



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

05.02.2025

Newsletter no. 38

Priority Program "Antarctic Research", February 2025

Dear colleagues,

Even though we are already several weeks into 2025, we retrospectively wish you a good start and great success in the new year.

This Newsletter covers the following topics:

- 1) Current application round of the SPP 1158 2024/2025
- 2) POLARSTUNDE: Active participation of the SPP 1158
- 3) AWI Polarstern Planning Workshop, April 2025
- 4) SPP 1158 Topic Workshop (Reproducible Coding), May 2025
- 5) SPP 1158 Coordination Workshop, September 2025
- 6) – 13) Miscellaneous

Please read this Newsletter carefully!

1) Current application round of the SPP 1158 2024/2025

In November 2024, 39 scientific proposals were submitted to the DFG. Of the approximately 9 million € requested in this application round, universities asked for 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 TROPOS.

The proposals will be evaluated by a DFG expert committee consisting of national/international scientists during a meeting on 7-8th May 2025 in Bonn. The panel recommendations can be obtained from the SPP coordinator or the coordination office from ca. mid-May 2025 on. Details to positive or negative evaluations can be inquired from the DFG beginning of July (but NOT earlier), when the reviewer's reports have been received.

2) POLARSTUNDE: Active participation of the SPP 1158

The German Society for Polar Research (DGP), the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) Germany and since 2025 also the SPP 1158 "Antarctic Research" jointly invite you to get to know the "research of extremes" of German polar research in the form of short and lively lectures.

We invite everyone to take part in the seminar series and join the discussion. Please register by sending an email to polarstunde@polarforschung.de by the day before the respective event at the latest. The corresponding (free) Zoom link will be sent to all participants on the day of the event. The lectures will be held in German.

3) AWI Polarstern Planning Workshop, April 2025

The workshop will take place from **April 24th to 25th, 2025**, at "Haus der Wissenschaft" in Bremen and will be jointly organized by NK SCAR/IASC and the AWI. The workshop will provide new insights into the current status of the AWI's Antarctic and Arctic research strategy focusing on the international science missions "Antarctica InSync" and "Arctic-Pulse". Antarctica InSync is a global effort to synchronize research across the Southern Ocean, connecting ice, ocean, climate and life to protect this vital region. Arctic-Pulse is a Canadian-led international science initiative to better understand Arctic change by coordinating science across different land, marine, and air-based platforms. Although this year's workshop will focus on the major campaigns mentioned above, with the plan for POLARSTERN to receive another class in 2027, there will also be a look ahead to the period 2028-2030. Thus, we kindly ask all those interested in an SPP-led research cruise to participate in the AWI Polarstern Workshop. Please send your **registration via [Limesurvey](#)**.

4) SPP 1158 Topic Workshop (Reproducible Coding), May 2025

This year's SPP 1158 Topic Workshop is on Reproducible Coding, led by Kosmas Hensch. The **SPP Topic Workshop** will be held from **May 26th to 28th, 2025**, at the Waldhotel Brand's Busch in Bielefeld, aiming to introduce a set of coding techniques and tools to help enhance the reproducibility of coding-based analysis in science. It is aimed mainly at PhD students and early postdocs, but any interested SPP member is welcome to join. **Please register for the Topic Workshop until the end of February (2025-02-28) via Email to: polar-reproducible-coding@posteo.net**. The maximum capacity of the workshop is going to be 30 participants. The SPP 1158 will cover the costs of transport, lodging, and meals during the workshop.

5) SPP 1158 Coordination Workshop, September 2025

The annual coordination workshop of the DFG Priority Program "Antarctic Research" will take place from **September 28th to 30th, 2025, in Bremerhaven**. 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 2025-2030, 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 before 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 2025 is expected to be published mid of July 2025. Project proposals have to be submitted until **November 14th, 2025**. Potential changes to this deadline will be announced via Email to the SPP mailing list and on the website.

6) 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. Since we want to treat the data confidentially, we have to activate everyone individually for the website before they can login (<https://www.spp-antarktisforschung.uni-rostock.de/organisation/workshops/sharepoint/>).

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 aim is to improve resource use and networking. We hope for active use of the Blackboard and are open to constructive suggestions for improvement.

7) 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. This mandatory environmental protection training was carried out in previous years in form of a seminar "Environmental Protection in Antarctica" held in German by the Alfred-Wegener-Institute in cooperation with the Federal Environment Agency (UBA). **This seminar will be replaced from 2025 by a certified online training tool (in German and English), which AWI and UBA are currently developing.**

Further information about this online training tool will be available in the coming weeks at <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/information-for-expedition-participants/environment-protection-seminar.html>. - so please keep an eye on this

page. Please also note that the certificates that participants received when attending the seminar in previous years remain valid for life.

8) 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/>). Here, the applicants can find any relevant information such as current cruise plans, guidelines, contact persons, etc.

NEW SPP 2520 “Research Vessels”

In September 2024, the Senate of the German Research Foundation (DFG) decided to implement the **new infrastructure priority program SPP 2520 “Research Vessels”** to fund the expedition (logistics and travel costs) and initial evaluation phase of ship expeditions on German research vessels. The first funding period for POLARSTERN users will commence in January 2026. Cruise projects that require funding via this SPP must, in the future, be submitted as a DFG grant proposal as part of the annual calls for proposals for SPP 2520 (“Priority Program” section in ELAN). In addition to the grant proposal, a corresponding core cruise proposal with cruise-specific data that cannot be represented in the grant proposal format must be submitted via the “Cruise proposals” section in ELAN. Both parts are reviewed as a single unit. Details can be found under “Submission” and in the Cruise Proposal Preparation Instructions.

9) 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.

10) 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 program 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 is somehow related to your SPP project, please do not forget to mention the SPP in the acknowledgments.*

11) 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). PANGAEA is preferred because the SPP pays an annual fee for data processing services centrally for all funded projects. 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 broader audience. If you have any audiovisual data, that were produced in the SPP 1158 and that you would like to store in the TIB, please contact Mr. Tolga Karaarslan (Email: Tolga.Karaarslan@tib.eu)

12) Changes in personnel

Please note that all personnel changes of funded and running projects, such as contract extensions, 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.

13) Personnel news from the coordination office

Another happy announcement. Dr. Angelika Graiff is expecting a child at the end of April and will, therefore, be on maternity and parental leave for one year from mid-March. We warmly welcome Dr. Paulina Nätscher as a maternity and parental leave replacement in the SPP 1158 coordination team from mid-February on.

Best wishes for 2025,

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