



NEWSLETTER No. 39

Antarctic Research with Comparative Investigations in Arctic Ice Areas

Content

HOT Topics:

- ! Current application round 2024/2025
- ! Information for Researchers, No. 51
- ! SPP 1158 Coordination Workshop, September 2025
- ! Virtual Blackboard and SharePoint
- ! NEW SPP 2520 Research Vessels

Events:

- POLARSTUNDE (only in German!)
- AWI Polarstern Planning Workshop, April 2025
- SPP 1158 Topic Workshop (Reproducible Coding), May 2025

General Information:

- Environmental Protection Seminar/Umweltschutzseminar Antarktis
- Gender equality measures
- Acknowledgements of the SPP 1158 for publications
- Data storage
- Changes in personnel
- Personnel information from the coordination office

Current application round of the SPP 1158 2024/2025

In November 2024, 39 scientific proposals were submitted to the DFG.

- 9 million € requested in this application round → universities asked for 80% of the total volume
- A DFG expert committee evaluated the proposals, during a meeting on 7-8th May 2025 in Bonn.
- The panel recommendations can be obtained from the SPP coordinator or the coordination office. Details of evaluations can be inquired from the DFG at the beginning of July, when the reviewer's reports have been received.
 - 15 applications were recommended for funding by the DFG.

Information for Researchers, No. 51

The DFG **call for proposals** to the SPP 1158 (via the "Aufforderungsschreiben") for 2025 was published on June 26, 2025. Project proposals have to be submitted **by November 10th, 2025**. Potential changes to this deadline will be announced via email to the SPP mailing list and on the website.

When preparing your proposal, please refer to the program guidelines (([DFG form 50.05](#)) section B) and follow the proposal preparation instructions ([DFG form 54.01](#)). These instructions must be followed when preparing the proposal; otherwise, DFG will not accept your proposal.

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, at the AWI 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**, 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.

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 the main topic.
- The SPP aims to support researchers from **German universities**. If you work at non-university research institutions, such as AWI or MPIs, you are **obliged to collaborate with a university partner**. Please note that scientists from non-university research institutions, who are currently on a fixed-term contract and are applying for their position, are exempt from the duty to cooperate.
- The project idea must fall under at least one of the **four overarching questions** of the SPP application period 2025-2030. <https://www.spp-antarktisforschung.uni-rostock.de/forschung/antragsperioden/antragsperiode-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 also be funded 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 costs are fine; investments in infrastructure (over 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 seriously; you should also explain your motivation behind your approach.

The **registration deadline** for contributions (talk or poster) is **August 10th, 2025**. Please fill out the **application form** (will be sent to you in a separate email in the next days!) and send it via email to the coordination office (Dr. Julia Ehrlich and Dr. Sandra Kammann) (email: spp-antarktisforschung@uni-rostock.de).

We additionally ask **all attendees** to submit a short **project outline of their project** (will be sent to you in a separate email in the next days!) to the SPP coordination office by **September 12th, 2025**. The aim is to inform all attendees about the different new and running projects beforehand to facilitate collaboration during the workshop.

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.*

Information on:

- **Hotel:** You are responsible for your hotel reservation in Bremerhaven! Costs of 80.00 € per night (from 2 nights, 84.80 € per night), including breakfast, can be covered.
➔ On the “**List of hotels with room reservations**”, you will find information on hotels offering a limited number of rooms (98) at special rates. **Please note the expiry dates of the reserved contingents:** Bed and Breakfast Bremerhaven is August 18th, 2025; City Hotel Bremerhaven is August 28th, 2025, and Hotel Adena is August 11th, 2025. Cancellation fees cannot be covered by the coordination office.
- **Travel expenses:** The presenting participant (talk or poster) can claim **travel expenses** via the SPP coordination office. The form for travel expense reimbursement will be provided to participants in due course along with all necessary information and instructions.

!!!Further information, including:

- *Application form*
- *Project outline form*
- *List of hotels with room reservations*
- *Location of the dinner, and an overview plan of Bremerhaven showing the different locations of the workshop*
- *Travel expenses form*

will send around in a separate email in the next days!!!

Virtual Blackboard and SharePoint

As you might already know from the last years, we have set up a **SharePoint** page for the SPP 1158 on which all posters and presentations of the coordination workshop will be made public. Since we want to treat the data confidentially, we have to activate everyone individually for the website before they can log in (<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.

A detailed instruction on how to get access to SharePoint for the first time will be sent around in the next days!

NEW SPP 2520 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.



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 starts this year, with the deadline for submission being December 5th, 2025.
- The call for proposals for projects/cruises starting in 2027 or later is expected to be available from mid/end of July 2025 under the following link: <https://www.dfg.de/de/foerderung/foerdermoeglichkeiten/ausschreibungen>
- 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.
- Details on application preparation and submission can be found under: <https://www.portal-forschungsschiffe.de/>

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. <https://www.polarforschung.de/veranstaltungen/polarstunde>

The dates for lectures with SPP participation will be published at the beginning of September and announced via the SPP1158 mailing list.

- **Registration** via polarstunde@polarforschung.de (one day before the respective event at the latest!). ALL lectures will be held in German.
- The corresponding (free) Zoom link will be sent to all participants on the day of the event.

AWI Polarstern Planning Workshop, April 2025

The workshop took place from April 24th to 25th, 2025, at "Haus der Wissenschaft" in Bremen, organized by NK SCAR/IASC and the AWI.

- 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".

SPP 1158 Topic Workshop (Reproducible Coding), May 2025

This year's SPP 1158 Topic Workshop was on Reproducible Coding, led by Kosmas Hench. The **SPP Topic Workshop** aimed to introduce a set of coding techniques and tools to help enhance the reproducibility of coding-based analysis in science. The workshop covered the topics: Best Practices for Reproducible Scripting, Version Control Basics, Project Structure, Workflow Management, and the usage of Containerization.

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

CONTACT: Umweltschutz-Unterweisung-Antarktis@awi.de

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 of the SPP 1158 for publications

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.

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).

- The SPP pays an annual fee for data processing services centrally for all funded projects to PANGAEA.
- Archiving and publication of the results are mandatory and will be controlled by DFG.
- Additional option of **storing audiovisual data**: TIB- *Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology*.
 - ➔ Such as scientific videos, but also computer visualizations, teaching material, simulations, experiments, interviews, lectures, conference presentations
 - ➔ Free of charge on their portal (<https://av.tib.eu>)
 - ➔ It is also possible to upload the videos easily and independently via the upload form of the TIB AV portal <https://av.tib.eu/login?redirect=%2Fupload>
 - ➔ All videos in the AV portal will receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and will be long-term stored.
 - ➔ Contact: Mr. Tolga Karaarslan (Email: Tolga.Karaarslan@tib.eu)

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.

Personnel information from the coordination office

Dr. Paulina Nätscher has unfortunately left our team at the end of May. Her position has now been filled by Dr. Sandra Kammann, while Dr. Angelika Graiff remains on parental leave. Dr. Julia Ehrlich is, of course, still part of the team.

Best wishes,

Ulf Karsten, Sonja Berg, Petra Quillfeldt, Tilmann Harder, Julia Ehrlich, Sandra Kammann