BOAS TALKS

Scientific colloquium commemorating the 140th anniversary of Franz Boas’ doctorate at Kiel University

18-21 November 2021

The event will be held in a hybrid format at Leibnizstraße 1, Kiel University, Germany with live streaming
140 years after Franz Boas’ doctorate, we renew Kiel’s early connection to this outstanding scholar with a scientific colloquium. Drawing on his later seminal works, we will discuss developing trends, recent advancements, and enrich points of contact between the archaeological and anthropological frameworks. In keeping with Boas’ advocacy of close collaboration between archaeology, cultural, and social anthropology, the workshop will bridge viewpoints from fields such as prehistory and early history, historical and contemporary archaeology, ethnography, social and cultural anthropology, and philosophical reflection.

18 NOVEMBER 2021
15:00 “Boas Walks – Tracking Franz Boas through Kiel” (student initiative)
19:00 Get-Together and Welcome

19 NOVEMBER 2021
9:00 Introduction

Boas and Germany
Session Chair: Jens Schneeweiß (Kiel, Germany)
9:30 Susan Pollock (Berlin, Germany) and Reinhard Bernbeck (Berlin, Germany)
   Franz Boas: Between Anti-Racism and Reification
10:00 Hans Peter Hahn (Frankfurt, Germany)
   The Mixed Fate of Franz Boas’ Cultural Relativism: Notes on the Itinerary of a German-American Concept
10:30 Coffee Break

At the Crossroads of Anthropology and Archaeology
Session Chair: Maria Wunderlich (Kiel, Germany)
11:00 Charlotte Damm (Tromsø, Norway)
   Between the Unique and the General: The Contribution of Historical and Anthropological Archaeology to the Wider Field of Anthropology
11:30 Andrei Golovnev (St. Petersburg, Russia)
   Anthropology of Movement on the Crossroads of Ethnography and Archaeology
12:00  Alexander Gramsch (Frankfurt, Germany)  
Death and the Human Body: Finding a Common Ground for Archaeology and Anthropology

12:30  Lunch

14:00  Stefanie Samida (Heidelberg, Germany / Zürich, Switzerland)  
Teaching Anthropology: Remarks from a German Perspective

14:30  Martin Furholt (Oslo, Norway / Kiel, Germany)  
Narratives, Concepts and Data: The Relevance of Franz Boas for European Archaeology

15:00  Coffee Break

“Boas for the 21st Century”: Case Studies
Session Chair: Nils Müller-Scheeßel (Kiel, Germany)

15:30  Christian Jeunesse (Strasbourg, France)  
The Cohabitation of Rich Villages and Poor Villages in Egalitarian and Acephalous Agrarian Societies. How to Understand This Paradox? The Case of Faunal Assemblages in the LBK

16:00  Colin Grier (Vancouver, USA)  
Boas for the 21st Century: In Pursuit of Context and History in Northwest Coast Archaeology

19:00  Conference Dinner

20 NOVEMBER 2021

09:30  Engdawok Assefa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and Johannes Müller (Kiel, Germany)  
Forging Networks and Identities in Non-literate Societies: Southwest Ethiopian Konso Smiths

10:00  Francesca Lugli (Rome, Italy)  
Strategies of Steppe Nomads Facing Climate Changes and Variability – Ethnoarchaeological Observation

10:30  Coffee Break

11:00  Vasa Ditamulü (Kohima, India)  
Understanding Naga Pottery Use and Meaning: A Case Study of the Phoms of Nagaland

11:30  Tiatoshi Jamir (Kohima, India)  
Decolonising Archaeological Practice in Northeast India: Views from Community Archaeology Initiatives in Nagaland

12:00  Lunch

From Cultural Relativism to Post-Colonial Imperative
Session Chair: Vesa Arponen (Kiel, Germany)

13:30  Bill Angelbeck (New Westminster, Canada)  
Boas Refracted through His Local Collaborators (James Teit, George Hunt, and William Beynon): Implications for Contemporary Interpretation, Collaboration, and Decolonisation
14:00  Peter Jordan (Groningen, Netherlands)
From Cultural Traits to Inherited Social Traditions: “Re-activating” the Anthropological Legacy of Franz Boas

14:30  Martin Porr (Perth, Australia)

15:00  Discussion and Resume

15:30  Coffee Break

16:00  Internal Meeting Ethnographisch-Archaologische Zeitschrift (Journal of Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology)

Keynote lecture
Chair: Henny Piezonka

18:00  Tracy Teslow (Cincinnati, USA)
A Historian Contends with Hagiography: Perceptions of Franz Boas and His Relevance Today

19:30  Reception with Appetizers

21 NOVEMBER 2021

Departure of participants

ORGANIZING TEAM
(all Cluster of Excellence ROOTS)

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