

newsletter



human development in landscapes GRADUATE SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KIEL

EDITORIAL

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

On November 1st, the Graduate School entered its second funding period. Among the most important points on our to-do list for shaping another fruitful five years of excellent research and education, was



Photo: private

the selection of new colleagues. Several hundred young scientists from all over the world applied for the PhD and postdoctoral positions. Candidates from renowned universities, such as Amsterdam, Australian National, Cambridge, Oxford and the Sorbonne, were among the applicants.

The positions will be filled beginning in February 2013 and we are eagerly anticipating the new perspectives and fresh ideas that will enhance our scientific network. We expect the new postdoctoral fellows to significantly broaden the Graduate School's expertise in the fields of culture theory and material culture, but also in the development of innovative archaeobotanical and archaeological proxies.

Phase II activities also include the continuation of our successful workshop series "Socio-Environmental Dynamics over the Last 12.000 Years: The Creation of Landscapes". Its third edition will take place from April 15 to 18, 2013. The call for abstracts closes shortly after the turn of the year on January 4, 2013 (more information in this newsletter issue).

While we are looking for new PhD students, many of our first generation fellows have finished their dissertations by now and have found reputable positions in science or in the private sector. You can read more about one of them in our alumni series on page two.

I wish you pleasant reading, a Merry Christmas and a good start into the New Year.

Research Spotlight

FIRST-HAND REPORT FROM THE CHINESE WAR THEATRE

Merle Zeigerer investigates the history of Germany's early professional war correspondents.

"Crimes have been committed under particularly outrageous circumstances, which [are] beyond comparison in the history of mankind, crimes against international law, against laws of humanity, against civilization." Siegfried Genthe used these drastic words in late 1900 to describe to the readers of *Kölnische Zeitung* what he had just witnessed in China during the Boxer Rebellion. The Cologne newspaper had sent him to East Asia to report on this conflict, in which the German Empire was involved with seven allied nations. In this way, Genthe became one of the first professional German war correspondents. By the end of the 19th century, German mass media producers, such as the *Kölnische Zeitung*, had gained enough economical power to finance foreign expeditions, aiming to become less dependent on official or foreign reports. "Siegfried Genthe is rather atypical in the way he informs his audience about the cruelties of conflict", remarks Merle Zeigerer. She focuses her PhD project at the Graduate School on how war correspondents mentally appropriated colonial landscapes and which pictures of violence they delivered to their readers – an issue de facto disregarded hitherto by historians. Merle has chosen the colonial wars in China (Boxer Rebellion 1900-1901), German Southwest Africa (Herero-Nama-War 1904-1907), and German East Africa (Maji-Maji-War 1905-1908) as objects of comparison. "To learn more about the correspondents as producers of colonial pictures, on the one hand, and about these pictures as media products, on the other, I combine approaches from different fields, such as new colonial history and new media studies, taking cul-

tural historical and postcolonial perspectives into account. This entails both qualitative and quantitative analyses", Merle explains. Her main sources are the reports and telegrams of the correspondents, complemented by newspaper articles, letters and diaries. Data collection work included a trip to Windhoek's National Archive in former German Southwest Africa. Files of the Imperial Marine Office (Reichsmarineamt), the Imperial Colonial Office (Reichskolonialamt) and the Foreign Office provided information about the bureaucracy and censorship which the reporters had to cope with. Those not writing in conformity with governmental views might even have been denied passage on a troop carrier – a big obstacle in times without comfortable intercontinental flight connections.

In addition to these logistical barriers, military and administrative officers censored the texts the journalists wanted to send home. "However, this pressure from the official side only had a minor effect on the colonial viewpoints produced by the correspondents when looking at their own political attitudes", Merle comments on one of her results. "Censorship occasionally had a limiting effect on criticism, but most of the reporters were patriots, to say the least. They supported the military and the political establishment by self-censorship." Brute force by German or allied troops was often brushed aside, trivialized or depicted as legitimate, while violent acts by the Chinese or Africans were described exaggeratedly. "In this way, the journalists can be seen as gate keepers who noticeably coined perceptions of colonial landscapes in Germany", Merle analyzes.

ANNUAL ADVISORY BOARD VISIT



Three members of the Graduate School Advisory Board came to Kiel in late November to discuss the current situation and plans for funding phase 2. Helle Vandkilde (Aarhus University), Simon Haberle (Australian National University), and Andreas Lang (University of Liverpool) counseled the Principal Investigators of the GS regarding aspects such as international visibility or the number of new PhDs and postdoctoral fellows. During a poster presentation, the Advisory Board members also sought talks with first and second generation doctoral students to discuss organizational issues and the status of their dissertations. Our picture shows Italian PhD student Marta dal Corso informing Andreas Lang about an aspect of her project.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Graduate School "Human Development in Landscapes" at Kiel University is glad to announce the International Open Workshop "Socio-Environmental Dynamics over the Last 12.000 Years: The Creation of

Landscapes III", which will take place from the 15th to the 18th of April, 2013 at Kiel University.

In its third edition the single sessions will cover aspects of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age studies as well as aspects of Greek and Roman history. Further sessions will deal with diachronic approaches or methodological questions concerning, for example, data management.

We invite researchers to participate in any of the 15 sessions and send their abstracts in English by the 4th of January, 2013. The Graduate School will offer travel grants for outstanding abstracts submitted by doctoral students.

You can find further information about the Call for Abstracts and the sessions here: www.workshop-gshdl.uni-kiel.de

GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI (IV): CAROLIN LUBOS

Increasingly more PhD students of the first generation are finishing their projects. We keep in touch with them and trace their next steps after they leave the Graduate School. Where are they going after their PhDs, and what are they doing there?

During her PhD investigations, Carolin Lubos focused on reconstructing Holocene landscape history and man-environment-interactions of a so far unique multilayered prehistoric settlement site at Niederröblingen (Central Germany). As a part of this research, she analysed phytoliths. Since the Graduate

Photo: Bark



Carolin at work in Bosnia.

School did not have a polarization microscope with a camera at its disposal at that time, Carolin went to Frankfurt several times to use the equipment of the local university. Thus, she got in contact with Jürgen Wunderlich, professor of physical geography, who advised her to apply for a post-doctoral position at his institute.

Since December 2011, Carolin has been working there as a scientific assistant. In addition to a teaching assignment of four semester hours per week, her main focus is on geoarchaeological research. The projects she is working on include archaeological sites in Bulgaria and Turkey, such as Kresna, Ephesus, Arslan Tepe and Aşağı Pınar. "I got involved in most of these projects through contacts made at the Graduate School, either with participants of the International Workshops or fellow PhD students", says Carolin. "These networking opportunities and the deep insights I acquired into different disciplines were two major advantages offered to me by the Graduate School. They assisted me in laying excellent foundations for cooperation and for my scientific career", she adds.

Besides the projects in other countries, Carolin is also working right on the doorstep: Frankfurt University is expanding its campus at Riedberg, where each foundation ditch offers soil profiles for free. She took the chance to introduce the characterisation of the archives of landscape visible in the profile walls to participants of a seminar.

STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

Engdawork Assefa, doctoral student of the Graduate School, passed his disputation on "Landscape Dynamics and Sustainable Land Management in Southern Ethiopia" on October 1. The dissertation was awarded the score of "magna cum laude" (1.0).

Hannes Knapp, doctoral student of the Graduate School, passed his disputation on "Habitat Harz: Paläobotanische Untersuchungen zur Umweltgeschichte eines Mittelgebirges" on September 14.

Ricardo Fernandes attended two international conferences in Septem-

ber. At the Joint European Stable Isotope Users Group Meeting (JESIUM 2012, September 2–7 in Leipzig) he held a talk on "Quantitative isotope-based reconstruction of medieval diet at Vlissingen (The Netherlands)" and presented a poster on "Isotopic changes of fish flesh caused by cooking associated with its macronutrient composition". From September 27–29, Ricardo went to Esbjerg (Denmark) to attend the Scientific Methods in Archaeology conference (SMIA X). There he gave a talk on "Reconstructing ancient diets using a novel Bayesian approach" and presented two posters titled "Cooking makes a difference: changes in raw fish isotopic signature ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$) caused by different cooking methods" and "Reservoir effect in pre-historic shell midden humans (Western Cape, SA) detected by ^{14}C differences in bone collagen and bioapatite".

Karina Iwe presented a paper at the 5. Mitteldeutscher Archäologentag: Rot – Die Archäologie kennt Farbe, which took place in Halle (Saale) from October 4–6. She gave a talk on „Tatort Sibirien: Auf den Spuren der Farbe Rot“.

Anja Prust and **Christine Schuh** attended and presented papers at the 9th GAPA (Gesellschaft für Archäozoologie und Prähistorische Anthropologie) conference in Vienna from September 18–20. Anja held a talk on „Zwischen Kontinuität und Wandel – Tierwirtschaft in den römischen Mittelmeerprovinzen“. Christine gave a talk on „Kulturelle Kontakte am nördlichen Oberrhein im frühen Mittelalter aus archäologischer und isotopenchemischer Sicht“.

Daniel Zwick presented a case study on variations in medieval shipbuilding at the 13th International Symposium on Boat and Ship Archaeology (ISBSA) in Amsterdam from October 8–12. Technological variations reflect the regional importance of Bremen as a transshipment point between river and seagoing vessels, as much as the internationality of its port. The most "exotic" shipwreck appears to be a Scandinavian ship built of wainscot planks from the Baltic and dates to the period of extensive timber trade from the eastern Baltic rim to Central Europe. A German version of this study has already been published in the DGAMN proceedings "Holzbau in Mittelalter und Neuzeit". Moreover, Daniel published an article in the proceedings of the international workshop Raumbildung durch Netzwerke?, which was organised in conjunction with the Graduate School. The workshop was concerned with the reconstruction of medieval sea routes, the importance of terrestrial navigation in the Baltic Sea and cognitive as well as phenomenological approaches on maritime landscapes in a - literally - uncharted sea in terms of contemporary medieval cosmography.

Stefan Dreibrodt is among the organizers of the annual convention of the working group for Geoarchaeology within the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie (German Society for Geography) in 2015. The event, titled Standortbestimmung Geo-Archäologie: Probleme und Defizite, Chancen und Potentiale, will take place at Kiel University in mid-May 2015. The concept of the convention is to bring together archaeologists and geoscientists working in the same locations to give complementary talks which focus on pertinent issues.

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

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Leibnizstraße 1, Room 204

January

Monday, January 21, 5:00 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium:** Morteza Djamali (IMBE - CNRS, Aix-Marseille University). Agricultural Revolution During the Persian Empires: Evidences from new Pollen Data.

Monday, January 28, 5:00 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium:** Austin Hill (Kiel University). Specialized Pastoralism and Social Stratification – Analysis of the Fauna from Chalcolithic Tel Tsaf, Israel. Katherine Grillo (Kiel University/University of Washington). How Pots Kill Cattle: Ethnoarchaeology in Samburu, Kenya.