**The Virtual Hadrian’s Villa**

**Prof. Bernard D. Frischer (Virginia, USA)**

**21st May 2012**

**6.45-8.15 p.m., A 704**

**Abstract:**

Prof. Bernard Frischer was a Senior Fellow in the Zukunftskolleg in the 2010-11 academic year. His focus while in Konstanz was starting work on a project to create a virtual world of Hadrian's Villa. The goal of the project was to see whether Problem-Based Learning (PBL) could be made more effective in the field of Archaeology by using virtual world technology as an educational resource. To this end, a virtual world of the archaeological site of Hadrian's Villa had to be created along with a related website. The virtual world provides a restoration of the villa as it appeared and functioned in antiquity. With the help of a team of specialists, the terrain, gardens, buildings, people, animals, and furnishings were recreated in 3D. The website is integrated with the virtual world and provides the archaeological documentation for the various elements of the reconstruction. When Prof. Frischer and his technician, Matthew Brennan, left Konstanz on August 1, 2011, work was far advanced on the virtual world and website.

Once these two digital products were finished in January 2012, they had to be deployed in an undergraduate class at the University of Virginia. With the help of experts on PBL and educational assessment, Prof. Frischer taught a seminar about the villa to eight advanced undergraduate students in Spring Semester 2012 (January 23 to May 1, 2012).

In this lecture, Prof. Frischer will present a progress report on the Virtual Hadrian's Villa Project with demonstrations of the website, virtual world, and preliminary results from the educational experiment.

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Bernard Frischer is a professor at the University of Virginia in the departments of Art History and Classics. He earned his B.A. in Classics from Wesleyan University in 1971 and his Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg in 1975. He has won many prizes and honors including the Rome Prize in Classical Studies from the American Academy in Rome, the Pioneer Award of The International Society of Virtual Systems and Multimedia, the Tartessus Prize of the Spanish Academy of Virtual Archaeology, and the Senior Prize Fellowship of the Zukunftskolleg. He is currently the founding Director of the Virtual World Heritage Laboratory at the University of Virginia.