

EDITORIAL

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

The ideological creation of social space in landscapes is one of the main topics of the Graduate School. Linking social order, political institutions and environmental conditions in ancient societies, researchers are able to reconstruct the human pattern in handling social and environmental questions. The implications of climatic and ecological changes for societies and the human impact on environmental conditions are best understood in clearly defined research laboratories. In April 2010, 25 new PhD students will commence with their individual research projects. With the support of the Graduate School, they are going to jointly create different



Photo: private

labs that will investigate changes in social and environmental matter from a historical perspective. We warmly welcome our new members to Kiel!

"Cultural space" is a general research topic at many German universities. Because some expertise of Kiel University is recognized by other excellence initiatives, GS members

were keynote-speakers e.g. at workshops of the Berlin excellence initiative Topoi. Moreover, a new collaboration with our partners at UCL London, which are ahead in defining the explanatory potentials of "Cultural Evolution Theory" for human societies and environmental changes, opens new possibilities of intellectual interchange. However, in both cases the CAU's strength in defining human development in landscapes is clearly recognized.

Relating to political issues, CAU head-offices were able to initiate fruitful discussions about a future concept for Kiel University. Depending on innovative and successful projects, both the university and Graduate School will profit from this intellectual and structural process about our future: I am convinced that the joint effort of researchers, scholars and "managers" will result in a successful redesign of CAU as a "future university".

USEFUL SCIENCE

Engdawork Assefa's PhD project is closely connected to his home country: He is researching the dynamics of landscape in southern Ethiopia. Using approaches such as radiocarbon and caesium 137 analyses, Engdawork is gaining an insight into the past of the ground. The soil samples tell him about how the land was used, about deforestation and soil erosion in the last decades and centuries.

This knowledge about the past opens up a focus on the future. "Science is best when it's useful", Engdawork says, "and I want to help the people make more sustainable use of their land." The region where he is carrying out his research is facing a vicious circle of severe, interlinked problems. The population is growing, which is leading to an increased demand for food. In order to produce this, woods are being cut down and the land is being used agriculturally without interruption, making it more prone to soil erosion by wind and water. Besides his scientific work, Engdawork gives advice to local people, ranging from basic questions such as the allocation of drains to the overall management of the land. *jnm*



Too many people for the land: Work in the fields of Ezo Gulaye.

Photo: Bark

A SAHARA STORM DID NOT STOP THEM

Professor Ingmar Unkel and his team, including PhD students Elke Hänßler and Christian Heymann of the Graduate School, are back from Greece. The interdisciplinary project they run aims to understand the relationship between the climate and the historical record, as well as the natural versus human-induced environmental change on the Northern Peloponnesus. Sediment cores were retrieved with a rod-operated piston corer (Usinger-corer) at the Prokopos Lagoon and at Lake Stymfalia, using a floating platform. The coring operation was under the auspices of Professor Oliver Nelle and Mathias Bahns.

"Our worst problem was a strong Sahara wind transporting lots of sand", Unkel states. Because of that desert storm, the team nearly had to stop work on Lake Stymfalia. Nevertheless, having coped with this and other problems (such as a minor earthquake), Unkel is now satisfied with the outcome: "We have collected valuable material, and I hope we can present initial results in the second half of 2010." *jnm*



Science afloat: Mathias Bahns recovering sediment cores from the middle of Lake Stymfalia.

Photo: Unkel

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

A group of doctoral students and academic staff went from Kiel to Toronto at the end of March to participate in the interdisciplinary conference "Landscapes and Societies in Ancient and Medieval Europe East of the Elbe", which was co-organized by the Graduate School. Sarah Nelly Friedland, Magdalena Wiewcowska, Ben Krause-Kyora, Ingo Petri and Daniel Zwick presented their respective PhD projects to the international audience from Canada, the USA, Poland, Latvia, and Germany. The scientists attending the conference participated vividly in the discussion of the projects and gave valuable advice to the junior researchers from Kiel.



Sarah Nelly Friedland during the presentation of her PhD project.

Photo: jnm

After two days of intense and fruitful scientific exchange, a trip to Fort York and Fort George – both historic sites somewhat west of the Elbe – and to Niagara Falls offered a concluding opportunity to extend private networks. *jnm*

HISTORY OF IDEAS PLATFORM / LANDSCAPESLIBRARY

Academic research within a digital environment is a prerequisite condition for scientific work as well as ongoing communication among scholars from related fields. For these reasons the Arts and Humanities Platform administers a Virtual Research Environment with the help of a wiki tool to foster

an interdisciplinary discussion among the Graduate School members. It provides the possibility to share research questions as well as ideas about the concept of "landscape" and other prevalent topics. Please feel free to contribute. It is called History of Ideas Platform resp., LandscapesLibrary. Additionally, there is information offered about bibliographic, topographic, archival, biographical, as well as excavation, artefact, specimen and image research data repositories or collections. These sources also allow access to written historical sources, electronic journals, and scholarly internet portals. As a result, users now have access to web resources, literature, pictures, maps, reports from enquiries and investigations, conference papers, place names, glossaries, and archaeological data. Their common ground is to relate the global theme of human development to cultural and natural environments. It is only available within the university network via www.uni-kiel.de/landscapeslibrary. *Frank Förster*

SECOND PHASE OF EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

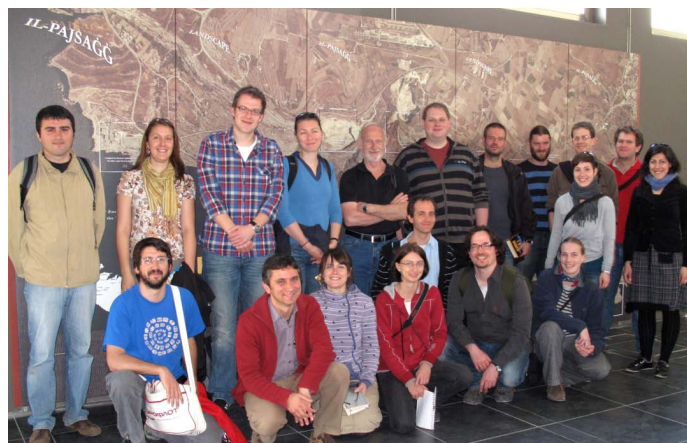
Presently, the Graduate School is about to start into the second half of its first five-year term. This semester, we will have 25 new PhD students, and thus two generations of graduates doing their research together. With the halftime successfully completed, we already look ahead to a potential second 5-year GS phase from 2012 onwards. In March, the joint commission of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the Wissenschaftsrat announced a second programme phase of the Excellence Initiative to promote science and research at German Universities (www.dfg.de). This means that German universities can apply once again for financing for Graduate Schools, Excellence Clusters and concepts for Future Universities. We plan to submit a proposal for the continuation of the GS which is due September 1st, 2011. A lot of time and effort has to be invested to achieve this goal, but we are confident that our positive spirit and joint effort will bear success. *nel*

COOPERATION WITH CINARCHEA

The Graduate School "Human Development in Landscapes" supports the 9th International Archaeology Film Festival Cinarchea, which takes place from April 22nd to 24th in the Kunsthalle Kiel. A film about an archaeological project of CAU scientists in Okoliste/Central Bosnia will be shown as a non-competitive contribution. The room where the festival takes place provides the frame for a photographic exhibit by four GS-PhD students: Bettina Schulz Paulsson, Natalia Toma, Kemal Moetz, and Andrea Ricci present their best pictures to the film connoisseurs. *jnm*

GRADUATE SCHOOL IN MALTA

The small Maltese islands are something special for scientists. Human settlement dates back to the Neolithic and has continued incessantly up to today. Every age left its footprint in the landscape, so together with the rich geological features and vegetation this location is of immense interest for researchers of different disciplines. In March 2010, the Graduate School



Landscape all over: The GS members and their guide at Hagar Qim temple.

Photo: Nadeau

took the opportunity to put theory into practice on the islands of Malta. Equipped with a broad spectrum of scientific expertise and four hired cars, the group travelled the sometimes small, hidden and rocky roads of Malta and Gozo. The programme was packed with major sites, such as the Ggantija Temple (UNESCO World Heritage), St. Paul's Catacombs, Valetta and its museums as well as fortresses from the Knights Hospitallers and Victorian era. Local professionals held brief presentations to introduce the group to the context of the sites, where the visitors from Kiel also met Maltese scientists. The visitors were given a more detailed and exciting insight into Maltese cultural and natural history. In this way, our Graduate School members established contact with scientists in the Mediterranean and broadened their perception by experiencing the rich and fascinating history of Malta and its landscape. *Christoph Nübel*

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Professor **Oliver Nelle** (Speaker Platform 1) and doctoral student **Vincent Robin** MSc are co-organizing the 1st International Workshop on Pedoanthracology in Aix-en-Provence, France, from June 14 to 16. Their partner in the organizing team is Dr Brigitte Talon of Paul Cézanne University/ Aix-Marseille III. <http://pedoanthracologyworkshop.free.fr/>

Doctoral students Dipl. Biol. **Melanie Röpke**, **Susanne Schwarz** MSc and **Ben Krause-Kyora** MA are going to present aspects of their PhD projects at the "1. Schleswig-Holsteinische Studententagung zur Medizin- und Biotechnologie" (1st Schleswig-Holstein student conference on medical and biotechnology) at the Science Park Kiel on May 20. Professor **Manuela Dittmar** (Speaker Cluster 3) will give an introduction to the Graduate School. www.life-science-nord.net/studententagung_sh/

Rémi Berthon MA, **Kemal Moetz** MA and **Andrea Ricci** MA participated in the ICAANE congress with oral presentations and posters. The conference took place in London from April 12 to 16.

Martin Hinz MA was invited to present his paper "Non-Metric Multidimensional Scaling: A (in archaeology) neglected multivariate method?" at the CAA in Granada on April 8. **Ricardo Fernandes** MSc and **Michael Teichmann** MA attended the conference with posters of their projects.

Philipp Meurer MA was invited to present his paper "The image of the 'little ice-age' or: Did Dutch artists directly react to the climatic change?" at the workshop "Aesth/Ethics in Environmental Change" at Hiddensee on May 25.

Annegret Kranz MA was invited to give a presentation on "Quantitative reconstruction of past soil erosion in the Kirschgraben catchment (Spessart mountains, Central Europe)" at the EGU2010 conference in Vienna on May 6.

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

April

Introductory Workshop

19th to 20th April 2010 - Kunsthalle, Düsternbrooker Weg 1

Cinarchea – International Archaeology Film Festival

22nd to 24th April 2010 - Kunsthalle, Düsternbrooker Weg 1

May

Platform 3 Workshop on digital research data processing

May 5th, 14.15-17.30h - Neufeldstr. 10, Room 4

Biweekly Colloquium: Professor R. Bernbeck and Professor S. Pollock (Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology, FU Berlin)

Monday, 10th May 2010, 17.00h - Neufeldstr. 10, Room 4

June

Biweekly Colloquium: Dr Harriet Hunt (McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge)

Monday, 7th June 2010, 17.00h - Neufeldstr. 10, Room 4