



SDM 20
Agenda Item: 4.4.2
Person Responsible: C Lüdecke

**XXXV SCAR Delegates Meeting
Davos, Switzerland, 25-26 June 2018**

The History Expert Group

Report Author: Cornelia Lüdecke, Germany

Summary of activities and other important matters from 2016-18

- The EG organized a session and produced a collective poster summarizing its activities at the 2016 SCAR OSC. In 2017 the History and Humanities/Social Sciences EGs co-organized a conference at the University of Tasmania with 77 oral papers. EG members participated actively at the 2017 International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences. A session has been organized for the 2018 OSC to further build bridges between Arctic and Antarctic researchers. Collaboration between the two EGs continues to progress substantively leading to joint publications (see below) as well as a strong research network. EG members initiated major new projects on the history of polar environmental management (funded by the European Research Council) and on Antarctic cultural heritage (funded by the Swedish Research Council). Major publication developments included a landmark volume on Antarctica and the humanities, the first volume of its kind, and the signing of a contract to prepare a new Cambridge History of the Polar Regions. Lüdecke participated in the German Agenda for Polar Research 2017 of the German SCAR/IASC National Committee.

Recommendations

- We strongly recommend that the Delegates consider forming a Social Sciences and Humanities SSG as merger of the History EG and HASSEG.
- If the Delegates cannot approve a new SG, we request that the Delegates continue to support the History EG activities as proposed in this report to ensure the continued collaboration with HASSEG.

Summary Budget 2017 to 2020

	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Spent	Allocated	Request	Request
(US\$)	\$0	\$4000	\$4000	\$4000



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Progress and Plans

Major Outcomes/Activities

EG member Peder Roberts is Project Leader of “Greening the Poles: Science, the Environment, and the Creation of the Modern Antarctic” (GRETPOL), funded by the European Research Council (2017-22). The overarching aim of the project is to provide a new understanding of how the Polar Regions became conceptualized as fragile spaces in need of management and active human administration, and to examine the origins and development of instruments for environmental protection and management. Preliminary findings have already highlighted the importance of non-state actors (such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and the need to consider the development of polar environmental management in the broader context of social and political change. It is expected that the project will produce a major new monograph in addition to several smaller works, including attention to comparatively under-studied Antarctic state actors such as Canada and Finland, both of whom became active within the ATS and SCAR on the back of significant technical and scientific capacities in the Arctic. The project thus aims to use a historical perspective to illuminate how the ATS has evolved through time, and to critically examine 1) how developments in the Arctic shaped expectations and possibilities for Antarctic research and vice versa; 2) how challenges posed by resource exploitation were managed and resolved; and 3) how environmental management and protection became significant priorities within particular national Antarctic programs, and how this reflected broader political as well as scientific contexts. The project also involves numerous junior researchers including HASSEG member Hanne Nielsen, who was awarded a SCAR Visiting Scholarship to participate in the research during 2018.

EG member Adrian Howkins served as co-Principal Investigator on the McMurdo Valleys Long Term Ecological Research Site project, financed by the National Science Foundation. The project has 1) contributed to scientific understanding of an important and unique Antarctic ecosystem and 2) helped to develop new methodologies for linking the natural sciences with the humanities and social sciences. Howkins has pioneered the use of environmental history as a tool for understanding how the physical geography of Antarctica has been described and managed both in the past and the present, and how this relates to wider contexts of national engagement with Antarctica, building on his earlier work on the Antarctic Peninsula. Active collaboration across the natural and social sciences is widely recognized as an important means of adding value to Antarctic science through a greater awareness of how the value of Antarctic research informs decision-making in national capitals far to the north, but also to better understanding how complex and sometimes highly abstract phenomena such as anthropogenic climate change can be narrated to broader audiences.

EG members Lize-Marié van der Watt and Dag Avango began a study of Antarctic cultural heritage along with scholars from HASSEG (including Daniela Liggett and Ricardo Roura), funded by the Swedish Research Council and running from 2017-20. This work brings insights developed by Avango and others of Arctic cultural heritage



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to bear on the Antarctic. The project's importance derives from 1) the need to critically consider which material remains from human presence can be considered "heritage", and whether this is adequately reconciled with existing administrative structures (particularly concerned with environmental management); 2) the growing significance of the Antarctic tourism industry and how it uses the human as well as the natural history of Antarctica as a part of the Antarctic tourist experience; and 3) the impact of anthropogenic climate change on material legacies of human activity in the Antarctic, on which a significant body of literature and practical experience exists in the Arctic. Literature-based research is well underway and fieldwork has been planned for the 2019-20 field season. Preliminary results point to the importance of material markers of human presence as anchor points for histories of Antarctica as told to tourists, but also to audiences further afield. It is hoped that insights from the research will inform the planning process for cultural heritage professionals, including museum curators. Preliminary insights from the research have been part of the advisory process for a major new Antarctic history exhibition at the American Museum of the Sea. Additionally, EG members Maria Ximena Senatore (Argentina) and Cornelia Lüdecke (Germany) received funds for two years (2017-2019) from the National Agency of Scientific and Technological Promotion of Argentina for a project on "Tourism, material culture and Antarctic heritage making". It is based on questionnaires and which will be evaluated in collaboration with other EG Members like APECS member Victoria Nuviala and members of the International Polar heritage Committee.

Outcomes Summary

Sub-group	Activity/Outcome/Benefit/Achievement
GRETPOL	Researching the history of polar environmental management
MCM LTER	Development of new methodologies for interdisciplinary collaboration
Antarctic Heritage	New insights upon the designation, use, and management of Antarctic cultural heritage
PICT-201-0237	Tourism, material culture and Antarctic heritage making.

Cash Flow

Sub-group	Allocation	Amount spent		
		2016	2017	2018
History EG	4000			

Notable Papers

1. Roberts, P., van der Watt, L.-M., and Howkins, A. Antarctica and the Humanities. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2016.
2. Howkins, A. Frozen Empires: An Environmental History of the Antarctic Peninsula. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2017.
3. Dodds, K., Hemmings, A.D., and Roberts, P. Handbook on the Politics of Antarctica. Edward Elgar Press, Cheltenham, 2017.



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Forthcoming Activities

Continuation of the three major research initiatives described above include archival research and fieldwork. Publications are expected on diverse aspects of the history of Antarctic environmental politics specifically for SCAR. EG members will contribute to a major new project – the Cambridge History of the Polar Regions – under the editorship of Howkins and Roberts. Authors have been contracted and the volume is scheduled for publication in 2021.

A session has been organized at the next SCAR/IASC OSC in Davos (Switzerland) in 2018. In addition, EG member Roberts will deliver one of four keynote lectures at the conference, presenting recent developments in the polar social sciences and humanities. We plan another joint History EG and HASSEG conference at the Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas in Ushuaia (Argentina) in 2019.

The EG has always placed strong emphasis on network-building and developing opportunities for junior researchers. We suggest that this strategy has paid strong dividends through the success of EG members in building promising research careers and attracting substantial (often highly competitive) funding for projects on Antarctic humanities. As such, the Group will continue to prioritize the allocation of its resources to allow younger scholars and scholars from outside the Global North to attend EG events and participate actively in its meetings. The leaders of all three major sub-projects mentioned in the Activities section above benefited from this support earlier in their careers and it is expected that the present policy will continue to build a strong and diverse community of Antarctic scholars on an international base. This is particularly important for a Group concerned with history given the importance of capturing the full spectrum of national activities within the ATS. s and management, and on the management of Antarctic cultural heritage in respect to tourism, including potentially a report written

Budget

Planned use of funds for 2018 to 2020

Year (YYYY)	Purpose/Activity	Amount (in USD)	Contact Name	Contact Email
2020	100% Travel support for early career scientists and scientists from countries with small Antarctic programmes	US\$ 4000 (plus carry-over from 2019)	Cornelia Lüdecke	C.Luedeck@lrz.uni-muenchen.de
2019	30 % Conference and 70% travel support for early career scientists and scientists from countries with small Antarctic programmes	US\$ 4000 (plus carry-over from 2018)	Cornelia Lüdecke	C.Luedeck@lrz.uni-muenchen.de



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2018	100% Travel support for early career scientists and scientists from countries with small Antarctic programmes	US\$ 4.000 (plus carry-over from 2017)	Cornelia Lüdecke	C.Luedeck@lrz.uni-muenchen.de
Total	New funds	\$8000		

Briefly describe what the funds will be used for and the desired results

The annual budget of US\$ 4.000 will primarily be used to subsidize travel of early-career scientists and scientists from countries with small Antarctic programmes to the EG's annual meeting, thus enabling the broadest possible participation from junior scholars and those outside the United States and Western Europe.

Percentage of the budget to be used for support of early career researchers

2018: 50 % depending on the number of applications

2019: 50 % depending on the number of applications

2020: 50 % depending on the number of applications

Percentage of the budget to be used for support of scientists from countries with developing Antarctic programmes

2018: 50 % depending on the number of applications

2019: 50 % depending on the number of applications

2020: 50 % depending on the number of applications

Linkages

Direct support from outside organisations received for your activities

EG meetings and administration

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

Research conducted by EG members with direct relevance to the Group's aims

- European Research Council
- National Science Foundation
- Swedish Research Council
- National Agency of Scientific and Technological Promotion of Argentina

Major collaborations your sub-group has with other SCAR groups and with organisations/groups beyond SCAR

- **Within SCAR** - Humanities and Social Sciences EG
- **Outside SCAR**- International Polar Heritage Committee



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Outreach and Capacity Building

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 (held in the memory of long-standing Group member Lisbeth Lewander). Attendance at these events has been strong and continues to grow. 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. This includes participation at events such as the 2017 Gothenburg Book Fair (the largest such event in Scandinavia): By holding the Group's meetings in locations around the world connections have been successfully built and strengthened with local organizations, and opportunities for participation by local scholars have been enhanced.

As mentioned above, the EG has an excellent track record of supporting and mentoring younger scholars. The funds invested by SCAR in establishing and maintaining the group have been repaid many times over through funding for research projects (the ERC project led by Roberts has a budget of €1.8 million alone) and the Group has provided an excellent network for research volumes such as Antarctica and the Humanities and the Handbook on the Politics of Antarctica.

SCAR Fellowship Reviewers

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Principal Expertise
Cornelia	Lüdecke	C.Luedecke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de	history of polar research
Aant	Elzinga	aant.elzinga@theorysc.gu.se	history of polar research
Peder	Roberts	peder.roberts@abe.kth.se	History of polar research

Membership

Leadership

Role	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Country	Email	Date Started	Date Term is to End
Leader	Cornelia	Lüdecke	University of Hamburg	Germany	C.Luedecke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de	2004	
Convener	Peder	Roberts	Royal Institute of Technology	Sweden	peder.roberts@abe.kth.se	2017	
*Convener	Hanne	Nielsen	University of Tasmania	Australia	hanne.nielsen@utas.edu.au	2017	

**Early Career Scientists*



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Other members

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Country	Email
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* Early Career Scientists

Requests to the Secretariat

None