

# GEOGRAPHISCHES KOLLOQUIUM / LECTURE SERIES

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Donnerstag, 22.11.2018, 16 Uhr c.t., Senatssaal - 7. Stock Geogr. Institut

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## **DR. ANNA MARIA KOTARBA**

(Macquarie University Sydney)

### **"Impact of environmental, landscape and climatic factors on founding, development and decline of Greco-Roman ports of trade on the Red Sea coast "**

Berenike was one of the most important harbours on the Egyptian Red Sea during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods - a major hub connecting trade between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. Its geographical position was chosen due to its extraordinarily propitious characteristics owing partly to its natural harbours, protected against the prevailing northern winds, as well as its location in the vicinity of an ancient viewshed - the large peninsula of Ras Benas. This presentation will focus on the influence that the local environmental and climatic context (including land- and sea-scape), had on the location, development, and ultimate success or decline of key Classical (Greco-Roman) ports of trade on the Red Sea coast, most pertinently those involved in exchange on the Spice, Incense and Maritime Silk Routes - such as Berenike. It will also discuss results of field and laboratory analyses from coring campaigns in Berenike's harbours in order to shed new light on the significance of local and regional palaeoclimatic, landscape, se-escape and environmental changes and their impact on the Red Sea - Indian Ocean connectivity and maritime trade.

**Einführung und Diskussionsleitung: Prof. Dr. Andreas Vött**