



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

21.02.2022

Newsletter no. 33
Priority Program „Antarctic Research“, February 2022

Dear colleagues,

even though we are already several weeks into 2022, we retrospectively wish you a good start into the new year.

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 2021 was again organised online on a SharePoint website. We like to deeply thank all contributors for their support.

The SPP workshop was opened on Monday 6th September 2021, 9:30 a.m. with a live presentation by the coordinator Ulf Karsten, in which the SPP was introduced and general information for the application process were given. During this talk, it was possible for everyone to ask questions via the chat function. After the talk, these questions were answered and discussed. During the virtual SPP workshop, current and new projects were showcased as 44 posters, and 32 new project ideas were presented as short prerecorded video presentations ("Projektskizzen"). Also, general information on logistics and a video explaining the SPP to newcomers were available to the 113 participants who had signed up for the workshop website. The workshop finally resulted in 27 scientific proposals by 40 individual applicants submitted to the DFG before the deadline in November 2021.

The requested amount of all proposals adds up to an approximate volume of 5.0 million €. The DFG funds for 2022 increased by about 10% due to a DFG internal request by Dr. Faulhaber to the DFG senate, i.e. about 2.7 million € will be available. The number of proposals is lower than in previous year. The applied volume has decreased compared to 2020/2021, which gives hope for good approval rates in 2022. The SPP coordination office warmly thanks Dr. Faulhaber for her steadily strong support!

In the current application round, researchers from universities applied for approximately 68% of the total volume, while the remaining 32% 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, PIK 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, 9 out of 27 proposals focused on biological questions, 3 were assigned to geoscience topics and 15 fell under the heading atmosphere/sea, i.e. there is strong change from biological to physical/chemical sciences.

Within the four interdisciplinary topics of the current application round, most projects, i.e. 85% of the applications, listed "Improved Understanding of Polar Processes and Mechanisms" as focus, while 70% aim to address "Response to Environmental Change", 48% "Dynamics of Climate System" and 22% "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 now scheduled for 22th of March. At this event, the coordinator will briefly introduce the SPP to 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 early April 22 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 2022 (July/August).

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

From **1 - 5 May 2022** the 28th International Polar Conference will take place at Potsdam. The Alfred Wegener Institute and its Potsdam Research Center will host this conference. The report colloquium of the DFG priority program will be part of the conference. Please find the preliminary program and all other information on the conference website (<https://polarforschung.de/events/28-intl-polartagung-potsdam->

[2022/](#)). The Report Colloquium of the Priority Program will take place on Monday afternoon and as well as two sessions on Wednesday morning. All invited speakers (does not apply for poster presentations!) in the report colloquium can claim their travel expenses as well as **ONE** hotel overnight stay via the coordination office. If you are entitled for 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". The logo is also in the attachment. Applications for travel expenses subsidies for master students and doctoral students as well as requests for childcare are still possible until 01.04.2022.

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

There will be a SPP-supported workshop on "Gravity field, ice sheet and inner structure of the Earth in Antarctica: Understanding interactions and gathering observational constraints" on the **5 - 6 May 2022** in Potsdam. It is organized by Mirko Scheinert (TU Dresden) and Roland Pail (TU Munich), and will be held in connection with the International Polar Conference, which is planned for May 1st to 5th, 2022 in Potsdam. Please see the SPP website (<https://www.spp-antarktisforschung.uni-rostock.de/>) or contact Mirko Scheinert (mirko.scheinert@tu-dresden.de) for more details. The registration deadline for the workshop is 18th March 2022.

Topic Workshop 15-18 May, Bielefeld

This year's topic workshop in "Polar Genomics" will take place (Covid permitting) on **16 - 18 May 2022** in Bielefeld. The workshop is being organized by Joe Hoffman (Bielefeld University). The main aim of the workshop is to bring together national and international researchers working on the genomics of polar organisms. Specifically, we hope to discuss objectives, approaches and recent progress in the use of genomic approaches to investigate patterns of biological diversity, adaptation to extreme environments, and responses to environmental change in polar organisms.

Coordination Workshop in September 2022, pre-planned 11-14 September, Bielefeld

It is anticipated that this year's coordination workshop is 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 years' 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.

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 14 – 15 September in Bielefeld. Please contact Ingo Schewe (Ingo.Schewe@awi.de) for further details.

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.

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.

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

Personnel news from the DFG

There was a personnel change in the DFG coordination of the SPP 1158. The supervising DFG officer is now Dr. Ismene Seeberg-Elverfeldt since January 1st, 2022. Dr. Ismene Seeberg-Elverfeldt did her doctorate at Bremen University in Geosciences. Ms. Bennerscheid will still serve as our direct contact to the DFG.

We would like to thank Dr. Susanne Faulhaber for all the helpful and competent support of the SPP 1158 over so many years. She has always internally supported and even stood up for the program in the different DFG committees. Thank you very much Dr. Faulhaber, also on behalf of the SPP community!

Best wishes for 2022,

Ulf Karsten, Petra Quillfeldt, Tilmann Harder and Angelika Graiff