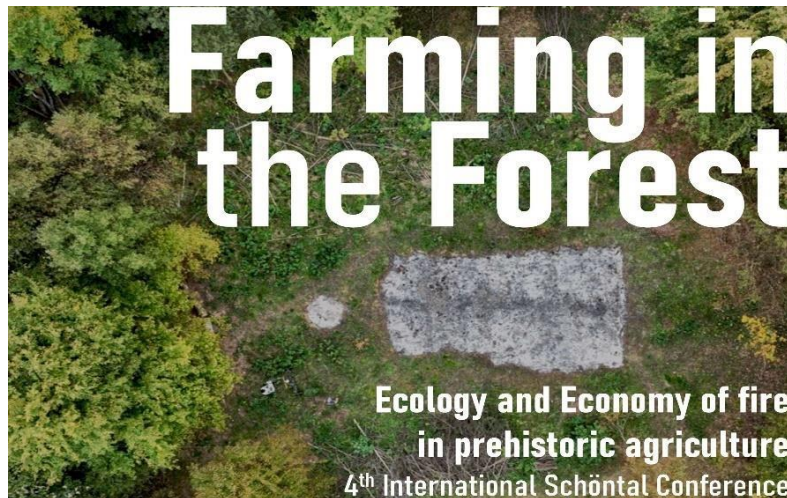


International Conference “*Farming in the Forest*” 4

Conference, April 4-6 2027

Second Circular - updated



RATIONALE AND AIMS

Since the early years of Neolithic research in Europe, the use of fire for forest clearance has been a subject of debate. While the notion of Neolithic swidden cultivation had long been dismissed in Central Europe, interdisciplinary studies in the Lake Constance region have revived the question of whether such practices may indeed have occurred. Since 1998, the long-term Forchtenberg experiment has been investigating both the economic potential of fire-based extensive cultivation and its ecological impact on the natural environment. With this nearly 30-year-long experiment, it is also possible to monitor the secondary succession that follows anthropogenic disturbance.

The 4th “*Farming in the Forest*” conference seeks to bring together archaeologists, palaeobotanists, archaeozoologists, soil scientists, ecologists, historians and geographers interested in pre-industrial agriculture. Different modes of cultivation, ranging from horticulture to forest-fallow systems, that include the regular use of fire, will be discussed in terms of their economic potential and environmental impact. Furthermore, different modes of livestock farming will be discussed in terms of interactions between fire, pasture and animal husbandry, the integration of grazing into forest-use systems, and their economic and ecological implications.

MAIN THEMES

- Fire as a land-use tool: the interaction between fire, agricultural production, pasture environments, and animal husbandry, and the associated agricultural and pastoral systems, analysed through archaeological, historical, ethnographic, and experimental frameworks
- Recognising and recording palaeofire in archaeological and palaeoecological archives: standards and methodological developments
- Forest ecology under fire and associated disturbances: “the footprint” of fire-related land use patterns in the forest ecosystem

LOCATION

Scientific sessions:

04.-06.04.2027 at the Schöntal Monastery, Klosterhof 6, 74214 Schöntal, Germany, including half day slash and burn experiment in the forest of Forchtenberg (N 49.298240, E 9.564071)

CONFERENCE HOME-PAGE: <https://wald-feldbau.de/tagung202627/>

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

This conference is organised by the
Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage,
Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Cologne,
Institute of Prehistory, Early History and Medieval Archaeology University of Tübingen
Institute for Ecosystem Research (Geoarchaeology and Environmental Hazards), Kiel University

Scientific committee in alphabetical order

Eileen Eckmeier, Kiel University, Kiel
Hannes Knapp, University of Cologne, Cologne
Raiko Krauß, University of Tübingen, Tübingen
Elena Marinova, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage, Hemmenhofen
Oliver Nelle, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage, Hemmenhofen
Vincent Robin, University of Lorraine, Metz
Silviane Scharl, University of Cologne, Cologne

Local Organising Committee:

Oliver Nelle, Elena Marinova, Otto Ehrmann, Birgit Kury, Tanja Märkle, Ayaka Nguyen, Giulia Di Giamberardino

INVITED SPEAKER

Prof. Dr. Renate Gerlach, Geoarchaeology, University of Cologne
Prof. Dr. Manfred Rösch, Baden-Württemberg State Office for Cultural Heritage, Hemmenhofen and University of Heidelberg and Dr. Otto Ehrmann, Büro für Bodenmorphologie und Bodenmikrobiologie, Creglingen

ACCOMODATION

Scientific sessions: at the “ [Schöntal Monastery](#)”. Costs and conditions: The estimated all-inclusive cost is approximately €460, covering: three overnight stays in a single room at Schöntal Monastery/ Breakfast/ Coffee breaks during the conference/ Lunch/ Evening meals. No further conference fees.

Flexible registration options will also be available. Participants may choose, for example, to book only one or two overnight stays, omit selected lunches, or opt out of evening meals.

The definite costs will be announced when binding registration opens in October 2026.

REGISTRATION

Please fill in the [Google form](#) before the **30. September 2026**.

Registration for the scientific session and abstract submission will open in October.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

30.09. 2026 pre-registration

30.10.2026 abstract submission for the scientific session

30.11.2026 binding registration for the scientific session confirmed by payment

Please feel free to circulate this information among your colleagues or students who you think would be interested in this conference. The number of participants is limited.