The interdisciplinary Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 1070 ResourceCultures aims to expand the economical biased view on resources and explores how the use of resources triggers social and cultural dynamics. More than 20 projects with over 60 scientists are working hand in hand at SFB 1070: archaeologists, ethnologists, geographers, historians, classical philologists and economic historians. The wide spectrum of disciplines within the Collaborative Research Centre offers the unique possibility to study how resources are culturally defined and how these processes effect the forming, sustaining and changing of societies with an unprecedented historical depth and on a broad geographic scale. On one hand, tangible resources such as natural raw-materials and trade goods play an important role in the making and breaking of societies, on the other intangible resources such as knowledge or social relations can contribute to the formation of cultural and social identities. The interrelation between materials, structures and systems of belief within ResourceComplexes is another focus of research in the Collaborative Research Centre. Social processes such as migration, social mobility and wealth, but also destruction and armed conflicts will be examined from an innovative perspective.

Research topics of the individual projects span over a wide geographical frame: From Scandinavia to southern Africa, from the Iberian peninsula to South Asia – and reach back far into history: from processes of spatial development by Neanderthals to prehistoric mining of ore on the Iberian Peninsula, the Greek and Phoenician ‘colonisation’ in the Mediterranean and the conversion and re-evaluation of resources by medieval Vikings to the use of resources in religious contexts in contemporary India. The Collaborative Research Centre is closely connected to the special research unit “Networks and resource complexes” as well as to the junior research groups “The cultural history of water in central Asia” and “The Iron Age”.

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The projects of division C. VALUATIONS are treating the aspect of value creation by resources. The central topic of the studies will be about valuation, meaning and use of resources in different contexts. The different kinds, media and contents of cultural representations of resources and resource dynamics will be addressed and the social effectiveness of the symbolic dimension of resources will be discussed. Additionally the projects will examine how reassessments, symbolisations and conversions account for the contextual change of meaning of resources, thus allowing different kinds of value creation.

CO2 Images of Dearth and Abundance. Resources and their Literary Construction in the Context of the Greek Colonization. Project management: Prof. Dr. Imad Hanniel-Robert, Prof. Dr. Mischa Mauer, Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Stanzel

C03 Resources and the Formation of Societies, Settlement Areas and Cultural Identities of the Italian Peninsula during the 1st Millennium BC. Project management: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schäfer, Prof. Dr. Beat Schweizer

C04 Religious Resources: Achieving and Converting Resources in Central and Southern Asia. Project management: Prof. Dr. Roland Hardenberg

C05 Profit and Dissipation of Resources. Creation of Ideological Capital in the Viking Age and the Late Middle Age in Northern Europe. Project management: Prof. Dr. Jörg Staacke

C06 Rice and Medicinal Plants. The Cultural Construction of Medicinal and Food Plants in Southern India. Project management: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Alex

C07 Prehistoric Icons as Resources in Past and Present. Project management: Prof. Dr. Jörg Staacke, Prof. Dr. Heinrich Härke

A01 Variability of Resource Use. Spatial Exploitation by Late Neanderthals and Early Modern Humans in Europe. Project management: Prof. Dr. Harald Floss, Prof. Dr. Nicholas Conard

A02 Favour – Disfavour? Development of Resources in Marginal Areas. Project management: PD Dr. Thomas Knopf, Prof. Dr. Peter Kühn, Prof. Dr. Thomas Schooten

A03 Exploitation of Resources and Ruling Areas in the Middle Ages: Monasteries and Castles. Project management: Prof. Dr. Jörn Staacke, Prof. Dr. Steffen Patzold

A04 The Search for Resources as an Incentive for Processes of Colonization? Causal Research Regarding the Foundation of Greek Settlements between the Black Sea and the Western Mediterranean. Project management: Prof. Dr. Richard Posamentir

A05 Colonization? Imperialism? Provincialisation? – Resources between Conflict and Integration in the Phoenician-Punic West during the 1st Millennium BC. Project management: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schäfer

A06 Humans and Resources in the Migration Period and the Early Middle Ages – Anthropological and Bio-Archaeological analyses of the Use of Food Resources and the Detection of Migrations. Project management: Prof. Dr. Jörg Baten, Prof. Dr. Heinrich Härke, Prof. Dr. Joachim Wahl

A07 A Hunt for Raw-Materials? The Expansion of Mesopotamian Empires into the Northern Mountain Regions. Project management: Prof. Dr. Andreas Fuchs, Prof. Dr. Peter Pfälzner

The thematic key aspects of the case studies will be questions addressing resources and the emergence of hierarchies in prehistoric Europe, as well as resource use and the formation of states in the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean.

The focus will be on historical situations in which access to raw-materials and natural products was granted locally, regionally or continuously through established ways of distribution. The thematic key aspects of the case studies will be questions addressing resources and the emergence of hierarchies in prehistoric Europe, as well as resource use and the formation of states in the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean.

Resources and Processes of Social Change

Project division A. DEVELOPMENTS concentrates on diachronic studies about the role of resources in processes of social and cultural change. The focus will be on historical situations in which access to raw-materials and natural products was granted locally, regionally or continuously through established ways of distribution. The thematic key aspects of the case studies will be questions addressing resources and the emergence of hierarchies in prehistoric Europe, as well as resource use and the formation of states in the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean.

A01 Resources and the Emergence of Inequality. Raw-Materials and Communication Systems in Prehistoric South-Eastern Europe. Project management: Prof. Dr. Ernst Pernecki, Dr. Raiko Krauß

A02 Many Ores and Little Water. Socio-Cultural Change and the Use of Resources in the Later Prehistory of the Iberian Peninsula. Project management: Prof. Dr. Martin Bartsch

A03 Stones from the South. Exchange of Resources between Mesopotamia and the Region of the Persian Gulf. Project management: Prof. Dr. Peter Pfälzner

A04 The Development of Palace-Resource Cultures in Syria. Project management: Prof. Dr. Peter Pfälzner

A05 “The Land Flowing with Milk and Honey”. Development and Significance of Agrarian Resources in Bronze and Iron Age Palestine. Project management: Prof. Dr. Jens Kamla, PD Dr. Simone Riehl

A06 Political Collapse as a Consequence of Economic Change? Control of Resources at the Transition from the Bronze to the Iron Age in the Eastern Mediterranean. Project management: Prof. Dr. Jens Kamla