

Research Associate Position in "Ancient Plant Genomics "

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

Research Associate Position "Ancient Plant Genomics"

to begin as early as possible.

Profile: Archaeobotany, Plant Genomics, Ancient DNA analyses

The successful candidate will investigate the genetic composition of pre-/historical samples of crops cultivated in Central Europe. She/he will analyse ancient DNA data to characterize the distribution of genomic variation in these ancient cultivars and thereby specifically address, a) the origin and diversity of crops cultivated in Europe, and b) signatures of selection during early domestication. Furthermore, the candidate is expected to identify plant diseases associated with early European crops from deep sequencing of ancestral plant material. The candidate will be embedded in a multi-disciplinary research environment encompassing archaeobotanists, biologists, archaeologists, geneticists, biochemists. She/he will be involved in both, the preprocessing of archaeobotanical material and the extraction of DNA from ancient plant remains and from modern breeds from South-East Turkey to be used for aDNA sequencing. The project will build on computational and comparative analyses to identify genetic variation among individual samples as well as genome evolution of the crop species, and potentially the variation in ancient pathogen genomes.

Requirements: We are seeking a highly qualified candidate holding an excellent PhD in the fields of plant genomics, evolutionary biology or in related fields. Ideally the candidate has experience in archaeobotany and molecular biology. Working experience in molecular biology wetlabs is a precondition. The selected candidate must have a proven record of a productive scientific development. The selected candidate will have the opportunity to collaborate in an interdisciplinary team of archeologists and biologists, thus excellent communication skills are therefore a must. We expect strong English writing and communication skills and the ability to work in a team. A working knowledge of German is a plus.

The position will be allocated in the interdisciplinary research environment of the Environmental Genomics group at Kiel University, the MPI Evolutionary Biology Plön, the Kiel Ancient DNA laboratory at IKMB, and the Environmental Archaeology/Archaeobotany group at the Institute of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology. It offers the opportunity to establish a collaborative and integrative research programme on groundbreaking research in an emerging scientific field at the interface of molecular biology and archaeology to gain an informed understanding of ancient cultivar-pathogen interactions and support research on modern breeds.

Research Associate Position in "Ancient Plant Genomics "

This position is part of the Excellence Cluster Roots, Subcluster 2: Dietary Roots, dealing with the 'human condition', exploring the roots of social, environmental, and cultural phenomena and processes that substantially marked past human development. Within the broad interdisciplinary frame of ROOTS, the position holders will be hosted by the ROOTS Young Academy, which offers endowment with research funds at own disposal, access to high-end infrastructures, as well as teaching opportunity. The Research Associates will be affiliated with the Johanna Mestorf Academy at Kiel University (www.jma.uni-kiel.de).

Salary will be commensurate at level TV-L 13 of the federal wage agreement scheme (Tarifvertrag der Länder). It is a fulltime-position (currently 38,7 h/week). The initial duration of this post is for 3 years, renewable up to 6 years total, pending positive evaluation.

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 research agenda (max. 2500 words), including a brief summary, state of the art, a concise project description, and a work schedule; a short statement describing your proposed research contribution with regards to the overall aims of ROOTS; the names of two references with contact information; a copy (in .pdf format) of your PhD-dissertation; certificates of academic degrees, including proof of completion of the doctorate) as one single .pdf document until **20.09.2019** 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 PhD-dissertation.

Please refrain from submitting application photos.

For further information, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Eva Stukenbrock (estukenbrock@bot.uni-kiel.de)

Prof. Dr. Wiebke Kirleis (wiebke.kirleis@ufg.uni-kiel.de)

Prof. Dr. Ben Krause-Kyora (b.krause-kyora@ikmb.uni-kiel.de)

Prof. Dr. Almut Nebel (a.nebel@mucosa.de)