

**XXXIV SCAR Delegates Meeting****Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29-30 August 2016****History of the Institutionalisation of Antarctic Research (Expert Group)****Executive Summary****Authors:** Cornelia Lüdecke**Important Issues or Factors:**

Since 2013 biennial conferences of the History Expert Group are held jointly with the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group (HASSEG) at Cambridge (GB) and Fort Collins (USA), as well as sessions in alternate years at the SCAR OSC at Auckland (New Zealand). The History group intends to continue its collaboration with HASSEG in workshops and SCAR OSC sessions, which have seen an increase in number and quality of scholars and output.

The leader of the group was involved in the SCAR Horizon Scan process. Three SCAR History EG members edited the book *Antarctica and the humanities*, currently in press (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). In light of global developments that highlight the need for a cross-cutting integrated approach, recommendation 2 of the most recent review of SCAR's structure and activities, an increased bipolar collaboration, we are recommending that a Humanities and Social Sciences SSG be established. This also makes structural sense, enriching SCAR's research portfolio through incorporating the humanities and social sciences (including history) in the SSG framework.

**Recommendations:**

1) We recommend that the Delegates consider establishing a Humanities and Social Sciences SSG in order to

- Address global developments that highlight cross-cutting integrated approaches to research
- Improve opportunities for international collaboration, including with counterparts in the Arctic
- Enhance SCAR's research portfolio

2) In the event a Humanities and Social Sciences SSG is not established this year, we request that the Delegates continue to support the History EG activities as proposed in this report to:

- Ensure continued networking and collaboration opportunities for members
- Ensure continued collaboration with Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group.

**Actions:**

1) The next History and the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Groups conference will take place in Hobart, Tasmania (Australia) 5-7 July 2017.

2) We will, jointly with HASSEG, submit a session proposal to the tri-annual International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS), the premier conference of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (Umeå, Sweden, 8-12 June 2017)

3) We are planning a session for the next SCAR/IASC OSC in Davos (Switzerland) in 2018.

**Budget Implications:**

An annual budget of US\$ 5,000 (plus carry-over from 2016) will be primarily disbursed to subsidize travel to the EG's annual meetings, benefitting the following groups:

- Early-career researchers
- Researchers from countries with limited funding opportunities

This will enable the broadest possible participation from junior scholars and scholars from developing countries with smaller Antarctic programmes.

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### **Summary of activities from 2014-2016**

- Joint History Expert Group and the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group session at the SCAR OSC 2014 entitled: "*Presence of the past and methods and innovations in polar social sciences*" (Auckland, New Zealand, 28 August 2014).
- Joint conference of the History and the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Groups on "*Antarctic Wilderness: Perspectives from History, the Humanities and the Social Sciences*" (Colorado State University in Fort Collins (USA), 20-23 May 2015). 80 participants, 37 presentations, 8 sessions. Included an excursion to the Rocky Mountain National Park close to Estes.
- During the SCAR OSC 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, the SCAR History EG will convene session S34 on "*Footprints in Antarctica, and Antarctica's footprint: perspectives from history*" with eight talks and five posters. Several papers will be published from this session of the OSC and the workshops.
- A landmark, edited volume on Antarctica and the humanities is currently in press, edited by three SCAR History EG members with contributions from around the world. It comprises 12 papers contributed by SCAR History EG members and other scholars and will be presented during the SCAR OSC in Kuala Lumpur:  
  
Roberts, P., van der Watt, L.-M., and Howkins, A. *Antarctica and the Humanities*. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2016
- The History Expert Group produced a poster to highlight activities for the SCAR Open Science Conference 2016.

### **Recommendations that Delegates and Chief Officers should consider (if any):**

- 1) We recommend that the Delegates consider establishing a Humanities and Social Sciences SSG in order to
  - Address global developments that highlight cross-cutting integrated approaches to research
  - Improve opportunities for international collaboration, including with counterparts in the Arctic
  - Enhance SCARs research portfolio
- 2) In the event a Humanities and Social Sciences SSG is not established this year, we request that the Delegates continue to support the History EG activities as proposed in this report to:
  - Ensure continued networking and collaboration opportunities for members
  - Ensure continued collaboration with Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group.

*(No voting/approval necessary as the History EG has already been confirmed until 2018.)*

**Date/Year Group Approved:** The History Group was founded as Action Group in 2004 and was upgraded to Expert Group in 2011.

**Date/Year Group is to End:** Currently approved until 2018, with the potential to be extended further

***Major Activities and Significant Progress from past 2 years***

A joint conference of the History Expert Group and the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group on "***Antarctic Wilderness: Perspectives from History, the Humanities and the Social Sciences***" was held at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins (USA) on 20-23 May 2015.

On Wednesday (20 May) we started with an excursion to the Rocky Mountain National Park close to Estes. After our return to Fort Collins we met a group of members of APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists). The evening concluded with a screening of the film "Nightfall on Gaia" by the anthropologist Juan Francisco Salazar (Australia), which provides insight into current social interactions on King George Island and the natural and political complexities of Antarctica.

The conference itself was opened by on Thursday (21 May) by Diana Wall, head of the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at the Colorado State University (CSU). The first session dealt with narratives and counter-narratives from Antarctica, while the second session focussed on histories of Antarctic science. In the third session, participants discussed methodologies and approaches in Antarctic studies. This was followed a session on geopolitics and the environment. The day concluded with a keynote lecture by Alan Hemmings (Australia) who spoke on wilderness in a time of increasing Antarctic nationalism. This lecture was open to public.

On Friday morning (22 May) we drove to Boulder to address members of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research in the fifth session on national perspectives on Antarctic science and the environment.

The "Wilderness Panel" after lunch (fifth session) was also open to the public. Peder Roberts (Sweden) explored the curious history of bipolar animal transfers in the annual Lewander Lecture in honour of Lisbeth Lewander (1956-2012), a much-missed founding member of the Group.

The sixth session on Sunday morning (23 May) dealt with cultures of the Heroic Era. The seventh session focussed on Tourism, Governance, and Wilderness in Antarctica. During the eighth and last session short presentations from three non-attendees were read.

80 participants from 14 countries joined the discussions.

The conference contributed to a growing awareness that the concept of wilderness cannot be usefully deployed without simultaneously considering the material legacies of human presence in Antarctica. These issues are particularly important given the pressing importance of environmental management in the present moment, and the unique expectations that the Madrid Protocol has placed upon human actors. It was felt that the History EG has an

important role to play in terms of these issues, particularly given the overlap between its membership and that of the International Polar Heritage Committee. EG members Lize-Marié van der Watt, Peder Roberts and Dag Avango, along with scholars from the Social Sciences EG and others, subsequently prepared an application to the Swedish Research Council for critical studies of Antarctic heritage issues. A decision is expected early November 2016.

***Major Future Initiatives and Actions, including rough timeline, for at least the next 2 years***

- 1) The next History and the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Groups conference will take place in Hobart, Tasmania (Australia) 5-7 July 2017.
- 2) We will, jointly with HASSEG, submit a session proposal to the tri-annual International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS), the premier conference of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (Umeå, Sweden, 8-12 June 2017)
- 3) We are planning a session for the next SCAR/IASC OSC in Davos (Switzerland) in 2018.

***The future of the History Expert Group within SCAR***

The review panel undertaking the most recent review of SCAR's structure and activities stressed that "[t]here is a need to clearly define SCAR's role vis-à-vis the integration of social and natural sciences, as well as the SCAR niche(s) related to fundamental/basic sciences vs Integrated/Interdisciplinary science." (Recommendation 2). This recommendation reflects global developments that highlight the need for a cross-cutting integrated approach involving both the natural and social sciences in an attempt to address complex research questions. The recently proposed merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) with the International Social Science Council (ISSC) represents the most prominent example (see the ICSU and ISSC Draft Planning Framework, July 2016). Similar to ICSU and ISSC, SCAR is asked to show resolve to facilitate a greater integration of the natural and social sciences and to define a role for the social sciences from a structural perspective. The formation of a **Humanities and Social Sciences SSG** within SCAR would show such resolve.

Humanities and social sciences scholars have been actively involved in SCAR business through SCAR's History Expert Group and Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group (HASSEG). These two groups have enjoyed a growing membership and increasing levels of activity and presence at SCAR Open Science Conferences, and through the groups' own biennial conferences. Structurally, these two Expert Groups currently sit directly under the SCAR Executive Committee and outside any specific SSG. As Expert Groups themselves, their potential for broadening their research activities, including addressing Horizon Scan questions is limited to those activities that fit within their current profiles.

Establishing a Humanities and Social Sciences SSG would solve the structural dilemma SCAR is faced with by having the History EG and HASSEG sit outside the existing SCAR SSG framework, would send positive signals to ICSU/ISSC, and would enable a closer collaboration on humanities and social sciences questions with the International Arctic Science Committee, which currently has a Social and Human Working Group as one of their four core groups (similar to SCAR's SSGs). Bringing the social sciences, humanities (including history) together under one umbrella SSG, rather than continuing to split them between the two existing groups, is plainly a rational development.

A new Humanities and Social Sciences SSG would make a considerable contribution to SCAR's research portfolio by housing under its umbrella designated AGs and EGs that tackle topics such as science communication, Antarctic socio-ecological systems, the history of polar science, tourism, heritage management, the popular framing of Antarctic issues, and specific Horizon Scan questions. We request that the Delegates agree to establish a Humanities and Social Sciences SSG (see Recommendation 1 on page 1).

### ***Proposed Budget for 2017 and 2018***

An annual budget of US\$ 5.000 will primarily be used to subsidize travel of early-career scientists and scientists from countries with small Antarctic programmes to the Expert Group's annual meeting, thus enabling the broadest possible participation from junior scholars and those outside the United States and Western Europe.

<b>Month /Year</b>	<b>Purpose/Activity</b>	<b>Amount (in USD)</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Contact Email</b>
2017	30 % Conference and 70% travel support for early career scientists and scientists from countries with small Antarctic programmes	US\$ 5.000 (plus carry-over from 2016)	Cornelia Lüdecke	C.Luedeck@lrz.uni-muenchen.de
2018	100% Travel support for early career scientists and scientists from countries with small Antarctic programmes	US\$ 5.000	Cornelia Lüdecke	C.Luedeck@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

### ***External Linkages – Support and Coordination beyond SCAR:***

- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Science Foundation)
- Local organizers of History EG workshops

### ***Outreach, Communication and Capacity Building Activities:***

During each bi-annual workshop/conference of the History Expert Group and the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group at least one public event is held, usually associated with the Lewander Lecture. Attendance at these events has been strong. Members of the EG have participated in public events in their own countries, and have published extensively, including through books and articles aimed at wider academic audiences. During the conferences in various countries we try to include local scholars to broaden the membership.

The EG has an excellent track record of supporting and mentoring younger scholars. All three editors of "Antarctica and the Humanities", a key work that was born out of the Group's activities, were welcomed into the EG while still PhD students in Australia, South African and USA and have benefited considerably from participating in its activities.

**Publications of History Group to date:****Proceedings of workshops**

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Lüdecke, Cornelia (ed.), 2009, 2nd SCAR Workshop on the History of Antarctic Research: Multidimensional exploration of Antarctica around the 1950s. Boletín ANTÁRTICO Chileno, Instituto Antártico Chileno, Punta Arenas, 82 pp.

Lüdecke, C., 2007, Steps of foundation of institutionalized Antarctic research: Proceedings of the 1st SCAR workshop on the history of Antarctic research ; Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Munich (Germany), 2-3 June, 2005 , Berichte zur Polar- und Meeresforschung (Reports on Polar and Marine Research), Bremerhaven, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, 560 , 228 p. available under: <http://epic.awi.de/27231/>

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#### ***Volunteer Reviewers of Fellowship Applications:***

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#### ***Webpages:***

<http://www.scar.org/othergroups/humanities/historygroup>

Our webpage is up to date.

#### ***Members:***

##### **Chair(s) Duration of Term**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Date Started</b>	<b>Date Term is to End</b>
Cornelia	Lüdecke	University of Hamburg	Germany	C.Luedecke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de	2004	

Cornelia Lüdecke received a diploma in meteorology. 1994 she passed her PhD at the Institute for History of Natural Sciences of LMU in Munich with a thesis on the history of German polar research during the period 1900 –1939. In 2002 she finished her second thesis (in German: “Habilitation”) at the University of Hamburg and was given the title „Privatdozent“ in the following year.



1991 she founded the History of Polar Research Working Group of the German Society of Polar Research which she is leading until today. Since 1995 she is chairing the History of Meteorology Specialist Group of the German Meteorological Society. 2001 she was elected Vice President and from 2006-2009 she acted as President of the International Commission on History of Meteorology. Since 2002 she represents Germany at the International Polar Heritage Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites. In 2004 she founded the Expert Group on History of Antarctic Research within SCAR, which she chairs until today. In 2012 she became one of the Vice Presidents of the International Commission on History of Oceanography. She is member of the scientific board of the German Society of Polar Research and the Geographical Society in Munich. Besides she is member of several editorial boards of polar journals.

In 2010 she received the Reinhard Süring Medal from the German Meteorological Society and in 2012 she was elected as corresponding member of the International Academy of the History of Science in Paris.

She published 15 books and proceedings and about 180 papers.

Main focus: History and polar research (Arctic and Antarctic), International cooperation, International Polar Years, German Polar Research, and History of meteorology.

Homepage: <http://www.hs.uni-hamburg.de/DE/Ins/Per/Wolfschmidt/luedecke/c-index.htm>

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornelia\\_L%C3%BCdecke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornelia_L%C3%BCdecke)

### ***Other members***

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There are more members who sporadically attend meetings.