

# 07/2015 ISOS Alumni-Newsletter



## Dear ISOS Alumni,

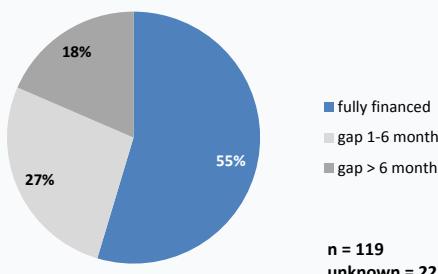
It's great to see that you keep contact - we received several "Memories of the Doctorate" - they will appear in the next newsletters and we had a 70% feedback rate on the funding situation during your PhD - that is extraordinary and enormously helpful - Thanks a lot!

With our new team members Wiebke Basse and Enno Prigge - both ISOS Alumni - pushing the fields "Communication" and "Life After the PhD" we are looking forward to connecting even more!

With very warm greetings  
Nina, Wiebke, Enno and Avan

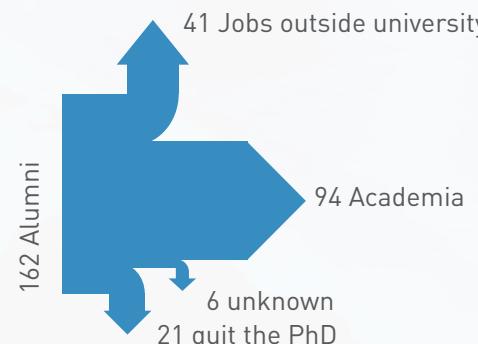
## Funding

Most of you were funded until your defence. If unemployment money was needed, only for short timespans; however, many of you reported that initiating short-term contract prolongations at the end of your projects was unnerving and not productive.

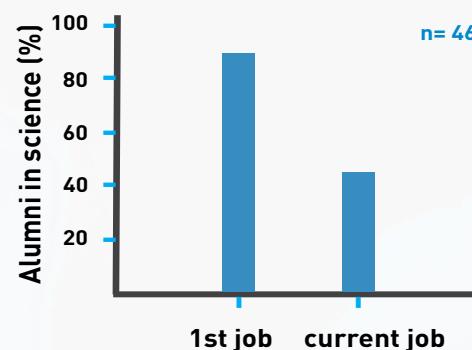


## Alumni Stats and Facts

To date we have 162 alumni, 141 of them completed their doctorate. From those who did not finish, we know that half directly ventured into careers outside of academia and a third started a 2nd PhD thesis.



After completion of the PhD, most of you did a first PostDoc; as you changed jobs, more of you left science.



## New ISOS team members

### Wiebke Basse

"The two words 'information' and 'communication' are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things: Information is giving out; communication is getting through."  
- Sydney J Harris



Wiebke balances our "giving out" and "getting through" for various means of communication.

### Enno Prigge

Your diverse career paths show the wide range of options inside AND outside the traditional academic track and are of great interest for current ISOS candidates. That's where Enno enters the equation: Strengthening the link between Alumni and PhD candidates to reduce uncertainties and provide examples.



## Back in Kiel - Meike Stumpp

In January, Meike Stumpp has returned to Kiel with a Feodor-Lynen grant.

After finishing her PhD in Frank Melzner's group in 2011, Meike spent time researching in Sweden and Taiwan as an Alexander-von-Humboldt awardee. Being asked how she succeeded in getting such prestigious and highly competitive grants, she smiles and answers: "It just worked out - I was open to various possibilities."

This is also what she considers crucial for her career: "Making use of the windows of opportunity when they open and not putting all my eggs in one basket, since

not all applications succeed." Additionally she values the support and encouragement of her supervisors and mentors. "They were always very supportive and gave me a high degree of freedom to develop my scientific ideas."

Although a stipend comes with the downside of less social security, she values the

independence and flexibility that comes with it – "be it working times or the possibilities to discover foreign countries. Also, the fact that we succeed to combine two careers in science and family life makes me very happy".

## Memories of the Doctorate

"My PhD project involved a lot of fieldwork. These trips were the best – driving with the old VW bus to places that were incredibly picturesque, together with colleagues who became friends.

The funniest moment was on board of the Stena Line with my two supervisors. We had the "all you can eat" buffet: One supervisor ate the wrong fish, the other supervisor suddenly started to complain about his knee that started to hurt without a reason (the only

## Science Management in Brussels – Deniz Karaca

Deniz finished her PhD in 2011 - since 2013 she is based at the COST\* office in Brussels as a Science Officer.



"I was looking for a job outside of Academia, where I can be in touch with stakeholders - I just applied when I saw an open position at COST and was called for an interview. I think my people skills and interdisciplinary background - I did my Bachelor in geological engineering, my Master in coastal engineering and my PhD in marine biogeochemistry - helped me get the position."

"What I love about my work is that I am up to date with developments in science." Deniz observes that science becomes increasingly multidisciplinary - between science fields, but also between industry and science - "One recent project application for example was handed in together by a social scientist, an atmospheric chemist and a historian" - and she enjoys supporting these cooperations: "I get job satisfaction when I witness that a network was successful and people from different backgrounds learned how to work together."

Besides recommending being open to possibilities - "without borders, it's easier to find the job you like" she considers being true to oneself crucial for finding a satisfying career path: "Try to be clear of mind and find out what you really want to do!"

\* COST is a European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe.

reason I could think of was the huge amount of food that translated into additional weight).

Although one supervisor hobbled and moaned about his knee and the other spent most of the night in the bathroom we really had a fun night in the bar. When on top of the food poisoning there was a bed full of fleas, I think I realized that supervisors are also humans with little flaws like you and me." ISOS Alumna