

Thesis/project opportunities (SoSe 24 - WiSe 24/25)



Reeves and surfes: Medieval illustration of men harvesting wheat with reaping-hooks or sickles, on a calendar page for August. Queen Mary's Psalter (Ms. Royal 2. B. VII), Circa 1310

Research area

European landscapes have been shaped by a long history of agricultural practices. Starting from the late Middle Ages, European farmers have adopted a three-field rotation system. This system of agriculture was characterized by growing both winter and spring cereals in long narrow fields, a combination of hay meadows and pasture, and fallow fields. During the early modern period, from the 16th century onwards, a four-field rotation system was adopted, which included fodder and grazing crops. While this new system was highly productive, it also resulted in a rearrangement of the landscape, by changing agricultural calendars, field allotments, meadow and pasture usage, and in certain cases enclosure of the commons. In this project we are interested in studying some of the ecological impacts of these agricultural transformations.

Prospects

In **Prof. Kerstin Wiegand's "Ecosystem Modelling"** department, you have several opportunities to contribute to our project. We are looking for students, who are interested in working on

- Designing artificial landscapes based on historical knowledge
- Conducting literary research on historical agricultural practices
- Agent-based modelling of animal landscape ecology

For further information, please contact **Eyal Goldstein** (eyal.goldstein@forst.uni-goettingen.de).