



To the
Scientists of the
DFG Priority Program 1158
“Antarctic Research with Comparative Investigations in Arctic Ice Areas”

12.02.2024

Newsletter no. 36
Priority Program „Antarctic Research“, February 2024

Dear colleagues,

Even though we are already several weeks into 2024, we retrospectively wish you a good start to and great success in the new year.

This newsletter covers the following topics:

- 1) Renewal proposal for SPP 1158 (2025-2030)**
- 2) Current application round of the SPP 1158 2023/2024**
- 3) AWI Polarstern Planning Workshop, March 2024**
- 4) SPP 1158 Topic Workshop (SPP Polarstern cruise), May 2024**
- 5) SPP 1158 report colloquium (29th International Polar Conference), September 2024**
- 6) SPP 1158 Coordination Workshop, September/October 2024**
- 7) – 14) Miscellaneous**

Please read this informative newsletter including all attachments carefully!

- 1) Renewal proposal for SPP 1158 (2025-2030)

The DFG Priority Program 1158 "Antarctic Research with Comparative Investigations in Arctic Ice Areas" will be extended for another six years from January 1st, 2025 on! We like to thank all those involved in developing and writing chapters of the renewal proposal thereby significantly contributing to its great success – for us a great team spirit experience! The proposal, including the scientific goals and questions, will be available on the website.

2) Current application round of the SPP 1158 2023/2024

In November 2023, 42 scientific proposals were submitted to the DFG, which is a new record. Of the approximately 11 million € requested in this application round, universities asked for more than 80% 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, GEOMAR, GFZ or Senckenberg.

The proposals will be evaluated by a DFG expert committee consisting of national/international scientists during a meeting in 17-18th April 2024 in Bonn. The panel recommendations can be obtained from the SPP coordinator or the coordination office from early May 2024 on. Details to positive or negative evaluations can be inquired from the DFG at the end of June, when the reviewer's reports have been received.

3) AWI Polarstern Planning Workshop, March 2024

The workshop will take place from **March 7-8th, 2024** at "Haus der Wissenschaft" in Bremen and will be jointly organized by NK SCAR/IASC, AWI and the DFG SPP Antarctic Research. The workshop will provide new insights into the current status of the AWI's Antarctic and Arctic research strategy. On the one hand, the workshop will provide information about upcoming expeditions from 2024-2027 and mission planning for Polarstern I and II. On the other hand, it will provide a forum for presenting and discussing ideas and developing collaborations for new Arctic and Antarctic expeditions from 2028 on. Short presentations on upcoming Polarstern expeditions 2025 - 2027 (secondary user applications possible) and on larger and smaller research projects/expeditions after 2027 are planned as well as longer discussions on associated posters during the icebreaker. We kindly ask all those interested in an SPP-led research cruise to participate in the AWI Polarstern Workshop. Please send your registration to Claudia Klages (Claudia.Klages@awi.de) and Julia Regnery (Julia.Regnery@awi.de).

4) SPP 1158 Topic Workshop (SPP Polarstern expedition), May 2024

In this year's SPP 1158 Topic Workshop, we aim to identify research topics and plan the first SPP-guided Antarctic Polarstern expedition, which is envisaged for early 2028. The **SPP Topic Workshop** is planned for **May 24th, 2024**, following the SCAR IASC meeting (May 23rd-24th, 2024) at MARUM in Bremen, Germany. **We kindly ask all those interested in an SPP-led research cruise to participate in the SPP Topic Workshop. Registrations** will be accepted until **March 4th, 2024** (please use the attached registration form "SPP1158_Anmeldung Topic Workshop 2024_registration topic workshop 2024.docx"). Since the scientific topic of the expedition has yet to be determined, we also ask you to send possible **overarching research ideas/questions** to the SPP office by **April 7th, 2024**, by filling out the attached **questionnaire**. Questionnaire and registration to: spp-antarktischforschung@uni-rostock.de.

5) SPP 1158 report colloquium (Polar Conference), September 2024

The [29th International Polar Conference](#) will take place from **September 16th to 20th, 2024 in Rauris (Austria)**. The German Society for Polar Research e.V. and the Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI) organize it jointly. The community of Rauris is located in the middle of the Hohe Tauern National Park below the Sonnenblick mountain group. The conference location will be the Mesnerhaus Rauris, which was reopened as a house for culture and literature in 2020 after a thorough renovation. For further information, please see the [conference website](#).

The SPP Antarctic Research Report Colloquium will again be part of the Polar conference.

All invited speakers (does not apply for poster presentations!) in the report colloquium have to register for the conference via the conference website. They can claim their travel expenses and ONE hotel overnight stay via the coordination office. If you are entitled to compensation for travel expenses and stay for the whole conference, please make sure that you ask for two separate receipts for your hotel stay (one for the night covered by the coordination office and one for all other nights covered by yourself/other resources), as otherwise there may be problems with the respective department for travel costs. Please book "Sparpreis" if possible, for your train journey. We would also like to point out that talks and posters at national and international conferences must contain the SPP logo and the reference to the DFG-SPP 1158 "Antarctic research". Applications for travel expenses subsidies for master students and doctoral students as well as requests for childcare are still possible until August 1st, 2024.

6) SPP 1158 Coordination Workshop, September/October 2024

The annual coordination workshop of the DFG Priority Program "Antarctic Research" will take place from **September 29th to October 1st, 2024 in Cologne**. It targets scientists from German universities and research institutions involved in Antarctic research.

The annual coordination workshop aims to stimulate collaboration and networking between funded researchers and provide information to new applicants. Therefore, **participation in the SPP coordination workshop is mandatory** for **(1)** all currently funded projects and **(2)** all new applicants and renewal applications.

All currently funded projects **(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 application period 2019-2024, rough **budget** information, indication for **collaboration within the SPP** as well as **collaboration obligation** for non-university applicants.

More detailed information about the registration procedure, accommodation and travel will be provided in the next newsletter just prior to the summer vacations.

Important: We expect you to stay for the entire SPP workshop. According to DFG guidelines, active contributions and engagement with other disciplines in the frame of the overarching goals of the SPP are mandatory, and are explicitly required by the DFG review panel.

The DFG call for proposals to the SPP 1158 (via the "Aufforderungsschreiben") for 2024 is expected to be published mid of July 2024. Project proposals have to be submitted in the second week of November, tentatively until **November 14th, 2024**.

Potential changes to this deadline will be announced via email to the SPP mailing list and on the website.

7) Blackboard and Sharepoint

We have set up a Sharepoint page for the SPP 1158 on which all posters and presentations of the coordination workshops can now be viewed. The instructions for registering for Sharepoint can be found in the attachment to this Newsletter. Since we want to treat the data confidentially, we have to activate everyone for the website before they can register.

In addition, we have created an internal SPP "Blackboard" on the Sharepoint website, where SPP members can share planned expeditions, existing or planned samples, and experiments. The blackboard serves to improve the use of resources and networking. We hope for active use of the blackboard and are open to constructive suggestions for improvement.

8) Environmental Protection Seminar/Umweltschutzseminar Antarktis

The provisions of the German "Act implementing the Protocol of Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty of October 4th, 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 27th, 2024 (10:00 to 13:00)**. Informal registration via email to: Elena Tschertkowa-Paulenz (Elena.Tschertkowa-Paulenz@awi.de). People traveling to Antarctica as part 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 see: <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/information-for-expedition-participants/environment-protection-seminar.html>

9) Research Vessels

The application for ship time 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.

10) Gender equality measures

If you are funded by the SPP and require, for example, childcare during fieldwork, 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.

11) Acknowledgements for publications

We strongly request that all projects funded by the DFG priority program include the following sentence in the **acknowledgments section of publications**: "*This work was supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in the framework of the priority programme SPP 1158 "Antarctic Research with comparative investigations in Arctic ice areas" by the following grant ... (grant number).*" In addition, if you participate in any Antarctic or Arctic review paper etc., which are somehow related to your SPP project, also earlier ones, please don't forget to mention the SPP in the acknowledgments.

12) 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 will be controlled by DFG. 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 TIB- *Leibniz Information Centre for 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).

13) 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 (ute.bennerscheid@dfg.de). Furthermore, any personnel changes in projects must also be communicated to the coordination office, including new contact details, if necessary.

14) Personnel news from the coordination office

Dr. Angelika Graiff is now back from her maternity leave. We also warmly welcome Dr. Sonja Berg as sub-coordinator for the geosciences division in the coordination team of the SPP 1158.

Best wishes for 2024,

Ulf Karsten, Sonja Berg, Petra Quillfeldt, Tilmann Harder, Julia Ehrlich and Angelika Graiff