RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Peter Houben
Title of clinic:	**Agricultural NPP (in kcal or J) of a medieval rural community**
Number of students:	**One** or two (as a **pair**)
Major *(if applicable and approved by the Major Convener)*:	EES, GED, HD
(Pre)requisites *(if applicable)*:	Interest in **history and/or archaeology**, land use, and **food production**; **GIS skills**. You are a self-motivated, single-handed, independently thinking student with an ambition to learn much more about the topic domain.

Research context

The early Middle Ages of central Europe featured an unrivaled agricultural revolution boosting crop yields, and eventually providing the basis for medieval population growth and economic rise.
While modern combine harvesters even record yield 'on the fly', we know little about the quantitative agricultural productivity of a rural medieval community. A lot of historical information is available (types of crops and produces, farming system, grazing, hunting, forest use), however, quantitative estimates of the kcal produced per year have rarely been proposed.
This research clinic is for a self-motivated student with interest in the history of the Middle Ages of central Europe, keen enough to combine a search-and -read review on the topic, which, if suitable, may be followed by the application of the found information in a GIS to quantify crop yields for an assumed, typical rural, community.

If you are a 2nd year student, you may use the methodology and results to develop the topic towards a research BSc thesis.

Students' tasks and activities

Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be.

(A) Review paper: Medieval farming (crops, techniques, field systems; ca. 4000 words; 8 weeks)
(B) Data implementation and evaluation (GIS), work protocols, maps, report; by the end of b4
Assessment weight: One student: A) 60%, B) 40%); if working as a student pair: A) 40%, B) 60%.

Note: As a student you should have an explorative personality that enables you to develop and implement an own approach. You wanted to carefully evaluate sources and work with numbers, and be curious about the outcome of unprecedented calculations. Also, you should experience fun when mapping the information in a GIS.