Venue
The Conference will be held in the lecture hall of the Institute of Archaeological Sciences.
Hörsaal des Instituts für Archäologische Wissenschaften
Am Bergbaumuseum 31
44791 Bochum

By public transport
From Bochum main train station take subway (U35) to the station Deutsches Bergbau Museum. Take the exit towards the museum. The institute is situated directly to the left.

By car
From the A40 take the exit Bochum Zentrum. Follow the Herner Street in direction of the city centre until you arrive at the museum left hand.
Please note that there is a limited amount of parking spaces.

Organisation & Registration

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION
Johannes Bernhardt
Manuel Borutta
Nicola Brauch
Markus Koller
Achim Lichtenberger

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Mediterranean Rivers in Global Perspective

Recent debates on globalization and the spatial turn have increased the interest into the study of transnational regions and human-nature relationships. In this context, the Mediterranean is often regarded as a natural given. However, the global history has also changed and modified the idea of well-defined areas and cultures. Therefore the conference will regard the borders of the Mediterranean as flexible and situate the region within a global context. In order to further develop Mediterranean studies we propose an interdisciplinary and cross-epochal perspective, focusing on Mediterranean rivers and their people.

Rivers in the Mediterranean have always been spaces of interaction between sea, coast and hinterland. They have also been important locations of social formation, since they are resources of water, food and energy as well as natural borders and routes. By looking at the interdependency between physical and social spaces of Mediterranean rivers, the conference aims at connecting the spatial turn with the post-constructivist turn and relates it to environmental history and material culture studies. Mediterranean rivers are taken as case studies for looking on the one hand at far-distance relationships and on the other hand at local social formation processes. In this way, the conference engages with recent debates in area studies, which tend to position themselves as part of global history looking at cross-area entanglements and shifting the borders between formerly clearly defined entities.

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2016
12:00 Welcome lunch for invited speakers
13:15 Introduction

PANEL 1: CONNECTIVITY
14:00 Trading Greek Objects Beyond the Mediterranean: The Role of the River Don
Sabine Huy
14:45 Carian Catchments – Considering the Geographical and Historical Significance of River Valleys
Simon Hoffmann
15:30 Coffee Break
15:45 Inland Waterways as Modern Landscapes in North East Italy: Recovering a Cultural Heritage for a Sustainable Governance
Francesco Vallerani
18:30 Evening dinner for invited speakers

FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 2016

PANEL 2: RIVER PEOPLE
09:45 Fleuve et société: les hommes de l’ancienne batellerie rhodanienne
Jacques Rossiaud
10:30 Coffee Break
10:45 The American River: The Mississippi River in Global Historical Perspective
Christopher Morris
11:30 The Zaporozhian Cossacks and the lower Dnieper River Refugium
Victor Ostapchuk
12:15 Lunch Break

PANEL 3: IMAGINED RIVERS
13:15 The River Nile in Antiquity. Curricular and theoretical perspectives
Nicola Brauch
14:00 Flussgemeinschaften? Die Wahrnehmung des Nils in mittelalterlichen Reiseberichten
Volker Scior
14:45 Coffee Break
15:00 Die Wolga als Nil. Thesen über Flussvergleiche und kulturelle Ordnung in Europa im 19. Jahrhundert
Guido Hausmann
15:45 The Literary Environment: Rivers and Narrative in Greco-Roman Literature
Prudence Jones
16:30 Final Discussion