



NEWSLETTER



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As 2022 draws to a close, we are happy to announce that it has been a fruitful year of academic work, with several new publications, research collaborations, and conferences. We are also happy to announce that Marisa Köllner will be returning to her position as Scientific Coordinator of the Center and that a number of new fellows will be joining us this semester.

New insights into the daily lives of early industrial women workers

New research led by Dr. Alexandros Karakostis (the DFG Center's Junior Research Group Leader) and Dr. Gerhard Hotz, Curator of Anthropology at the Natural History Museum of Basel, demonstrated for the first time that hand bones preserve extensive information on the daily lives and activities of past women and men. Because the past occupations of women are often poorly archived, for example due to the way in which women's labor was perceived in the past, Karakostis and Hotz focused in particular on the hand bones of historic low-status women workers from early industrial Basel. More on their findings can be found here: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/en/university/news-and-publications/newsfullview-news/article/novel-insights-into-the-daily-lives-of-early-industrial-women-workers/>



The skeletal remains of a documented female tailor from 19th century Basel, whose specialized manual activities are reflected on her hand bones.

Prof. Katerina Harvati admitted to Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Prof. Katerina Harvati was recently admitted to the Academy of Sciences Leopoldina for her extraordinary contributions to the science of palaeoanthropology and in recognition of her scientific excellence. The university's press release can be found here (in German): <https://uni-tuebingen.de/uni-versitaet/aktuelles-und-publikationen/attempto-online/newsfullview-attempto/article/palaeoanthropologin-katerina-harvati-in-akademie-der-wissenschaften-leopoldina-aufgenommen/>



Fellowships in the winter semester



Prof. Nina Dobrushina has joined the DFG Center as a long-term fellow and will be staying for a year. She is a linguist working in typology and sociolinguistics. She is interested in the study of the evolution and dynamics of linguistic diversity. For years, she conducted field research in Daghestan, Northern Caucasus, an area of very high language density, where more than 50 languages are still spoken in everyday life and transmitted to children. In her opinion, linguists need to understand mechanisms of language contact, linguistic variation and language change, and this requires a combination of the methods of cross-linguistic comparison and



anthropological analysis with the use of quantitative data. As part of her stay, she will be teaching courses at the Department of Linguistics at the University of Tübingen on topics such as linguistic fieldwork and language contact.



Additionally, we have been joined by Dr. Maciej T. Krajcarz, a Quaternary geologist whose main focus is on clastic cave sediments. During his time at the Center, he will focus on the biochemical record of ecological aspects of Late Pleistocene hominins who inhabited a key hub for the human dispersal, the Altai mountains: Neanderthals, Denisovans, and Anatomically Modern Humans. He will work with Prof. Hervé Bocherens (University of Tübingen, Biogeology) to build a database of published

and unpublished carbon and nitrogen stable isotope data for Altai ancient humans and fauna, and exploit it for tracking trophic similarities and differences between hominins and wild carnivores, such as cave hyena, cave lion and wolf. More information about his project can be found on the homepage.

Fellows arriving in January-March 2023

In January, Dr. Chundra Cathcart will start his fellowship at the Center. His project will aim to gain a closer understanding of the extent to which lexical change facilitates the creation, renewal and maintenance of certain sound patterns. This work will involve designing flexible phylogenetic models to investigate nuanced linguistic questions of this nature. A better understanding of the various constraints that shape vocabulary replacement can inform conjectures regarding the nature of human language at time depths inaccessible to the comparative method.



In February, Dr. Christin Beck will join us from the University of Konstanz. Her research focuses, broadly speaking, on the development of computational methods for the study of historical language change, and in particular on novel and innovative visualization methods for multidimensional language data.



In March, Prof. Nicholas Evans (Australian National University) will commence a fellowship at the Center. Prof. Evans is a renowned linguist whose research project at the Center will aim to advance our understanding of how the linguistic and cultural trajectories of plant use in Sahul (Australia and New Guinea) are linked. This can be achieved through 'linguistic palaeontology', the linking of word-histories to elements in the archaeological record, such as ancient rock art and preserved artefacts, and to distributions through cultural space recorded in ethnographic databases.

Another fellow from the Australian National University, Dr. Ronald J. Planer, will join us in April. His research project with the Center will aim to illuminate the evolutionary connections between stone-tool manufacture and the evolution of our theory-of-mind abilities, of which there are plausibly many. It will do so with an eye towards better understanding, among other things, the biocultural origins of human language.



More information about the aforementioned projects is available on the homepage: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/forschung/forschungsschwerpunkte/forschungsgruppen/words-bones-genes-tools/fellows/>



Dr. Marisa Köllner returns as Scientific Coordinator



Dr. Marisa Köllner will return from her parental leave in January to resume her position as Scientific Coordinator. She will also resume her research on the automatic detection of language contact and borrowing using phylogenetic models. The aim of her work is to identify contact scenarios and borrowing processes in order to shed light on past relationships between languages, as well as their evolution.

New publications

Members of the Center have published several new articles this year, including an upcoming article by Prof. Katerina Harvati and former Scientific Coordinator Dr. Hugo Reyes-Centeno in the 50th anniversary celebratory issue of the *Journal of Human Evolution* entitled 'Evolution of *Homo* in the Middle and Late Pleistocene'.

A full list of our new publications in press and published in 2022 can be found on the homepage: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/forschung/forschungsschwerpunkte/forschungsgruppen/words-bones-genes-tools/publications/>

Call for fellowship applications

The Center is a forum of interdisciplinary discussion and research. Its fellowship program is a great opportunity to connect with the core staff and associated members to establish new, interdisciplinary ideas and research projects. We would like to invite you to apply for a fellowship to collaborate with us in order to gain more insights into the human past from different research perspectives. The core staff and several local members are open to new collaborations as well as the associated Emmy Noether Junior Research Group "The Language Dynamics of the Ancient Central Andes" lead by Dr. Matthias Urban.

For more information on the Center and the associated members and research groups, please visit our homepage wordsandbones.uni-tuebingen.de.

For more information on the fellowship program, please have a look at the description and information on our webpage (<https://uni-tuebingen.de/forschung/forschungsschwerpunkte/forschungsgruppen/words-bones-genes-tools/fellowships/>) or contact our Scientific Coordinator Marisa Köllner (marisa.koellner@uni-tuebingen.de).

We would love to welcome you here in Tübingen at the DFG Center for Advanced Studies "Words, Bones, Genes, Tools".

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