1st APECSSA Workshop

5th SANAP Symposium
13-16 August
Hermanus, South Africa
Thanks to Our Sponsors!
Outline

1. Overview of APECS
2. Overview of APECSSA
3. Rationale for Workshop
4. Activity: How to Network and Attend Conferences Successfully
APECS is an international and interdisciplinary organization for early career researchers working in the Polar and Alpine Regions and the wider Cryosphere.

Members: undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early faculty members, young professionals, educators and others.

Current membership: 2216 from 63 countries
APECS Executive Committee 2017-2018

- Hanne Nielsen (Australia) – President
- Jilda Caccavo (Italy)
- Jean Holloway (Canada)
- Gabriela Roldan (New Zealand)
- Alexander Thornton (United States)
- Alice Bradley (United States) – ex-officio
- Ruth Vingerhagen (Norway) – ex-officio

+ APECS Council with 75 members from 26 countries

+ leaderships of currently 20 recognized APECS National Committees
APECS International Directorate Office

- Gerlis Fugmann (Executive Director)
- Fiona Tummon (APECS Project Officer)
- Heike Midleja (Administrative Assistant)

Main Office in Potsdam, Germany hosted and funded by: Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research (Feb 2017 – Jan 2022)

Project office in Tromsø, Norway hosted at UiT The Arctic University of Norway and funded through EU Horizon2020 funded project APPLICATE and INTERACT (Oct 2017 to end of 2019):
www.apecs.is

News; job board; databases for graduate programmes / mentors / funding / webinars, polar events and summer schools; education and outreach resources; and much more!

As an APECS member you also receive our **monthly newsletter** highlighting our newest resources and information for early career researchers!
APECS helps to create / distribute ...

... international opportunities for early career researchers!

- e.g. IASC Fellowships, CAFF IASC Fellowships, ECRs on various SCAR programs and committees, attending meetings from our partners (e.g. CliC, EPB).
These are only **examples of our partners**. We are working with many more international and national organisations and institutes:
... in-person and online skill and career development training

Example: ca. 40 reported in-person training workshops and panels in 20 countries in 2017!
... opportunities for members to share their research and to develop research collaborations

Examples: Research webinars, APECS Online Conference, Arctic Snapshots, APECS Alpine Cryosphere Group, IPCC Report Review
... education and outreach activities

Examples: Polar Weeks in March and September, Antarctica Day
... in the **EU Arctic Cluster**

**APECS tasks:** coordinate **training activities** (e.g. Summer Schools, Webinar Series, Fieldwork Planning Handbook) as well as some **outreach activities** (e.g. FrostBytes)

**APPLICATE** and **INTERACT** (through **UiT The Arctic University of Norway**)

**ARICE** and **Nunataryuk** (through **Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research**)

http://www.eu-polarnet.eu/eu-arctic-cluster/
Get involved with APECS ...

... at international level by:

- applying to APECS Council / Executive Committee
- getting involved in an APECS Council Project Group (you don’t have to be a Council member for this!)

... at the national level by:

- getting involved in one of the APECS National Committees (or creating one if there is none in your country)
- Organizing an APECS Workshop / Panel at a conference in your country
Website:  www.apecs.is

Email:  info@apecs.is

Twitter:  @Polar_Research

Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/APECS4u

Membership is free!
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APECSSA
So…

- You must be a student or have just finished studying.
- You must live in South Africa.
- No one really knows about APECSSA.
True or False?

• You must be a student or have just finished studying.

• You must live in South Africa.

• No one really knows about APECSSA.
Who Are We?

PhD

MSc

PhD

MSc

MSc

MSc
Our Newest NC Member

• Clare Earys

• She joined us after Polar2018.

• The next few slides describe her research.
Waves in sea ice

Many global models don’t include waves in sea ice due to insufficient understanding of these processes.

Large waves are known to propagate 100s of km into the marginal ice zone.
Waves-in-ice observing systems (WIIOS)

EDISON: main processor

Support processor and DALLAS temperature probe

IMU (accelerometer, gyrometer, magnetometer)

GPS and aerial

Irridium tranceiver

Irridium aerial

Waves-In-Ice Observing System (WIIOS)

Photo: Tim Ricken
ERA 5 wave reanalysis from ECMWF show the wave condition outside the sea ice.

At deployment the WIIOS were approx 100 km inside the ice edge. This increased to over 300 km by the end of the deployment due to sea ice growth.

These results provide rare measurements of waves-in-ice during winter storms in the Antarctic Marginal Ice Zone. They are being used for modelling studies and calibration of other wave measurement systems.
True or False?

• You must be a student or have just finished studying.

• You must live in South Africa.

• No one really knows about APECSSA.
True or False?

• You must be a student or have just finished studying.

• You must live in South Africa.

• No one really knows about APECSSA.
Our Digital Presence: Facebook
Our Digital Presence: Instagram
Our Digital Presence: Twitter
Our Digital Presence: Website

APECSSA
CONNECTING YOUNG AND EMERGING SOUTH AFRICAN POLAR RESEARCHERS
OK. So What?

Connecting South African students & ECRs in polar research.

Connecting those with researchers/scientists.

Locally & internationally.
What We Have Done Thus Far
Upcoming activities in APECS

- APECSSA Workshop @ SANAP/NRF PI Symposium
- 2nd Newsletter
- **Polar Week** September 2018 → 17 - 23 Sept 2018 (incl **Polar Film Fest 2018** organised by USAPECS)
  - Polar Week @ UP – series of lunch time lectures...
- APECS Workshop at UArctic Congress 2018 → 3 Sept 2018 (Oulu, Finland)
- APECS Spain Workshop → 4 Sept 2018 (Madrid, Spain)
- APECS Turkey Workshop on Education & Outreach → 3 / 4 Oct 2018 (Istanbul, Turkey)
- APECS-Nunataryuk PYRN Workshop → 30 Sept - 6 Oct 2018 (Venice, Italy)
- Antarctica Day 2018 → 1 December 2018
NC Tasks

• All about teamwork.

• Everyone does something but can drop off/on depending on work/study demands.

• What we need to do all the time.
  — Try to get more South Africans involved;
  — Represent APECSSA at APECS.
### Any Advantages?

#### Networking
- Contact with established researchers (mentors).
- Contact with each other.
  - You will be each other’s collaborators.
- Knowledge/idea exchange.

#### Skills Learnt & Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>NCs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Webinars</td>
<td>CV stuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Large Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job boards</td>
<td>Team Work</td>
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<td>Mentors</td>
<td>Funding</td>
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</tbody>
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Any Advantages?

- Communication and work skills.
- Interdisciplinary exposure.
- The people you meet today will become your colleagues of tomorrow.
- You become less intimidated by organising things.
- Your self-confidence grows.
- You learn organisational skills:
  - Running meetings;
  - Running projects;
  - People management; and
  - Peer mentoring.
- International recognition.
- You will have a network of peers (and friends) from all around the world.
- Opportunity for new jobs.
Join Us!

South Africa!!!
Become a Mentor

• Mentors can help polar early career researchers with all sorts of polar career related questions.

• APECS has a database of those people willing to serve as mentors to young researchers in a variety of ways.
Contact Us!

APECS SA

apecssa@gmail.com
@apecssouthafrica3
www.apecssa.wordpress.com
@apecssa
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WHY THE WORKSHOP?

• Biennial SANAP/NRF Symposium coming up.
• NRF funds students/PIs to attend.
• Success of APECS World Summit @ Polar2018.
STATISTICS FROM REGISTERED WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Are you a member of APECS or APECS SA?
15 responses
- 66.7% APECS
- 13.3% APECS SA
- 20% APECS & APECS SA
- 6.7% What is APECS?

Are you interested in becoming a member of the next APECS SA National Committee?
15 responses
- 33.3% Yes
- 33.3% No
- 33.3% Maybe

Institution
15 responses
- 26.7% CPUT
- 20% CSIR
- 20% DUT
- 13.3% NMMU
- 13.3% RU
- 13.3% SANSA
- 20% SUN
- 20% TUT

What is your current level of studies?
15 responses
- 40% Undergraduate
- 33.3% Honours
- 33.3% Masters
- 20% PhD
- 20% Postdoc
- 20% Lecturer/Professor
- 20% Other
- 20% Lecturer/Professor
WHY THE WORKSHOP?

- Mastering Conferences: 10 (66.7%)
- The Fine Art of Networking: 14 (93.3%)
- Lessons Learnt: 7 (46.7%)
- The advantages of being part of APECS: 5 (33.3%)
BUT...... FIRST

- Who wants to join our NC?
  - Current members willing to stay on for now.
- Christel as representative to APECS Council (the *old* hand).
- Liezel & Marius as ‘newbies.
  - Call for new NC representatives in October.
SCHWEEET! LET’S CHAT 😊

Conferences & Networking from an established researchers perspective.

Conferences & Networking from an emerging researchers perspective.
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Conferences

BEFORE

— Send your abstract when the call opens.
— Soul-destroying feedback?
  • Cry…rage…whatever makes you cope.
  • Comments improve your work.
— Posters are not ‘worse’ than orals and vice versa.
— Apply for funding!

EVERYWHERE!!!
Conferences

**TRAVEL**

- If in a team, keep a Dropbox/OneDrive/Google Drive folder.
  - Share it so everyone has a copy.
  - Upload your presentations, travel arrangements, copies of passports *etc.*
- Don’t forget about your visas.
- Sharing is caring 😊 (share costs for accommodation, buses, *etc.*).
Conferences

PREP

• Prepare posters & presentations *before* the time and present to each other. Any feedback is good.
  — Don’t forget print-outs and printed abstracts for your poster(s).
  — Don’t forget to add your funders to your poster/presentation!
• Also, bring business cards.
  — This is more professional and ensures people have your contact details.
Conferences

**DURING**

- Chill…
- Don’t be afraid to approach people.
- Bug your supervisor/professor/etc. to introduce you to others.
- Approach it like a lecture:
  - Don’t be afraid to ask questions.
  - Take notes!
Conferences

DURING
• Got to as many sessions as possible.
  – Even outside of your field.
• But also don’t feel guilty to skip one or two. Don’t get conference fatigue.
• What to wear?
  – Comfortable but suitable, not every conference requires you to wear a suit.
Some Last Tips

• Make the most of it.
  — People support students.
  — Most everyone will assist an emerging researcher so approach people, ask questions, discuss postdocs etc.

• Explore your host city/country as well.
  — Conferences are about engaging with other researchers but should also be fun so don’t forget to get to know your hosts as well.

• Enjoy yourself.
  — But don’t forget why you are attending the conference.
Established Researchers Perspective

REMEMBER

• You are an ambassador for ...
• Your country!!!
• Your research.
• Your supervisor.
• Your university/institute.

First impressions count!

No pressure...
Networking

– Conferences lead to networking.
– E-mail the people you have met (repeatedly if necessary but keep it within bounds) and take every opportunity.

– Don’t forget your peers...
  – Attend workshops
  – Join panels
  – Volunteer, *e.g.* Women in Polar Science
Networking

– So you think you are not important? This is incorrect.

You can contribute so don’t be intimidated.

– Afraid to approach someone?

There is safety in numbers. Approach others together with a friend/colleague.

but

Don’t be pushy and overwhelm others.
Networking

– Capitalise on your ‘otherness’ – get people interested in you.

– Q: South Africa and permafrost studies? Surely not?
– A: Uhm… Antarctica? Marion? Drakensberg?
Networking

– Be interested in other people (not just their work).
– Start with work and move closer towards the inner psyche of the human you are talking with (not in a weird way).
  – Ask about their home country, culture (especially fun if you compare languages/food/customs). All people appreciate you taking an interest in them as much as you appreciate it.

Remember – it's not what you know but WHO you know that makes the difference.
Networking

- Networking is after all about people – not just work. You collaborate with people, not with projects – so take a keen interest in them.
- We have made ‘friends’ through short encounters because we took an interest in them. These relationships are invaluable! I have hosted these ‘connections’ before and would feel comfortable asking them a favour when I ever visit their home country.
Networking

– Join associations/groups/networks.
– Be active on these networks, and represent to your friends and family at home.
Networking

- Start your own 😊