



## AU Arts Research Programme *Materials, Culture & Heritage*

P.V. GLOB SEMINAR OF THE MCH

### **Villages deserted during the 20th century and historical archaeology**

**19 February 2015 14:00-17:00**

**Venue:** AU Moesgaard, room 4206-139, 'Foredragssalen'

14:00-14:15

Introduction

Associate Professor Mette Svart Kristiansen

14:15-15:00

Abandoned Villages and farmsteads at modern military training grounds.

Rural settlement studies at the "Allentsteig Military Training Area" (Austria) between academic research and national heritage protection

*Mag. Dr. Thomas Kühnreiter, Institut für Realienkunde des Mittelalters und der frühen Neuzeit, Universität Salzburg*

The lecture aims to present recent research on abandoned settlements on a military training camp in the Northeastern part of Austria. The area was established after the annexation of Austria by the German Nazi Regime in 1938 by the „Wehrmacht“. In consequence of this act people from 42 villages were forced to change their residences, but the last inhabited villages became abandoned not before the early 1960's.

Since several years, the abandoned villages are used for training military specialists in national heritage protection, focusing on peacekeeping missions in civil war contexts. In search for experts the author and his team became assigned for preliminary investigations in four selected villages. The general aim was to work out a comparative characterization of the villages and their houses in regard to preservation, settlement and house types and their development from Middle Ages up to



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the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The preliminary results revealed far more complex settlement and housing processes than been known before. In consequence of this fact the project has high potentials to bring answers to some questions regarding the premodern diversification of rural housing in Central Europe. Thus the experiences of interaction of academic research with military and civil heritage management are a valuable basis for establishing a role model project in this field.

15:00-15:15  
Discussion

15:15-15:30  
Coffee

15:30-16:15  
Archaeology of deserted modern villages in Sudetenland and Karachay  
*Doc. Dr. Pavel Vařeka, Department of Archaeology, University of West Bohemia*

Abandonment of more than 3,000 villages has dramatically affected border regions of Bohemia and Moravia in the period after 1945. In contrast to intensive research of deserted medieval villages in Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic, villages deserted in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century were not subject of any archaeological interest until recently. Since 2006, settlement transformation and other impacts of the original population transfer in former Sudetenland have been studied by the Department of Archaeology University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. Research focuses on the following key questions: 1) Development of villages established in the Middle Ages and abandoned in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the long term perspective, 2) Impact of the original population transfer on settlement pattern and cultural landscape, 3) Material evidence of the settlement abandonment and destruction, 4) Formation process of the archaeological record (esp. destruction process of different forms of built environment and types of construction). Methods of both non-destructive archaeological research (esp. remote sensing and topographic survey) and trial excavations have been used as well as documentary evidence analysis and oral history.

Since 2013, the investigation of deserted modern settlement has extended to the North Caucasus (Karachay-Cherkessk Republic, Russian Federation). Using the same approaches and methods we assess the materiality of the Karachay mountain communities' deportation in 1943. The research is realised in cooperation with the Karachay-Cherkessk University.

16:15-16:30  
Discussion

16:30-17:00  
General Discussion  
Associate Professor Rainer Atzbach