

Mining in European History - Conference

The Impact of Historic and Prehistoric Mining Activities on the Environment and Societies in Europe



Special Conference of the SFB HiMAT
Nov. 12-15, 2009 – Innsbruck, Austria

1st Circular – Call for Papers

The SFB HiMAT and the Conference

The Eastern Alps have a long mining history dating back to prehistoric times. Their richness in mineral and ore deposits provided a strong attractor for humans to haunt the Alps and to exploit these mineable resources since the Palaeolithic. The state of research contrasts remarkably with the former Europe-wide economic significance of Alpine mining during Mediaeval and Modern Times as well as with the supra-regional significance of copper mining during Bronze Age. Therefore, the University of Innsbruck has established the special research area “HiMAT-The History of Mining Activities in the Tyrol and Adjacent Areas: Impact on Environment and Human Societies” to scrutinize the rise and fall of mining districts in the Eastern Alps. HiMAT is an inter- and transdisciplinary research project formed of 14 project parts including historians, ethnologists, linguists, archaeologists, mineralogists, archaeometallurgists, palaeo-botanists, archaeo-zoologists, geographers and geodesists. The objective is to analyse the origin and development of mining and metallurgy and their consequences for the environment, the society and the culture in this region from the earliest beginnings up to the present. For more information about the SFB HiMAT, please feel free to visit our homepage: <http://www.uibk.ac.at/himat/>

Within the last two research years first new findings have been gathered which have to be assessed and discussed with similar studies from other European mining districts. Therefore multi- and interdisciplinary contributions – both oral and poster – are desired concerning the following session topics:

The Sessions:

Each session will include one key-note talk, five to six talks and a poster presentation. A team of project part leaders from the SFB HiMAT is responsible for the scientific content of each session. The session leaders are indicated below.

I.) Mining Societies and Landscapes in Prehistory

Session Leaders:

Rüdiger Krause (r.krause@em.uni-frankfurt.de)

Gerhard Tomedi (gerhard.tomedi@uibk.ac.at)

Interdisciplinary studies on settlement patterns and on prehistoric land-use provide the most stimulating data to reconsider the interactions between societies as well as the impact on natural environment. Since the HiMAT-Project is focussing the exploitation of mining districts, it seems essential to gather comparative studies on other landscapes as coastal regions, hilly countries or on high alpine regions. Thus the aim of the session is to show up recurrent patterns of land-use of economically specialised prehistoric societies facing different environmental conditions.

II.) Mining and Settlement in Pre-modern Times

Session Leader:

Franz Mathis (franz.mathis@uibk.ac.at)

In a predominantly agrarian society, mining could influence settlement in several ways. Miners could be drawn from the local population already present and/or from outside. In both cases, the new non-farming population offered additional demand for various goods and, therefore, a chance for new jobs outside the mines themselves, which in its turn drew even more people into the region. This way, mining could contribute both in a direct and an indirect way to the emergence of new and the growth of existing settlements. Papers should therefore concentrate on the emergence, growth, and socioeconomic structures of newly developed mining regions.

III.) The Palaeo-ecology of Prehistoric Ore Mining

Session Leader:

Klaus Oegg (klaus.oegg@uibk.ac.at)

Palynological and geochemical analyses provide a basis for assessing the spatial and temporal impact of prehistoric and historic metallurgical activities on the landscape. Here we desire palaeoecological contributions by pollen and heavy metals, which disclose the effects of copper ore exploitation on vegetation and environment.

IV.) Archaeometallurgy - From Ore to Trade

Session Leaders:

Peter Tropper (peter.tropper@uibk.ac.at)

Ernst Pernicka (ernst.pernicka@cez-archaeometrie.de)

The basis of a thorough archaeometric/archaeometallurgical investigation of historical mining sites is the comprehensive geological/mineralogical/geochemical and mining archaeological investigation of mineralizations in view of their potential for the exploitation in prehistoric and historic periods. These data then provide the basis for the subsequent archaeometallurgical research to perform provenance studies of the metals used and thus trace prehistoric trade routes. This symposium

invites contributions dealing with earth science aspects of relevant ore deposits in Europe as well as archaeological, archaeometrical and archaeometallurgical aspects regarding prehistorical and historical mining and trade.

V.) *Subsistence and nutrition in mining areas*

Session Leaders:

Jörg Schibler (joerg.schibler@unibas.ch)

Kurt Nicolussi (kurt.nicolussi@uibk.ac.at)

Klaus Oeggel (klaus.oeggel@uibk.ac.at)

The focus of this conference session will be placed upon the strategies that can be observed in mining areas to produce and consume food as well as timber supply. The basic questions are: can special sites be recognized as food surplus producers to supply specialized mining sites? What does the nutrition look like in mining sites? Is it possible to detect a mining site with its own food production? How is the high demand of wood and charcoal accommodated?

VI.) *Prehistoric mining - primary production and reflection in landscape*

Session Leaders:

Gert Goldenberg (gert.goldenberg@uibk.ac.at)

Thomas Stöllner (thomas.stoellner@bergbaumuseum.de)

Walter Leitner (walter.leitner@uibk.ac.at)

While tracking the exploitation of mineral resources throughout European history in its technological and economical aspects, significant changes over time in the integration of mining activities into subsistence structures and in the acquisition strategies become obvious. Landscape conditions, i. e. the distance between deposit and primary settlement landscape, are as equally important as the development status of economic and social networks. The aim of this session is to depict these aspects of economical and technical history from Mesolithic to pre-roman Iron Age times. Thus, essential development trends in the historic European mining on utility and prestige rocks (ochre, chert, jadeite, salt, ...), minerals (quartz/rock crystal, ...), metal ores (copper, gold, iron, ...) should become evident. Based on the Alps as resource region these coherences should be extracted in oral presentations, while recent scientific results in these fields should be presented on posters.

VII.) *Medieval and Early Modern Mining Archaeology*

Session Leader:

Harald Stadler (harald.stadler@uibk.ac.at)

Medieval and early modern ore mining in Europe has played a key role in the development of today's corporate and economic framework, resulting fundamentally from the exploitation of natural resources for the community and their elites. Since the High Middle Ages, efficient technological progress in mining and metallurgy paved the way for the industrialisation in the 19th century. Furthermore, today's social and legal systems were essentially influenced by mining. The objective of mountain mining archaeology is to close existing gaps of knowledge, by comparing archaeological discoveries with written sources, to contribute to a comprehensive synthesis in historic mining. During this session we will discuss the potential of early history, medieval, and early modern mining archaeology in the perspective of prospecting, exploitation, smelting, demand and supply, as well as distribution by means of exemplary contributions.

VIII.) Mining in Language and Culture

Session Leaders:

Peter Anreiter (peter.anreiter@uibk.ac.at)

Ingo Schneider (ingo.schneider@uibk.ac.at)

The symposium „Language and Culture“ focuses on the linguistic and cultural aspects of Alpine mining activities from both a synchronic and a diachronic point of view. The thematic scope includes on the one hand onomastic, onomasiological and semasiological dimensions. On the other hand it concentrates on attempts to continue and resume various activities in combination with mining as well as on phases of transformation of former mining regions – the latter aspect spotlighting the 19th and 20th century.

IX.) Documentation of archaeological excavations and GIS supported integrative data management

Session Leader:

Klaus Hanke (klaus.hanke@uibk.ac.at)

Surveying is an essential companion to every archeological activity. Using three-dimensional, contact-free measurement techniques (e.g. close range photogrammetry, terrestrial laser scanning) an objective documentation of excavations and finds can be achieved.

Based on a standardized semantic model (CIDOC CRM) integrated data management enriched with spatial information enables a multidisciplinary data analysis in various thematic and temporal contexts in Web-GIS.

We encourage all colleagues working in these fields to submit abstracts for oral or poster contributions.

Abstracts

To attend the Mining in European History - Conference, please download the PDF [Abstract Submission Form](#) from our Homepage and send your abstract **until April 01, 2009** via email to info.himat@uibk.ac.at. The abstract should not exceed 3.000 characters (including blanks and excluding title and address lines). Please specify the session in which you want to give your presentation and whether you want to give oral or poster contribution. The final decision between oral and posters will be made by the session leaders.

Host City Innsbruck

Situated in the center of Europe, Innsbruck is easily accessible via airplane, train and car. Surrounded by high mountains and frequently addressed as the „Capital of the Alps“, the city features a beautiful historic city center with the famous golden roof. In addition, many cultural events as well as comprehensive sporting opportunities (esp. hiking and skiing) make it a nice place to visit. Further information on the town and its surroundings can be found at <http://www.innsbruck.info/>

Further Information

The 2nd circular including the program and detailed information on location, conference fees, schedule, accommodation, excursion program, etc. will follow in summer 2009. All information will also be placed on the [Mining in European History – Congress Website](#).

Questions

In case you have any questions on the meeting, please do not hesitate to ask:

Speaker of the SFB HiMAT:

Prof. Dr. Klaus Oeggel

Phone: +43 (0)512 / 507 – 5944

Email: klaus.oeggel@uibk.ac.at

HiMAT Coordination Office:

Dr. Mario Prast

Phone: +43 (0)512 / 507 – 5945

Email: info.himat@uibk.ac.at

Address:

SBF HiMAT – Coordination office

University of Innsbruck

Institute of Botany

Sternwartestr. 15

A-6020 Innsbruck

Austria

Internet:

www.uibk.ac.at/himat/

We are looking forward to see you at the Mining in European History - Conference in Innsbruck!