

IMAP Meeting 12

Wednesday March 21, 9.00 – 10.30 am, Christian-Albrechts-Platz 4, Room 519

Participants: Christian Baatz, Christine Bertram, Annika Drews, Jonathan Durgadoo, Felix Gross, Bleuenn Guilloux, Animesh Kumar Gain, Claudine Leonhard Christian Pansch, Esther Rickert, Jörn Schmidt, Meike Stumpp, Morelia Urlaub, Nancy Weiland-Bräuer, Froukje von der Zwan
Gesche Braker

TOP 1 Report on activities in the Cluster of Excellence (Gesche)

- New IMAP speakers were elected in February 2018.
Morelia Urlaub/Timm Schoening (GEOMAR)
Meike Stumpp/Jörn Schmidt (Kiel University)
will represent the IMAP community within the Cluster and at their institutions.
- The proposal to secure funding of the Cluster for a new phase (7 years, starting 2019) was submitted on February 21, 2018; it will be presented and defended in Berlin on June 22, the decision will be publicly announced on September 27, 2018. Postdoc-related activities are planned to be continued in the new Cluster, how is not entirely clear.
- Two information events will take place (organized by IMAP, but open to all early career researchers in Kiel):
10.7.2018 'Find your pension'
12.9.2017 'Research careers: National and European funding opportunities for early career researchers'

TOP 2 Reports on Postdoc/IMAP-activities at the partner institutions

- Meike Stumpp (Kiel University):
The University will elect a new senate in June. Aims of the postdoc reps at the university are 1) to get a permanent seat for their particular group and 2) to come up with a list of candidates so that postdocs have a chance to be elected as representatives for the group 'academic staff'. Past experience has demonstrated that a long list is needed to collect as many votes as possible.

Postdoc representatives were asked to provide input to the new internationalization strategy.

Postdoc representatives were asked to provide feedback in response to the first draft of the HR development concept (written for 1000 Profs program) and to contribute to an updated and improved version considering all categories of personnel employed at Kiel University.

The position of the managing director of the postdoc center to be established at Kiel University was finally announced and will hopefully be filled soon.

- Morelia Urlaub (GEOMAR):
The Scientific Council met on February 19, 2018, Christian Pansch and Morelia Urlaub attended. No postdoc-relevant issues were discussed.

GEOMAR does not participate in/contribute to the Helmholtz funding lines to support career development of early career scientists (Postdoc and Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups) but decided to focus on other funding opportunities such as ERC grants and Emmy Noether Groups (DFG) instead, because they do not require co-financing by GEOMAR.

Participation and contribution is considered desirable and should once again be discussed (Find out how co-financing would work at GEOMAR, other centres, what were the results of negotiations of Junior Research Group leaders with the directorate?)

The last meeting with Prof. Herzig took place one year ago – there should be a meeting soon (May/June). IMAP representatives will take care.

The Helmholtz Guidelines for the Postdoc Phase were discussed Association-wide and also at GEOMAR. One focus point was the definition of a postdoc up to 4 years after completing the doctorate and taking this as a career decision point.

The lack of childcare facilities at GEOMAR was discussed – and the urgent need to have such facility in house and to identify vacant spots was pointed out. Due to the location of particularly the GEOMAR east shore facility being only remotely from childcare facilities in the center of Kiel, managing work and childcare is quite demanding and extremely time consuming. In addition –the waiting period for childcare is generally long and thus not compatible with the realities mobile young researchers are facing.

TOP 3 Planning activities for 2018:

- IMAP Retreat 2018: The suggestion was to organize a 1-day event in Kiel
→ July 4, 2018 at the Naturerlebniszentrum Kollhorst, Kiel
Draft agenda:
Morning session: Scientific exchange – get to know the research of your fellow postdocs
Afternoon session: Careers in the non-academic labor market – how to get access?
Planned is a Bar Camp with a recruiter from the private sector: Experts are needed but the private sector is desperately looking for them so there seems to be a large gap of expectations. The Bar Camp could e.g. address this by asking What do you expect from the non-academic labor market, what do private companies expect?
This topic is relevant for all IMAPs – whether continuing their careers in research, or the private – either for themselves or for the early career researchers under supervision.
Evening – Gesche will try to identify an inspirational talk.
- Courses, trainings 2018:
Suggestions that were discussed:
Berufungstraining – How to get prepared in the long-term, what to expect, how to react – not highly relevant
Negotiation training – not highly relevant

Media training – relevant

Film with your smartphone – not relevant, only if needed.

Gesche will try to organize a media training, Meike Stumpp had suggestions for excellent trainers.

TOP 4 Joint article writing initiative

At the IMAP Retreat 2017 Tamar Guy-Haim suggested a joint article writing initiative – an idea which should be followed up.

TOP 5 IMAP Questionnaire 2018

In the last years two surveys of the IMAP community were conducted on career aims, employment opportunities, supporting environment. The next survey should be conducted soon. It may include questions that would be helpful for e.g. the HR development department at GEOMAR to help them shape their strategies. The results of the survey should be on display at the IMAP website.

TOP 5 Miscellaneous