

**WORKSHOP:**

# Geosophy

**26.-27.06.2019**

## **Venue:**

Zentrum für Geoinformation ZfG  
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel  
Neufeldtstraße 10  
Laurispark - Geb. 32  
24118 Kiel

## **What is it about?**

"Geosophy (...) is the study of geographical knowledge from any or all points of view" (Wright 1947, 12). It is different from the *geography of knowledge* that investigates the forms and manifestations of knowledge in terms of their distribution and areal relationships (ibid., p. 11). Geosophy aims to get an understanding of the past and present sense of a terrestrial space by investigating the nature and expression of geographical knowledge of all manner of people, e.g. farmers, fishermen, traders, painters, nomads, etc. (ibid, p. 12).

During this follow up workshop we want to explore more specifically how eco-social relations of past people are mirrored in their spatial organization and how we can derive insights into their geographies from it. Two foci are to be addressed: the first is on theory - trying to assess to which degree modern approaches can be employed to the study of geosophical questions. The second focus is on practice - in order to discuss different approaches to reconstruct past people's geographies. Resulting questions are, e.g., to which degree is sociological theory able to support the investigation of (past) people's geographical knowledge? Is it possible to gain insights into geographical knowledge by a comparative approach of different eco-social narratives? Can we bridge scales, i.e. from an individual object and its biography to the environment, and derive insights into the geography of (past) people based on this approach? etc.

The aim of the workshop is (a) to gain deeper insights into eco-social relations, e.g. in terms of societal metabolism, by collecting ideas of how to reconstruct their geographies. Such insights will offer us important information to (b) diachronically investigate whether or how such geographies change. This is a crucial contribution to questions on transformations within societies and their relation to the environment.

## **Invited speakers:**

- Ricarda Braun (Kiel University): Geosophy and Affordance
- Vera Egbers (ANAMED, Koç University): Geosophy as a progressive political agenda in a positivistic discipline
- Burak Gürel (Koç University): Agrarian Change in Western Anatolia: A Long-Term Historical Perspective and Agenda for Further Research
- Nils Müller-Scheeßel, Daniel Groß (Kiel University): „Where No Man\* Has Gone Before“: Exploring and colonizing unknown territory (\*read: hunter & gatherer/Horticulturist)
- Chiara Palladino (Furman University): Mapping the unmapped: transmedial representations of premodern geographies
- Murat Tozan (Ege University): Physiognomy (or maybe Geosophy?) of Pergamon according to Aelius Aristeides
- Vesa Arponen (Kiel University): Modern Theory in Prehistory: the Case of World Systems Theory in Archaeology

## **organized by:**

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