



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

22nd of June 2022

Newsletter no. 34
Priority Program „Antarctic Research“, June 2022

Dear colleagues,

this newsletter provides information about:

- the current application round of the priority program (2021/2022),
- reports on the polar conference and workshops,
- the coordination workshop in September 2022 and the upcoming funding round 2022/23
- additional announcements.

Please read this informative newsletter including all attachments carefully!

Current SPP proposal round

In November 2021, 27 scientific proposals were submitted to the DFG. Of the approximately 5 million € requested in this application round, universities asked for more than 68% of the total volume, emphasizing the continued interest in polar research at German universities as well as showing the excellent cooperation between universities and other research institutes, such as the AWI, PIK or the BGR.

The proposals were evaluated by the expert panel committee in a virtual meeting on March 22, 2022, and the funding recommendations (plus or minus) were communicated to the coordinator by the DFG (without reviewer opinions). Of the 9 proposals in biology, four (45%) were recommended for funding, two out of three

(67%) in geology and 9 (60%) out of 15 proposals under the heading atmosphere/ocean.

The coordinator and the coordination office may be contacted by phone for the principal information regarding panel recommendations of your proposal (phone number of the coordination office: +49(0)381-498-6101). The obligatory final decision by the DFG Senate is expected by end of July. The written DFG notifications, including reviewer reports, are expected in the next few weeks. You can also call Frau Dr. Seeberg-Elverfeldt from the DFG (+49 (228) 885-2825) for more detailed information concerning the panel recommendations of your proposal.

28th International Polar Conference, 1 – 5 May 2022, Potsdam

The 28th International Polar Conference took place at Science Park "Albert Einstein", Potsdam from 1st to 6th May 2022 and brought together national and international experts from universities, major research institutes, polar teachers and interested lay people on the subject "POLAR REGIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE and SOCIETY".

82 oral presentations were given and 52 posters were discussed. The results are available for the public in the abstract-booklet of the "Reports on Polar and Marine Research" (Volume 762). At the conference all fields of polar research were addressed, i.e. the cryosphere with glaciology, sea ice and permafrost, polar geology and geophysics, Arctic climate and atmosphere processes, polar oceanography and biological systems of marine and terrestrial polar regions. The working group of the Polar Teachers (AK Polarlehrer) of the German Society for Polar Research (DGP) dealt with polar topics in school lessons. The report colloquium of the DFG Priority Program 1158 "Antarctic Research with Comparative Investigations in Arctic Ice Areas" was also conducted in the context of this polar conference, and the four interdisciplinary topics "Response to environmental change", "Linkages with lower latitudes", "Dynamics of climate system components" and "Improved understanding of polar processes and mechanisms" were held as symposia with international and national keynote speakers. Within the report colloquium we had 4 keynote presentations and 22 presentations of projects currently funded in the SPP1158. Furthermore, 10 Posters were presented within the framework of the SPP Antarctic Research. Thus, the great significance of the 28th International Polar Conference in Potsdam for the international scientific exchange and especially for the SPP 1158 was very well documented.

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

On May 5th and 6th, 2022, a two-half-day workshop "Gravity field, ice sheet and structure of the Earth in Antarctica: Understanding interactions and gathering observational constraints" was held as part of the DFG priority program 1158 "Antarctic Research". This workshop, organized by Mirko Scheinert (TU Dresden), Roland Pail (TU Munich) and Jörg Ebbing (University of Kiel), took place after the 28th International Polar Conference. 19 scientists took part in this workshop, representing the following institutions: TU Munich, TU Dresden, LMU Munich, University of Kiel, GFZ Potsdam, BGR Hanover and AWI Bremerhaven.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the current state of research on the connection between gravity field, earth structure and the Antarctic ice sheet and to identify priority goals for further research. In doing so, the workshop focused on the overarching topics “dynamics of climate system components” (Ice Sheet Dynamics and Mass Balance) and “development of the continent” (Evolution of the Antarctic Ice Sheet) formulated within the framework of the SPP 1158. The workshop program included keynote presentations on selected topics, followed by in-depth discussions during which key issues were identified. For further details see: <https://tinyurl.com/32ft26v8>.

Topic Workshop Bielefeld

After a hiatus of two years, due to the pandemic, this year saw the return of in-person meetings. This included the SPP 1158 topic workshop on "Polar Genomics", which was held in Bielefeld from 16th till 18th of May 2022. Organized by Joe Hoffman and his team from the University of Bielefeld, the aim of the workshop was to bring together international researchers working on the genomics of polar organisms. Over the course of two and half days, 37 participants from six countries presented and discussed objectives, approaches and recent progress using genomic methods to study patterns of biodiversity, adaptations to the polar environment and responses to environmental changes in polar organisms. Presentations covered all organismal levels, from bacteria, algae, lichens, invertebrates, fish and birds to mammals, from terrestrial to marine habitats. Plenary lectures were delivered by Melody Clark (British Antarctic Survey/UK), Charlotte Havermans (AWI/Germany), and Kenneth M. Halanych (University of North Carolina Wilmington/USA).

The workshop presentations and lively discussions were complemented by a field trip to the Naturschutzgroßprojekt Senne near Bielefeld and an evening lecture on Ernest Shackletons polar adventures by Oliver Krüger, Bielefeld University.

Coordination workshop in September 2022

The annual coordination workshop of the DFG Priority Program "Antarctic Research" will take place from **September 11th-13th, 2022 in Bielefeld**. It targets scientists from German universities and research institutions involved in Antarctic research.

The aim of the annual coordination workshop is to stimulate collaboration and networking between funded researchers, and to provide information to new applicants. Therefore, **participation in the SPP coordination workshop is mandatory** for **(1)** all currently funded projects and for **(2)** all new applicants and renewal applications. The former also includes projects that have been recommended for funding, and are expected to be successful, in the current application round (2021/2022).

All currently funded projects and successful current proposals **(1)** are required to show their first research data, concept and/or ideas as a poster (in DIN A0). Prospective new and renewal applicants **(2)** are obliged to provide a 5 min presentation ("Projektskizze"), which includes the **project idea, assignment** to one or more of the

overarching topics of the SPP, rough **budget** information, indication for **collaboration within the SPP** as well as **collaboration obligation** for non-university applicants.

Please consider the following points when preparing the presentation and your proposal, and also check the SPP website for more information:

- The main focus of the SPP is **research in Antarctica**. Comparative studies in the Arctic are possible, but NOT as main topic.
- The aim of the SPP is to support researchers from **German universities**. If you work at non-university research institutions such as AWI, MPIs etc., you are required to collaborate with a university partner ("**Kooperationspflicht**"). Please note that scientists from non-university research institutions, who are currently on a fixed-term contract and are applying for their own position, are exempt from the "Kooperationspflicht".
- The project idea must fall under at least one of the four **overarching questions** of the SPP (<https://www.spp-antarktисforschung.uni-rostock.de/en/research/application-periods/application-period-2019-2024/>).
- Please include a **modest & justified budget**. Please remember that the annual budget of the SPP is around 2.5 Mio €, which has to be shared between 30-40 applications/10-15 funded projects! Experiences of the last 5 years indicate: PhD students are always funded by 65% TVL13; in case of Postdocs consider 2 instead of 3 years; technicians will usually not be funded; student helpers are possible. Consumables and travel cost are fine, investments for infrastructure (>10.000 Euro) will not be supported.
- Please provide **contact details** to promote networking with other applicants and researchers with current projects.

The registration deadline for contributions (talk, poster) for the coordination workshop is **July 31st, 2022**.

Please fill out the attached application form and send it via email to the coordination office (Angelika Graiff) at the University of Rostock (email: SPP-Antarktисforschung@uni-rostock.de).

Important: *We expect you to stay for the entire SPP workshop and not only for your talk or poster. According to DFG guidelines, active contributions and engagement with other disciplines in the frame of the overarching goals of the SPP are mandatory.*

The presenting participant (talk or poster) can claim travel expenses via the SPP coordination office. Any of the authors can participate. Please use discount offers ("Sparpreis") of the Deutsche Bahn. You are responsible for your own hotel reservation in Bielefeld. Similar to booking discount offers of the Deutsche Bahn, please book economically modest hotel rooms according to the DFG travel guidelines. Please find a list of hotels, which provide a limited contingent of rooms with special rates in the attachment. **Please note the expiry dates of the reserved contingents:** B&B Hotel Bielefeld-City August 05, 2022, B&B Hotel Bielefeld Ost August 12, 2022, Comfort Garni Hotel Stadt Bremen August 01, 2022, Boardinghouse Campus Uni-Bielefeld August 25, 2022, and Hotel Bielefelder Hof August 01, 2022! Cancellation fees cannot be covered

by the coordination office. All hotels are booked for September 11 - 16, 2022. During booking your hotel room please state when you will arrive and leave, otherwise they will be booked through.

The coordination workshop will start on the evening of September 11th at 6 pm with an Icebreaker. On Monday and Tuesday (September 12th and 13th from 8:30 am), presentations will take place at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (Methoden 1, 33615 Bielefeld; <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/ZiF/>). An evening event (conference dinner) is planned for Monday evening (September 12th at 7 pm). The workshop is scheduled to end around 4 pm on Tuesday afternoon. Further information, including an overview plan of Bielefeld showing the different locations of the workshop, will be circulated end of August. The exact locations and respective time schedule for Ice breaker and dinner will be communicated in a separated email when everything is fixed.

The working group of the Polar Teachers (AK Polarlehrer) of the German Society for Polar Research has again expressed interest in participating in the coordination workshop, in order to establish contacts between scientists and teachers, and to promote new ideas for the education of students with regard to polar topics. If you want to offer an interesting side event or have ideas, please contact the coordination office (email: SPP-Antarktisforschung@uni-rostock.de).

This year we are very happy to announce that after the SPP coordination workshop the RV Polarstern & Heincke workshop will also take place at the same venue. The RV Polarstern & Heincke workshop will be held from September 14-15, 2022 in Bielefeld. Please contact Ingo Schewe (Ingo.Schewe@awi.de) for further details.

The DFG call for proposals to the SPP 1158 (via the "**Aufforderungsschreiben**") is expected to be published mid of July 2022. Project proposals have to be submitted in the first week of November, tentatively until the **4th of November 2022**. Potential changes to this deadline will be announced via email to the SPP mailing list and on the website.

Please be aware that the structure of the proposal instructions in DFG form 54.01 was strongly revised in May 2020. These instructions have to be used when preparing the proposal, otherwise DFG will NOT accept your proposal. For more information, please refer to the [Information for Research](#).

Environmental Protection Seminar/Umweltschutzseminar Antarktis

The provisions of the German "Act implementing the Protocol of Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty of 4 October 1991" require that every expedition member who travels with a German permit in the area of the Antarctic Treaty (south of 60° S) is to be instructed in the environmental protection regulations. For this reason, the Alfred Wegener Institute, in cooperation with the Federal Environment Agency (UBA), holds once a year before the start of the Antarctic season a full-day seminar on the subject of "Environmental Protection in Antarctica". The seminar will

be held in German. The two main lectures of the seminar are Stefan Hain and Elena Tschertkowa-Paulenz. The seminar will take place on **September 29th, 2022**. Informal registration via email to: Elena Tschertkowa-Paulenz (Elena.Tschertkowa-Paulenz@awi.de).

People who travel to Antarctica in the context of a DFG SPP 1158 project can apply for a reimbursement of the travel costs for the seminar participation from the Coordination Office. Please contact the Coordination Office (SPP-Antarktisforschung@uni-rostock.de). For updates please see: <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/information-for-expedition-participants/environment-protection-seminar.html>

Research Vessels

The application for ship time on any German research vessel takes exclusively place via the online 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.

Reminder of gender equality measures

If you are funded by the SPP and require, for example, child care etc. 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 organize gender-specific workshops at conferences, and travel grants to attend such workshops. Please contact the coordination office for details.

Acknowledgement of the SPP 1158 in 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 program SPP 1158 "Antarctic Research with comparative investigations in Arctic ice areas" by the following grant ... (grant number)."

Data storage

During and at the end of DFG-funded projects, results have to be made accessible to the public by open access publications. Moreover, all data produced with funding from the DFG must be available on a **publicly accessible database** (such as PANGAEA) under the keyword "**SPP 1158**" (be sure to indicate the SPP 1158). Archiving and publication of the results are mandatory and strongly required and even controlled by DFG - unfortunately, in the past, this rule has not always been consistently followed, and any violation of this rule might result in the loss of applicability for future submissions of proposals to the DFG. We therefore hope, that this obligation will not be neglected.

An additional option of **storing audiovisual data** is offered by the Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB) – *Leibniz-Informationszentrum Technik und Naturwissenschaften* as the German Information Center for the Digitalisation of Science and Technology. The TIB offers support for the publication and storage of audiovisual content free of charge on their portal (<https://av.tib.eu>), such as scientific

videos, but also computer visualizations, teaching material, simulations, experiments, interviews, lectures, conference presentations and others. All videos in the AV portal will receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and will be long-term stored. Technical and natural science videos will moreover be analyzed with automated scene-, text-, speech- and picture-recognizing software to make them more easily researchable and thus accessible to a wider audience. If you have any audiovisual data, that were produced in the SPP 1158, and which you would like to store in the TIB, please contact Mr. Tolga Karaarslan (email: Tolga.Karaarslan@tib.eu).

News from the coordination office

Another happy announcement. Angelika Graiff expects her second child at the end of November and is therefore on maternity leave from mid-October with a parental leave of one year. The Coordination Assistance Office was therefore advertised for maternity and parental leave. Vacancy details see <https://tinyurl.com/djw8jfx8>.

Best wishes,

Ulf Karsten, Petra Quillfeldt, Tilmann Harder and Angelika Graiff