



## SOCIAL & HUMAN SCIENCES WORKING GROUP MEETING

22 -23 JUNE 2011  
AKUREYRI, ICELAND

### **PARTICIPANTS**

GUNHILD HOOGENSEN GJØRV, NORWAY  
ALF HÅKON HOEL, NORWAY  
DONGMIN JIN, KOREA  
LONG WIE, CHINA  
JOACHIM O. HABECK, GERMANY  
GAIL A. FONDAHL, CANADA (VICE CHAIR)  
SVEN D. HAAKANSON, USA  
PETER SCHWEITZER, USA (CHAIR)  
SYLVIE BLANGY, FRANCE (VICE CHAIR)  
ARJA RAUTIO, FINLAND  
LONE DIRCKINCK-HOLMFELD, DENMARK  
LOUWRENS HACQUEBORD, THE NETHERLANDS (VICE CHAIR)  
RYSZARD CZARNY, POLAND  
PETER SKÖLD, SWEDEN  
PHILIPPE GESLIN, SWITZERLAND  
JOAN NYMAND LARSEN, ICELAND  
GISLI PALSSON, ICELAND

### **INVITED SPEAKERS**

DANIELA LIGGETT  
HARTWIG KREMER



# AGENDA



## SOCIAL & HUMAN SCIENCES WG TIME TABLE

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> 2011

15.30-16.30 Public Information session

16.30-17.30 Working Group Meeting - Open

### THURSDAY, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> 2011

10.30-11.30 Working Group Meeting - Open

11.30-12.00 Working Group Executive Meeting – Closed

### SUNDAY, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> 2011

09.00-10.30 Roundtable Perceptions and Representations of Arctic Science

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    - 2.3.8. Bipolar cooperation
    - 2.3.9. Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ)
3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



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Social & Human Sciences Working Group Executive Meeting (closed)

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2. WORKING GROUP BUDGET
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- ANNEX 2.3.1: IASC call for cross-cutting activities for IASC WGs and networks
- ANNEX 2.3.2: ESF research conferences background document
- ANNEX 2.3.3: ESF exploratory workshops background document
- ANNEX 2.3.6: Proposal for ICARP III as presented at IASC Council
- ANNEX 2.3.8: Information document on Social Science Action Group "Values in Antarctica".
- ANNEX 2.3.9: Information document on Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ)

### Social & Human Sciences Working Group Executive Meeting (closed)

- ANNEX 1: WG budget

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE | 15:30 – 16:30

## Public Information Session

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION »15:30«

The WG Chair/Steering Group welcomes the public and gives a short introduction on the IASC Social & Human Sciences Working Group.

2. OPEN DISCUSSION »15:45«

The floor is opened up for discussion and questions and answers. The discussion is lead by the WG Steering Group.

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE | 16:30 – 17:30 and THURSDAY 23 JUNE | 10:30 – 11:30

## Social & Human Sciences Working Group Meeting (open)

### OPENING AND REPORTING

1.1 Welcome and introduction »16:30«

The Chair welcomes the attendees and opens the meeting. Because there might be some new WG members present and it is an open meeting WG members are asked to shortly introduce themselves.

1.2 Minutes from the last meeting »16:40«

The WG members are asked to revise and approve the minutes of the last WG meeting in Potsdam, Germany.

*»The minutes are provided in Annex 1.2«*

1.3 Adoption of the agenda »16:45«

The WG members are asked to revise and adopt the agenda.

1.4 Chair's report »16:50«

The Chair gives a short update on the timeframe between the two meetings and reports on the activities of the other WGs that could be of interest to the Social & Human Sciences WG.



## MAIN ISSUES

### 2.1 Input from the Public Information Session »16:55«

The WG Members are asked to discuss the input from the Public Information Session and consider ways of integrating suggestions into the WG procedure, foci and activities.

### 2.2 Working Group activities

#### 2.2.1. Roundtable Perceptions and Representations of Arctic Science ICASS VII »16:10«

After discussions on the topic at the last WG meeting in Potsdam, Otto Habeck has initiated and organized the Roundtable on Perception and Representations on Arctic science. An abstract was written by Otto with help from Gunhild Hoogensen Gjorv and Peter Sköld. The roundtable is scheduled for Sunday 26 June from 9:00 till 10:30. Otto will give a short update.

» The roundtable abstract is provided in Annex 2.2.1 «

#### 2.2.2. IPY Montreal Session Perceptions and Representations of Arctic Science »16:15«

Peter Schweitzer has been in contact with James Overland, Chair of the Atmosphere WG, in order to organize a joint session at the IPY Montreal conference as a follow-up to the roundtable discussion in Akureyri. Peter will give a short update.

#### 2.2.3. Community based Kodiak Island workshop » 16:20«

An update from Sven on the reception of a possible workshop on Kodiak Island by the community. If received positively draft a plan of action to carry this activity further. A first step could be to compose a small organizing committee that is in charge of planning and organizing the workshop. Sylvie has recently organized a workshop that could act as a 'role-model'.

#### 2.2.4. Compilation national funding strategies and opportunities

Short update on the assignment to compile the national funding strategies and opportunities. Opportunity to comment on the form and ask for revisions.

#### 2.2.5. Contribution to the second Arctic Human Development Report »16:30«

Gail Fondahl is invited to provide a short report on the progress of the AHDR II and possible WG contributions.

» END OF FIRST DAY«



## 2.3 Upcoming opportunities

### 2.3.1. IASC Cross-cutting activities and funding round »10:30«

In the beginning of May IASC put out a call for cross-cutting activities for the IASC WGs and Networks. Two calls have come in and are under evaluation. The Social & Human Sciences WG did not put forward a proposal considering the short time frame. It is expected however that a second call will be announced either this fall or at the beginning of 2012. The WG members are asked to consider a possible proposal initiated by its WG.

Otto Habeck did put forward a suggestion when the call was announced concerning: Human strategies of dealing with permafrost / thermokarst dynamics.

*"I return to riding my "hobby horse" of human strategies of dealing with permafrost/ thermokarst dynamics. What I mean by that is the fact that parts of the human population of Central East Siberia have adapted to using meadow islands in the boreal forest for grazing their horses. These meadow islands have resulted from long-term (hundreds/ thousands of years\*) processes of freezing and melting in permafrost regions. If you think this is of any interest, I can develop this idea more clearly. Potentially interesting for the Terrestrial WG plus Cryosphere WG plus ourselves. I have already spoken about this idea to colleagues from the Alfred Wegener Institute (Potsdam Branch), but that was some years ago and we did not seriously pursue this idea. I know only one social scientist (Susan Crate) who is currently looking at the social-economic dimensions of permafrost dynamics in Eurasia."*

Peter Schweitzer has brought this topic under the attention of the Terrestrial WG and received the following response from their Chair Terry Callaghan:

*"One of our priority areas is to develop ways of measuring how easily soil organic matter decomposes in the Arctic - and of course this is mainly in permafrost soils. In fact some of the soil carbon will be in the permafrost. The reasoning behind the study is that when soil carbon is labile, gaseous carbon will be emitted thereby enhancing the greenhouse effect. At the moment, we don't really know how much carbon there is and how potentially "dangerous" it could be. Would this fit into the permafrost cross-cutting package you thought about? Have you heard from Martin? Are there other aspects you think the terrestrial WG should contribute?"*

The question is if the WG is willing to further develop this idea and if yes who are willing to lead the initiative.

» The May call for proposals is provided in Annex 2.3.1«

2.3.2. ESF funding conference proposals »10:45«

Each year the ESF has a call for conference proposals. This year the call is open to proposals regarding the social sciences and humanities. The WG members are asked to think about options to use this to enhance international cooperation and recognition of social sciences and humanities research in the Arctic and perhaps look for linkages with studies outside the Arctic.

WG members are asked if they would like to step forward to (further) develop an idea and lead the initiative.

The first deadline is September 15 2011.

» *An ESF research conference background document is provided in Annex 2.3.2«*

2.3.3. ESF funding workshop proposals

Each year the ESF has a call for exploratory workshops. The WG members are asked to consider if and how this opportunity could benefit the WG scientific foci and activities.

WG members are asked if they would like to step forward to (further) develop an idea and lead the initiative.

The next deadline is expected to be in May 2012

» *An ESF exploratory background document is provided in Annex 2.3.3«*

2.3.4. IPY Montreal »11.00«

Information item. WG members are asked to think about how to have the WG and its foci represented at the conference.

2.3.5. Arctic Observing Summit

Information item.

2.3.6. Planning ICARP III

Information item.

» *The proposal for an ICARP III presented at IASC Council is provided in Annex 2.3.6«*

2.3.7. Arctic/Inuit/Connections: Learning from the Top of the World

Information item. The 18th Inuit Studies Conference will be hosted by the Smithsonian Institution and will be held in Washington, DC from October 24-28, 2012. The conference will



consider heritage museums and the North; globalization: an Arctic story; power, governance and politics in the North; the 'new' Arctic: social, cultural and climate change; and Inuit education, health, language, and literature.

2.3.8 Bipolar Cooperation »11:05«

SCAR has formed a Social Science Action Group, focusing on "Values in Antarctica".

Presented by one of the Action Group Chairs Daniela Liggett

» *A short information document on the Values in Antarctica AG is provided in Annex*«

2.3.9 Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) »11:15«

Short introduction of the project and discussion on possible involvement of researchers from the social sciences and humanities.

Presented by Hartwig Kremer

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS »11:25«

### Social & Human Sciences Working Group Executive Meeting (closed)

1. SET PRIORITIES FOR 2011/2012 »11:30«

2. WORKING GROUP BUDGET »11:50«

The WG members are asked to revise and approve the new budget

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS »12:00«

**ADJOURN**



# Social & Human Working Group Meeting

12 -14 January 2011

Potsdam, Germany

## **Participants:**

Louwrens Hacquebord, The Netherlands (Interim Chair)  
Gunhild Hoogensen Gjörv, Norway  
Dongmin Jin, Korea  
Long Wie, China  
Joachim O. Habeck, Germany  
Gail A. Fondahl, Canada  
Sven D. Haakanson, USA  
Peter Schweitzer, USA  
Sylvie Blangy, France  
Arja Rautio, Finland  
Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld, Denmark  
Ryszard Czarny, Poland  
Peter Sköld, Sweden

## **Not attending**

Alf Håkon Hoel  
Joan Nymand Larsen  
Gisli Palsson  
Philippe Geslin

# Minutes

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# 1 Opening and Reporting

## 1.1 Welcome and Introductions

The Interim Chair opened the meeting and the present Working Group (WG) members and observers introduced themselves.

## 1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with minor changes. Human Health in the Arctic was added under scientific foci as agenda item nr 2.2.5. The original item 2.2.5: Other foci brought forward by WG Members was rescheduled as item nr 2.2.6.

## 1.3 Interim Chair's Report

The Interim Chair gave a short introduction on the history of the Social and Human WG and on the overall role of the WG. In his report he highlighted several items, e.g. the working group's key responsibilities, the seed money from IASC, the need for a work plan for the next two years (2011/2012) and a five-year plan.

## 1.4 Executive Officer's Report

The secretary gave a short overview on the main management issues the working group had to address during the meeting, e.g. the approval of the ToR, election of the Steering Group and the review of the budget. The working group also had to discuss and agree on the scientific foci over the next five years, discuss and agree on the major crosscutting issues and set priorities for 2001/2012.

She also summarized the future overall responsibilities of the secretariat and the assistance the working group will receive from IASC. The main responsibilities of the secretary will be: e.g. to prepare for, attend and report on all working group meetings, maintain the web site for the working group, organize and maintain a list of publications, workshops and outputs for the

working group, respond to outside request for information and facilitate communication between the working groups.

## 2 Main Issues

### 2.1 Management Issues

#### 2.1.1 Social & Human WG ToR

The WG was provided with a draft ToR. The members reviewed the ToR and the description of the geographic and scientific scope of the WG.

***The draft of adopted ToR for the Social & Human WG is given in Annex 2.1.1. An editable copy will be made available over Googledocs.***

The Working Group discussed the draft ToR for the Social & Human Sciences WG and agreed on the following modifications to submit for approval by the IASC Council:

#### **The Scientific Scope:**

It was agreed by all members that the summary of the proposed scientific foci should be adjusted to a more general description reflection the long-term mission of the WG.

#### **The Geographic Area:**

It was agreed by all members that the written definition of the Arctic as used in the AHDR raises some questions. The map used in the same report, however, provides a much clearer representation of the geographical area indented. The geographical scope will therefore refer to the map used in the report. In order to leave room for maneuver it was decided that the boundaries set by the map could be handled flexible when it benefits the research mission.

#### 2.1.2 Election of the SG



The Executive Officer provided the WG Members with the following nominations:

1. Peter Schweitzer – Chair
2. Sylvie Blangy, France – Vice-Chair
3. Gail Fondahl, Canada – Vice-Chair

According to the election procedure the Working Group should elect a Steering Group comprised of one chair and two vice-chairs. When the chair has served his/her term, he/she will remain on the Steering Group as the Past Chair, ultimately making a SG of 4 members.

Peter Schweitzer was elected as Chair and Sylvie Blangy and Gail Fondahl as Vice-Chairs. As former Interim Chair Louwrens Hacquebord from the Netherlands was appointed as the third Vice-Chair.

### 2.1.3 Working Group Budget

The Secretary presented the Working Group budget.

The Working Group decided to postpone the review of the budget. The WG decided to first identify key areas and activities, before deciding on the budget.

## 2.2 Scientific Foci of the Social and Human WG

The Chair introduced this agenda item and a draft of the scientific foci. The WG discussed this agenda item in quite detail. Following points and varieties where raised and discussed:

- Indigenous peoples and arctic change
- Indigenous peoples and arctic change: adaptation and empowerment
- Indigenous peoples and change: adaptation, cultural and power dynamics
- Sustainable development and relations of exploitation of natural resources in the Arctic
- Politics, legislation and the history of exploitation and natural resources
- Arctic economies and sustainable development

- Arctic economy, demography and sustainable development
- Arctic sustainable development
- Exploitation of natural resources in the Arctic: past, present, future
- History of arctic science
- History of arctic science and art
- Histories and methodologies of arctic science and art
- Perceptions and representations of the Arctic
- Human health and well-being
- Vulnerability, human health and well-being
- Vulnerability and fate control
- Power dynamics in the Arctic
- Research methodologies
- Social political change and tipping points
- Cultural representation and perception of the arctic
- Perceptions and representations of the Arctic
- Security, international law and cooperation

**At the end of the discussion the shortlist included the following foci:**

It was brought forward that the WG could include a statement in the ToR or as a header above the scientific foci that the indigenous perspective is regarded as an integrative aspect in all the foci of the WG.

1. **Indigenous peoples and change: adaptation, cultural and power dynamics**
2. **Exploitation of natural resources: past, present, future**
3. **Histories and methodologies of arctic sciences and arts**
4. **Perceptions and representations of the Arctic**
5. **Human health and well-being**
6. **Security, international law and cooperation**

### 2.3.1 Review of recent activities and initiatives

#### 2.3.1.1 The Future of Arctic Humanities and Social Science Research Workshop

Peter Schweitzer introduced the IASC sponsored workshop on *The Future of Arctic Humanities and Social Science Research* that took place in Oslo, June 2010.

The focus of the workshop had been on funding and had brought together scientists and representatives from the funding organizations. One of the outcomes had been an inventory of funding opportunities in the different countries.

The possibility of making such an inventory accessible an information resource for individual researchers was well received by the Working Group Members.

Another theme had been how to conquer the post IPY blues and look for new possibilities and venues. The European Polar Board (EPB) is planning to announce a call with the theme Polar Life. Although the humanities and social sciences are likely to be minority partners in this project there will be new opportunities.

The WG members recognized a need to lobby for a stronger representation of the humanities and social sciences in the polar programs of the European Science Foundation (ESF) and EPB. An EPB member with a background in the social sciences would already be a great start. IASC could play an important role in this process.

It was also underlined that there is a need for a more centralized body and review for large calls. For example, build an own program by bringing together pockets of money from different national funding agencies and approach the ESF to do the reviews. Another possible partner in this respect could be the International Council for Science (ICSU).

#### 2.3.1.2 Histories from the North – environments, movements, narratives (BOREAS)

Peter Schweitzer reported on the intentions and research outcome of the BOREAS project.

- ***A copy of the presentation is given in Annex 2.3.1.2.***

One clearly understudied research topic that came forward out of this project as having much potential and need for further study was religious movements.

#### 2.3.1.3 Arctic Human Development Report II

Gail Fondahl introduced the preparations for a second Arctic Human Development Report. All members were invited to study the list of preliminary chapters and indicate if they would be interested in contributing.

IASC had received a request from the International Association for the Social Sciences in the Arctic (IASSA) to co-sponsor a workshop for the further development and planning of the report. The IASC Executive Committee decided that the discussion on IASC involvement in such a large-scale international project should take place in the Working Group. Because the date of the proposed workshop had passed by the time of the Working Group meeting a possible financial commitment was not discussed.

- ***A short introduction and preliminary list of chapter titles are given in Annex 2.2.1.3.***

### 2.3.3 Other activities and initiatives brought forward by WG Members

### 2.3.4 General discussion: Scientific Foci and possible WG Activities and Initiatives

Are we satisfied that these are the right foci? Which activities and/or initiatives were discussed that would be suitable for concrete actions in the near future? What vehicles do we have for supporting early career scientists?

Develop and feed funding database / resource for researchers

Inventory and update of current funding/initiatives/venues for social sciences and humanities research in the Arctic available in IASC countries

1. **Lobby for more project funding and better representation of the humanities and social sciences within the international science foundations**
  - Stronger representation of the social sciences and humanities in the polar programs of the ESF and EPB.
  - Follow the Polar Life call from the ESF and identify opportunities for social sciences and humanities
  - Possible workshop to prepare for Polar Life

- Explore our program development capacities, uniting national money pockets and looking for a centralized body for calls and reviews
  - Alert system for upcoming calls
2. **Kodiak Island, community initiated science on ecosystem change and adaption in the Arctic**
- Invasive species, new spiders, plants, bug bites nobody has seen before, doctors who don't know how to respond adequately.
  - Unpredictability of the weather and stronger storms. Increased risks while travelling the land and risks of erosion and destruction of heritage sites.
  - Changes in water temperatures.
  - Kodiak Island as showcase let the locals formulate questions and topics that are of importance to them. Which changes affect them the most and what would they like to get from the science? But also what they would like to give to science e.g. their observations new discoveries etc.
  - Researchers playing into these questions looking at the situation in Kodiak Island explain in understandable language what is happening, try to develop future scenarios and look together with the community at adaptation possibilities. Also look at opportunities for future cooperation including community involved monitoring, downscaling, integrating traditional knowledge, etc.
  - Include the local industries
  - Record the full process from beginning till end so that the set-up can serve an example and provide the basic steps for setting up such an activity in other communities and can be initiated by the community.
  - Arja brings forward that in cooperation with the University of the Arctic she is involved with graduate program workshop that also include themes like contaminants and risk calculation. She can see a connection there.
3. **Conferences and session, explore possible WG initiatives**
- IPY Montreal 2012
  - ICASS

## 2.4 Cross-Cutting Issues

- 2.4.1 Relation to other organizations, programs and initiatives –  
What can we do with them?
- 2.4.2 Relation to other IASC WGs – preparation for crosscutting  
issues
  - 2.4.2.1 Human dimension in arctic coastal processes
  - 2.4.2.2 Relation between climate change and communities
  - 2.4.2.3 Sea ice change, resource exploitation, maritime traffic, governance and  
geopolitical development
  - 2.4.2.4 Human health and contaminants in the Arctic
  - 2.4.2.5 Other initiatives as provided by WG Members

The Chair introduced this item (item 2.4.) and ideas on crosscutting issues.  
Following issues and varieties were discussed and brought forward:

- Climate change and invasive species
- Animal transmitted infections
- Climate change and the opening up of new pathways for infections  
and viruses
- Contaminants and invasive species – security sense on a social-  
ecological level
- Changing permafrost conditions and pasture lands in the subarctic
- Impact of the oil and gas industry
- Extractive industries, toxicology and eco-toxicology
- Consequences of ecosystem change for subsistence activities in arctic  
communities
- Community monitoring, collaborative community research
- Perceptions and representation of the natural scientist
- Perception and representation of climate science
- Legal issues and economies – money flow
- Climate change models, scenarios and projections
- Landscape change and social political dynamics
- Competitive form of resource use in a changing environment
- Changes in sea ice

- People and coastal processes
- Human health, wellbeing and ecosystem change
- Geopolitics
- Communities and cultural heritage
- Relocation

## 2.5 Review of crosscutting issues

After all the crosscutting sessions were concluded, the WG reconvened to take stock of the discussions.

**At the end of the discussion the following crosscutting issues made it on the shortlist:**

1. **Human health, wellbeing and ecosystem change**
  2. **Collaborative community research on climate change**
  3. **Competing forms of resource use in a changing environment**
  4. **People and coastal processes**
  5. **Perception and representation of arctic science**
- ***The rough outcome of the joint SG meeting on cross cutting issues is given in Annex 2.5***

## 2.6 Set Priorities for 2011-2012

**12:00**

The WG agreed on the following priorities and initiatives related to the scientific foci and crosscutting issues for 2011/2012:

### **1. Kodiak Island workshop, adaptation to ecosystem change**

Proposed activities: Planning of a community inspired research workshop on ecosystem change and adaptation, engage the community and local industry in formulating research questions that represent a pressing need in adapting to current changes in their environment, approaching scientist to look at these questions and explore possibilities of downscaling, scenario building, predicaments, community involved monitoring and communicating scientific findings and outcomes to the communities, explore longer-term cooperation

between science and community to study the changes and continue looking for ways of adaptation.

**2. Funding opportunities and advocate the humanities and social sciences in the existing funding structures for international arctic research**

*Proposed activities:* Inventory of funding opportunities in IASC countries, identify international and preferably crosscutting calls, share the outcomes with the wider research community, lobby for a stronger representation of the social sciences and humanities within the EPB and ESF, explore the possibility of initiating project calls by bringing together national funding and organizing a call and viewing on a centralized international level.

**3. Roundtable Perceptions and Representations of arctic science**

*Proposed activities:* Organization of a roundtable during ICASS VII a to further address the interconnection of Arctic science, politics, stakeholders, the media, and the wider public, formation of a small to group to initiate an action plan as follow-up to the roundtable.

- ***The abstract for the roundtable that was drafted and submitted by Otto is given in Annex 2.6.A***

**4. Introduce the Social & Human WG and its work to the research broader research community**

*Proposed activities:* Session at the ICAS VII conference, presentation on the WG webpage, develop session ideas for large international conferences such as the IPY Montreal conference.

**5. Explore existing initiatives that are in line with the set foci and look for ways of cooperation**

*Proposed activities:* Make an inventory of past, existing and planned projects, look for possible partners, follow the development of the AHDR and keep an eye open for possible cooperation and contributions from the WG.



- ***The WG earmarked part of their funds for support of these activities. The revised budget is given in Annex 2.6.B***

#### 4 Next Meeting 14:30

The WG Members have agreed to hold their next meeting during the ICASS VII Conference in June 2011. The WG meeting will likely be preceded or followed by a special WG session and roundtable to introduce the WG members, its foci and activities to the other conference attendees and look for new input and cooperation.

## **Roundtable Perceptions and Representations of Arctic Science**

» Abstract for ICASS VII «

Organizer: Joachim Otto Habeck<sup>1</sup>

The Arctic figures strongly in TV documentaries, newspapers, and other media around the world. Polar researchers of many disciplines are an important part of this imagery as their travels and fieldwork make for visually attractive, exotic footage. Increasing interest in the Arctic has been triggered by the International Polar Year 2007-2008, and strong media coverage is one of its most beneficial outcomes.

However, the dialogue between scholars, Northern residents, the media, and the wider public is not without problems. "The public outside the Arctic has images of the North that are often formed by science, national identity, sovereignty, national pride, and resource pools, while people living in the Arctic have images of their homelands with their cultures, resources, and opportunities for a good life. Scientists' images of the Arctic may be driven by field seasons, access to funding, global politics, and science agendas" (ICARP II Science Plan, see below). Among researchers, there are complaints about misperceptions and misrepresentations of research findings in the media. Journalists and politicians, on the other hand, think that researchers could do a better job in making themselves understood. Residents of Northern communities see researchers flying in and out, but in many cases the latter cannot provide results of immediate relevance for the communities concerned. Researchers, on the other hand, find that Northern residents' observations and explanations about change cannot always be easily connected with conventional scientific forms of knowledge.

Such examples of "messages not getting across" point to the multiple and contested perceptions and representations of Arctic science. There has been an increasing if not widespread awareness of potential and actual misunderstandings on all parts, but even though this issue has been raised on earlier occasions, the issue has yet to be discussed systematically. Therefore we believe it is time to explore in a roundtable format how to further address the interconnection of Arctic science, politics, stakeholders, the media, and the wider public. Everybody is welcome to attend the discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> Coordinator Siberian Studies Center, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle, Germany)

# IASC CALL FOR CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

**Background:** In January 2011, the IASC Working Groups (WGs) met for the first time in Potsdam. Over the course of the three days, many cross-cutting initiatives were discussed within and between working groups. IASC Council has also allocated 30,000 Euro for funding of cross-cutting activities, and therefore the IASC Executive Committee has decided to create the opportunity for the WGs and IASC networks to apply for these funds.

**Objectives:** The objective of this call is to promote system-scale cross-cutting activities within IASC and to encourage the WGs to explore activities which should be of interest to three or more of the WGs. Because the IASC WGs are set up along disciplinary lines, it is possible that their activities will be focused only on one or two disciplines. While this is to be expected, the Council wishes to promote cross-cutting themes and encourage interaction between the Working Groups. This call is aimed at encouraging cross-cutting activities supported by IASC.

**Scope:** Any Working Group or IASC network may apply for these funds. In order for an activity to be eligible for funding, it must be supported by three or more of the WGs. Any network requesting funding, must seek support from the chairs of at least two WGs. Special consideration will be given to activities which look at the arctic system as a whole. The proposals do not have to deal with arctic change, they may address any perceived gap in our knowledge or understanding of the arctic system. The deadline for applications (template attached) is May 20, 2011. Funds requested in this call must be spent by April 1, 2012. The possibility of a future call for 2012 funding will be considered by the IASC Executive Committee later this year.

## **Evaluation Criteria:**

- Does the activity have scientific merit? Does it address a perceived gap in our knowledge and understanding of the arctic system?
- How many disciplines/WGs are involved in the proposed activity?
- Is the activity pan-arctic?
- Does the activity intend to promote the involvement of early career scientists not only in the implementation but also the planning of the activity?
- Does the activity have support from organizations other than IASC?

Proposals will be evaluated by a review committee and decisions to support specific proposals will be announced by mid-June.

## ESF Research Conferences Review Guidelines

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### Aims and Objectives of the Conference Scheme

The ESF Conferences Scheme brings together researchers from different nationalities, backgrounds, disciplines and at different career stages to jointly discuss the latest developments in new and emerging fields of research. Through their format, ESF Research Conferences promote free discussion and exchange of information, and aim to create long-term networks between participants. Participation is open to researchers from academia, industry, society and politics worldwide.

ESF Conferences aim to contribute to the strengthening of a globally competitive European Research Area as laid-out in the ESF-EUROHORCS Science Policy Briefing ‘EUROHORCS and ESF Vision on a Globally Competitive ERA and their Road Map for Actions’ (see <http://www.esf.org/publications.html>).

#### **Aims of the scheme:**

- Identifying emerging and strategically important topics by addressing questions raised by the scientific community
- Strengthen the link between science and society; foster exchanges with politics and the private sector
- To develop the research careers of Young and Early Stage Researchers
- Showcase regional excellence of European research, research performing organisations and universities through funding partnerships
- Connecting European research to the world

Please bear this information in mind when reviewing the proposal.

### Evaluation Process

Referees may refuse to review a proposal if they think that it falls out of their field of expertise or if they think they have a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest occurs when a person may benefit either professionally or personally by the success or failure of a proposal.

Should you not feel suitably qualified to perform this review, are directly involved with or have a vested interest in the proposal, or cannot meet the deadline, please contact the office immediately.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

**Proposals must be evaluated according to the following evaluation criteria:**

### **Scientific quality, scope and – where appropriate – interdisciplinarity of the proposal**

The proposed conference should be a high-level conference and should fulfill a need in the scientific community. The topic should be at the forefront of scientific research and at the very highest scientific level with respect to the selection of sessions and the choice of speakers. For interdisciplinary proposals, proposers should describe how each discipline will be covered and how interaction between disciplines is to be achieved.

### **Scientific relevance in terms of novelty, originality and timeliness**

The proposal should focus on a topic that is an acknowledged or emerging challenge for European research. The event should be unique and not duplicate already existing events. Novelty and innovation should be present either in the topic itself, or in the approach that is taken to discuss this topic (e.g. interdisciplinary).

### **European dimension and added value to the international research community**

The proposal should focus on a topic that is not just of local or regional importance,

but that is relevant to researchers from different regions, countries, sectors and possibly even disciplines. It has to be evident that there is a need to discuss this topic in a European or international context.

### **Scientific quality of the draft programme**

Through the draft programme, proposers should demonstrate that they can implement and achieve the ideas and objectives described in the conference proposal. The draft programme should reflect the aims and objectives of the ESF Research Conference Scheme.

### **Scoring and Comments**

You will be asked to score each evaluation criteria on a scale ranging from ‘average or less’ to ‘outstanding’. For each criterion under examination, score values indicate the following:

Average or Less	There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
Good	While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are weaknesses that would need correcting
Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible
Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question
Outstanding/Top Priority	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion and is highly relevant and timely. The proposal demonstrates exceptional qualities and depth

Maintain consistency in your scoring throughout the report. Projects will be ranked

according to their merit.

You are also required to provide a comment for each criteria being assessed. You are encouraged to write your comments in a way that clearly reflects your overall opinions and specific strengths and weaknesses of the proposal for each criterion. The comments must be consistent with the score awarded.

### **Questions:**

Any questions you would like to address to the proposer must be written in **Section 6** of the report (see below).

### **Further Information on the Review and Rebuttal process**

In order to improve the process, referees have the opportunity to ask the convener specific questions related to the proposal. This may be necessary if the proposal is unclear or clarification of a specific point is required. Referees must use section 6 of the report to ask questions. Questions in any other part of the form will not be considered. Proposers will then be given the opportunity to respond during the rebuttal process.

The ESF Conferences rebuttal process allows a proposer to respond to the reviews of his or her proposal. The rebuttal is for addressing factual errors in the reviews and for answering specific questions posed by referees in section 6 of the referee report. It is limited to 500 words of text per section, and must be self-contained (i.e. no URLs to external pages; no uploads). *No revisions of or additions to the original proposal text will be accepted.*

### **Best Practice Tips for International Peer Review**

In order to support referees during this process and to ensure the standard of the reviews received, we have developed several best practice tips for writing an international peer review. Ideally, referees should consider all of the key points below.

**Accuracy:**

Ensure that your review is technically accurate.

**Assessment:**

Assess and mark the proposal exactly as it is described and presented. Do not make any assumptions or interpretations about the project in addition to what the proposers themselves have written. Keep to the evaluation criteria as described above. You should also consider whether the conveners substantiate the claims made in the proposal, whether the science is sound.

**Productive:**

Where justified, give recommendations for modifications to the proposal. Reviews will be accessible to the proposers at the end of this process so please ensure comments are constructive. Avoid general statements such as “The objectives could have been better described”. Also avoid generalizations such as “Organization X is weak in this area”. Say rather “It has not been demonstrated in the proposal that the applicant has the capacity to run the project”.

**Well-written:**

The review should be well written, organized, and free of typographical and spelling errors. Your comments should be concise, complete and comprehensible. You should use polite and correct language, but do not hide the facts.





# Guidelines for Organisers of ESF Exploratory Workshops

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## Administration

1. The organiser must confirm acceptance of the award and its terms, as well as exact title, dates and location of the meeting to ESF using the online form at the web address indicated on the back of the letter of award and return a signed copy of the subsequently generated .pdf version of the acceptance to ESF.
2. The organiser is responsible for making preliminary contacts with all prospective participants. In order for the ESF Exploratory Workshop Administrator to send an **official invitation** and documentation to all participants, the organiser must provide the following information which will have been prepared with help of the templates provided on the ESF website (<http://www.esf.org/workshops/guide>) **well in advance and at the very least 2 months before** the workshop is due to take place:
  - The **letter** of invitation
  - The updated provisional **programme**, including starting and finishing times of the meeting;
  - An updated, detailed **budget**. See point 1. of the *Finance section for details*;
  - The prospective **list of all attendees** with full coordinates (postal and electronic) ;

The above documentation should be uploaded as .rtf files (4Mb max) at the web address which will have been sent to the organiser with instructions.

In addition to the .rtf file, the list of attendees should also be submitted by filling in an electronic form on the ESF website. In line with French law and with European Union directives on the protection of personal data, it is the organiser's responsibility to inform participants that their information is being entered into the ESF database.

3. Practical information (i.e. instructions on how to reach the meeting place, addresses of hotel and meeting venue, maps, etc.) should be provided by the organiser directly to the participants.
4. To heighten awareness of the ESF, the organisers should clearly identify the workshop as an **ESF event**, in particular by including the ESF logo and announcing the meeting as an "ESF Exploratory Workshop on..." in any advertisements, posters, web sites, etc. The EW Administrator will send a package to the organiser including ESF documentation to be distributed to participants. The ESF remit and ESF logos will be made available to organisers.
5. The ESF Standing Committee(s) which recommended the proposal for funding will normally send an **official ESF representative** to Workshops. Organisers should therefore schedule within their provisional programme a 10-15 minute presentation of the ESF at the opening of the meeting. All costs incurred by the attendance of the ESF delegate (local and travel) will be covered by a separate ESF account and will therefore have no consequence on the workshop budget.

Convenors are asked to advance the local costs related to the representative's attendance and invoice the ESF directly for this after the meeting. Representative costs should not be included in the financial reporting of the workshop itself.

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## Finance

1. A **detailed budget** showing the breakdown of accommodation expenses, meals and estimated travel costs, as well as other costs if appropriate, should be sent to the EW Administrator for final approval, together with the documentation requested under point 2. of the *Administration* section.

Local administrative costs (where applicable) should not exceed 10% of the total ESF award. Such costs include administrative and technical assistance, printing, photocopying, telephone, fax, email etc. Costs linked to Publication/Proceedings are likewise limited to 10% of the award (**Note**: Funds allocated to post-workshop publications will be provisioned at ESF and kept for a maximum of 1 year). Honoraria are not paid by ESF.

In principle, meeting expenses of attendees from non-ESF member countries should be covered by sources other than the ESF grant. However, when sufficiently justified, the ESF and EW Administrator may take into consideration the partial or total funding of a limited number of such participants (maximum 10% of the total number of attendees) within the ESF budget.

Additional financial support provided by other organisations (if applicable) should be mentioned in the budget.

2. Following approval by the ESF Exploratory Workshop Administrator of the detailed budget, the ESF will pay in advance up to 80% of the award to the organiser for **direct coverage** of all **local costs** (accommodation, meals, meeting facilities, etc.) and **direct refund of travel to participants**. This advance payment will be made no earlier than 2 months before the workshop. With the transfer of funds, the organisers accept responsibility for the correct use of the ESF funds.
3. The remaining costs will be paid upon receipt by the ESF of the **financial report** and of the **scientific report within 2 months of the workshop**. *If the reports are not received within this deadline, the ESF reserves the right to retain the remaining funds. In the case of unreasonable delay (6 months or more), the advance will also have to be returned to ESF.*

For the financial report submitted after the meeting, when an institutional or other locally audited account is used it is sufficient to fill in the ESF financial statement form online (listing income and expenditure, with a degree of differentiation to indicate payments for accommodation and travel, meals, administration expenses, etc.) and forward a copy of the automatically generated report in .pdf format, signed by the organiser and the institution's finance officer (+ stamp) to the ESF together with a breakdown of travel costs (amount per person). If pertinent, it may also be accompanied by a more detailed breakdown of costs, in particular if the convenor benefited from multiple co-sponsoring. Original bills are not normally required unless specifically requested by ESF in earlier correspondence.

4. When, in very exceptional cases, the payment from ESF is made into an account not operated by an official organisation, the account holder must provide a detailed financial statement with original justification of all expenditure (travel tickets, bills, receipts, etc.). Unjustified items will not be eligible for reimbursement.
5. When making payments the organisers must follow the **ESF rules**, indicated opposite.
6. Any unused funds must be returned to ESF.

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## Scientific report

In addition to a **financial statement** on workshop expenditure, organisers are required to provide a **scientific report** online which will be the basis for the evaluation of the activity. A template for the Scientific Report is available at the ESF website (<http://www.esf.org/workshops/guide>). **Both of these reports should be received by the ESF Exploratory Workshop Administrator within two months of the workshop** (see “Finance”, point 3, for consequences in case of delay).

The scientific report should be uploaded by the organiser as **one** document (.pdf or .doc format; 4 Mb max) at the address that will have been provided and should comprise the following items:

1. Executive summary (2 pages max)
2. Scientific content of the event (1 page min.)
3. Assessment of the results, contribution to the future direction of the field
4. Final programme
5. Statistical information on participants (age structure, gender repartition, countries of origin, etc.)
6. The Final list of participants (full name and affiliation)

Additional details on the contents of the Scientific Report are available on the submission website.

The list of participants previously submitted via an electronic form (providing full title and name, address, tel, fax, email) should also be updated on the ESF website.

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## Participation from the private sector

The participation of researchers from industry and the private sector in ESF meetings is welcome, and is subject to the basic principles set out below:

- All scientific actions within ESF take place “openly”, i.e. there shall be no confidential information. Intellectual Property Right or copyright are the property of all participants contributing financially or intellectually to the activity.
- ESF does not favour any one private sector participant over another and so ESF activities are open to all researchers who have the expertise to be involved.
- Industrial and other private sector participants are normally responsible for their own costs related to travel, subsistence and accommodation (unless otherwise agreed with ESF and the EW Administrator).

It is the responsibility of the organiser to ensure that sponsors comply with ESF policy and to provide the necessary written agreements and documentation.

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## ESF financial rules for the coverage of attendees' expenses

Participants in ESF meetings should arrive and depart as close as possible to the beginning and end of the meeting. In cases where participants have been on non-ESF business either before or after the meeting, the convenors should only cover expenses incurred by attendance of the ESF meeting, unless extension of stay is justified by a significant reduction in overall cost (resulting e.g. from reduced air fares).

### 1. Direct refund of travel costs

- Air tickets should be tourist class (or at a lower rate if cheaper tickets, e.g. PEX/APEX, are available). To benefit from the most economical fare, early booking is essential. Where no price is indicated on the ticket, the invoice should also be provided to the convenor.
- Train tickets and train supplements may be first class.
- Taxis should only be taken when convenient public transport is not available.
- Costs of health, life and luggage insurance are not reimbursed by the ESF.
- Cancellation insurance will only be reimbursed for PEX/APEX tickets.
- Use of private car (including road tolls and fuel) should be reimbursed, unless otherwise agreed in advance, on the basis of 1<sup>st</sup> class train fare or, for longer distances, on the basis of the APEX airfare where this is more economical. An estimate of the fare from a certified travel agent should be produced with the claim for reimbursement. For short journeys by car where no public transport is available and therefore no estimate of fare can be provided, the number of miles/kilometers covered should be indicated. When two or more participants travel together by car, travel costs should be reimbursed to only one person.

### 2. Accommodation

Ideally, the convenor is invoiced directly by the Hotel or Conference Centre after the meeting. Invoices should not include individual meals or incidental expenses (such as supplement for an accompanying person, laundry, bar bills, private telephone calls, etc.) which should be paid directly by the guest before departure.

Individual reimbursements of room and breakfast should be made to participants only on the production of hotel bills.

### 3. Meals

When possible, meals should be provided for all participants within the meeting organisation.

Alternatively, the convenor may provide a lump sum of maximum 21 euros per lunch or dinner directly to participants.

# **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCTIC RESEARCH PLANNING III**

## **AND**

### **IASC 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**CONCEPT:** IASC should organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) in 2015 at the time of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **RATIONALE**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IASC in 2015, the occasion presents itself for IASC to sponsor its third ICARP. It will have been 10 years since the last ICARP in November 2005, and 20 years since the first conference in 1995. The IASC Founding Articles call for IASC to host such a conference periodically in order to “review the status of Arctic science, provide scientific and technical advice, and promote cooperation and links with other national and international organizations.” With the IPY having concluded five years previously, an ICARP III in 2015 would provide an opportunity for IASC to take the lead in defining the research agenda for the Arctic for the next decade as a major commitment to securing the legacy of IPY. Finally, hosting and organizing such a conference would also be an excellent opportunity to effectively utilize the newly formed IASC Working Groups.

#### **PROPOSAL**

The Executive Committee proposes that Council authorize a small group to begin planning an ICARP III in 2015 on the occasion of IASC’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In principle, the ICARP III would:

- Build on the experience of ICARP I and II;
- Take into consideration the vast amount of work accomplished since the last ICARP and in particular the work completed during the IPY period;
- Utilize the assessments which have been or will have been completed since ICARP II, such as SWIPA (2011), State of the Arctic Coast (2010), AHDR 2 (2014?), and others
- Acknowledge the role of new initiatives such as the International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC) and the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON), and involve them in the planning of the conference; and
- Fully integrate IASC’s Working Groups and many partner organizations in the planning and implementation of the conference.

The goal of an ICARP III will be to review the status of research across all disciplines in the Arctic and provide a roadmap for research endeavors for the next decade.

#### **PRELIMINARY TIMELINE**

During 2011 the Executive Committee would form a small planning team with the goal of:

## **Proposal for Discussion at IASC Council, March 2011**

- Drafting a Conference prospectus which includes potential partners;
- Developing a terms of reference for an ICARP III SG;
- Developing a plan to engage the IASC WGs; and
- Identifying potential SG members.

The planning team would report to Council at its next meeting in 2012.

During 2012

- Appoint a SG;
- Solicit sponsorship and involvement in the Conference from partner organizations including the Arctic Council;
- Develop a Conference theme and tasks for the IASC WGs in collaboration with partner organizations; and
- Identify a conference host and venue.

During 2013-15

- WG's and partner organizations develop science plans;
- Conference logistics and planning continue; and
- Undertake fundraising efforts.

Fall 2015

- Host ICARP III (location to be determined)

## **CONCLUSION**

The IASC Review and Strategy Report of 2007 stated that:

*...the mission of IASC remains valid, but new realities, such as the emergence of new organizations engaged in scientific undertakings in the Arctic, rapid climate change as highlighted in the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, and increased linkages to the global system, to name a few, demand that IASC embrace a new vision. This new vision is one in which IASC upholds a holistic and multidimensional perspective needed in the decades ahead and addresses the Arctic as part of the global process; and one in which IASC plays a central role as THE international organization in the North to harness the scientific expertise of the Arctic. The R&S Group believes that IASC must find a way to bring the full body of scientific knowledge of the Arctic together so that it can provide collective international advice on science issues in the North.*

An ICARP III which embodies these beliefs should be undertaken in 2015 in order for IASC and its partners to provide the collective international advice that is needed to inform policy makers, people who live in or near the Arctic and the global community who has growing concerns about the changing Arctic environment and its impact on the globe.



# Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

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## Social Science Action Group

### Values in Antarctica (VIA): Human Connections to a Continent

#### Background

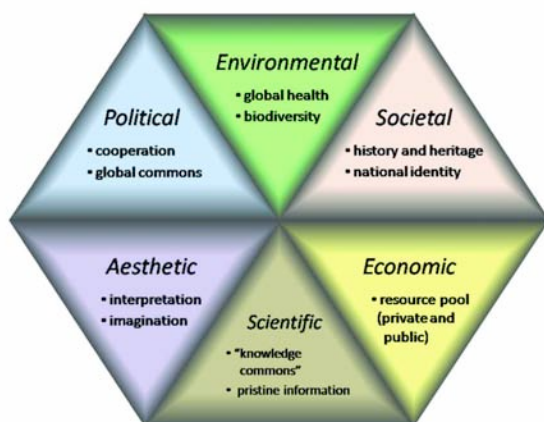
The International Polar Year has increased people's awareness of the polar regions and stimulated high-quality scientific cooperation between participants from more than 60 countries. This increase in awareness has not been limited to the Antarctic community. Media coverage has brought information about the Southern Continent to millions of people around the world and has given them cause to consider the worth of Antarctica to humankind: the time, effort, and money put into work on the continent, and the benefits that humankind receives from this investment. These are questions of value - not only from an economic but also from a scientific, environmental, political, socio-cultural and intrinsic point of view.

Viewed from human perspective, Antarctica has many aspects. It is, of course, a well-established site for the natural sciences. However, the continent has also been interpreted by artists, analysed by economists, written about by anthropologists, discussed by political scientists, reviewed by human geographers, and researched by psychologists. Such diversity makes it abundantly clear that perspectives additional to those of the natural sciences are important for a complete understanding of the overall value that Antarctic holds for humankind.

Quite simply stated, human beings are the ones that travel to the Ice, form impressions about it, and decide what must be done in light of those impressions. Additionally, there are countless others who do not travel to Antarctica but nonetheless hold opinions about it and, most importantly, make or sway significant decisions based on those opinions. Some of these decisions will, collectively, affect entire global systems, primarily via their impacts on climate, natural resources, and international policy. Thus, understanding the extent and nature of the values that human beings place on Antarctica has large-scale and very serious implications.

#### Objectives

To date, there has been no co-ordinated effort to document the multiple values that Antarctica may hold. It is the primary objective of this action group to accomplish this task. The Social Science Action Group shall focus on cataloguing the range of values human beings place on Antarctica. This includes both intrinsic values (such as symbolic and spiritual) and extrinsic values (such as economic and scientific). A secondary objective will be explaining the importance of each value, or category of values, with respect to SCAR's mission.



Researching this range of values, and their impacts, will require a diverse set of academic backgrounds. Figure 1 gives an indication of the categories of values that may be addressed by such a group, along with more specific values within each category. Please note that this figure is meant as a starting point for discussion. It is likely that some, if not all, of these categories may be abandoned in favour of better ones as the work of the group progresses. It is also expected that a significant amount of cross- and interdisciplinary discussion will take place in order to capture the complexity of the interaction between categories.

Figure 1: Overview of the types of values associated with Antarctica

## Steering Group members

The management of the Social Science Action Group is in the hands of a small number of researchers covering a wide range of disciplines. Members of this steering group, and their areas of expertise, are:

Kees Bastmeijer	Law
Paul Berkman	Political Sciences
Sanjay Chaturvedi	Political/Cultural Geography
Alan Hemmings	Antarctic Governance
Bernard Herber (Advisor)	Economics
Machiel Lamers	Integrated Management/Tourism
Elizabeth Leane	Literature
Daniela Liggett (Co-Chair)	Tourism
Juan Francisco Salazar	Anthropology and Cultural/Media Studies
Gary Steel (Co-Chair)	Psychology
Emma Stewart	Human Geography

Work on the project "Values in Antarctica" brings together the breadth of polar social science and humanities research. Research contributions and cooperation are sought from polar researchers with an interest in this topic.

If you are interested in working with this group, please contact:  
Daniela Liggett ([daniela.liggett@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:daniela.liggett@canterbury.ac.nz)) or Gary Steel ([gary.steel@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:gary.steel@lincoln.ac.nz)).

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## About us

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### Vision:

LOICZ is working to support sustainability and adaptation to global change in the coastal zone

### Mission

The Mission of LOICZ is to support adaptation to global change by providing the knowledge needed to coastal communities.

LOICZ carries out its activities on behalf of the scientific sponsors: the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP).

LOICZ operates as an international research project and global expert network exploring the drivers and socio-environmental impacts of global environmental change in coastal zones.

### Objectives

LOICZ's objectives: include developing and testing integrated multidisciplinary (natural+economic+social) methods to analyze the environmental and social interactions and feedbacks governing coastal system status and changes.

### Spatial domain

LOICZ's spatial domain reaches from the catchment land-, to the coast and beyond to the continental margins.

### Key words

Agenda Setting	Arctic	Assessment and Synthesis
Capacity Building and Training	Coastal Governance	Coastal Zone Management
Deltas	Drivers	
Erosion	Estuarine Processes	
Global Environmental Change	Global Networking	
Impacts and Response	Information Services	Islands
Material and Nutrient Fluxes		
Natural Hazards		
Pollution	Population	Pressures
River Mouth Systems		
Sea Level Rise	State	Sustainability

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**Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) is a core project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)**

LOICZ is an international research project involving scientists from across the globe who have been investigating changes in the biology, chemistry and physics of the coastal zone since 1993. Since 2003, LOICZ has expanded its areas of research to include social, political and economic sciences in order to address the human dimensions of the coastal zone.

The research results are used to explore the role humans play in the coastal zone, their vulnerability to changing environments, and the options to protect coasts for future generations.

The main goal of LOICZ is "to provide the knowledge, understanding and prediction needed to allow coastal communities to assess, anticipate and respond to the interaction of global change and local pressures which determine coastal change."

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### What is the Coastal Zone and why is it important?

The coastal zone represents the interface between land, sea and atmosphere. Due to variable definitions of what constitutes a coastal zone numbers of coastal population vary considerably. However, following the UNEP's

Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) Yearbook 2004/05, approximately 3 billion people live within 200 km of the coastline, i.e. almost half of the current global population (see: Creel 2003, Population Reference Bureau). For the future, and comparing 1995 figures with a likely scenario of 2025, the Centre for Climate Systems Research (CCSR) of the Earth Institute at Columbia University estimates a strong growth of coastal population. Due to the close link between population development and natural resources they expect an increase of about 35% in an even much narrower band of about 100km of the coast which translates to roughly 2.75 billion people in this area who will more or less be under direct influence of global change effects in the coastal zone. The coastal zone contains natural systems that provide more than half of the global ecosystem goods (e.g., fish, oil, minerals) and services (e.g., natural protection from storms and tidal waves, recreation).

In addition, 14 of the world's 17 largest megacities are located along coasts and most of them (11) are located in Asia's fastest growing economies. 40% of these cities accommodate populations of 1 million to 10 million people generating a variety of pressures driven by demand for water, energy, space, sanitation and infrastructure. On the other hand, the OECD recently estimates that with some 3.000 billion US\$ of assets at stake in coastal port cities (mostly cities in industrialized countries contribute to this calculation) about 5% of global GDP is at stake in context of flooding and storm surges (Nicholls et al. 2007).

In summary, various user groups have vested interests and compete for coastal land and sea resources and goods and services. This often results in conflict eventually causing deterioration of the coastal zone. In addition the coastal zone not only serves national economic development of coastal states but also of beneficiaries which can be far distant. As a consequence, globalization increases tele-connected feedbacks in coastal land and sea use. Obviously, the coastal zone with its biodiversity, productive habitats and major biogeochemical processes supports the life, welfare and health of a growing part of the global population and this strongly relies on the maintenance of the coastal environment and functions. Therefore, the meaningful scale of the coastal zone is quite variable in nature and can – subject to the issue of concern – include whole river catchment areas as well the continental shelves. This fact is reflected in the scientific work of LOICZ across all Scientific Themes and Priority Topics.