

Editorial

It is spring and a productive time when fieldwork and conferences would usually be coming up. However, just like everybody else, the members of the Cluster of Excellence ROOTS are being slowed down by the corona virus. Many of us feel cut off from friends and colleagues with whom we have worked with on a daily or close basis, for example, in the ROOTS cluster. Nonetheless, the subclusters, research platforms, and the ROOTS Reflective Turn Forum have started to conceptualise and realise their research projects in the last few months and first publications are being planned. This is very gratifying.

However, due to the spread of the corona virus, we are all currently following a revised daily rhythm and a modified scientific time schedule. Accordingly, numerous activities are being organised digitally in the summer semester. This concerns the Bi-weekly Colloquium as well as other forms of meetings. For the time being, fieldwork, trips to conferences and research stays will not take place.

Presently, the ROOTS office would have been planning the next retreat in June with all the organisational work that usually goes along with it. But this must be modified according to the current situation. Instead of conducting a full-fledged conference gathering, the retreat will take place virtually. Consequently, the members of the Advisory Board cannot be welcomed personally. Nevertheless, even with this unusual conference form, the goals that have been set for the retreat are still being pursued: Our meeting will address the overarching themes of the cluster. Furthermore, even the virtual presence of the members of the advisory board of ROOTS will give us the op-

portunity to present the results of the first phase of the project as well as to fine-tune the aims, methods, and perspectives of our cluster.

To be positive, under the changed conditions new opportunities may emerge. In the current situation, social, environmental and cultural connectivity continues to function and becomes experienceable in a different way. In spite of quite altered conditions, work efforts are carried forth under modified circumstances.

Looking forward, we are all eager to continue to contribute to the results of ROOTS research on past human-environment links – hopefully as soon as possible under normal circumstances with more personal interaction. Stay healthy and tuned for more updates on the ROOTS website and in this newsletter in the coming months!

Johannes Müller, Speaker of ROOTS



Greetings from our home offices



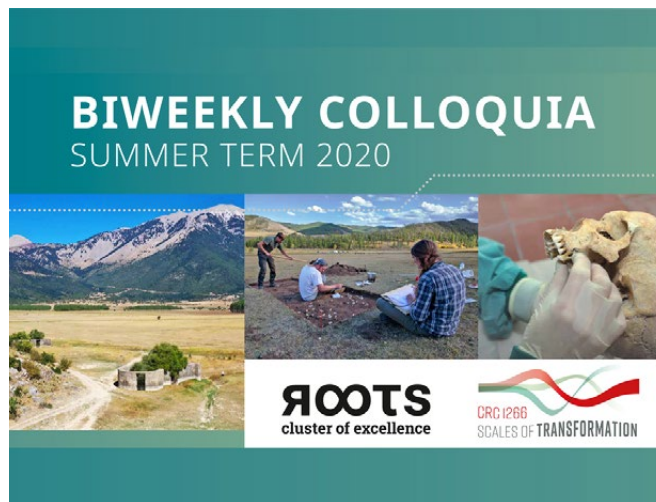
As a reaction to the corona crisis, the communication platform has assumed the task to ensure that the ROOTS team members maintain contact with each other. Therefore, ROOTS uses their homepage to capture impressions from home offices. Members of ROOTS report on their moods and thoughts during this exceptional time and also try to cheer up their colleagues. The videos surprise with the creativity of the ROOTS members regarding the arrangement of their workplaces at home and the design of the clips themselves.

LINK: www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en/news/greetings-from-our-home-offices

ROOTS member receives DAI travel scholarship

ROOTS congratulates its member, Maria Wunderlich, who has been awarded a renowned one-year travel scholarship by the DAI (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut).

Biweekly Colloquia in summer term 2020 is held as a virtual lecture series



Due to the corona crisis, lectures by external foreign guests in front of a live audience are unfortunately not possible. Therefore, the Biweekly Colloquium will be held as a virtual lecture series (web conference) in the summer semester, in which ROOTS and CRC 1266 researchers provide a virtual replacement. The purpose of the lectures is to present the speakers' current research areas and – in terms of content and methodology – to illustrate their links to the topics of “connectivity” and “transformation”.

REMAINING BIWEEKLY DATES FOR SUMMER TERM:

(each beginning at 4:15 p.m.)

- 15 June:** Henny Piezonka, Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University: “Transcontinental Connectivities of Hunter-Gatherers”
- 29 June:** Konrad Ott, Department of Philosophy, Kiel University: “Outline of a Philosophy of Archaeology”
- 13 July:** Cheryl Makarewicz, Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University: “Connectivities of Herding”

For questions and web conference login details, please contact:

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The new ROOTS 'Social Inequality Forum'

A new forum for interdisciplinary and inspiring discussion on all aspects of social inequality now complements ROOTS activities. Intended as a loose, but interrelated sequence of events, the ROOTS 'Social Inequality Forum' will not only bring together guests, members of ROOTS and an interested audience, but it also aims to engage in discourses on the topics in a more discussion-oriented format.

At the kick-off meeting on 30 January, Prof. Christian Jeunesse (Strasbourg University) presented his ethno-archaeological work on settlement structure and burial rites in Sumba, Indonesia. A further meeting took place on 24 February, in which, i.a., Sabine Reinhold (FU Berlin) presented a project that deals with archaeology in the peat bogs of the Urals.



Kick-off meeting on January 30 with Prof. Christian Jeunesse (University of Strasbourg).

FIXED DATES FOR FURTHER MEETINGS

(each beginning at 4:15 p.m.)

08 June: Ralph Großmann/Nils Müller-Scheeßel, Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University: "Isotopes and Social Inequality in Western Hallstatt: An Afternoon Conversation on Aims and Possibilities"

22 June: Johannes Müller/Maria Wunderlich, Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University: "Nagaland – An Ethnoarchaeology of Social Inequality"

06 July: Tobias B.H. Helms, Institute for Classical Studies, Department of Near Eastern Archaeology, Mainz University: "Social Inequality and Internal Conflict in Ancient Mesopotamia – Striking Examples from the 3rd Millennium"

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE HOMEPAGE:

www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en

ROOTS PIs are elected to the DAI Zentralkommission

The Cluster of Excellence ROOTS announces that Johannes Müller, speaker of ROOTS, was recently (15 May 2020) elected chairman of the *Zentralkommission* (Executive Committee) of the DAI (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut). Furthermore, Lutz Käppel, Co-Speaker of ROOTS, was also elected to the *Zentralkommission*

(Executive Committee). This panel functions as the supervisory board of the DAI, which is responsible, i.a., for decisions on scientific planning, strategic objectives and research directions of the institute.

LINK: www.dainst.org/dai/meldungen



People in ROOTS: Lisa Shindo

Lisa, you began your work last October in the framework of the Cluster of Excellence ROOTS.

What are your main lines of research?

"I am a dendrochronologist, specialised in woods used by humans, and I study tree-ring thickness in order to date the time point of the death of trees and to reconstruct the environment in which trees lived. Dendrochronology is a discipline at the crossroads of human and social sciences (history, archaeology, ethnology), biological and environmental sciences (ecology) and fundamental sciences (mathematics and statistics)".

Can you tell us something about your planned research here?

"Within the subcluster 'ROOTS of Socio-Environmental Hazards', my research aims to identify the nature, intensity and temporal variations of the ancient uses of wood and their impacts on forest resources in the Southern French Alps, as well as to investigate their relationships with climate variation and the restitution of environmental hazards. Moreover, I will set up a dendroarchaeological research laboratory and develop research projects in collaboration with the other members of ROOTS".

VITA

Lisa Shindo, born in Les Lilas (France), completed her PhD in archaeology and ecology at Aix-Marseille University in 2016. During 2017, she worked as a free-lance dendrochronologist at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research in Arizona (USA). From 2018-2019, she had a contract with the French CNRS. Lisa has been a research associate in the ROOTS subcluster 'ROOTS of Socio-Environmental Hazards' since winter 2019.

By the way: The Federal Ministry of Education and Research presents the ROOTS interview with Lisa in the June issue of their newsletter.

www.research-in-germany.org/en.html

FULL INTERVIEW

www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en/news/people-in-roots-lisa-shindo



People in ROOTS: Nicolas Lamare



VITA

Nicolas Lamare, born in Coutances (France), completed his studies in France and was awarded a PhD in Roman archaeology at Paris-Sorbonne University in 2014. After holding teaching positions in Toulouse and Amiens in 2015 and 2016, he was awarded a DAAD re-

search grant at the Freie Universität in Berlin and joined the Meninx Archaeological Project (Tunisia), led by the University of Munich in 2018. Since October 2019, Nicolas has been a research associate within the ROOTS subcluster 'Urban ROOTS'.

Nicolas, you began your work last October in the framework of the Cluster of Excellence ROOTS.

What are your main lines of research?

"I am an archaeologist, who specialises on the Roman and late antique period in the Mediterranean region. I am particularly concerned with urbanism and architecture, which means I work with plans and technical drawings, focusing on the alterations of buildings through time and their relation to changes of cultural and social practices, for instance, in houses or baths. Moreover, I am increasingly interested in the daily life of common people".

Can you tell us something about your planned research here?

"My project aims to investigate ancient cities from the time of the Roman Empire through the end of Antiquity in the provinces of North Africa, today the Maghreb. Specifically, my research addresses questions regarding the way cities were planned and organised as well as the importance of elites in funding and decisions about the transformation of public spaces. One of the crucial aspects is concerned with the study of the environmental context of cities in accordance with the overall aims of ROOTS".

FULL INTERVIEW

www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en/news/news-archive/people-in-roots-nicolas-lamare

The Subcluster 'Urban ROOTS' is on Track of Abandoned Cities in the Steppe



Project partner Prof. Martin Oczipka creates a 3D model of the monastery complex Baruun Khüree, Mongolia.

The Mongolian-German research project 'Abandoned Cities of the Steppe', which participates in the subcluster 'Urban Roots', published a preliminary report on the topic titled: "Urban structures from the period of

Manchurian reign and their continued effects in present-day Mongolia".

Since 2019, archaeological-cultural-anthropological research has been conducted on abandoned sedentary settlements of the Early Modern period, on their position in nomadic society and on their reception and role within the local memory culture. First field research, including the creation of high-resolution 3D surface models, focused on the Baruun Khüree monastery and on so-called pit structures, which are interpreted as possible semi-permanent military stations or encampments.

First results already provide evidence on how the examined sedentary structures are interwoven with events of Mongolian history, how the use and meaning of the sites has changed and how current discourses are developed in relation to these sites. This will help us to comprehend the complex interrelationships between sedentary settlements as socio-economic and political nodes, to interpret the loss of these sites and to grasp current perceptions.

LINK: www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en/projects-and-activities

'Dietary ROOTS' Traces Migration Effects in Siberia

New results on ethnoarchaeological research in Siberia have been recently published by Henny Piezonka and her Russian-German team in the scientific journal *Quaternary International*. This publication is associated with the subcluster 'Dietary ROOTS'.

The article explores the role of migration as a trigger for transformations of life ways, subsistence strategies, material culture and ethnic identity in hunter-fisher-reindeer herder societies. Fieldwork among the Taz Selkup, a mobile hunter-fisher-herder community that migrated into the northern taiga of Western Siberia three centuries ago, provides insights into the consequences of migration to a new environmental zone. Based on a multi-disciplinary approach, Henny Piezonka and her team are able to identify different factors at play in these processes, such as adaption to new ecological conditions, cultural influences from other groups, and mechanisms of cultural resilience.



Pokalky, Selkup summer station. Reindeer assembling around an open-air smoke oven.

The results reveal a range of economic and related lifeway adaptations, including niche construction strategies related to the uptake of reindeer husbandry, reflected, e.g., by the use of smoke ovens against mosquitoes to bind the reindeer to the human settlements and feeding fish to reindeer in winter.

The article is free on *ScienceDirect* before 25 June 2020.

LINK: www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en/projects-and-activities

Past Societies: Human Development in Landscapes

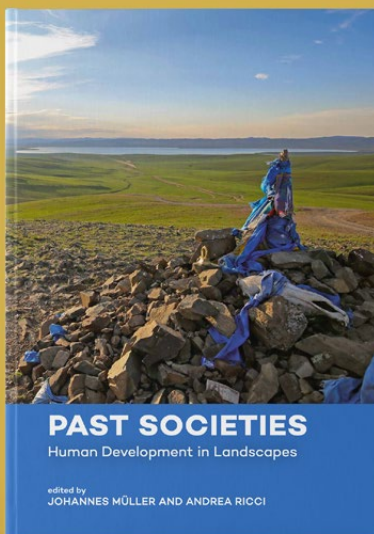
Two years after the publication of *Past Landscapes: The Dynamics of Interaction between Society, Landscape, and Culture*, the sequel *Past Societies: Human Development in Landscapes* has now been published. This book presents research projects mainly by former PhD students of the Graduate School 'Human Development in Landscapes' at Kiel University. The authors conducted research in different disciplines within the humanities and natural sciences. Their common research interest focuses on past societies.

The Kiel Graduate School 'Human Development in Landscapes' has conducted research on socio-environmental issues of past societies during the last years. From the North Atlantic to the Persian Gulf and from Peru to the Near East, different attempts on the interfluvium of environments and societies in landscapes describe certain historical moments and processes in which the interplay of ecological and societal factors is entangled. Events, processes and structures are described on local, regional and global scales as well as methodological developments on ecological and societal archives.

The selected case studies are linked by the general idea of the ability to integrate discovery, documentation, description and interpretation within the scope of analyses and synthesis. Thus, the interdisciplinary framework of the Kiel Graduate School formed the agenda for a holistic approach. 'Landscapes of power', transitions during neolithisation processes, maritime and other networks, site formation dynamics, 'landscapes of identities' and the 'making of heritage' are only a few topics included in this book.

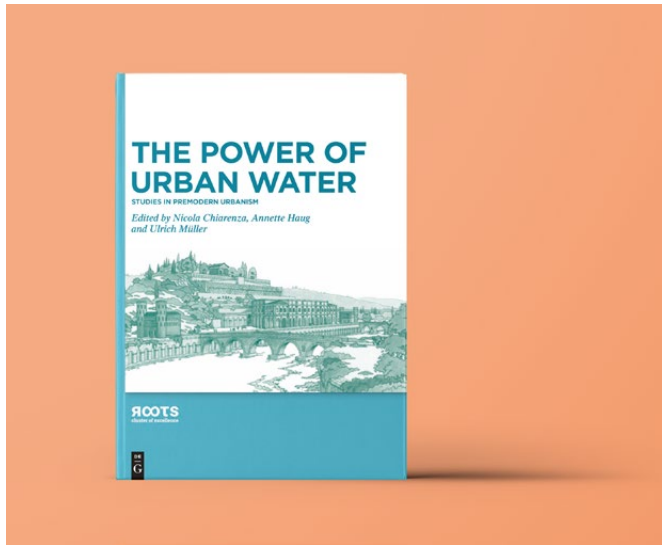
The Kiel Graduate School 'Human Development in Landscapes' constituted the major pioneering institution of the interdisciplinary research focus at Kiel University, from which the CRC 1266 'Scales of Transformation – Human-Environmental Interaction in Prehistoric and Archaic Societies', the Johanna Mestorf Academy and the Cluster of Excellence 'ROOTS -Social, Environmental, and Cultural Connectivity in Past Societies', emerged. Hence, several members of the CRC 1266 and ROOTS also contributed to this volume.

Müller, J. and Ricci, A. (eds.) 2020. *Past Societies: Human Development in Landscapes*. Leiden: Sidestone Press. ISBN: 9789088909245



LINK: www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en/publications/past-societies-human-development-in-landscapes

The Power of Urban Water



With the volume *The Power of Urban Water*, the sub-cluster 'Urban Roots' presents its first results. The two core themes of the subcluster – Urban Agency and Urban Perception – are questioned in relation to a particularly central urbanistic aspect: water. The contributions examine the fundamental cultural significance of water in the city and water for the city from various perspectives. Symbolic, aesthetic and cultic aspects are addressed as well as the role of water in politics, society and the economy. Chronologically, the spectrum ranges from antiquity to early modern times.

Chiarenza, N., Haug, A., Müller, U. (eds.) 2020. *The Power of Urban Water*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter. ISBN: 978-3-11-067664-8

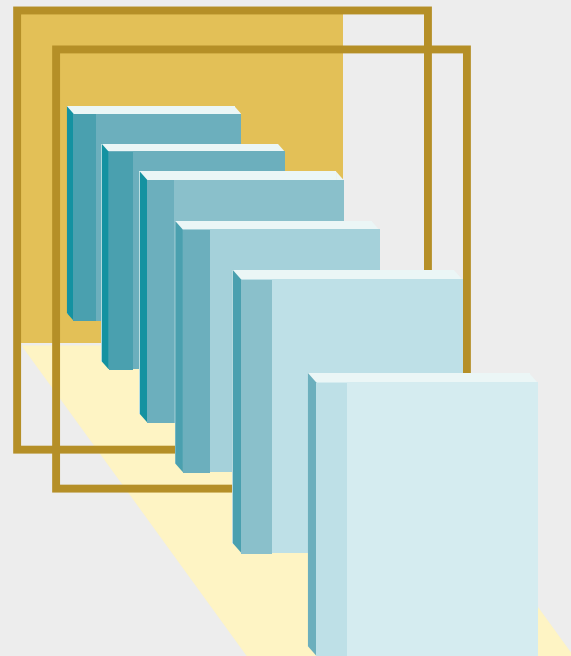
forthcoming

ROOTS starts its new booklet series with an issue on the topic 'Pandemic'

Based on experiences gained during the corona crisis, ROOTS is initiating a project to examine past pandemics and plagues in general. The illustrated articles of the first booklet, which will be published in both German and English, will be written by ROOTS members from different disciplines.

The articles will demonstrate the development, the social impact of and reactions to plagues in different temporal and cultural contexts from which we might learn in the present.

The booklet is intended to be made available not only to researchers, but also to a broad audience and teachers. Moreover, the planned brochure is only the beginning of further publications in a series with different topics.



**Retreat:
'Social, Environmental and Cultural
Connectivities in Past Societies'
and Advisory Board Meeting**

11-12 June 2020

Internal virtual retreat/meeting organised by the Excellence Cluster ROOTS

**ROOTS Communication
Platform Workshop:**

**"Public participation in
Archaeological Research:
Opportunities and Limitations"**

23-24 November 2020

Klaus-Murmann-Lecture Hall
Leibnizstrasse 1
24118 Kiel

Due to the current situation regarding the corona virus, our events might change. Please check our website for more information under www.cluster-roots.uni-kiel.de/en/calendar-events

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