

24.-29.03.2025

# Scales of Social, Environmental & Cultural Change in Past Societies

## Call for Papers Submission Deadline 15.10.24

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### Session 11

#### Inclusive Spaces and Practices: Insights from the Past

Today, diversity is a major concern in pursuing equal and inclusive society that can cope with challenges like increasing poverty, climate change and globalisation. Still, we constantly struggle with hidden biases, discriminatory attitudes, and structural and organisational constraints that prevent change. Research on past human societies indicates that they also dealt with diversity in terms of, e.g. gender, age, physical and mental health, social status, political opinions, religious affiliations, nutrition, and linguistic-cultural background and perceived it as an enrichment in some cases or used it as an advantage to prevent society from falling apart. Besides more egalitarian societies that broadly promoted inclusion, highly hierarchical and politically less-participatory societies also developed inclusive practices and favoured social participation in some sectors and contexts (e.g. productive, cultural, artistic, religious).

The aim of this session is to investigate “the roots” of diversity and social inclusion through case studies of past societies. We seek to explore the following issues:

- How was diversity perceived in past societies?
- What factors (social, environmental, cultural, economic) did influence inclusion in past societies?
- How was the built environment of settlements (rural and urban) shaped to be more inclusive?
- How did diversity inspire (literary, visual, performing) arts?
- How are past diversity conceptions and inclusive practices perceived in later times and nowadays?

Our session is open to contributions from all areas of the humanities and natural sciences and aims to be broadly interdisciplinary. The session's topic fits particularly well in the current debate on building inclusive and diverse environments, which is also one of the main purposes of the working group Equal Opportunity and Diversity within

ROOTS. To strengthen the link between our scientific research and practical engagement with the topic, we also propose a diversity-awareness training as integral part of our session.

#### Conveners:

*Silvia Balatti (Cluster of Excellence ROOTS, Kiel University), Paweł Cembrzyński (Cluster of Excellence ROOTS, Kiel University), Marta Dal Corso (University of Padua), Katarzyna Friedrich-Fil (Cluster of Excellence ROOTS, Kiel University), Frank Schlütz (Cluster of Excellence ROOTS, CRC 1266, Kiel University), Laura Schmidt (Cluster of Excellence ROOTS, CRC 1266, Kiel University)*

The presentations are scheduled for 15 minutes plus 5 minutes of discussion. Poster presentations are also possible. Abstracts are limited to 2,500 characters (incl. spaces) and may include up to 5 references.

**Abstracts can only be submitted via the conference website:**  
[www.kielconference.uni-kiel.de](http://www.kielconference.uni-kiel.de) from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024.  
The review-period is until 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Registration for the conference will be possible from November onwards.

**We are looking forward to your contributions!**  
On behalf of the speakers of ROOTS and the CRC1266

*Johannes Müller*

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**Venue:** Kiel University  
Audimax  
24118 Kiel, Germany