

## EDITORIAL

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

While winter has come to Kiel, doctoral students and the academic staff of the Graduate School are busy preparing for the presentation of our renewal proposal in January. After handing in the proposal last summer, this is the next important step towards another five-year funding period. We will present results and achievements, as well as concepts and ideas for the future to an international panel of experts in Bonn.



Photo: private

Meanwhile, arrangements are being made for the time after the completion of the excellence initiative. To provide an organizational frame for the Graduate School within Kiel University, the Johanna Mestorf Academy is about to be established. The JMA is supposed to become a central institution for the university's main research focus "Societal, Environmental, Cultural Change" (SECC). By its name, the academy commemorates the prehistoric archaeologist Johanna Mestorf, the first female professor in Germany.

Many of our "first generation" PhD students have finished their theses and were awarded their degrees in 2011. Starting with this issue of the newsletter, we will take a look at what they are doing now. Furthermore, you can read about Florian Huber's underwater research and Andrea Ricci's support in creating an animated multimedia presentation for the Media Dome in Kiel.

I wish all of you nice last days in 2011 and a Happy New Year.

## NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE BOARD

During the annual Plenary Meeting of the Graduate School, the new Executive Board was elected. Our photo shows Andrea Eickmeier,



Oliver Nelle, Ingmar Unkel and Rainer Duttmann (last row, left to right); Lutz Käppel, Pieter Grootes, Claus von Carnap-Bornheim and Hans-Rudolf Bork (middle row); Marie-Josée Nadeau, Manuela Dittmar, Mara Weinelt and Johannes Müller (front row). Not in the picture are Johannes Bröcker, Antonia Davidovic, Berit Eriksen, Gerhard Fouquet, Wiebke Kirleis, Olaf Köller, Cheryl Makarewicz, Almut Nebel, Ralph Schneider, Bernhard Thalheim, Josef Wiesehöfer, and student representatives Christian Heymann and Karina Iwe.

## UNDERWATER RESEARCH

Flooded caves in Mexico, shipwrecks in the Baltic Sea, and sunken islands in the Plön Lake District – each of these research topics is part of Florian Huber's PhD project. Florian is archaeologist, scientific diver and associated member of the Graduate School. "For my thesis, I concentrate on two main foci: safety and efficiency of underwater research", he states and adds an example: "Because the usual compressed air is not suitable for all situations that scientific divers might

face, we have experimented with different gas mixtures." When investigating wrecks in the Baltic Sea, most of the work is done at a depth of around 25 m. While the conventional cylinder full of air allows a stay under water of about 20 minutes at the mentioned level, now this can



Photo: Kunz

Florian Huber examining an ancient vessel in the caves of Yucatán.

nearly be doubled using Nitrox, a mix containing more oxygen and less nitrogen. For deeper diving, Florian and his team tested Trimix, consisting of helium to a greater part. "We found out that it works fine and allows us to dive up to 70 m deep." Speaking of time and depth, it is essential for divers to efficiently use the minutes

their compressed gas supply allows them to stay under water. Florian explains: "In the labyrinth of Mexican caves, there are often long corridors to swim through until sites of archaeological interest are reached. Once I am there, I want to produce as many scientific results and observations as possible in the remaining time." As traditional methods like measuring, sketching, and listing of finds are time-consuming, Florian and his team try out new methods.

"During the last field campaign in Yucatán, we took many photos of archaeological sites. With special software, they can be converted into 3D images", Florian states. Though not new, this



Image: Huber

3D reconstruction of the vessel.

procedure has rarely been applied to underwater archaeology. Factors like the refraction of light by water or suspended particles have to be considered. "We cooperate with experts at Kiel University's Department of Computer Science and at the Leibniz Institute for Marine Sciences to get the best results out of pictures and software", says Florian. He plans to finish his thesis in 2012.

## FLYING OVER UR

The Christmas programme at Kiel's Media Dome features an ancient highlight this year. Within the show "Star of Bethlehem", the audience is taken on an animated flight over the Ziggurat of Ur. This scene was generated under the scientific guidance of Graduate School member Andrea Ricci. In his PhD thesis he researches the cultural landscapes along the Middle Euphrates River Valley from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC. "It is impossible to say exactly how the Ziggurat might



Photo: Mediendom

Screenshot showing the animated Ziggurat.

have looked like some 2.500 years ago”, Andrea says, “nevertheless, a range of research results have been integrated into the making of the film.” Ziggurats were massive buildings which looked like terraced step pyramids. The Ziggurat of Ur stood near the present-day Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, its earliest stage of construction dating back to the 21<sup>st</sup> century BC.

## COMMUNICATION 2.0

The Graduate School has recently started an own site in the social network Facebook. Members of the network can post texts, links, photos and videos related to the Graduate School there. The content does not necessarily have to be of straight scientific nature. “We want the Facebook site to be used as an option for all kinds of exchange within



The new Facebook site provides information and hints about what is going on at the Graduate School.

many first-generation PhD candidates are about to finish their dissertations and might afterwards leave Kiel, the Facebook site could also become a forum for Graduate School alumni. You can find the site by logging in to Facebook and then entering “Graduate School Human Development in Landscapes” into the search field.

## STAFF & PERSONAL NEWS

**Vincent Robin** passed his disputation on “Reconstruction of fire and forest history on several investigation sites in Germany, based on long and short-term investigations – Multiproxy approaches contributing to naturalness assessment on a local scale” on November, 4.

**Christoph Steffen** passed his disputation on “Gesellschaftswandel während der älteren Eisenzeit – Soziale Strukturen der Hallstatt- und Frühlatènekultur in Baden-Württemberg” on October 28. The dissertation was graded with summa cum laude (0,0).

**Rémi Berthon MA** advertised results of his PhD project at the International Ilisu Dam Archaeology Symposium held in Mardin (Turkey) from October 19 to 22. His presentation was titled “Animal Exploitation and Socio-economic Organization in the Ilisu Dam Area during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Millennia BC”.

**Ricardo Fernandes MSC** gave a talk titled “Reservoir effect: establishing ancient chronologies based on the radiocarbon dating of human remains” at the Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig on October 10.

**Frank Förster MA MLIS** presented a poster on “Data and Information Management for Humanist Researchers (Text and Things)” at the conference “Supporting Digital Humanities: Answering the unaskable”, which was held in Copenhagen from November 17 to 18. From December 5 to 10, Frank stayed in Cape Town, attending the conference “Outposts of Progress: Joseph Conrad, Modernism and (Post)colonialism”. There he gave a talk titled “Illustrating Conrad: An Outlook on Progress?” At the “Knowledge/Culture/Social Change International Conference” in Sydney, November 7 to 9, Frank talked about “Integrating Knowledge from Libraries, Museums etc. into University Culture”.

**Ralph Grossmann MA** presented a poster about the dialectic relation between the Neolithic cultures of Corded Ware and Bell Beaker at two occasions: firstly, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary International Conference of the discovery of Petit-Chasseur in Sion (Valais, Switzerland) from October 27 to 30; and secondly, the Corded Days International Conference in Kraków (Poland) from December 1 to 2.

**Daniel Zwick MA** presented a paper on variations in medieval ship-building at the 7<sup>th</sup> German Archaeology Congress in Bremen on October 10. From November 18 to 20, Daniel participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> “MARIS PhD-researchers network” workshop in Helsinki (Finland). This network provides an exchange platform for PhD students in maritime archaeology around the Baltic Sea.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI (I): CHRISTOPH NÜBEL

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

Christoph Nübel was the first graduate. The historian finished his thesis after three years at the Graduate School and was awarded his PhD degree in May 2011. Subsequently, Christoph got a position as a scientific assistant for Professor Birgit Aschmann, who went from Kiel University to Berlin’s Humboldt University this year. “I first came in contact with Professor Aschmann in the Graduate School”, Christoph says. “I enjoy working with her, and Berlin is a great place for science, as there are numerous archives, libraries, and research institutes in the city.”



Christoph’s PhD project was about landscape perceptions of German soldiers during World War I. His current work also covers this period, but not exclusively: “I hold an introductory course about WWI and a course about Otto von Bismarck”, Christoph explains. “My research is focused at present on Bismarck’s image in national socialist ideology.” While preparing an essay on this topic, he is also looking for an appropriately broad subject for his habilitation. Furthermore, Christoph contributes to the preparation of applications for research funding, as Professor Aschmann and her team are writing proposals for several projects. “I gathered valuable experience in grant application writing during my time at the Graduate School in Kiel, as doctoral students have to apply for research funds there.”

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

Venue for Biweekly Colloquia: Leibnizstraße 1, Room 204

### December

Friday, December 16, 5:00 p.m. – **GS Party: Alumni, Christmas**, new building – Leibnizstr. 3, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

### January

January 13 to 14 – **Archaeological Colloquium (focus on Prehistory)**, including presentations by many Graduate School members – Johanna Mestorf lecture hall, Institute for Pre- and Protohistory, Johanna-Mestorf-Straße 2-4.

Monday, January 23, 5:00 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium: Markus Reindel**, Commission for Archaeology of Non-European Cultures, Bonn. Development of Human Societies in the Changing Landscapes of the Andes, Peru.

Monday, January 30, 5:00 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium: Tim Ingold**, Department of Anthropology, Aberdeen Univ. The shape of the land.

### February

Monday, February 13, 5:00 p.m. – **Biweekly Colloquium: Damian Goodburn**, Museum of London, Archaeology Service. How selected boat and ship finds and waterfront structures can help us reconstruct ancient extinct wooded landscapes.