

## Mongolei-Colloquium

Dr. Jonathan Ethier, Dr. Christian Ressel

(Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel)

### ***„Abandoned Cities in the Steppe: Role and Perception of Early Modern Religious and Military Centres in Nomadic Mongolia“***

Towns and cities have been an integral part of the Mongolian nomadic society for more than a millennium, and abandoned urban sites from various periods dot the land, inscribing memories of lost empires and long-gone alliances into the cultural landscape. The relation between sedentary urban and mobile herder lifeways has constituted a key cultural, economic, and political factor in the historical establishment of modern Mongolia. Since 2017, a Mongolian-German pilot project combines archaeological, geo-information, historical and ethnographic methods to trace the entanglement of social, political and religious dimensions of abandoned Manchu period urban settlements. In the research area located in central Mongolia, selected monastic (e.g. Old Shankh monastery) and possible military settlements (in the Khangai Mountains) are investigated to gain insights into two contrasting models of Manchu period urbanism and their changing perception over time. Funded by the Gerda Henkel foundations, under the programme “Lost Cities”, the project “Abandoned cities in the steppe: Roles and perception of Early Modern religious and military centres in Nomadic Mongolia” was born and carried out until completion in November 2022. This talk will present the results of the last four years of research in Central Mongolia.

Jonathan Ethier studied anthropology, pre- and protohistory and Near East Archaeology in Montreal, Heidelberg and Bristol. During his studies, he worked on the process of urbanization in the Indus Valley and food culture in Southeast Europe during the Early Neolithic (PhD). Since 2018, he has joined Prof. Dr Henny Piezonka at the University of Kiel and worked as an archaeologist on the urbanization process and other sociocultural aspects in Mongolia during the Qing dynasty.

Christian Ressel studied ethnology, religious studies and Central Asian studies in Göttingen, Berlin and Khovd (Western Mongolia). He specialized in topics related to social changes in early modern and modern Mongolia. In 2016, he completed his PhD on the topic of “Belonging and Local Memory Politics in Mongolia”, and his work focused on the problem of how temporal and spatial ideas have impacted the Mongolian concept of *nutag* (“homeland”).

**Mittwoch, 07. Dez. 2022**

**16:00 Uhr c. t. (Der Vortrag findet nur online via Zoom statt!)**

Meeting-ID: 625 4489 3981

Password: 443266

**Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!**