

Current MSc-Project within the Paleoecology section

Vegetation dynamics in the Ukrainian steppe

It is commonly believed that after the origin of agriculture in the fertile crescent of Mesopotamia, it spread to Central Europe via Anatolia and the Balkans. However, there is also the hypothesis that the Neolithic revolution took a second route via the Black Sea Coast into the steppes of present day Ukraine and then onwards to Central Europe. Unfortunately there is a lack of state-of-the-art paleoecological studies in the Ukrainian steppes that could help to identify and date the arrival of the Neolithic in the area and reconstruct vegetation changes during the Holocene. The proposed MSc-project will fill this gap by analyzing 1-2 sediment records from lakes and mires close to the Black Sea.

Methods: pollen, macrofossil and charcoal analysis, numerical techniques

Contact persons: Willy Tinner, Erika Gobet, Christoph Schwörer



Coring Lake Lyman in Southern Ukraine close to the Black Sea coast.