



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

09.02.2021

Newsletter no. 31
Priority Program „Antarctic Research“, February 2021

Dear colleagues,

after one year, the Corona pandemic still has a strong influence on all aspects of life in Germany including research and the scientific community.

This newsletter contains information about the current application round in the priority program, as well as other announcements and information.

Current SPP proposal round

Due to the Corona pandemic, the coordination workshop 2020 was organised for the first time online on a SharePoint website. For the coordination office this was a new time-consuming experience, but we like to deeply thank all contributors for their support.

During the virtual SPP workshop, 41 current and new projects were showcased as posters, and 46 new project ideas were presented as short, one-paged "Projektskizzen". Also, general information on logistics and a video explaining the SPP to newcomers were available to the 119 participants who had signed up for the workshop website. The workshop resulted in a total of 38 scientific proposals by 59 individual applicants submitted to the DFG before the deadline in November 2020.

The requested volume of all proposals adds up to an approximate volume of 9.35 million €. Since there were again more proposals than in previous years, and the applied volume was also higher, the approval rates are expected to be lower than in 2019/2020.

In the current application round, researchers from universities applied for approximately 61% of the total volume, while the remaining 39% were requested from scientists at other research institutes, reflecting the continued interest in polar research questions at German universities, and underscoring their cooperation with research institutions, such as the AWI, TROPOS or the BGR.

As in previous years, proposals were classified into the scientific disciplines of biological sciences, geological sciences and atmosphere/sea (formerly physics/chemistry). Based on this classification, 19 out of 38 proposals focused on biological questions, 10 were assigned to geoscience topics and 9 fell under the new heading atmosphere/sea. An additional application was submitted for the extension of the coordination office.

Within the four interdisciplinary topics of the current application round, most projects, i.e. 76% of the applications, listed "Improved Understanding of Polar Processes and Mechanisms" as focus, while 66% aim to address "Response to Environmental Change", 42% "Dynamics of Climate System" and 26% "Linkages with Lower Latitudes". Multiple answers were possible for the classification of proposals in these four overarching research topics, adding up to more than 100%, while emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of the individual topics.

This year's evaluation of the proposals will again be held online. According to the DFG it is tentatively scheduled for end of April to beginning of May, with potential dates still under discussion and depending on the referees' preferences. At this event, the coordinator will briefly introduce the SPP to any new reviewers. A panel committee comprised of 12 to 15 experts from all disciplines will then discuss the proposals and together decide on rating and ranking. In case of additional expertise required, external referees will be contacted for evaluation prior the evaluation meeting, and their reports considered by the panel.

The funding recommendations (positive or negative) will be communicated to the coordinator about one to two weeks after the panel meeting (without reviewer statements). The coordinator or the coordination office can then be contacted by phone for preliminary information on panel recommendations. The final decision by the DFG Senate is expected in June. The written notifications, including reviewer reports, will not be sent by DFG mail before summer 2021 (July/August).

Coordination Workshop in September 2021, pre-planned 6-7th September, Bielefeld

It is anticipated that this year's coordination workshop can be held *in persona*. Joe Hoffman agreed to organize the next coordination workshop at the University of Bielefeld, which is greatly appreciated. Joe and his team already found a nice venue, and we hope that we can all travel to Bielefeld. However, depending on the future development of the pandemic, the workshop may have to be re-scheduled as an online event again. If that is the case, the coordination team will evaluate experiences with, and feedback from, last year's coordination workshop, and decide on an appropriate structure. More detailed information about the workshop itself, which form it will take and the registration procedure, will be provided in the next newsletter just prior to the

summer vacations. Should we be able to meet *in persona*, the newsletter will furthermore provide information on accommodation and travel.

We would like to emphasize again, that **participation in the SPP coordination workshop is mandatory** for **(1)** all new applicants and renewal applications (presentation in a form to be decided upon), 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 according to the panel recommendations. Those projects are expected to show their research concept and ideas as a poster during the coordination workshop, in order to stimulate further collaboration and networking, and to provide information to new applicants

Research Vessels

The application for shiptime on 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, for example, childcare during field work, we would like to draw your attention again to additional funding available within the framework of the SPP. Gender equality measures also include funding to organize gender-specific workshops at conferences, and travel grants to attend such workshops. Please contact the coordination office for details.

Acknowledgements for publications

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 a ban to apply for upcoming DFG calls. We hope that this obligation will not be neglected.

Changes in personnel

Please take note that all changes to the personnel of funded and running projects, for example, contract extensions, but also interruptions, parental leave, etc., require prior approval by the DFG. Please contact Ms Bennerscheid with all relevant details (email: <ute.bennerscheid@dfg.de>). Furthermore, any personnel changes in projects must

also be communicated to the coordination office, including new contact details, if necessary.

Best wishes for 2021,

Ulf Karsten, Petra Quillfeldt, Tilmann Harder, Angelika Graiff and Svenja Heesch