



First Circular / Announcement

INQUA PERIBALTIC WORKING GROUP / Meeting 2025

International Field Symposium: *“Quaternary Stratigraphy, Paleoenvironments and Geoarchaeology in central Germany”*

August 25.-29.08.2025 in Kloster Michaelstein (Monastery Michaelstein), Germany

Organizing committee: Henrik Rother and Andreas Börner
State Office for Geology and Mines Saxony-Anhalt (LAGB)

Between August 25-29, 2025 the Peribaltic WG field symposium will be held at Kloster Michaelstein near the Harz Mountains in central Germany. The subsequent excursions will cover areas of the surrounding Federal States of Saxony-Anhalt and Lower Saxony. On August 26th, the scientific session will take place followed by field trips from August 27-29. Throughout the symposium and excursions, we will be based at the monastery which provides accommodation and serve as the start and finish point of our daily excursions. As in previous Peribaltic WG meetings, the scientific session is not restricted to topics mentioned in the symposium title, but contributions on a broad range of regionally or globally relevant Quaternary geological and archeological topics are invited.

The 2025 field excursions will focus on mid-Pleistocene ice sheet dynamics, the regional litho- and climate stratigraphy, and periglacial features associated with this period. The area of central Germany is significant as the type region for both the Elsterian (MIS 12) and Saalian (MIS 10 – 6) glaciations (named after the local Elster and Saale Rivers) with a long history of glacial research dating back to the 1840s. Further topics along the route will cover archaeological evidence of early human activity in the region and include a visit to the opencast lignite mine Schöningen, the find-place of the best preserved and oldest wooden hunting weapons worldwide, the 300,000 years old *Schöningen spears*.

Important Dates	
December 20, 2024	Opening of registration
February 1, 2025	Notification of preliminary registration
March 1, 2025	Second circular
April 15, 2025	Deadline for final registration, payment and abstracts
August 25, 2025	Arrival at Kloster Michaelstein (Monastery Michaelstein), ice breaker
August 26, 2025	Scientific session (oral and poster sessions)
August 27, 2025	Excursion (Northern Harz Foreland and opencast mine Schöningen)
August 28, 2025	Excursion (Eastern and Southern Harz Foreland)
August 29, 2025	Excursion (Harz Mountains, half day), End of Meeting (15:00 o'clock, Michaelstein)

Registration and fees

For registration, please return the preliminary registration form via email before 15th February 2025 to Henrik Rother (henrik.rother@sachsen-anhalt.de). Registration starts December 20th, 2024. Please provide a preliminary notification about your planned attendance by February 1, 2025. Fees are expected to range between 460 – 560 EUR depending on room choice (single, double, multiple; information follows). The fee covers accommodation, field trip transportation, full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner), and conference materials. The final fee, as well as a possible discount for MSc and PhD students, depends on the total number of participants and financial support from potential sponsors. Please note that the registration fee does not cover any health or travel insurance.

Information on the final fees and payment methods will be provided with the second circular on March 1, 2025 to those with a preliminary registration. The final deadline for registration and payment is April 15, 2025.

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations

Participants are invited to submit abstracts relevant to the broad topic of the symposium. Abstracts will be published digitally in a conference volume and should not exceed 2 A4 pages (12 pt, single line spacing), including figures and references. Further details will be given in the second circular.

Travel

Kloster Michaelstein can be easily reached by car, the road distance from Berlin is ca. 250 km. The closest airports are located in Berlin and Leipzig, although Leipzig only offers a limited range of routes. From both airports there are train connections to the town of Blankenburg (Harz), located 4 km from the conference venue at Kloster Michaelstein. On the arrival day (25.08.2025) the organizers will arrange a shuttle bus for transport from the train station at Blankenburg (Harz) to Kloster Michaelstein departing every full hour between 1 and 7 pm. A return shuttle service between the monastery and Blankenburg train station will also be available for the departure day (29.08.2025).

