EDITORIAL

Johannes Müller, Graduate School Speaker

Every two years we invite the human-environmental research community to Kiel for our international open workshop “Socio-Environmental Dynamics over the Last 12,000 Years: The Creation of Landscapes”. This year we host the fifth workshop, and it is not only getting bigger, but also even more interesting every time: From March 20–24, we expect more than 300 participants in 18 sessions. I look forward to meeting many of you there and to hear about your latest advances in research!

A young colleague who joins us at the workshop for the first time is Henny Piezonka, new Junior Professor for Anthropological Archaeology in Kiel since October 2016. In this newsletter issue, we introduce her with an interview.

In the upcoming summer term, our Biweekly Colloquia lecture series with international guest speakers will promote a new format: Firstly, the talks are now organized as a joint event together with the new CRC 1266. Secondly, they are going to be framed by a common semester topic, which is “Coping with crises in the Past” this summer.

Finally, the latest episode of our alumni series in this newsletter follows Christoph Steffen on his path after completing his PhD. It led him to a position at a State Office for Historic Conservation – an interesting field of employment for some of our young researchers.

Enjoy the read!

JUNIOR PROFESSOR WITH A UNIQUE FOCUS

INTERVIEW WITH HENNY PIEZONKA

In October 2016, Henny Piezonka has been appointed Junior Professor of Anthropological Archaeology at the Johanna Mestorf Academy. Her research focuses on North-Eastern Europe, Siberia and Inner Asia. Henny Piezonka studied Pre- and Protohistory, Classical Archaeology and Art History in Berlin and Glasgow. For her PhD thesis titled “Die nordosteuropäische Waldzone im Neolithikum. Studien zu den Gruppen mit früher Keramik nördlich und östlich der Ostsee”, she was awarded the Liebehenz prize by Göttingen University in 2012. Before coming to Kiel, Henny worked as a research fellow at the universities of Bonn and Greifswald and at the DAI in Berlin.

You have been in Kiel for several months now. What are your impressions so far?

I already knew that the scientific environment for archaeology in Kiel ranks among the very top universities in Germany – it has been awarded several of the grandest research schemes in German archaeology over the past 15 years. During the first few months of my work here, this has been more than verified. I am especially impressed by the intense, focused and inspiring communication by which a large number of specialists from various scientific fields unite in both conducting existing investigations and preparing new research. Other, non-academic first impressions include the nice, somewhat austere maritime flair of the city and the awesome sight of the huge ferries in the city centre.

The junior professorship you are holding, focusing on Anthropological Archaeology, has introduced a novel orientation. How do you want to integrate anthropological aspects into archaeology?

Ethnoarchaeology is a field at the interface of cultural anthropology and archaeology that is specifically directed at addressing archaeological questions. It enables archaeologists to learn about other ways of living, about interacting with one’s surroundings, about how to perceive the world and the position of people within it, and about the material footprint that is left behind by various cultural settings and the connected human actions. By employing ethnological analogies and by assessing indigenous knowledge and practice, we can come to a better understanding of the archaeological record with its features and artefacts. My position in Kiel offers the valuable opportunity to develop such an approach here in Germany, and I very much look forward to passing on my own interest and excitement to the students, post graduates and colleagues. One focus over the next years will be on mobile hunter-fisher and herder communities in Siberia and Inner Asia.

What is so fascinating about a few wooden stakes on a muddy Russian riverbank, as in the Veksa project that you are working on?

It is fascinating that there ARE wooden stakes in the muddy riverbank! At Veksa, they are about 5000 years old, and it is a very rare occurrence that organic remains are preserved so well over such a long period of time. A better known example for such a phenomenon is represented by the famous prehistoric pile-dwellings around the Alps that were inscribed into the World Heritage list in 2011. It is possible that the Stone Age post structures at Veksa and other such examples in North-Eastern Europe are actually connected to the circum-Alpine phenomenon – a question we are currently investigating.

Which methods do you regard as most powerful for your investigations?

The most important “method” of the research we are conducting in Eurasia is, in my opinion, the close cooperation with the local Russian and Inner Asian colleagues, since they know the regions with the associated particularities and their histories, they understand the landscapes and their people, they open up our scope to these areas and the archaeological questions, and thereby enable us to participate in the transnational endeavour to better understand cultural developments on a Eurasian scale. The ethnoarchaeological work will be based on collaborations with ethnologists and cultural anthropologists, and...
with the special focus of Kiel on environmental archaeology, an ideal setting is offered for a multidisciplinary approach including scientific fields such as archaeobotany, archaeozoology and palaeoecology.

**Last question: From Berlin to Kiel – an easy step?**

It is an exciting step. For more than twenty years, I was rooted in Berlin, a city with a metropolitan flair that is also a centre of world-class specialists and institutions for the study of Eurasian culture, history and prehistory. I have now moved with my family to a coastal city that is a gateway to the Baltic, Scandinavia and beyond. Over the last weeks and months I have come to realize that I really like this change to a new environment, and I very much look forward to exploring Kiel’s surroundings. In academia, my aim is to use the opportunities that the unique scientific environment in Kiel offers to widen our scope towards the East, Eurasia and the circumpolar belt – realms that are more closely connected to us, our history and cultures than might be generally assumed.

Thank you for the interview!

**GSHDL ALUMNI (XIII): CHRISTOPH STEFFEN**

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

After three years at the

Graduate School, Christoph Steffen was awarded a PhD in 2011 for his thesis “Social Evolution in the Early Iron Age - Late Hallstatt and Early Latène Social Structures in Baden-Württemberg”. He then left Kiel to become a scientific fellow at the State Office for Historic Conservation Baden-Württemberg. Christoph’s responsibilities there include aerial archaeology, 3D photogrammetry and archaeological prospection using geomagnetic and metal probe devices. The work area of the State Office includes well-known sites, such as the Hohenstein-Stadel and Geisenklösterle caves and the Lake Constance pile dwellings. “There are many factors that add to the attractivity of this position”, Christoph says: “I am charged with a wide and varied array of tasks in a field in which the development of technical – especially digital approaches – is promoted.” His main motivation is to contribute to the documentation of important archeological finds in the air, on the ground and in the lab. “Collaborating with many colleagues at the State Office and getting insight into their research work is a positive side effect of my job”. Looking back at his time at the Graduate School, Christoph emphasizes how important it was for him to have freedom in designing and conducting his project, thus gaining manifold skills and knowledge.

Where drones cannot fly, the archaeologist himself has to ascend: 3D documentation of the Geisenklösterle near Blaubeuren. (Photos: private)

**STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS**


Doctoral student Michael Teichmann passed his disputation on “Mensch und Landschaft im südwestlichen Latium in der römischen Antike” on December 20, 2016.

Doctoral student Hermann Gorbahn passed his disputation on “Pernil Alto - An agricultural village of the Middle Archaic Period in Southern Peru” on December 6, 2016.

Doctoral student Daniel Zwick passed his disputation on “Maritime Logistics in the Age of the Northern Crusades” on November 21, 2016.

Doctoral student Marion Bonazzi passed her disputation on “Genomic study of Mycobacterium leprae in medieval northern Europe” on November 4, 2016.

Doctoral student Daniela Moser passed her disputation on “Wood in the Roman Age: cultural landscapes, forest exploitation and timber circulation in Southern Italy” on October 24, 2016.

Doctoral student Gustav Wollenz is organizing a seminar at Linnaeus University, Kalmar (Sweden) together with Bodil Petersson and Carolina Jonsson Malm. The seminar is titled “Memories of Violence and Oppression: Developing new uses of difficult heritage sites and landscapes”. It will take place from May 16–17, 2017.


GS alumnus Manuel Fernández-Götz, now lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, has been awarded the £100,000 Philip Leverhulme Prize. Awarded annually by the Leverhulme Trust, this prize recognises the achievement of outstanding researchers – usually under the age of 38 – who have made an exceptional contribution to their area of study and are expected to continue with such research (in Manuel’s case with investigations on the Iron Age and the Roman Conquest).

**SELECTED EVENTS**

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

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Leibnizstraße 1, Room 204

**MARCH**

March 20-24 – **International Open Workshop** “Socio-environmental Dynamics over the last 12,000 years: The Creation of Landscapes V” – Leibnizstr. 1

Monday, March 20, 1:30 p.m. – Handover of the **Johanna Mestorf Award 2017** at the opening session of the International Workshop “Socio-environmental Dynamics over the last 12,000 years: The Creation of Landscapes V” – Leibnizstr. 1, Klaus Murmann lecture hall

**APRIL**

Monday, April 24, 4:15 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium - semester topic:** Coping with crises in the past - Arne Windler, Spondylus: Economy, Interaction and crises

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