



To the
Scientists of the
DFG Priority Program 1158
„Antarctic Research
with comparative investigations in Arctic ice areas“

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Newsletter no. 29

Priority Program „Antarctic Research“, January 2019

Dear colleagues,

even though we are several weeks into 2020, we retrospectively wish you a good start into the new year and decade.

This newsletter offers information on:

- The current application round in the priority program
- Workshops this year
- Other announcements and information.

Current SPP proposal round

With 104 participants, the coordination workshop 2019 in Bremen was very well attended. A total of 48 new project ideas were presented, and current and new projects showcased in 46 posters. As a result, in November 2019, 33 scientific proposals were submitted to the DFG by 52 applicants, of which 30 were new and 3 were renewal proposals. The requested volume adds up to approximately 7.2 million €. Since there were more proposals than in previous years, the applied volume is also higher, thus approval rates are expected to be lower than in 2018/2019.

On a positive note, in this application round, universities requested more than 80% of the total volume. This emphasizes the continued interest in polar research at universities, and also shows the excellent cooperation between universities and research institutes, especially with the AWI. As in previous years, the classification into the scientific disciplines of biological sciences, geosciences and physics/chemistry was

not always straightforward. Based on this classification, 19 out of 33 proposals addressed biological questions, four geoscience topics and nine physics and/or chemistry themes.

Within the four interdisciplinary topics of the current application round, the focus of most projects, i.e. 82% of applications, was on "Response to Environmental Change", while 58% addressed "Improved Understanding", and 24% each focussed on "Dynamics of Climate System" and "Linkages with Lower Latitudes". As these are overarching research topics, multiple answers were possible for the classification (thus adding up to more than 100%). Indeed, most proposals were classified into more than one of the SPP topics, which clearly emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of the individual topics.

Most proposals are evaluated by the panel committee at the DFG headquarters in Bonn, where 12 to 15 experts from all disciplines meet and discuss your proposals, and together decide on rating and ranking. Should there be a need for additional expertise, external referees will be contacted for evaluation. These reports are considered by the panel. The evaluation is scheduled for 12th and 13th March 2020. At the beginning of this event, the coordinator will briefly introduce the SPP to the new reviewers. The funding recommendations (plus or minus) will be communicated to the coordinator about 1 to 2 weeks after the panel meeting between late March and early April (WITHOUT reviewer opinions). Afterwards (after Easter!), the coordinator can be contacted by phone for preliminary requests regarding panel recommendations of your proposals. A final decision by the DFG Senate is expected in June. The written notifications, including reviewer reports, will not be sent by DFG mail before July 2020.

Workshop on "Gravity field, ice sheet and inner structure of the Earth in Antarctica"

Since the next coordination workshop 2020 will be combined with the Polartagung 2020 (see below for details), there is no particular Topic-Workshop planned for this year, to ease demands on time for participants. However, there will be a workshop on "Gravity field, ice sheet and inner structure of the Earth in Antarctica: Understanding interactions and gathering observational constraints" on the **26th - 27th March 2020** in Munich. It is organised by Mirko Scheinert (TU Dresden) and Roland Pail (TU Munich), and will be held in connection with the 80th Annual conference of the German Geophysical Society, which is planned for 23rd-26th March 2020 at University of Munich. Please see the SPP website for more details (<https://www.spp-antarktischforschung.de/>). The **registration dead line** for the workshop is the **14th February 2020**.

Coordination Workshop in September 2020

This years' coordination workshop will be held in connection with the Polartagung 2020 in Cologne. This conference is planned for the **6th-10th September** at the University of Cologne and includes the SPP report colloquium, which is scheduled for Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th September. The coordination workshop will happen directly after the conference, from **10th-11th September 2020**, i.e. from Thursday afternoon till Friday evening. Please take note, that we may potentially have to extend

the workshop until Saturday 12th September 2020, lunch time, depending on the number of planned project presentations. - **Please save these dates!**

More detailed information about the workshop, registration, accommodation and travel will be provided in the next newsletter just prior to the summer vacations. We would like to point out again, that **participation in the SPP coordination workshop is mandatory** for **(1)** all new applicants and renewal applications (presentation), and **(2)** for all currently funded projects (posters).

The latter also include projects that are successful in the current application round. The respective projects will be pre-informed by the coordinator between early April and mid May on the panel recommendation, which is usually confirmed by the DFG senate in June. Those projects are expected to show their research concept and ideas as a poster during the coordination workshop to stimulate further collaboration and networking, and to provide information to new applicants

Dallmann Laboratory

The Dallmann Laboratory at the Argentinean Carlini Station (Potter Cove, Antarctic Peninsula) will NO longer be supported by AWI concerning investments in upgrading infrastructure, beginning this year. The consequences are not completely clear at this stage for upcoming DFG projects. At present, three currently funded DFG projects (5 persons) stay at the Dallmann laboratory in close collaboration with Antarctic researchers from Argentina, and everything concerning logistics, transport etc. worked very well so far. Because of these long-term experiences in collaboration with Argentina and other countries/stations on the Antarctic Peninsula, we are optimistic that field work in this region is still possible, but might take more time for careful preparation. In addition, AWI logistics has always been helpful providing information and contacts to partners in the region, and if possible, also direct support. In addition, the coordination office has a network of University colleagues which organized expeditions to different stations on the Antarctic Peninsula with many personal contacts that might be useful.

Research Vessels

The application for shiptime for any German research vessel takes place exclusively online via an updated submission system (<https://www.portal-forschungsschiffe.de/submission>). Here the applicants can find any relevant information such as current cruise plans, guidelines, contact persons etc.

Gender equality measures

If you are funded by the SPP and require childcare during field work, we would like to draw your attention to additional funding available within the framework of the SPP. Gender equality measures also include funding to organise gender-specific workshops at conferences, and travel grants to attend such workshops. Please contact the coordination office for details.

Other Announcements

This year's Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) - Science for a sustainable Arctic will be held in Akureyri, Iceland, from 27th March - 2nd April, 2020 (www.assw2020.is).

We strongly request that the projects funded by the DFG priority program include the following sentence in the **acknowledgments for publications**: "This work was supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in the framework of the priority programme "Antarctic Research with comparative investigations in Arctic ice areas" SPP 1158 by the following grant ... (grant number)."

In addition, your data must be available on a **publicly accessible database** (such as PANGAEA) under the keyword "**SPP 1158**" (be sure to indicate the SPP 1158). At the end of DFG funded projects, the results have to be made accessible to the public (open access). Archiving and publication of the results are obligatory - unfortunately, in the past, this rule has not always been consistently followed. And because the DFG requires data submission to PANGAEA or similar data bases, any violation of this rule might result in the loss of applicability for future submission of DFG proposals. We hope, that this obligation will not be neglected.

Best wishes,

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