General Information

Standing in the tradition of the 1st Landscape Archaeology Conference held in Amsterdam in 2010, LAC 2012 will provide a platform for archaeologists, geographers and researchers from neighbouring disciplines to present and discuss results in the broad field of geo- and landscape archaeology.

The 2nd International Landscape Archaeology Conference will take place at the Science & Conference Center of the Freie Universität Berlin on June 6–9, 2012.

Important Dates

- June 2011
  First circular

- December 31, 2011
  Deadline for abstract submission (250 words)

- April 2012
  Deadline for registration

- April 10, 2012
  Deadline for submission of extended abstracts.

  All contributors of oral presentations are requested to submit extended abstracts (3500 words, up to two figures, references). These abstracts will be published in the online publication medium of the Excellence Cluster Topoi: eTopoi

Conference Fee

Early registration until 31 March 2012
Regular 150 Euro | Students 75 Euro

Regular registration until 30 April 2012
Regular 175 Euro | Students 150 Euro

The fees include VAT (where applicable)

Organisation | Contact

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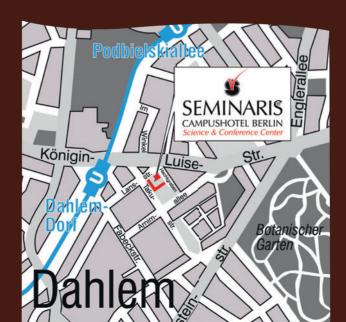Institute for Geographical Science
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EXCELLENCE CLUSTER TOPOI

Freie Universität Berlin

Venue

Science & Conference Center
Takustraße 39
14195 Berlin

landscape archaeology conference
LAC 2012

6th–9th of June 2012
Freie Universität Berlin
Germany

www.geo.fu-berlin.de/lac2012

In the past decade, the field of landscape archaeology has increasingly attracted researchers from the geo sciences, archaeology and the historical disciplines.

The scope of the conference will cover the following session topics:

Ancient megastructures and their environment

A megastructure is an assemblage of constructions that is distinguished by its monumentality, its planned structure, and the great amount of labour required for its erection, often over a longer period of time. The main interest of this session is the embedment of such megastructures in space, taking special note of the relationship between megastructure and hinterland. In this context, the term megastructure does not pertain to settlements alone, but includes sanctuaries, grave monuments, etc. ...

The themes to be dealt with include reciprocal effects between the centre and the environs, the effects on available resources through the continual use of megastructures, and the possible reaction to the shortage of resources. A further point of interest is the expansion of modern agglomerations onto previous megastructures and the socio-political and landscape archaeological handling of this situation.

Landscape resilience to human impact

It is assumed that during early settlement history, settlement characteristics corresponded to local strategies of adaptation to the natural environment. While these impacts were small or negligible during the earliest settlement phases, ongoing cultural development led to increasingly substantial impact on natural landscape and decreasing levels of dependency on local environmental conditions. Meanwhile, each kind of human impact affected the landscape's dynamic equilibrium, causing changes in material fluxes. Depending on its sensitivity, each landscape reacted differently to disturbances.

The session deals with the evaluation of the interrelations between landscape systems and human landuse strategies and with the analysis of landscape sensitivity and landscape resilience to human impact.

Human adaptation to landscape changes

There is a strong interaction between people and their physical environment. Landscape in archaeology today is understood as the topography of the social and the cultural as much as the physical contours (David, Thomas 2008). This implies that humans react to landscape changes in respect of all these aspects. A large combination of natural science methods, such as geo- and bioarchaeology, allows the detection of the human-environment relationships, which never represent purely adaptive processes but consist of conceptions of the landscape.

We would like to bring together various approaches with the goal of exchanging views on methodological procedures, results, critical factors, and other research perspectives without any temporal or spatial limits. So we will gain a wide-ranging comparison of different ways of human adaptation to landscape changes.

Spatial information systems in landscape archaeology

Work with spatially distributed digital data is groundwork for modern landscape archaeological projects and is increasingly becoming a basic requirement. Depending on the subject under investigation, spatial information systems provide help in organizing, analysing and presenting spatial data on different scales.

Results of archaeological field surveys, spatially distributed palaeo-ecological samplings, remote sensing data at various scales, geomorphological and archaeological mapping, spatially referenced literature analysis, predictive modelling, pattern detection, 3D GIS, and spatial statistics are only some aspects of the wide field of innovation to be presented in this session.

Theoretical concepts in landscape archaeology

Today a variety of different theoretical concepts determine the joint research of archaeologists and geoscientists, all of which can be summarised under the terms landscape or geoarchaeology. One example of a geographical concept being applied within the framework of archaeology is the theory of central places by W. Christaller. Such concepts and theories were normally developed using measuring data in contrast to the proxy data normally available within landscape archaeological projects. So, how successful is such an adoption? Where are the limitations and how can we deal with problems that may occur?

This session provides a platform for the presentation, evaluation and discussion of theoretical concepts in the wide field of landscape archaeology and addresses the question of what the future will bring for the discipline of landscape archaeology.