DAI TRAVEL GRANT FOR GSHDL ALUMNA

Graduate School alumna Julia Menne has been awarded a travel grant (Reisestipendium) by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI). Since 1859, the DAI travel grant is awarded to young researchers with an exceptional PhD thesis. Julia Menne successfully defended her thesis “Keramik aus Megalithgräbern in Nordwestdeutschland. Interaktionen und Netzwerke der Trichterbecherwesentrum“ in Kiel in January 2017 and has now received this prestigious fellowship for her work. The grant funds an extended stay in the countries of the ancient cultural sphere in order for grant holders to acquire in-depth knowledge of these countries and their archaeological sites and monuments. Due to the critical political situation in large parts of northern Africa and the Levant, Julia Menne plans to focus on the European coast of the Mediterranean Sea, namely archaeological sites in Greece, Turkey and Italy. Furthermore, to see the bigger picture, she will include pre- and protohistoric find spots in her itinerary such as megaliths in Brittany or the Palaeolithic Vézère Valley Caves in southwestern France. Julia Menne intends to start her journey in October. Among the previous holders of the DAI travel grant are GSHDL members Johannes Müller (1991), Annette Haug (2004), Martin Tombrägel (2005), Martin Furholt (2007), Stefan Feuser (2009), and Philipp Kobus (2011). The privately funded Wülfing fellowship has recently been awarded by the DAI to GSHDL alumni Torben Keßler (2014) and Natalia Toma-Kansteiner (2016).

INTERVIEW: BEN KRAUSE-KYORA

After two years at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for the Science of Human History in Jena, Junior Professor Ben Krause-Kyora returns to Kiel this summer. In the interview, the ancient DNA expert shares his experience.

Question: Welcome back! Did you have a good time in Jena?

Ben Krause-Kyora: Yes, thank you. I had a great time in Jena with many new experiences.

Which projects did you work on at the MPI?

I worked on a couple of projects, mainly about pathogen detection in pre-historic and historic individuals. We collected and analysed more than one hundred samples with bone modifications that could indicate Tuberculosis and other diseases.

What differences did you notice between working at a university and at a Max Planck Institute?

The main difference is the working environment. Structure and funding at the MPI are orientated towards the research
scheme of the director and the topic of the institute. The two main subjects of the Archaeo genetics department are pathogen detection and population genetics.

Did you gain new insights or perspectives on working with aDNA?

Yes, especially in the field of population genetics. It is great and I really enjoyed working closely with top researchers in the aDNA field.

Comparing Kiel and Jena as research locations, what advantages and disadvantages did you observe on either side?

The research environment in Jena is really outstanding. In addition to working with many of the best researchers in the field of aDNA the brand new, well-equipped lab is very beneficial. In Kiel we have a truly interdisciplinary environment with the Graduate School and the Cluster Inflammation at Interfaces. The unique combination of archaeology and medicine is fascinating for me. To build up a group and a lab is a huge challenge but also gives me the opportunity to actively be involved in the research in the field of evolutionary medicine at Kiel University.

What are your next plans and aims in Kiel?

Setting up the new lab and starting a project about the emergence of civilisation diseases.

Thank you for the interview!

GSHDL ALUMNI (XIV): ANDREA RICCI

Many PhD students of the Graduate School have been awarded their doctorates by now and successfully fill positions in diverse academic fields across Europe and beyond. We keep in touch with them and trace their next steps after they leave the Graduate School with a fresh PhD in their hands. What have they gone after their PhDs, and what are they doing there?

Andrea Ricci earned his PhD in 2013 for his thesis “An archaeological landscape study of the Birecik-Carchemish region (Middle Euphrates River Valley) during the 5th, 4th, and 3rd Millennium BC”. During his doctoral training at the Graduate School, Andrea started a collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute (DAI – Eurasia Department, Berlin) within the French-German “Kura in Motion” project in 2010. In this capacity, he went on to direct intensive geoarchaeological research in Azerbaijan and Georgia, documenting sites and off-site features for the entire course of the Holocene. Since 2014, Andrea has also been involved in the ERC “Persia and its Environment – (Past) Mobility and Migration: Matters of Transfer and Translation” co-organized by L. Yang, J. Wiesehöfer, H.-R. Bork and M. Scheffer.

Postdoctoral fellow Hermann Gorbahn was invited to participate in the conference “Transitions? Continuity and Discontinuity of Cultural Developments from the Mesolithic/Epipaleolithic to the Neolithic Period” of the DAI (German Archaeological Institute) Research Cluster 1 “From Sedentism to Complex Society: Settlement, Economy, Environment, Cult”. The meeting was organized by the DAI branch office in Madrid and was held at the Museu Nacional de Arqueologia in Lisbon from May 11–13. They presented the following posters: “Environmental change during the LBA-EIA-transition in S-Greece: Climate forcing and human contribution” (Ingmar Unkel), “Holocene sediment fluxes by running water in Central Europe” (Stefan Dreibrodt), “Evidence for environmental change at around the Hekla 4 eruption from laminated lake sediments in Northern Germany” (Ingo Feese), “Review of ‘The Beyşehir Occupation Phase‘: Possible marker assemblage pollen zone for the biostratigraphic division of the Late Holocene in the Eastern Mediterranean or not?” (Asli Öflaz), “Environment, Climate and Human impact in the Central Alps since the last deglaciation: Small-scale mires as sedimentological and geochemical archives” (Clemens von Scheffer).

Post-doctoral fellow Christian Horn has left Kiel by the end of August to start as a lecturer at Gothenburg University.

SELECTED EVENTS

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

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Leibnizstraße 1, Room 204

SEPTEMBER


OCTOBER

Monday, October 16, 4:15 p.m. – Biweekly Colloquium – semester topic: (Past) Mobility and Migration: Matters of Transfer and Translation – Speaker and title to be announced soon