

DOCTORAL POSITION in “Dynamics of social structure in prehistoric hunter-gatherer communities in Siberia”

The new Cluster ROOTS – Social, Environmental, and Cultural Connectivity in Past Societies in the frame of the German Excellence Initiative explores social, environmental, and cultural processes that have substantially shaped past human development (and which are still active today). Research is organized in six research units (i.e. subclusters) covering six foci: (1) Environmental hazards and impacts; (2) Dietary intake and disease; (3) Knowledge production, technology, and innovation; (4) Population agglomeration and urbanisation; (5) Social differentiation and inequalities; and (6) Conflict and conciliation. The ROOTS ‘Reflective Turn’ will enable cross-disciplinary dialogue and enquiries within and between research foci, providing an overarching theoretical frame.

Research Associates and PhD students participate in the ROOTS Young Academy. The ROOTS Young Academy brings together young experts from an array of disciplines, which support ROOTS research with innovative research ideas. The Young Academy provides young researchers with excellent conditions for a successful career and personal development.

We invite applications for the

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to begin as early as possible.

Profile: Archaeology, Economic and Social Theory, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Archaeoinformatics

Prehistoric fortifications are generally associated with agricultural societies, while hunter-gatherer enclosures remain an underexplored field in current archaeological and anthropological debates on social organization and societal dynamics. In this context, the seven millennia deep history of complex enclosed settlements among mobile forager communities in Western Siberia is an outstanding phenomenon that needs to be explained in comparison to the better-studied dynamics in farming communities. What was the impact of environmental and economic factors such as different access to resources, and which internal socio-cultural mechanisms and external influences have been at play? Did intergroup conflicts develop that were severe and foreseeable enough to necessitate the construction of defences? Did ritual or communal practices lead to new forms of appropriating space and landscape? Investigations of this phenomenon can enhance the understanding of social dynamics and intergroup conflict in acephalous, heterarchical societies. The study region provides a unique laboratory for the quantification of social diversity in non-sedentary communities due to the preservation of measurable surface features on household sizes, settlement layouts and defensive constructions. The successful candidate will conduct research on the development of settlement systems in Western Siberia through an integrated multi-proxy study aided by archaeoinformatics. Theoretical approaches from economics, social sciences and cultural anthropology will be added to archaeological expertise used to reconstruct the dynamics of social structure and to re-evaluate common narratives regarding hunter-gatherer societies. Indicators of social inequality and conflict/conciliation as used by the subclusters “ROOTS of social inequality” and “Conflict and Conciliation” will be relevant for this research.

Requirements: We are seeking a highly qualified and motivated doctoral fellow with an interest in hunter-gatherer archaeology and anthropology to conduct high-quality interdisciplinary research within the frame of ROOTS. Eligible candidates must hold excellent university degree (MA, MSc or equivalent) in Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology. They have to bring in the knowledge to document, analyze and

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interpret archaeological contexts. Experience in computational applications in archaeology will be an advantage. We expect strong English writing and communication skills and the ability to work in a team. A working knowledge of the Russian language is necessary for the proposed study; if not present at the time of application, this skill can be acquired during the initial phase of the doctoral position.

This position is part of Subcluster 5: "ROOTS of social inequality". Integration into the research agenda of the subcluster is expected, and there are opportunities for close collaboration with other researchers within ROOTS involved in investigating hunter-gatherer lifeways and social dynamics, including joint fieldwork. The graduate program is jointly offered by academics of the Humanities, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and Life Sciences. The Doctoral candidate will be hosted by the ROOTS Young Academy and will be affiliated with the Johanna Mestorf Academy at Kiel University (www.jma.uni-kiel.de). Innovative research ideas are supported by the extensive infrastructure of the Graduate Centre at Kiel University. The position holder will be eligible to apply for research funds. The regular weekly working hours amount to 65 % of those expected of a full-time employee (currently 25,16 hours per week). Salary will be of level TV-L 13 of the federal wage agreement scheme (Tarifvertrag der Länder). The term is fixed for a period of 3,5 years (42 months).

Kiel University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the proportion of female scientists in research and teaching, and strongly encourages female applicants. Women will be given preference in case of equal suitability, competence, and professional performance. The University is also committed to the employment of disabled person, and such individuals will be accorded preference if suitable.

Applications by people with a migration background are particularly welcome.

Please address your application (cover letter; CV (including list of publications); the proposed doctoral project (max. 1500 words), including a brief summary, state of the art, a concise project description, and a work schedule; and the name of two references with contact information; a copy (in .pdf format) of your master-thesis or proof of equivalent qualification; certificates of academic degrees) as **one single .pdf document** until **6th October 2019** to:

Search Committee
Speaker Prof. Dr. Johannes Müller
Cluster of Excellence ROOTS
Kiel University
Leibnizstraße 3
24118 Kiel,
Germany

via e-mail
application@roots.uni-kiel.de

All documents must be submitted in English, with the exception of the copy of the master-thesis.

For additional information, please contact:

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