parallel. “This is a very fruitful setting as it permits the unobstructed handover of knowledge from the older to the younger generation”, Müller stated. In their reports about cluster activities, Hans-Rudolf Bork and Manuela Dittmar underlined the international and interdisciplinary experience the PhD students gained by fieldwork and projects ranging from Joldelund to Anatolia, from Schleswig to China.

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CONCEPTS CONNECTED

It was an international, interdisciplinary and even intercultural event. The workshop "Raumbildung durch Netzwerke? Der Ostseeraum zwischen Kaiserzeit und Spätmittealter aus archäologischer und geschichtswissenschaftlicher Perspektive" ("Creation of space through networks") brought scientists from Denmark, Sweden, England and Germany together in Kiel on 28th and 29th October. Historians, especially focusing on economic and ecclesiastical history, and archaeologists discussed possible interrelations among the concepts of space and networks. "Our aim was to connect these two approaches", says Sunhild Kleingärtner from the Institute for Pre- and Protohistory at Kiel University. "And it worked fine; we had fruitful discussions across scientific borders." Kleingärtner and Gabriel Zeilinger from the Protohistory at Kiel University. "And it worked fine; we had fruitful discussions across scientific borders." Kleingärtner and Gabriel Zeilinger from the Protohistory at Kiel University.

Next on the agenda was an outline of the ongoing discussion for the second phase application which the GS has to submit to the German Research Foundation before September 2011. The focus was on strengths and weaknesses as well as on suggestions for new research themes. Concluding the annual assembly, Hanno Kinkel introduced first thoughts about the PostDoc programme he is creating for the GS. jnm

INVESTIGATIVE CLUSTER 2 WORKSHOP

Cluster 2 of the Graduate School invited the PhDs to a field workshop near Oldenburg in Holstein from 2nd to 5th November. The interdisciplinary cooperation of PhDs and Principal Investigators, e.g. from the fields of Biology, Geography, Geology and Archaeology, permitted investigating parts of a Neolithic island settlement in the western Oldenburger rife from various perspectives. The participants acquired practical knowledge from other scientific disciplines, including archaeological excavating as well as collecting and analyzing botanical macro-remains. An initial analysis was carried out on site, the joint documentation of soil profiles offered valuable new experiences. The workshop concluded with a core drilling in the wet sediments of the former settlement and served the purpose of gaining a pollen profile. The data will be incorporated into both a model of the 5,000-year-old landscape development and into the reconstruction of changes that were caused by human influence in this natural space.

Jan-Piet Brozio

COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

Some scholars dream of publishing articles in journals such as Science or Nature. But convincing regional media to report on research projects is also of immense value. It helps to achieve a broader understanding for the procedures within the scientific community, thus consolidating its societal fundament. The chances of achieving such media coverage can be raised significantly by observing certain rules and using special procedures. GS students have the opportunity to obtain firsthand information about this subject from a true insider: Platform 1 has invited Tanjev Schultz, a journalist from Germany's major nationwide newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung to Kiel for this purpose on January 14th. Schultz will share his knowledge and give practical advice on regional media coverage during a workshop at the Graduate School. Deadline for applications is December 17th; please contact Jirka Niklas Menke (jmenke@uw.uni-kiel.de).

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

On November 6th, Daniel Zwick MA presented a paper on itineraries in the age of the northern crusades from a maritime archaeological perspective at the annual meeting of the Arbeitskreis der Kommission für Untervasseraulichäologie (Working group of the committee for underwater archaeology) hosted by the German Maritime Museum, Bremerhaven.

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

December 2010

GS Christmas Party
Friday, 17th December 2010, 15:00 – Neufeldstr. 10, Building 32, Room 4

January 2011

Biweekly Colloquium: Professor Dr Volker Heyd (Bristol University, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology) – The 4th and 3rd Millennium in Europe: Mobility and Isotope
Thursday, 20th January, 2010 – Kunsthalle/Antikensammlung, Düsternbrooker Weg 1

Biweekly Colloquium: PD Dr Annegret Plontke-Luening (Friedrich Schiller University, Jena) – Where is Tigranocerta?
Monday, 24th January, 17:00 – Neufeldstr. 10, Building 32, Room 4

February 2011

Biweekly Colloquium: Professor Dr J.H. Tom Bloemers (Amsterdam Archaeological Centre)
Monday, 7th February, 17:00 – Neufeldstr. 10, Building 32, Room 4