

Contact:
Netherlands Institute in Turkey
Hollanda Araştırma Enstitüsü
Nur-i Ziya Sokak 5, Beyoğlu, İstanbul
Tel: 0212 293 9283
E-mail: nit@nit-istanbul.org
Web: www.nit-istanbul.org



Hollanda Araştırma Enstitüsü
Nederlands Instituut in Turkije
Netherlands Institute in Turkey

Masterclasses at the
Netherlands Institute in Turkey,
Istanbul

New Approaches in Archaeobotany

5-9 October 2009

First circular

The Netherlands Institute in Turkey organizes an intensive one-week course on archaeobotanical research and methods, from 5-9 October 2009. Instructor is Prof. Dr. René Cappers of Groningen and Leiden Universities, the Netherlands.

The course will take place at the institute's premises in Beyoğlu, İstanbul. There will be two levels: 1) 'masterclasses' targeting participants with some knowledge of and research interest in the area of archaeobotany, and 2) lectures that will be open for all interested archaeologists. Travel and accommodation will be covered for the participants of the masterclasses (see below).

The course

The study of plant remains in archaeological contexts is part of many excavations. The results can be used to reconstruct the impact of climate and man on the former vegetation. More specifically, plant records can be used to reconstruct the exploitation of the vegetation as a source of food, fuel, building material and possible use in for example medicinal or ritual contexts. Of specific interest is the origin of the cultivated (domesticated) plants. Wild plants will inform about local production or import (luxury items).

The course will deal with several subjects related to archaeobotanical research. Emphasis will be placed on the relation between research questions and sampling procedures. In this respect, understanding the botanical composition of specific archaeological contexts is of special interest. This includes the knowledge of the transport of plant remains from fields to the site and the final destination in specific contexts within the settlement.

The program consists of lectures, discussions and laboratory workshops. Participants are expected to give informal presentations of their research projects or research plans. In addition, it will be possible to discuss research projects with René Cappers. This might include a discussion on the possibilities of starting up archaeobotanical research as well as a discussion on archaeobotanical studies in progress.

Topics

Topics include: the taphonomy of the archaeobotanical archive; Research questions and sampling methods; The origin of agriculture; Reconstructing the former food economy; Pollen analysis; Archaeobotanical evidence of domestication; The representativeness of the founder crops; The importance of wild plants in the archaeobotanical record

A detailed program will be announced in a later circular.

Participation in the masterclasses

The (non-credit) masterclasses are of interest to those who are active in the field of archaeobotany, including particularly MA and PhD students, as well as those who already have a basic training in the field and are planning to pursue archaeobotanical research in the near future.

As the course will be taught in English a sufficient level of spoken English is required.

Parts of the program are open to all archaeologists and students who are interested in the contribution of archaeobotany to the reconstruction of the former economy and landscape.

Course registration and deadlines

There is a maximum of 12 participants for the masterclasses. Because of the limited number of places, interested persons are asked to apply by filling out the form available at the institute's website and return it to the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (by e-mail: nit@nit-istanbul.org) before June 20, 2009. NIT will have to select if there are too many applicants. You will be notified by July 1 whether you are accepted.

Costs

The course is offered for free. Accommodation will be arranged for participants of the masterclasses from outside İstanbul (within Turkey) and their travel costs will be reimbursed. Lunches and one dinner will be provided for all course participants.

About the instructor

René Cappers (1957) currently holds teaching positions at Groningen University and Leiden University (<http://archaeology.leiden.edu/organisation/staff/cappers.html>). He is a member of the Curatorium of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East. After studying biology at Groningen, specializing in plant ecology and archaeobotany, he wrote a PhD-thesis dealing with methodological aspects of archaeobotanical research. Postdoc projects concerned the study of the modeling of the transition to farming in the Near East and the Roman trade with Africa south of the Sahara, Arabia and India. Recent archaeobotanical research in the Near East is carried out in Turkey (including Ilıpınar, Menteşe, Barcın Höyük, Güvercinkaya and Tepecik), Syria (Sabi Abyad), Egypt (Theban Desert Road and the Fayum), Greece (Geraki) and Italy (Lazio and Calabria). Since 2002 he is co-director, together with Dr. Willeke Wendrich (UCLA), of the Fayum Project. This project includes excavations at the Neolithic sites Kôm W and Kôm K (and its associated upper K pits), an excavation at the Greek-Roman settlement Karanis (Kôm Aushim) and surveys in the surrounding desert. More information on some of Cappers' publications can be found at www.nit-istanbul.org

Further information

Please e-mail Ms. Ayşe Dilsiz (a.dilsiz@nit-istanbul.org) if you have any questions.