Early career researchers and equal opportunity

The 17 doctoral candidates and 16 PostDocs of the CRC receive targeted training and a framework of supervision in the Integrated Research Training Group. Together with the Graduate School "Human Development in Landscapes", we provide interdisciplinary education and foster equal opportunities.

Participating institutions

The 86 researchers of the CRC are affiliated to a variety of scientific institutions: eight institutes (Geography, Geosciences, Clinical Molecular Biology, Ecosystem Research, Computer Science, Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology, Classical Archaeology, Philosophy) and the Johanna-Mestorf-Academy at Kiel University, the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology, and the State Museum Gottorf Castle.
When studying these different settings, we focus on identifying and explaining transformations and their triggers. We define transformations as processes leading to a substantial and enduring reorganisation of socio-environmental interaction patterns. As transformations do not only occur on different temporal scales but also on different spatial and social scales, we focus on different landscapes, from the Mediterranean to the Arctic, and various social constellations, from Palaeolithic camp sites to the Aegean polis.

Our research is based on extensive fieldwork, including prospections and excavations. Archaeological, palaeo-ecological, and palaeo-genetic archives are researched by combining methods from the humanities, the natural sciences, and the life sciences, thus promoting reciprocal method development.

Since our main interest is change, our research parameters include power structures, social inequality, conflicts, technological innovation, specialisation, subsistence, demographic processes, ritual practices, the emergence and spread of diseases, temperature variations, and constraints on resources. These indicators for transformation are recorded from sites throughout various European transects spanning the period of 15,000 years. In order to process a large range of scientific proxies, the subprojects of our research network collaborate in the development of methods and the formulation of interdisciplinary results.

The clusters and subprojects investigate transformations in human development in the context of their climatic and vegetation history, including: Neolithisation, metal processing, urbanisation and the formation of states as well as associated socio-economic dynamics. Theoretical, conceptual and methodological emphases provide the interpretive framework (diagram: C. Reckweg).