



## **GEOBIA – crossing boundaries by creating borders**

Geographic Object Based Image Analysis - (GE)OBIA - is a relatively new field of research based upon two major concepts: a) dissecting images or any (pseudo-)continuous multidimensional fields of data and b) allowing for multiple scales when organizing and utilizing the resulting objects. Although GEOBIA origins being older, research has taken off since around the year 2000. Today it is considered one leading paradigm in remote sensing. An underlying inherent hypothesis is that complexity of measurements can be structured into scaled representations for further analysis. We currently witness OBIA techniques applied in additional disciplines, wherever information from imagery plays a role. OBIA researchers with backgrounds in geology, geography or mineralogy are joining forces with colleagues from cell biology, molecular biology, medicine, pharmacy or nanotechnology.

When abstracting beyond the “GE” of GEOBIA, innovative interdisciplinary approaches arise. A sharply rising number of articles have made (GE)OBIA an important paradigm in remote sensing. But what will be next? What are consequences of transcending disciplinary boundaries? We may innocently – not to say naively - argue that disciplinary boundaries are not important unless we go with Turner (2000) to compare disciplines with cartels that organize markets for the production of knowledge and proliferation of students by excluding others. The author hypothesizes that it is to the benefit of society to solve problems by overcoming disciplinary traditions. Examples used in this presentation may demonstrate that although difficulties arise from different socialisations of the respective actors, interdisciplinary research tackles problems that are hardly solvable by one discipline alone.