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

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Newsletter no. 37

Priority Program „Antarctic Research“, June 2024

Dear colleagues,

this newsletter covers the following topics:

- 1) Current application round of the SPP 1158 2023/2024
- 2) SPP 1158 Topic Workshop (SPP Polarstern expedition), May 2024
- 3) **Upcoming! SPP 1158 report colloquium (29th International Polar Conference), September 2024**
- 4) **Upcoming! SPP 1158 Coordination Workshop, September/October 2024**
- 5) – 9) Miscellaneous

Please read this informative newsletter including all attachments carefully!

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

In November 2024, 42 scientific proposals were submitted to the DFG. 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.

A DFG expert committee consisting of 16 national/international scientists evaluated the proposals at a meeting in Bonn from 17-18th April 2024. The panel recommendations can be obtained from the SPP coordinator. Details to positive or

negative evaluations can be inquired from the DFG in July/August, when the reviewer's reports have been received.

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

The first Topic Workshop for the planned SPP Polarstern expedition took place on May 24th, 2024, at the Marum in Bremen. Around 30 interested scientists from biology, geoscience, physics, and chemistry discussed their ideas and decided on the destination and overarching research questions of two planned Polarstern legs. The SPP coordination plans to submit the Polarstern proposals in 2025. More updates will follow soon. If you are interested in participating, please send an Email to spp-antarktisforschung@uni-rostock.de.

3) SPP 1158 report colloquium (29th International 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 in 2020 after a thorough renovation. For further information and abstract submission, please see the [conference website](#). For the **registration** there is a deadline until **July 31st, 2024**.

We cordially invite everyone to actively participate in the 29th International Polar Conference and submit abstracts for presentations or posters. This conference is a great opportunity to meet colleagues from all scientific disciplines interested in polar research.

The SPP Antarctic Research Report Colloquium will again be part of the Polar conference. The Report Colloquium of the Priority Program will take place on Tuesday morning and on one other day (tba) of the conference.

4) Coordination workshop in September 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 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 in the current application round (2023/2024).

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 application period 2019-2024, 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 application period 2025-2030.
- Please include a **modest & justified budget**. Please remember that the annual budget of the SPP is around 2.5-3.0 Mio €, which has to be shared between 30-40 applications/10-15 funded projects! Experiences of the last 5 years indicate: PhD students were always funded at 65% TVL13, but now can be funded also at 75% 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.
- Please carefully address the aspects of gender equality and diversity. The DFG review panel of this year took both points very serious; you should also explain your motivation.

We additionally ask **all attendees** to submit a short **project outline of their project (1 A4 page; see attached template)** to the SPP coordination office, so we can compile and forward those before the conference. The aim is to inform all attendees about the different new and running projects beforehand to facilitate collaboration during the workshop.

The **registration deadline** for contributions (**talk or poster**) for the coordination workshop is **August 10th, 2024**. Please fill out the attached application form and send it via email to the coordination office (Dr. Angelika Graiff and Dr. Julia Ehrlich) at the University of Rostock (email: SPP-Antarktisforschung@uni-rostock.de).

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 asked by the DFG review panel.

The presenting participant (talk or poster) can claim **travel expenses** via the SPP coordination office. Please use discount offers ("Sparpreis") of the Deutsche Bahn. You are responsible for your own hotel reservation in Cologne. Similar to booking discount offers of the Deutsche Bahn, please book economically modest hotel rooms according to the DFG travel guidelines. Within the framework of the state travel expenses law, we can cover accommodation costs of 80.00 € per night (from 2 nights 84.80 € per night), including breakfast. In case of higher accommodation costs, a written justification must be attached. In addition, the unavoidability of the higher price must be made credible and on record, e.g., by providing proof from a booking portal at the time of booking, showing the date of the search and the search options. This also applies to the hotels in the call-off contingent. Please also note that the billing address on the hotel invoice must include the Rostock University Coordination Office address and your name (name of the guest). Otherwise, the invoice cannot be paid. In a separate file (see attachment "List of hotels with room reservations") you will find information on hotels offering a limited number of rooms (85) at special rates. **Please note the expiry dates of the reserved contingents: SB Sleepy Booking is July 15th, 2024; Ibis Hotel is August 18th, 2024 and Flandrischer Hof is August 30th, 2024.** Cancellation fees cannot be covered by the coordination office.

The coordination workshop will start on the evening of September 29th at around 17:30 with an **icebreaker** at [Kaiser Konstantin Brauhaus](#) (Kennedy-Ufer 1, Innenstadt, 50679 Köln). On Monday and Tuesday, the **workshop** will take place at the University of Cologne. The lectures will take place in lecture hall 4 of the COMB building (301) Zülpicher Str. 47a. The lecture theatre is located on the 4th floor. Coffee breaks and poster sessions will take place in the foyer of the Biocentre (304) Zülpicher Str. 47b. The registration desk is also located there. The event venue is located directly next to the "Köln Süd" train station. An **evening event** (conference dinner) is planned for Monday evening (September 30th). The workshop is scheduled to end around 4 pm on Tuesday (October 1st) afternoon. Further information, including the location of the dinner, travel expenses form and an overview plan of Cologne showing the different locations of the workshop, will be circulated in the coming weeks.

The DFG call for proposals to the SPP 1158 (via the "**Aufforderungsschreiben**") for 2024 is expected to be published June/July 2024. Project proposals have to be submitted until **November 15th, 2024**. 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](#).

5) 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 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-Antarktischforschung@uni-rostock.de). For updates, please see the website of the [Environment Protection Seminar](#).

6) Research Vessels

Please note that a new system for submitting cruise proposals has been introduced. The application for ship time on any German research vessel takes exclusively place via the DFG's [elan Portal](#).

Please note that using the elan Portal requires a one-time registration, which must first be confirmed by the DFG. Confirmation usually takes place within 24 hours on weekdays. No new registrations can be processed on weekends. Users of the research vessels who are already registered in the elan Portal for other purposes can use their existing account and do not have to register again. When you are registered and have logged in to the elan Portal, please select the following:

Proposal Submission > New Project / Draft Proposal > Cruise Proposals for Research Vessels (GPF-Procedure)

Further information on using the elan Portal can be found in the [Cruise Proposal Preparation Instructions](#).

7) 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.

8) Acknowledgement of the SPP 1158 in publications

We strongly request that all projects funded by the DFG priority program include the following sentence in the **acknowledgements 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 are somehow related to your SPP project, also earlier ones, please don't forget to mention the SPP in the acknowledgments.

9) **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).

Best wishes,

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