

Newsletter Spring 2014

January to April 2014

From the GIA director Prof. Daan Raemaekers



This Spring 2014 newsletter underlines the continuous new activities typical for a flourishing research institute. Last February, the library collection left the Poststraat building; it is now housed in the central library. In order to maintain the important close ties between research and education, we intend to create more space for students to work in our building. At the same time, we all should find our way to the new library. At this point, I would like to thank our librarians Ineke, Jean-Marc and Michiel for their year-long collaboration. As a final word: as of April 1, 2014 Peter Attema will be the new GIA director. I wish him all the best!

Staff

Welcome to our new Staff members!



Peter Attema appointed Director at the GIA Starting on April 1st, 2014, Peter Attema has been appointed as the GIA's new director. Attema has been a leading figure in our Department since he was appointed professor in Classical and Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Groningen in 1999. He has served and still serves in many capacities including Chairman of the Board of our Department, Director of Studies of the Research Master of Art History and Archaeology, the temporary GIA director, the chairman of the GIA Advisory Board and member of the Management team. We welcome Peter in his new role as director.

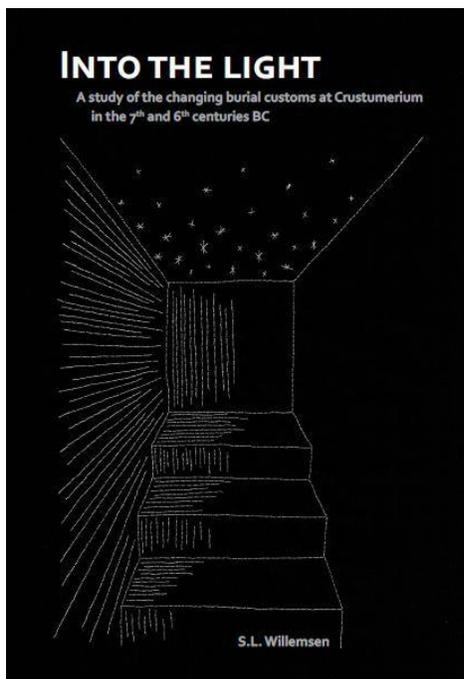


Frigga Kruse appointed post-doc at the Arctic Centre Dr. Frigga Kruse is the newly appointed Post-doc at the Arctic Centre. Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Louwrens Hacquebord, she will carry out polar historical archaeological research into the consequences of 400 years of natural-resource exploitation on Spitsbergen. Her project is part of the NWO core program 'Anthropogenic impact on Svalbard ecosystems'.

PhDs

Upcoming PhD Defenses

Hendrik Feiken will defend his PhD thesis: Dealing with Biases: Geo-archaeological approaches to the Hidden Landscapes of Italy on April 10th at 12:45. His defence will be preceded by a short conference, which will be held in Broerstraat 9 building in Lecture room A901. If you wish to attend the conference, please confirm your planned attendance with Martijn van Leusen at p.m.van.leusen@rug.nl.



Sarah Willemsen will defend her PhD thesis: Into the light: A study of the changing burial customs at Crustumium in the 7th and 6th centuries BC on April 17th at 14:30. Sarah's PhD thesis describes the way the burial customs changed in Crustumium during a period that used to be characterised as 'obscure'. Her investigation of a number of recently excavated tombs dating to the 7th and 6th century BC aims at providing new insights into this period and bringing it into the light.

Her defence will be preceded by a short conference, which will be held in the Lecture room Turf 01 (Turftorenstraat 21). If you wish to attend the conference, please confirm your planned attendance with Sarah Willemsen at s.l.willemsen@rug.nl.

Welcome to our new PhDs!



Tom Farrell from the Arctic and Antarctic Studies research group recently started his PhD in January. His PhD project aims to elucidate prehistoric ceramic vessel use practices in Alaska by means of residue analyses.

Palaeoeskimo and Eskimo groups from the North American Arctic used pottery from as early as 2500 BP until modern times. The consistent use of pottery over this time period emphasizes the importance of the technology to Arctic hunter-gatherer lifeways. Unclear, however, are the reasons behind the adoption, spread, and use of pottery in harsh Arctic environments. To begin to address the

reasons behind the adoption, spread, and use of pottery among North American Arctic hunter-gatherers, this project will undertake a comparative contextual analysis of ceramic container technologies from a variety of Palaeoeskimo and Eskimo sites in Alaska – the gateway of pottery’s appearance in the North American Arctic – with an emphasis on the analysis of archaeological residues.

The project aims to address Alaskan pottery use at a number of distinct scales. First, it will operate on a local, site-based scale in order to provide insights into the vessel use, foodways, and lifeways of specific communities of Alaskan hunter-gatherers. Second, these site-based analyses will be used to assess regional variations in pottery use over space and through time. Finally, Alaskan and Arctic pottery use will be considered within the emerging global framework of hunter-gatherer ceramic adaptations. At all scales, biomolecular data will be combined with other lines of evidence (e.g. faunal, floral, isotopic, ethnographic, typological etc.) in order to create the most complete understanding of Alaskan pottery use as possible.



Vana Kalenderian joined the GIA in January 2014 as a PhD student under the supervision of Dr. Lidewijde de Jong. Her research project, “Resurrecting’ Berytus - Osteoarchaeological Analysis and an Evaluation of Mortuary Practices and Cultural Exchange (1st century BC - 5th century AD)”, aims to investigate the effects that the annexation of Syria into the Roman Empire had on the indigenous population of the city of Berytus (modern day Beirut, Lebanon) and its local culture. This will be accomplished through the assessment of a large corpus of recently excavated tombs from Beirut by examining the associated mortuary practices and skeletal remains.

Publications

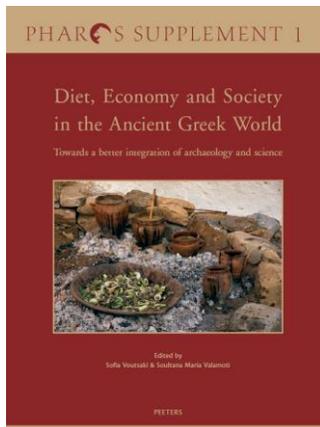
Caeculus 8 will be released soon! This volume was edited by Peter Attema, Albert Nijboer, Sarah Willemsen, and Jorn Seubers.



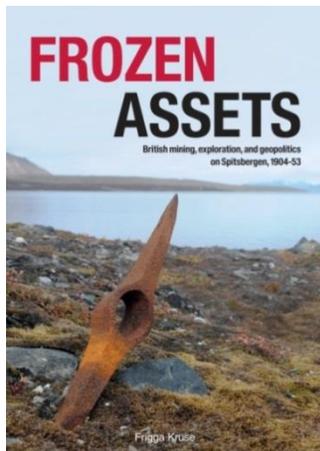
Lidewijde de Jong standing at the entrance of a Roman tomb in Baalbek with goats.

Die Nekropolen von Baalbek - The Cemeteries of Baalbek The final publication of the survey of Roman cemeteries around ancient Baalbek (Lebanon). This research conducted by Lidewijde de Jong was part of the DAI/DGA Baalbek project directed by Margarete van Ess (DAI) and Klaus Rheidt (Cottbus).

Full reference: Jong, Lidewijde de. "Die Nekropolen von Baalbek." *Baalbek - Heliopolis. 10 000 Jahre Stadtgeschichte*. Eds. Ess, Margarete van and Klaus Rheidt. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern, 2014. 46-51.



“Diet, Economy and Society in the Ancient Greek World: Towards a better integration of archaeology and science” was released earlier this January, which is edited by the GIA's Professor Sofia Voutsaki and Soultana Maria Valamoti.



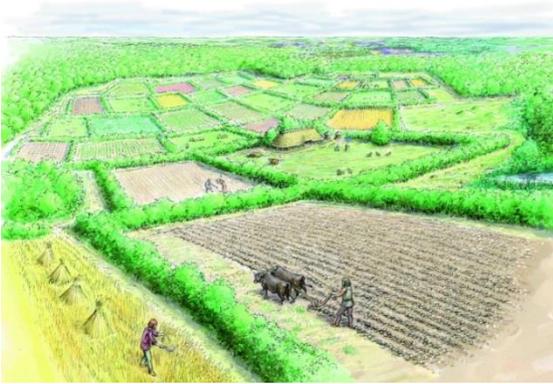
Frigga Kruse’s PhD research has recently been published: ‘Frozen Assets. British mining, exploration, and geopolitics on Spitsbergen, 1904-53’. Printed copies are can be bought directly from the publisher Barkhuis or from the Arctic Centre. Please contact Frigga Kruse at f.kruse@rug.nl if you would like to receive a colour .pdf copy for research purposes.

Research



Postdoctoral research into the archaeological landscape at Spitsbergen. Frigga Kruse, post-doctoral researcher at the Arctic Centre, will investigate the consequences of 400 years of natural resource exploitation for the environment of Spitsbergen in the European Arctic. Major industries during this period were whaling, hunting and trapping, and mining. The removal and introduction of species as well as changes in land use created a rich archaeological landscape but tell-tale signs are

often overlooked or underestimated in modern environmental impact assessments. Her research is part of the NWO core program 'Anthropogenic Impact on Svalbard Ecosystems'.



Artist reconstruction of a Celtic field at Ede (© Gemeente Ede, 2013). It shows the banks around the various cultivated plots.

Seven centuries of ploughing in Ede: Dutch Celtic fields used continuously for centuries.

Groningen/Ede - The Netherlands - March 14th

2014. Archaeological excavations have finally answered the question regarding the age and development of the mysterious prehistoric fields enclosed by earthen ridges known as ‘Celtic fields’.

Using Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL), a technique that dates the last exposure to light or heat sources of quartz minerals, archaeologist Stijn Arnoldussen from the University of Groningen, the

Netherlands managed to determine that these banks around the later prehistoric field plots were constructed more than 3100 years ago and remained in use for hundreds of years thereafter. Until now, no reliable dates were available to securely date the Dutch Celtic fields. Moreover, his research indicated that the Celtic field-banks were constructed out of sods taken from wet heathlands, near alder carrs or from stream valleys. Such sods were taken to the settlements, mixed with dung and domestic refuse and – akin to modern fertilizer – taken back to the field plots as manure. Through the process of uprooting field weeds and then discarding them at the field’s edges, this mixture came to form banks, ever so gradually, between fields. Over the course of hundreds of years, c. 1 m high banks developed.



Research area of the Lunteren Celtic fields. The locations of the Celtic field banks are visible as discolourations in the modern fields. The details show the fieldwork in full swing (top left), part of an Iron Age spindle-whorl for creating wool fibres (right) and a present-day full-size reconstruction of an Iron Age farmhouse found at Lunteren.

Research Through manually digging small test-pits and analysing hundreds of soils samples from the banks and Celtic field plots at Lunteren (municipality of Ede, the Netherlands), Arnoldussen successfully managed to determine how the banks were constructed and to accurately date the banks. These excavations were conducted in cooperation with the Municipality of Ede, the Province of Gelderland and land-owner ‘Stichting Geldersch Landschap & Kastelen’. “The problem is that we have known the locations of these Celtic fields for decades thanks to aerial photography and, more recently, due to laser altimetry analyses”, states Arnoldussen, “but that we essentially were clueless about how the banks were

constructed or for what period of time this system of embanked fields was in function”. This is peculiar, as Arnoldussen argues that “Celtic fields are one of the most extensive and still visible types of archaeology in the present-day Dutch landscape”. Indeed, the size of Celtic field systems can be vast. The Celtic field complex targeted by the Groningen Institute of Archaeology at Lunteren measured at least 210 hectares in prehistory.

Age of the Celtic field banks Through the application of a special technique that dates the last heat- or light-exposure of quartz particles (Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating or OSL, in collaboration with the Netherlands Centre for Luminescence dating at Wageningen University), various soil samples from the Celtic field banks could be dated. “The results are way more spectacular than anticipated!”, exclaims Arnoldussen, “It showed that the Celtic field system remained in use for hundreds of years: certainly 700 years, but possibly even for one millennium!”. The prehistoric banks were constructed around 1100 cal. BC but were still increasing in height 700 years later. It is probable that their use spanned into the Roman era. This shows that Celtic field systems are not only vast in surface area, but also represent an agricultural landscape of unprecedented stability and durability. “This most have been an utmost traditional agricultural system”, clarifies Arnoldussen, “in which it was of vital importance to continue the planting, tending to and harvesting of crops in the same ways, and on the near same spots, as your ancestors”. Palaeobotanical analyses of the samples showed that barley, wheat and flax were cultivated. According to Arnoldussen, there has never been an (agri)cultural landscape in the history or the prehistory of the Dutch, that surpasses the Celtic field system in permanence and durability.



Students of archaeology at the University of Groningen participate in the excavation campaign and cut-across a Celtic field bank dating to the Bronze Age and Iron age at Lunteren (Municipality of Ede). The small, hand-dug trenches allow maximum attention to recovery of finds and changes in composition of the banks.

Celtic field banks The composition of the Celtic field banks was previously subject to debate, states Arnoldussen: “Many wild theories have been brought to the fore, for example that the banks consisted of cleared-out tree stumps, stones or driftsand, yet none of these were found during our excavations of the banks. The banks rather appear to comprise mineral and organic sods of low-lying, wet, parts of the landscape that were mixed with dung and debris at

small prehistoric hamlets.” As the excavation of the Groningen team was situated on the high-and-dry flank of a Saale-period glacial ridge (the Goudsberg of Lunteren), the team was initially somewhat puzzled by the discovery of plants of wet landscapes (lesser bulrush, sedges, alder pollen) on the ridge. “They would have needed to walk two kilometres to lower lying land beyond the glacial ridge in

prehistory”, clarifies Arnoldussen, “but as we have also found charcoal indicative of alder trees

used for firewood from the same lowland areas, they presumably used ox-powered carts to do the heavy lifting.”

Despite these important discoveries, the investigators are adamant that there is still much to be learned. “We now know the age of several banks in two Dutch Celtic fields, yet the precise ways in which the Celtic field agriculture was executed (crop rotation, fallow period, and interspersed occupation) and whether Celtic fields in other parts of the Low Countries are similar, remains unclear”, according to Arnoldussen. Therefore, this summer, Arnoldussen sets out to excavate yet another Dutch Celtic field, this time within the coversand landscapes of the Southern Netherlands.

A [full publication](#) of the research discussed is published on the open access repository at the University of Groningen.

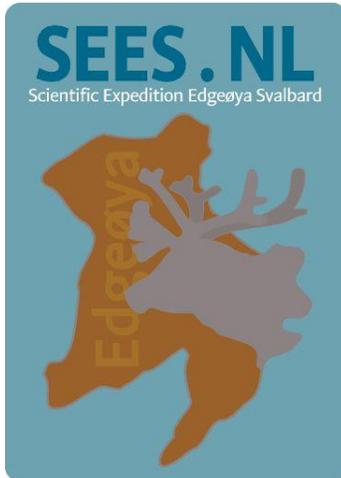
Archaeological Research beneath the Garsthuizen church The GIA began new archaeological research this past February under the leadership and supervision of Professor Henny Groenendijk. The mound beneath the Garsthuizen church will be excavated. Two archaeology students from the University of Groningen are participating in [this project](#).

The archaeological research is carried out at the Garsthuizen church. There was not an opportunity to renovate it and Church Garsthuizen Restoration Foundation (SRKG) and the Foundation for Old Groninger Churches (SOGK) have decided to demolish it and construct a new building in its place. Prior to the construction of the new building, archaeological research will be conducted on the mound, which is especially important to connect with the history of the village nearby. Community members have been asked to participate in the excavation.



Survey: Ayios Vasilios Hill A 5-year plan to carry out a survey around the site of Ayios Vasilios has been approved by the Netherlands Institute at Athens and submitted for approval to the Greek Ministry of Culture. The main aims of the survey is to record all traces of human habitation and use of the area surrounding the site, to reconstruct shifts in occupation and to establish the extent of the Mycenaean town. The survey will

include systematic field-walking and collection of surface finds, while geophysical prospection and geomorphological investigation will be carried out if the necessary subsidies are obtained. The project will be directed by Sofia Voutsaki and Adamantia Vasilogamvrou, while Corien Wiersma will act as Field Director.



SEES Project Logo.

SEES, an expedition to Spitsbergen in 2015 Four years after the initial plan, the Arctic Centre is able to organize a special expedition with Dutch polar researchers to east-Spitsbergen. From 19 until 28 August 2015, 50 Dutch scientists will try to boost multidisciplinary polar research by combining their ideas and expertise during field work. This plan has been earlier submitted for the Academic Annual Prize. We ended second and we only received a large bowl to remember this. However, NWO has supported our plan with a large amount of money which makes it possible to rent an expedition ship.

The original plan was to have scientists, students and artists together on the boat. We now have money for scientists but are looking into possibilities to have students and artists joining us. For students of archaeology: we will examine old whaling stations and pomor hunting sites, together with animal bones on raised beaches.

<http://www.sees.nl>



Een schilderij van Cornelis de Man uit 1639 met het walvisvaartstation op Jan Mayen en op de achtergrond de vulkaan van de Beerenberg. Dit schilderij hangt in het Rijksmuseum boven de vitrine met wollen muten van walvisvaarders uit Spitsbergen.

400 year after the discovery, the Arctic Centre goes on

expedition to Jan Mayen On Jan Mayen, remains of a 17th century Dutch whaling station are quickly disappearing due to coastal erosion. Thanks to the hospitality on board of the Royal Dutch Navy, the Arctic

Centre together with partners from the Willem Barentsz Polar Institute, will visit the remote site in August 2014. We hope to take archeology

students along, to map the present situation at the whaling station and to search for archeological finds on remote beaches.

Jan Mayen is located 600 km north of Iceland and 600 km east of Greenland. It is dominated by a volcano (2200 m high) and has a length of 56 km. The sites have been visited in 1983 by members of the Arctic Centre and biology students. In 2014, we hope to review the present situation and create a timeline of change from 1983 to 2014. For students participating in the expedition there are no costs (departure and arrival Den Helder) but we have to spend several days at sea. Students which are willing to spend time in preparation or analysis have a better chance of joining.

Interested archaeology students can contact Peter Jordan (p.d.jordan@rug.nl). More information on <http://www.rug.nl/arcticcentre>.

Honours, Awards, and Prizes

Corien Wiersma receives the Institute of Aegean Prehistory Post-doctoral Fellowship 2014.

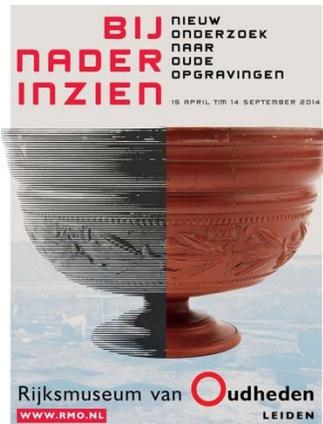
We congratulate GIA Alumna Corien Wiersma, who has been awarded the Institute of Aegean Prehistory Post-doctoral Fellowship for 2014. Wiersma recently received her PhD this past October. During her research project, she will carry out an exploratory survey around Ayios Vasilios, as part of the preparation of a 5-year survey of the Ayios Vasilios hill range.

Two subsidies for the Ayios Vasilios Project The Ayios Vasilios Project has received two subsidies: A Renewal Research Grant by the Institute of Aegean Prehistory (59.000 \$) and a subsidy by the Kaplan Foundation which will cover the costs of restoration on the site and training of conservators on location.

Activities

Archaeology Open Day 2014 On January 31st, the GIA hosted Archaeology Open Day 2014 for prospective undergraduate and master's students.

The third CRASIS Annual meeting took place February 13 and 14. CRASIS (Culture, Religion and Society in Graeco-Roman Antiquity) is a collaboration between historians, archaeologists, and religion scholars at the University of Groningen. The topic of the annual meeting was Cultural Knowledge in the Ancient World - Production, Circulation and Validation. Professor Marietta Horster of Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz hosted the master class for MA and PhD students and gave the keynote address.



GIA research on display in national museum of antiquities in Leiden Between the 15th of April and the 14th of September 2014, the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden will be organizing an exhibition named "Bij nader inzien" (on second thoughts). This exhibition displays the results of 32 Odyssee research projects with which archaeologists reanalyzed the results from excavations that took place before 1990. Several GIA members participated in Odyssee research projects.

Annet Nieuwhof worked on publishing new insights on the habitation of the famous terp of Ezinge on the transition from the prehistory to the Roman period. André van Holk analysed fishing ships dating to 16th and 17th century found in the polder. Gary Nobles and Sandra Beckerman studied the remains of Late Neolithic Corded Ware settlements from Noord-Holland. Wietske Prummel studied the animal remains found at the terp of Wijngaaldum dating to the early Middle ages. Additionally, new research conducted by Marcel Niekus into the site Bergumermeer S-64B has resulted in unlocking an important part of the excavation data regarding

the importance of this site in the representation of the Mesolithic in the Northern part of the Netherlands.

For the opening of the exhibition a conference with national and international speakers will be organised on the 14th of April.

For more information and for congress registration see: <http://www.rmo.nl/tentoonstellingen/bij-nader-inzien>.