

That the Nile was of crucial importance to Egypt, a country surrounded by desert, is obvious to all, and has been realized ever since Antiquity. Nevertheless, the river as an environmental and cultural factor has been less intensively studied by archaeologists and Egyptologists than might be expected.

More recent studies regarding the Nile show a growing awareness that we are facing a natural phenomenon, the study of which is fundamentally the domain of the natural sciences. On the other hand, available evidence also includes ancient and culturally biased material of a kind that is beyond the competence of most natural scientists. The problem in addressing this dispersed and incongruous information is that an intensive interaction between numerous disciplines with little tradition of collaboration is needed, a condition rarely fulfilled.

Nowadays, important progress is being achieved particularly in integrating earth sciences and Egyptian archaeology. By bringing together specialists working in different parts of Egypt, one aim of the conference is to enable natural scientists to compare the methods they deploy and the kinds of results they attain. Another aim will be to compare the results of regional interpretations from different parts of the country to address broader issues (like the size of the floodplain, hypotheses about the drift of the Nile bed, or the potential for economic and demographic analysis. Another aim is to assess material and written evidence and iconography testifying to how the Egyptians reacted to the environmental conditions imposed by the nilotic environment. For this, archaeological indications could be the spatial distribution of sites in relation to landscape features with an impact on the local hydrology, or the date when certain changes in land form, land cover, or land use occurred. Religious ideas, customs and iconography illustrate the varied ways in which the Nilotic environment had an impact on the Egyptians' mental outlook. Since, moreover, the Nile is a factor that continued to exert influence after the demise of pharaonic culture, Medieval and even later sources are also of direct relevance.

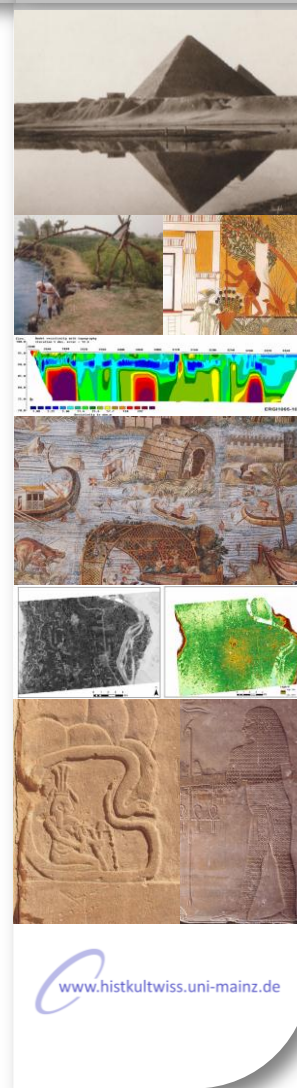
For reasons of available space in the Senatssaal the number of participants is restricted. We therefore request to register in advance before 1st February 2013. There is no registration fee. We will send you a confirmation.

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The Nile

Natural Landscape & Cultural Landscape

22nd - 23rd February 2013

Senatssaal (Raum 07-232)
 Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät (ZDV)
 Johann-Joachim-Becher-Weg 21
 55099 Mainz

www.histkultwiss.uni-mainz.de



JOHANNES GUTENBERG
 UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

- Opening
- 08:30 Coffee and Registration
- 09:00 Prof. Dr. Ulrich Försterman, Vizepräsident für Forschung (JGU)
Welcoming Speech
Prof. Dr. Stefan Müller-Stach, GFK-Leitungsgremium (JGU):
Welcoming Speech
- Opening Speech
- 09:30 Harco Willems (Mainz/Leuven):
The Analysis of Historical Maps as an Avenue to the Interpretation of Pre-Industrial Irrigation Practices in Egypt
- Morning Session – Chair: Judith Bunbury
- 10:10 Luc Gabolde (CNRS Montpellier):
The Origins of Karnak – Archaeological, Astronomical, Textual and Theological Sources
- 10:40 Angus Graham (UC London):
The Origins of Karnak – Geoarchaeological and Geophysical Survey Results
- 11:10 Discussion
- 11:20 Gert Verstraeten (KU Leuven):
The Dynamic Nature of the Transition from the Nile Floodplain to the Desert in Central Egypt since the Mid-Holocene
- 11:50 Harco Willems (JGU Mainz/KU Leuven):
The Hare Nome – from Physical Geography to Social Archaeology.
- 12:20 Discussion
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- Afternoon Session – Chair: Manfred Bietak
- 14:00 Cornelia Römer (DAI Kairo):
Irrigation Canals in the Fayum
- 14:30 Dirk Blaschta (Universität Leipzig):
Geoarchaeological Investigations of the Area Surrounding the Dahschur Necropolis
- 15:00 Discussion

- 15:10 Judith Bunbury (University Cambridge):
Migrating Memphis – The Development of a City in a River Floodplain
- 15:40 Ana Tavares (AERA):
The White Walls – The Landscape of the Capital Zone
- 16:10 Discussion
- 16:20 Tea break
- 16:40 Willem Toonen (RU Utrecht):
Implication of the Holocene Palaeo-Environment on Cultural Dynamics in the Western Nile Delta
- 17:10 Joshua Trampier (Oak Ridge Associated Universities):
Above, atop, and below – Integrated Methods for Reconstructing the Cultural and Natural Landscapes of the Western Nile Delta
- 17:30 Discussion
- 17:40 Break
- Key Note Speech
- 18:00 Manfred Bietak (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften):
Harbours and Coastal Military Bases in Egypt in the 2nd Millenium: Avaris – Peru-Nefer-Piramesse



- Morning Session – Chair: Cornelia Römer
- 09:00 Benjamin Pennington (Durham University):
The Nile Valley Floodplain and the Delta Floodplain
- 09:30 Penelope Wilson (Durham University):
Isolation and Resistance in the Northern Nile Delta Landscape
- 10:00 Discussion
- 10:10 Tea Break
- 10:30 Rainer Nutz (Uni Basel):
Nile Gauge Readings and the Agrarian Potential in the Middle Kingdom.
- 11:00 Jean-Christophe Antoine (Université Jean Monnet Saint-Etienne):
Modeling the Nile Agricultural Floodplain from Papyrus Willbour and Xth Century B.C. Land Registers
- 11:30 Pierre Koemoth (Université de Liège):
Cultivable Land and Crocodiles – Ethology, Religion, and Economy in the Nile Floodplain in Roman Egypt
- 12:00 Discussion
- 12:15 Lunch Break
- Afternoon Session – Chair: Harco Willems
- 14:00 Jan Tattko (EKU Tübingen):
Personifications of the Nile Flood according to Graeco-Roman Temple Inscriptions
- 14:30 Sandra Sandri (JGU Mainz):
Nilometer - oder: Kann man Wohlstand messen?
- 15:00 Discussion
- 15:10 Tea Break
- 15:30 Stuart Borsch (Assumption College Worcester /MA):
The Water Regime of Medieval Alexandria”
- 16:00 Discussion
- 16:10 Closing Discussion