Organized Habsburg Colonization in the
Romanian Banat, 1718-1787: The
Planned Rectilinear Villages of the
Donauschwaben

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Dr. Anderson’s presentation addresses the origin, structure and meaning of planned villages associated with the 18th-century Habsburg colonization of the Romanian Banat. One of the most distinctive elements of the cultural landscape associated with this colonization was the design and construction of dozens of centrally-planned agricultural villages for German colonists, most of which are gridded, rectilinear communities. Employing fieldwork and archival research, the paper addresses how the re-settlement of the Banat represented an opportunity to conduct a controlled experiment in the implementation of new cameralist policies on the part of Habsburg planners and engineers and how the region’s cultural landscapes represent a distinctive historical-political discourse materialized in the landscape.