



## CALL FOR PAPERS

York University, Department of History

Graduate School "Human Development in Landscapes", Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel

### **LANDSCAPES AND SOCIETIES IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE EAST OF THE ELBE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS**

Fourth International Workshop of the Interdisciplinary Association

*"Gentes trans Albiam – Europe East of the Elbe in the Middle Ages"*

Keele Campus of York University, Toronto, 26-27 March 2010

Landscapes can be defined, in the words of Denis E. Cosgrove, as "visibly distinct regions."<sup>1</sup> Landscapes can be understood as the natural environments in which a society is embedded, or as the set of representations with which members of a society observe and describe a region and give it significance. The idea of landscape is dependant on the one hand on the material reality of a given region, on the other hand on the sense attached to it by human beings beholding it.

Medieval Europe east of the Elbe presents an interesting field for the investigation of landscape transformations. The area is characterized by many features that clearly distinguish it from the Mediterranean regions throughout the Middle Ages – absence of Roman traditions, late appearance of Latin culture, colonization movement, chartered towns. There were generally independent developments concerning society, economy, and religion which led to the creation of a distinct cultural area. All of this makes this part of the European continent attractive for a consideration of large-scale and *longue durée* interactions between landscapes and societies.

The workshop will bring together a small group of young scholars (16 papers) from North America and Europe working in the fields of archaeology, history, palaeobotany and palaeozoology.

Papers in the fields of history, archaeology and related disciplines are invited. The papers should present a link with parts of Europe outside the borders of the Roman Empire as well as with environmental and/or social history. The main focus will be on the medieval period but papers

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<sup>1</sup> Denis E. Cosgrove, *Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape*, London, Sydney, 1984 (Croom Helm Historical Geography Series), p. 1.

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dealing with Antiquity are invited too. Doctoral students and young scholars will be particularly considered.

Please send a short abstract (less than one page) and a CV by email to one of the organizers by 20 October 2009.

Invitations will depend upon available funding. A publication following the workshop is considered.

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