



BIWEEKLY COLLOQUIUM  
Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:15 p.m.

**OPENCAST MINES IN SOUTH BRANDENBURG (GERMANY) -  
ARCHIVES OF LATE QUATERNARY LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT  
AND HUMAN-INDUCED LAND USE CHANGES**

**Thomas Raab**  
TU Cottbus

Research of extensive outcrops in open-cast mines that addresses both archaeology and soil geomorphology, combined with a GIS approach, provides unique insights into human-induced environmental changes in Lower Lusatia and generally improves our understanding of landscape dynamics. This talk is a presentation of the most recent results and a review of important findings from the last several years. Studies conducted in opencast mines of Jänschwalde and Cottbus-Nord focus on

- (i) soil development and Late Quaternary geomorphodynamics and
- (ii) past land use and the legacy of agriculture and woodland use.

Our results are similar to those in other regions in Central Europe, but we also observe regional differences caused by the local setting, e.g., intensification of soil erosion coinciding with the expansion of farming of cultivated lands in the Slavic Middle Ages. Our research reveals the largest archaeologically investigated area of historical charcoal production in the Northern European Lowland (NEL). We are clearly only beginning to understand the massive dimensions of charcoal production in the region.

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**Venue: Leibnizstraße 1, Seminar Room 204**