

## Preface

This volume is the outcome of an international and interdisciplinary colloquium held in Kiel in October 2018. This colloquium marked the first stepping stone of the Excellence Cluster *ROOTS of Social, Environmental and Cultural Connectivities in Past Societies*. Within this Excellence Cluster, the subcluster *Urban ROOTS* is interested in the historical aspects of the complex urban roots of our cities today. One such phenomenon which stands at the starting point of our research activity is the role of water within cities. Many of our principal investigators within this subcluster are represented in this volume by their papers, and external colleagues bring in very fruitful contributions that allow the perspective to be widened.

As the colloquium took place even before the work in the cluster had started, it was financed by the Graduate School *Human Development in Landscapes*, while the funds for the publication come from the subcluster *Urban ROOTS*. Many have contributed to the successful finishing of this volume. We owe many thanks to the anonymous peer-reviewers, to the student assistants Katrin Götsch and Rebecca Hannemann who have unified the format and citation styles, to the graphic designer Susanne Beyer who has improved, sometimes newly developed the figures of this book, to Douglas Fear for proofreading, and to Mirko Vonderstein and Katrin Hofmann from the publisher De Gruyter, who have accompanied the publication process with great attention.

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