



Practical course "HESPAD: Hominin ecospace and dispersal"

from May 4th to May 22nd, 2015

at Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main

In this class we are studying hominin environments, their dynamics in the Pleistocene and which impact the environment had on distribution and dispersal. Based on varying case studies we examine interrelations between hominids and their respective ecospace. Among the topics we covered in the last years are for instance Early and early Middle Pleistocene hominid sites in the Mediterranean and Late Pleistocene hominid sites along the South African coastline.

The participants explore a suite of methods, for instance

- climate reconstruction based on plant fossils (coexistence approach)
- analysis of climate dynamics
- reconstruction of ecological diversity of large mammal faunas (ecoprofiling)
- community-based analysis of relations between specialized herbivores, climate, and vegetation
- GIS-based analysis of spatial datasets
- agent-based modelling

The practical class with a duration of 3 weeks is held at Goethe University, Frankfurt, and regularly takes place in May (in 2015: May 4 – May 22). We are teaching this class in English. We welcome external master and doctoral students. If you are interested to participate please contact Christine Hertler (christine.hertler@senckenberg.de) and/or Angela Bruch (angela.bruch@senckenberg.de) **until December 15, 2014**. External students should send a letter of motivation and a short CV. Please note that the total number of participants is strictly limited. The decision on external applications is due end of January 2015.

The class is part of a master module in frame of the Master on Ecology and Evolution at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. It is preceded by a three week introductory programme on "Evolutionary Biology of Mammals and Paleoanthropology". If you study at another European University you may be interested in attending the entire module (6 weeks). If you wish to do so, please contact additionally Birgit Denkel-Oswalt (denkel-oswalt@bio.uni-frankfurt.de) for information on modalities. In case you are studying within an ERASMUS Programme, she will link you up with our ERASMUS office at the Biology Department of Goethe University Frankfurt. Students outside ERASMUS Programmes need to cover insurance costs on their own.