

## EDITORIAL

### Johannes Müller, Speaker Graduate School

"Delete the elite" was one demand of student protests in 2009 - elite in this case defined as people with access to educational and scientific resources not because of their excellent record but because of their social background. In contrast, the success story of our Graduate School founds on providing scholarships and resources for now almost 50 PhD students. This opens elaborated research possibilities for distinguished young scholars, regardless of their social background.

In 2009 the internationally active community of the Graduate School, in particular its graduates, the new Junior Research Groups, and the interdisci-



Photo: private

plinary networks have visibly strengthened the research at our university on a European level. The educational programme enhanced the interdisciplinary approaches of young as well as of senior scholars. Colloquia and discussion groups have furthered the internal scientific communication and integrated international partners into the school; joint

fieldwork and workshops have opened new views and broadened our understanding of many topics related to 'Human Development in Landscapes'. The international workshop 'Socio-environmental changes during the last 12,000 years' held in April 2009 has accomplished session organization in a new way - the integration of many different subjects into several discussion groups was seen as a model for future European attempts by our foreign colleagues.

Beside these activities, infrastructural progress is obvious. The palaeoecological and aDNA labs, as well as the databank-concepts for research in humanities have been extended. The combination of Environmental History, Anthropology and Archaeology provides a new research environment. Thus, not only new networks have attracted further research projects, but also further scholars were attracted to join the Graduate School. In summary, our Graduate School is a step to strengthen democratic conditions at universities: excellent conditions for successful and excellent international research.

## NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the new Executive Committee of the GSHDL was elected by the School Council. The Executive Committee is responsible for the overall management of the GSHDL. Its members make proposals on all strategic issues for the Council to decide.

The members of the Committee are (from left, above):



Prof. Dr. Johannes Müller (Coordinator), Prof. Dr. Wiebke Kirleis (Speaker Junior Professors and Deputy Speaker Cluster 2), Prof. Dr. Rainer Duttmann (Modeling), Prof. Dr. Pieter Grootes (Speaker Platform 2 and Co-Coordinator), Prof. Dr. Josef Wiesehöfer (Speaker Platform 3), Prof. Dr. Hans Rudolf Bork (Speaker Cluster 2); Prof. Dr. Manuela Dittmar (Speaker Cluster 3), Christoph Nübel (Speaker Doctoral Students), Prof. Dr. Almut Nebel (DNA), Prof. Dr. Ingmar Unkel (Speaker Junior Professors), Andrea Eickmei-

er (Presidium's Deputy), and Prof. Dr. Lutz Käppel (Speaker Cluster 1 and Co-Coordinator);

below: Dr. Marie-Josée Nadeau (Education), Dr. Mara Weinelt (Scientific Coordinator and Deputy Speaker Cluster 2), Annegret Kranz (Speaker Doctoral Students), and Prof. Dr. Antonia Davidovic (Deputy Speaker Cluster 1). Not in the picture: Prof. Dr. Claus von Carnap Bornheim (Schloss Gottorf), Frank Förster (Deputy Speaker Platform 3), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Müller (Deputy Speaker Platform 1), Prof. Dr. Oliver Nelle (Speaker Platform 1), Prof. Dr. Ralph Schneider (Deputy Speaker Platform 2), Prof. Dr. Nicole von Wurmb-Schwark (Deputy Speaker Cluster 3). *Text and Photo: jnm*

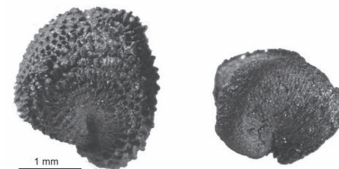
## CHARRED GRAIN PROVIDES PRECIOUS INFORMATION

### Wiebke Kirleis investigated the history of Einbeck

The Lower-Saxony city of Einbeck, famous for its brewery tradition, has played an important role in the Hanseatic League in late medieval times. In 1540, an enormous fire destroyed the whole city. All that was left after the inferno was a thick burnt layer that today serves as an archive for archaeology. Huge amounts of charred plant remains in an excellent state of preservation have been detected among the ashes. Analyses of these plant remains allow insight into late medieval food and agriculture. Three grain stocks originating from a craftsmen's quarter in Einbeck show that rye and oat were important cereals in daily

consumer needs. Weeds with specific habitat requirements usually accompany cereal stocks. Based on their ecological characteristics and functional attributes, it is possible to detect past growth conditions, harvesting techniques, and the soil conditions of former arable land. For mid 16th century Einbeck the adoption of the scythe as harvesting tool for cereals, in general following the sickle from the 15th century onwards, is inferred from evidence of weeds of low growth height.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Prof. Dr. Wiebke Kirleis was invited to Einbeck to participate in the presentation of the book 'Einbeck – Petersilienwasser. Befunde und Bebauungsstrukturen des 13. bis 20. Jahrhunderts' ('Einbeck – Petersilienwasser. Features and building formations from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century'). It was edited by the municipal archaeologist Dr. Stefan Teuber. Kirleis contributed to the volume with an article on 'Three cereal stocks from the excavation area Petersilienwasser in Einbeck, rural district Northeim, in early modern times'. *Wiebke Kirleis/jnm*



Tiny plant remains such as these charred seeds of toxic corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*) allowed the archaeobotanists to gain deep insight into Einbeck's history. *Photo: Kirleis*

## A NEW FACE IN THE OFFICE

### Clerk Franziska Schulz has joined the staff

The tasks of the GSHDL office are numerous. They range from regulating the fund flow over internal and external communication to providing day-by-day management assistance.

Since November 09<sup>th</sup>, office clerk Franziska Schulz supports the staff. She was born in Beeskow near Berlin in 1986. After finishing school, Schulz started professional training as an office clerk which she successfully completed in June 2009. During this time she gained much general and professional expertise, says Franziska. She moved to Kiel in summer. Her responsibilities at the Graduate School include in particular invoice processing, travel expenses, support for the preparation of meetings of the graduate school, and general administrative tasks.



Photo: jnm

## FRUITFUL COOPERATION

### Doctoral student Vincent Robin mentored a RISE scholar

Internationality is not just a word at the GSHDL. Numerous doctoral students and guest lecturers from abroad are living proof of this. But the multinational cooperation goes even further. For example, two of our doctoral students mentored undergraduate students from the USA who had applied for an internship within DAAD's RISE programme. RISE stands for Research Internships in Science and Engineering; the programme offers internships of 1.5 to 3 months for undergraduate students from the USA, Canada and Great Britain.



RISE scholar Kathleen Ryan at work. Photo: V. Robin/GSHDL

One of the GSHDL mentors, Vincent Robin, is from abroad as well – he was born in France. Kathleen Ryan from the United States accompanied him from May to July. She is doing a bachelor in natural resource studies in Massachusetts. The two went on a field trip to the Stodthagener Forest north of Kiel, where they took samples of lake sediment and peat cores from two mires. Kathleen assisted Vincent by analyzing the macro-charcoal amount of those samples.

Kathleen's stay in Kiel was fruitful for both: She gained insight into field and lab work as well as data analysis, while Vincent profited from her support. "She did an excellent job!" he says. The results of her work will be integrated into his PhD project, "Disturbances and vegetation dynamics as documented by soil charcoal – Holocene space-time dynamics of several forest sites".

In 2010 there might again be some RISE scholars at the GSHDL: Several doctoral students have sent in mentorship applications. *jnm*

## DISCUSSION

To foster the exchange of concepts and ideas as well as understanding among disciplines, this newsletter shall provide a forum for discussion. The first focal point is the diversity of concepts and definitions behind the word 'landscape'. Read what some members of the Graduate School think.

**Wolfgang Rabbel:** "Landscape is the appearance of the surface of the earth, characterized by its topography and vegetation, by soil, rock and waters, and by man-made buildings and constructions."

**Vincent Robin:** "Landscape is a hierarchical level of organization of complex ecological systems. Landscape is characterized by a heterogeneous mosaic of different types of ecosystems in interaction, and in temporal and spatial dynamic, mostly because of Human activities."

**Donat Wehner:** "A landscape is determined by physical and socio-cultural conditions whereas its perception is a social construct. It emerges from physical reality and practical relations from humans to each other, and to the non-human environment at a certain time in a certain area."

## SELECTED EVENTS (complete calendar: [www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes](http://www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes))

### December

#### Christmas Get-together

Friday, 18 December 2009, 16:00 - Neufeldstr. 10, Room 4

### January

**Biweekly Colloquium: Tony Wilkinson** (Department of Archaeology, University of Durham)

Monday, 11 January 2010, 17:00 - Neufeldstr. 10, Room 4

#### Night of the Profs – Lectures until late at night

Friday, 15 January 2010, 18:00 - Audimax, Christian-Albrechts-Platz 2

**Biweekly Colloquium: Dr. Marjan Mashkour and Dr. Emmanuelle Vila** (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique)

Monday, 25 January 2010, 17:00 - Neufeldstr. 10, Room 4

## WHO'S NEW @ GSHDL

Ingmar Unkel is the new Junior Professor for Environmental History. He was born in Heidelberg in 1978. Unkel studied Geology in Heidelberg and Karlsruhe. Before he started in Kiel in September 2009, his Postdoc studies led him to Lund University in Sweden. One of Unkel's main research interests is human-climate interaction, with special focus on the development during the last 10.000 years and with regional focus on the Eastern Mediterranean and South America.

### What is your motivation for being a member of the Graduate School?

**Ingmar Unkel:** I think what is stated at the beginning of most of our job announcements, "The GS offers a unique research environment at the interface between Humanities and Natural and Social Sciences", summarizes the key aspect of my motivation. I enjoy the dialogue and interaction between disciplines and it is hard to find such a multidisciplinary research community "on site", quite often the members of such a network are spread over many different universities.



Ingmar Unkel. Photo: private

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

Good research is not only a question of unlimited money and manpower, but also a question of good ideas and excellent networks of people and resources. With unlimited access to money and manpower, I would probably leave science and would invest both in sustainable social programs for people who have much less than I do as a junior professor. The amount of prosperity and power is also a question of your view-point.

### Your opinion about Kiel?

Coming from Southern Germany, I had of course some prejudices about the city and the people living in it. However, after three months of living here with my family I have learned that the people are even more open in Kiel than in the South and that the city itself has many lovely features, making living here really nice. Only – the weather might be a point to discuss.

### What do you do on a free weekend?

With a one year old daughter, there are no "free weekends" any more. But if the question means "after work", then I enjoy nature and culture with my family without philosophizing about what these two words mean.

### Please share your favourite proverb with us!

Tell me and I will forget,  
Show me and I might remember,  
Involve me and I will understand! (Confucius)

## STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Prof. Dr. **Hans-Rudolf Bork** (Photo: private) has been re-elected President of the German Society for Geography (DGfG) and 1<sup>st</sup> chairperson of the Association of Geographers at German Universities (VGDH), a sub-association of the DGfG.



**Christoph Nübel** M.A. was invited to present his PhD project at the Research Colloquium of Prof. Neitzel, University of Mainz, on November 19<sup>th</sup> and at the Research Colloquium of Prof. Krumeich, University of Düsseldorf, on December 1<sup>st</sup>. At the Annual Conference of the Military History Study Group in Minden on November 6<sup>th</sup>, he gave a lecture on "Battles and Perspectives: Approaching the Face of the Kaiserschlacht, 1918".

**Donat Wehner** M.A. was invited to present his paper "The Havel Region in early Middle Ages" at the Colloquium Praehistoricum, University of Frankfurt/Main, on December 8<sup>th</sup>.