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SCAR Standing SC-HASS
Committee
Person Peder Roberts,
Responsible: Hanne Nielsen

SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2023

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Standing Committee on Social Sciences and Humanities (SC-HASS) 2022-23 Report

Report Authors

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Summary

Following the 2022 Delegates Meeting, at which Roberts and Nielsen were confirmed as Chief Officers, SC-HASS renewed its Steering Committee. Adrian Howkins (UK) and Lize-Marié van der Watt (Sweden) stepped down, while Roberts and Nielsen left the Committee to become Chief Officers. Howkins and van der Watt were replaced by Meredith Nash (Australia), Ebru Caymaz (Türkiye), Yelena Yermakova (USA), and Ursula Rack (NZ). Akiho Shibata (Japan), Cristian Lorenzo (Argentina), and Alejandra Mancilla (Norway) continued to serve on the Standing Committee.

In 2022, the PolSciNex Action Group wound up its activities while a new AG was started, Ant-TAG (Antarctic Tourism Action Group). AGIVA (Action Group on Intrinsic Values and Antarctica) and PEAR (Public Engagement with Antarctic Research) continued their activities. Further details are included later in this report.

In June 2023, SC-HASS held its first in-person conference since 2019, hosted by the Lusophone University of Lisbon under the leadership of Pedro Marques-Quintero (Portugal) and Cristian Lorenzo. The conference included 94 presentations and for the first time involved four parallel sessions. The book of abstracts is available at <https://zenodo.org/record/3831004>. In an effort to maximize participation from scholars disadvantaged by lack of access to financial resources, the Chief Officers allocated a much larger sum than normal (\$21,810) in bursaries, through a committee headed by Hanne Nielsen. Paola Barros Delben (Brazil) was awarded the first Lüdecke Bursary.

While the conference was a great success, a number of group members had earlier raised the question of whether future SC-HASS conferences should alternate between in-person and online accessible formats. Reasons in favour of the change included accessibility (including financial barriers to participation) and reducing carbon emissions. Reasons against included the intangible benefits of in-person meetings and the possibility that four years between meetings could prevent PhD scholars on three-year fellowships from ever participating in person. Hybrid options were not ruled out, but not proposed as a feasible option given the difficulty of organizing and reluctance to create a two-track structure in which those with finances participated in person and those without remained online. The SC-HASS leadership consulted its members during autumn 2022 through a Google Document survey. The responses indicated a clear majority in favour (c. 70%). After further consideration and consultation, the Chief Officers determined that the measure should be implemented, starting with the 2025 conference, which will now take place online. The Chief Officers propose to dedicate

additional funds to bursaries (including for the SCAR OSCs) on the principle that concentrating support on a smaller number of in-person meetings will maximize inclusivity, and to endorsing regional “hubs” for the online meetings where SC-HASS members can gather.

SC-HASS members continued to publish widely and to contribute to wider SC-HASS initiatives, particularly Ant-ICON. Selected further details are included later in this report.

Standing Committee updates since 2022 Delegates Meeting

What has been achieved?

Date	Activity
2023	Successful in-person conference in Lisbon, decision taken on future conference formats
2022	Regular PEAR seminar and meeting series

What lies ahead?

Date	Activity
2024	Chief Officers to consider how language policies could help to enhance equity, diversity, and inclusion within SC-HASS
2023	AGIVA to submit first research paper from the group
2024	Continued contribution to Ant-ICON activities
2024	AGIVA members will consult with Australian Antarctic Division Environmental Management staff on intrinsic values
2023	PEAR to submit keystone article to a Q1-Q2 journal
2023	Regular PEAR seminar and meeting series to be implemented
2024	SC-HASS members to participate in OSC.
2023	PEAR to contribute a paper to the Antarctic Environments portal
2025	First online-accessible SC-HASS conference to be held

Budget

Changes to planned use of funds for 2023 and 2024

Year (YYY Y)	Purpose/ Activity	Amount (in USD)	Contact Name	Contact Email
2023	Bursaries	17,780	Hanne Nielsen	hanne.nielsen@utas.edu.au
2023	AGIVA	0	Rupert Summerson	rupert.summerson@bigpond.com
2023	PEAR	2,000	Elizabeth Leane	elizabeth.leane@utas.edu.au
2023	Ant-TAG	2,000	Hanne Nielsen	hanne.nielsen@utas.edu.au
Total		21,780		

Funds rolled over during the pandemic were spent on bursaries for the 2023 in-person conference. AGIVA had no expenditure. PEAR and Ant-TAG each elected to devote their allocation to provide additional bursaries for the Lisbon conference.

Membership

Changes to SC Leadership since 2022 Delegates Meeting report

Role	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Country	Email	Date Started	Date Term is to End
Chief Office	Daniela	Liggett	U. of Canterbury	NZ	daniela.liggett@canterbury.ac.nz		2022
Chief Office	Elizabeth	Leane	U. of Tasmania	Australia	elizabeth.lean@utas.edu.au		2022
Chief Office	Peder	Roberts	U. of Stavanger	Norway	peder.roberts@abe.kth.se	2022	2026
Chief Office	*Hanne	Nielsen	U. of Tasmania	Australia	hanne.nielsen@utas.edu.au	2022	2026

SCAR Fellowship Reviewers

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Principal Expertise
Hanne	Nielsen	hanne.nielsen@utas.edu.au	Tourism research
Peder	Roberts	Peder.w.roberts@uis.no	History, Science studies
Daniela	Liggett	daniela.liggett@canterbury.ac.nz	Tourism research
Elizabeth	Leane	elizabeth.lean@utas.edu.au	Literature, Cultural studies
Cristian	Lorenzo	clorenzo@conicet.gov.ar	Political science
Akiho	Shibata	akihos@kobe-u.ac.jp	Law
Ximena	Senatore	mxsenatore@gmail.com	Archaeology
Rebecca	Priestley	rebecca.priestley@vuw.ac.nz	Science communication
Alejandra	Mancilla	Alejandra.mancilla@uio.no	Philosophy

Additional information

Outreach, communication and capacity-building activities

SC-HASS continues to work to build capacity within the group. Key measures include provision for ECR participation in all AGs (including as group leads) and ensuring that ECRs receive a favourable weighting in allocating conference bursaries. Meredith Nash produced a major review of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Australian Antarctic program commissioned by the Australian Antarctic Division. Priscilla Wehi, Krushil Watene, and Billy van Uitregt continued to raise awareness of Māori histories of and with Antarctica through both academic and public channels, including working with the NZ Antarctic program.

Notable Papers

1. Nielsen, H., & Roldan, G. (2023). Polar Policy in Practice: Tour Guiding in Antarctica. *The Yearbook of Polar Law*, 14(1), 145–166.
https://doi.org/10.1163/22116427_014010008
Fieldwork-based analysis of how Antarctic tour guides function within the administrative ecosystem, as well as how they experience Antarctica as a space for work, including policy recommendations.
2. Special issue of *The Geographical Journal* (2023) 189:1 assessing the health of the ATS, edited by Alejandra Mancilla and Julia Jabour.
Papers from a workshop held in Oslo in 2019 analyzing the legal and moral status of the ATS on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.
3. Liggett, D., Cajiao, D., Lamers, M., Leung, Y.-F., & Stewart, E. J. (2023). The future of sustainable polar ship-based tourism. *Cambridge Prisms: Coastal Futures*, 1. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cft.2023.10>
Overview of major features and trends in ship-based Antarctic tourism with a focus on impacts (social and environmental).
4. Leane, E., Lavery, C., & Nash, M. (2023). The Only Almost Germ-Free Continent Left. *Environmental Humanities*, 15(1), 109–127.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-10216184>
Examines how discourses of purity and contamination play out in the Antarctic, with a particular focus on reflections sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Marques-Quinteiro, P., & Leon, G. (2023). Psychological adaptation in Antarctica amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. *Polar Journal*, 13(1), 105–125.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/2154896X.2023.2205241>
Qualitative and mixed-methods analysis of how COVID-19 restrictions affected the psychological health of Antarctic field staff, with a focus on the full span of travel (including quarantine in transit sites like Punta Arenas).

Major Products

1. Howkins, Adrian and Roberts, Peder, eds (2023). *The Cambridge History of the Polar Regions*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Zarankin, A., Salerno, M. A., & Pearson, M. (2023). *Archaeology in Antarctica*. Routledge.

Major Impacts

Review of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Australian Antarctic program
Meredith Nash (Australia) produced a commissioned report for the Australian Antarctic Division that highlighted areas of improvement for the AAD relating to exclusionary and gendered work cultures and practices that attracted wide media attention and will lead to significant changes in the AAD.

Direct support from outside organisations received for your activities

The 2023 SC-HASS conference was supported by a number of local organizations in Lisbon, including the Lisbon Tourism Office and the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute.

Major collaborations your Committee has with other SCAR groups and with organisations/groups beyond SCAR

Within SCAR

1. Ant-ICON. SC-HASS members have participated in Ant-ICON activities, including key roles in the forthcoming concept publication from the group (lead authors include Adrian Howkins and Daniela Liggett).

Outside SCAR

N/A

Updates for your group's SCAR web page

- We would like to feature the seminar series on the PEAR landing page and will be in contact as we confirm details.
- Rebecca Priestley, Heidi Roop, Rhian Salmon, and Jose Xavier are no longer steering committee members. Could we remove them from the leadership overview?
- We would like to feature an update on our Global Mapping Survey and will be in touch with further details.
- We would be happy to feature a one-page summary of the SCHASS panel and workshop. What format would be best suited for this?