



Newsletter for PhDs in Marine Sciences

No. 6 // December 2016

Dear all,

WOW, you have been busy in the last months! Martina spent a year in Brussels at the European Commission and reports about her experience. Markus and Francisco wrote a book chapter and Luisa was engaged in working with pupils. We also welcome the new GEOMAR DokTeam - meet them on page 2.

Enjoy the newsletter and we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!
Wiebke (ISOS), the ISOS Reps and the DokTeam



mailing list "phd-news":

information of general interest for the PhD community (e.g. job advertisements, summer schools and conferences) are shared.

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// Have you met:



Daniela Niemeyer

Daniela works in the SFB 754 and studies factors that determine the representation of oxygen minimum zones in a global model. She is looking forward to work with

international scientists from different disciplines.

In her free time she enjoys travelling, gardening and cycling.

dniemeyer@geomar.de



Katharina Seelmann

Katharina's doctorate is about the use of a new autonomous analyser for total alkalinity in the lab of Prof Arne Körtzinger. She is part of the EU Horizon2020 project "AtlantOS" and very excited about the opportunity to go on research cruises.

When she isn't in the lab she enjoys playing computer games and doing sports.

kseelmann@geomar.de



Stephan Krisch

Stephan came back to Germany after three years abroad (Scotland) to do his doctorate in the group of Prof Eric Achterberg on the biogeochemistry of trace elements in the southeast Atlantic Ocean within the GEOTRACES Programme.

He is highly motivated to get deeper into the field of chemical oceanography, a topic he always found interesting but which he had not properly encountered before: *"It is research trying to answer questions why the planet is shaped and acting the way it is... and as a big plus, knowledge from here can be applied to many areas. To me, its international & interdisciplinary work of the finest."*

skrisch@geomar.de

Upcoming disputations: Good luck!



Andrea Franke (16.12.16; GEOMAR - Marine Ecology)
Annika Reintges (24.01.17; GEOMAR - Meteorology)
Yanling Wu (30.01.17; GEOMAR - Meteorology)

New Alumni: Congratulations!

Alexandra Loginova (GEOMAR - Biological Oceanography)
Luma Jassim Mohammed R. (CAU - Geosciences)
Mohammad Hadi Bordbar (GEOMAR - Meteorology)
Swaantje Bennecke (GEOMAR - Geosciences)
Daniel Yirgaw (GEOMAR - Geosciences)
Alexandra Filippova (GEOMAR - Geosciences)
Annika Drews (GEOMAR - Physical Oceanography)

// PhD Representatives in Marine Sciences

Within Marine Sciences you as a doctorate candidate are represented by so called "PhD representatives": within the ISOS community you can contact three reps, within GEOMAR you are represented by the DokTeam. They closely collaborate and at least one doctorate candidate is active in both teams.

The PhD reps organise social events and represent the doctorate community in different committees. Contact them for more information!

ISOS PhD representatives

(contact: phd_reps@isos.uni-kiel.de)



Kerstin
KIEL UNIVERSITY
Geoscience



Meike
GEOMAR
Magmatic and
Hydrothermal Systems



Fabian
GEOMAR
Biogeochemistry

By receiving input, feedback and ideas from the you, we (together with you) have the direct opportunity to shape ISOS and their offers.

Besides that, the rep-team takes part in

- ISOS steering committee meetings, where we discuss the direction ISOS is heading for
- Future Ocean executive board meetings, where we even have a vote!
- and we work close with the GEOMAR DokTeam.

We are looking for one more ISOS PhD rep - if you are interested contact us: info@isos.uni-kiel.de

GEOMAR DokTeam

(contact: dokteam@geomar.de)

The members of the GEOMAR DokTeam were elected at the 1st December after the PhD Plenary. Christian, Meike and Kristin stay in the team and are joined by Jacky, Luisa and Lisa.

A big Thank you to Dagmara, Marie and Insa for their work during the last year!!



Jacky
Paleoceanography



Luisa
Marine Ecology



Lisa
Magmatic and
Hydrothermal Systems



Christian
Meterology



Meike
Magmatic and
Hydrothermal Systems



Kristin
Physical
Oceanography

// PhD activities

4th PhD Plenary

Bringing together all doctoral candidates in marine sciences is the central aim of the yearly PhD Plenary. During this year's plenary more than 40 participants – doctoral candidates, supervisors and coordinators of graduate programmes discussed the status of doctoral candidates within the system.

Prof Martin Visbeck, speaker of the Cluster of Excellence "The Future Ocean", shared in an inspirational talk his views on the ocean of opportunities for early career researchers in marine science. Prof Peter Herzig,

director of GEOMAR, used the plenary to discuss PhD research at GEOMAR. In particular, the status of stipend holders is in a rebuilding phase. The status of doctoral candidates was further discussed by the representatives of the doctoral community.



From Kiel to Brussels... and back!

contact: *Martina Stiasny, doctoral researcher*
(mstiasny@geomar.de)

Martina Stiasny did an internship at the European Commission in Brussels and reports about her experiences. She is a doctoral candidate in the working group of Prof. Thorsten Reusch, and works on climate change effects on Atlantic cod fisheries.

I chose my PhD research because I am very excited about fisheries for several reasons. One of them is the complexity of the topic. You need to know the ecological, environmental, sociological, economic and political background of every fish stock. There are so many points-of-views, interests, stakeholders and opinions to consider when trying to assess stocks and fisheries management. Both fishermen and scientists like to blame the European Union when they are unhappy about quotas, but I never felt I heard the position of the EU. To better understand the political aspects I applied for an internship.

Becoming a Blue Book Trainee

After many rounds of applications and a spontaneous phone interview I was on my way to Brussels as an official Blue Book Trainee with the European Commission, more precisely the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). It has been a fantastic experience from the start and I would recommend EVERYBODY to apply. You not only learn a new perspective on the topic you have been working on, but you also learn a new perspective on the world, one that stays hidden for most people throughout their lives. As a project officer I am at a position where research, policy and politics come together. I write proposal calls, announce new research projects and comment on reports of existing projects. Amongst others, I attend meetings with policy officers in DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, with scientists and the fisheries committee. So I gained an insight behind the scenes of major international political events, e.g. what happens to the British fishery sector after Brexit.



Looking back

Initially, I was hired as a trainee because of my expertise. At the end of my internship I was asked to stay and I felt incredibly appreciated and valued for it. However, I plan to return to Kiel at the end of this year, because I feel my career is in science.

The main message that I will take away from this experience is the awareness that I have something to offer in an environment as high-level and prestigious as the European Commission.

Within Academia I often feel like no knowledge, no degree in the world will ever be good enough; there is always more, someone who knows better, and someone with more experience or a higher degree. It is easy to forget that I know a lot already and this knowledge is valuable and valued and that at the end of the day, all knowledge and all science is only worth anything, if it is put to good use.

HOSST-Summer School

contact: Lisa Samrock, doctoral researcher
(lsamrock@geomar.de)

What are ocean technologies? What is a business plan? These were just a few of the questions we explored during this year's joint TOSST-HOSST summer school in Halifax, Canada. We, the 11 doctoral researchers of the Helmholtz Research School for Ocean System Science and Technology (HOSST) at GEOMAR and Kiel University, met with our colleagues and supervisors on the other side of the North Atlantic.

From 26 September to 7 October we had an intensive two-week programme. On the agenda were talks, visits to different ocean technology companies (e.g. Ocean Sonics, Clearwater or ProOceanus), and panel discussions on aquaculture and marine shipping risks and noise. A discussion on German-Canadian scientific exchange and innovation with the German Ambassador to Canada, Werner Wnendt, was included as well. Excursions led us to the Carboniferous Joggins Fossil Cliffs in the Bay of Fundy area (UNESCO World Heritage Site), and to the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE). The tidal range there is, with up to 16 m, the highest in the world.

Besides the daily activities, we were asked to leave our comfort zone: In teams we had to create ocean

related business ideas, which were presented in a Dragon's Den-style ("Die Höhle des Löwen") to the representatives of the companies we visited. The challenge was to present profitable concepts and a business plan. Our business ideas included an ocean themed sustainable bar (*Slowmocean*), a cloud based lab recording system (*LABrain*), a delivery service for fish dishes and recipes (*Fish Club*), a floating device to recover lobster traps, and a small underwater turbine to recharge batteries (*SOFTO - Powering the Sounds OF The Ocean*). The winning team of SOFTO received a small prize from Ambassador Wnendt. We are already looking forward to next years' summer school, which will take place in Kiel, and for which planning is already going on.



The "HOSST"ies during the joint TOSST-HOSST summer school 2016 in Halifax, Canada (photograph: L. Samrock & T. Herrero).

Prize for former Doctoral Candidate

Dr. Corinna Breusing, a former HOSST- and ISOS doctoral candidate, was honoured by the Helmholtz Association with the Helmholtz-Prize for doctoral candidates in the area "Earth and Environment". During her doctoral research Corinna worked on deep sea mussels and their distribution. Congratulations Corinna!

MARRIAGE vs. The Ph.D.



Marriage



Ph.D.

Typical Length:	7.5 years	7 years
Begins with:	A proposal	A thesis proposal
Culminates in a ceremony where you walk down an aisle dressed in a gown:	✓	✓
Usually entered into by:	Foolish young people in love	Foolish young people without a job
50% end in:	Bitter divorce	Bitter remorse
Involves exchange of:	Vows	Know-how
Until death do you part?	If you're lucky	If you're lazy

JORGE CHAM © 2010

"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham www.phdcomics.com

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The sea at our doorstep – discovering the North and Baltic sea

contact: Luisa Listmann, doctoral researcher
(llistmann@geomar.de)

About two years ago, the project “Nord- und Ostsee summer camp” (North and Baltic Sea Summer Camp) was born. I was visiting the Klaus-Höchstetter Stiftung (www.klaus-hoehstetter-stiftung.de) in Munich where we had the idea to establish and start a project in which young pupils at the age of 11 to 16 would get the chance to discover the sea on the German borders. Germany is quite big and has about 1200km of coast (excluding islands). And many children have not seen the North or Baltic sea or been introduced to the interesting habitats “in front of our doorstep”.

In the beginning of August '15 and '16 the young and eager pupils came to Kiel and its surrounding for two days to visit the Zoological Museum, the Aquarium at Geomar and the beaches on the east and west shore of Kiel Fjord.

I sampled plankton with the kids and searched for the tiny organisms living in Kiel Fjord under the microscope in our practical room at GEOMAR. That way they could discover the work of a marine scientist.

We also went to the Wadden sea where we were introduced to the fasted snail alive, the life in the Wadden sea and could even observe a mussel race into the sand.

It was a great experience to show our next generation the treasures we have here on our German coast and why it is worth protecting! I am already looking forward to the next visit in 2017!



Writing a Book Chapter

contact: Markus Franz and Francisco Barboza, doctoral researchers
(mfranz@geomar; fbarboza@geomar.de)

After receiving an invitation for writing a book chapter on the challenges that the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea faces in a century of dramatic environmental changes, our advisor Prof Martin Wahl relied on us to carry out the task. This book chapter was framed in the book series “Warnsignal Klima” published by Universität Hamburg in cooperation with the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, and the Beatrice Nolte Foundation.

With the non easy objective of summarising the state of the art on biodiversity in the Baltic Sea and the main human pressures responsible for the accelerated loss of species in a few pages, we decided to write a manuscript that paid special attention to the knowledge gaps and the main difficulties that prevent the reversion of the current situation. Based on a detailed revision of the existing bibliography and the expertise of the Benthic Ecology Department at GEOMAR, we successfully accomplished the work with the chapter entitled “The biodiversity of the Baltic Sea: insights from the past and perspectives for the future”.

The book will be released beginning of 2017 and can be purchased via <http://www.klima-warnsignale.uni-hamburg.de>.

// ISOS

ISOS Retreat “ Do you know your Peers - and the Science behind them?”

How can you present your scientific identity in under 30 sec? The proof is in the result – are you understood, is your listener captivated to know more?

This was one challenge for the attendants of this year’s PhD retreat at Niederkleveez in October. Not only getting the message right, short and correct was demanding, also using body language as a means of communication was far from easy. Everybody succeeded - while the science pitch training with Avan Antia sharpened the science message, an exhaustive session on communication and body language with theater expert Verena Lohner visibly helped to add feeling, excitement and authenticity to the presentations.

“I was worried about having to oversimplify the science and then feel like a sales representative, but the training helped to avoid that—it actually felt good!” says one participant. “This helped to get my message clearer – also for my first publication”, says another.

Another challenge was posed in the high-rope course. Participants bravely not only pushed their own boundaries, but had to place their trust in their team – ten meters above the ground, they guided themselves and each other through the giddy and frightening course, with little more than guts and encouragement from their peers.

What were the highlights?

Certainly the science pitches and getting to know the breadth of marine sciences in Kiel, but also breathtaking moments in the high rope course and sitting together at the bonfire in a cold October night.



Upcoming ISOS Courses

9, 16, 23 January 2017

Ocean Governance and Marine Biological Diversity

Prof. Nele Matz-Lück, CAU Kiel & Prof. Ingvild Jakobsen (UiT, Norway)

17 - 18 January 2017

Grant Writing for Scientists

Dr. Christina Schütte, ProSciencia GmbH

30 January 2017

Analysis of Univariate Data Sets – First Steps in R

Dr. Mark Lenz, GEOMAR



more courses and online registration at www.futureocean.org/isos

The Doctorate and then?

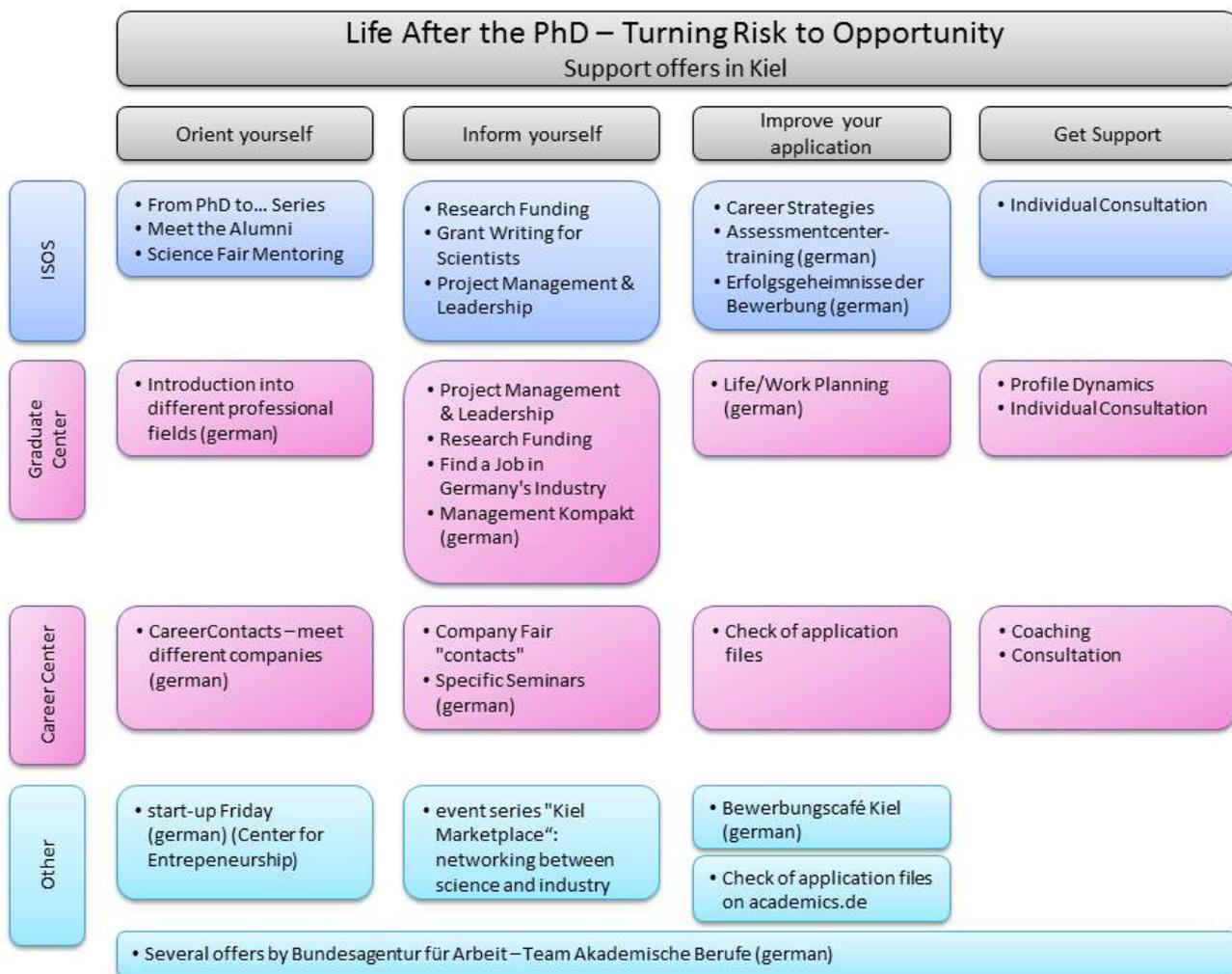
Avan Antia, ISOS
(aantia@uv.uni-kiel.de)

Since the ISOS PhD retreat of 2009 “Life after the PhD”, we’ve constantly addressed this theme: the Doctorate and then?

Our comprehensive data base, that is regularly fed by our alumni, tells us a lot about where people are going professionally. We’ve reported on this often, and see a consistent diversification as time progresses - to journalism, in management, in R&D and in academia for example. We’ve had lots of “From PhD to...” networking events and the range of people coming in has been diverse - the last one was on forming a mussel company, and scientific publishing comes up. Keep sending suggestions of people to invite.

A while back I asked for feedback on this topic - what would help you with the “life after” task? We found that most of your requests were available, either from us or other groups. So we have compiled a list (see the table below) of offers and opportunities that give you information, networking opportunities and individual support. It is now up to you to take some time out of your schedules (and out of your comfort zone) to make use of them.

On this theme, I recently interviewed a departmental head at the ministry about the employability of doctorate holders and asked what he would say to people interested in working there. “Be proud of your doctorate, but realise that the detailed topic of your work is not your selling point. Team work, analytical skills and an all-round personality are as or more important when we choose employees” he told me.



// GEOMAR

NextGen@Helmholtz 2017 @ GEOMAR



NextGen
@HELMHOLTZ

Are you doing your PhD at a Helmholtz Centre? Have you ever wondered, how PhD life differ within the Helmholtz association, what are the hot research topics or if we could solve some of the PhD life and/or world's problems in a multidisciplinary groups?

Then mark down the second NextGen@Helmholtz conference, which will take place at our very own Helmholtz Centre – GEOMAR - in Kiel from the **5th-7th July 2017**. Take the opportunity to get to know the Helmholtz Association, present your own scientific work and network in a motivating and encouraging atmosphere with your fellow Helmholtz PhDs. The programme will encompass miscellaneous formats for scientific discussions, expert panel, alumni session and most importantly, fun filled activities like science slam, pub quizz and many more.

The NextGen@Helmholtz conference is initiated by Helmholtz Juniors. It is a conference organised by PhDs for PhDs. If you are a doctoral researcher at GEOMAR and you want to help us to create one of the most memorable event of the next year, you are more than welcome to join our local organisation group.

For more information visit our webpage (<https://conferences.geomar.de/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=10>) or contact nextgen@helmholtz.de

GEOMAR Evaluation 2017

*contact: Astrid Klingen, GEOMAR Early Career Support
(aklingen@geomar.de)*

The scientific community at GEOMAR – including all doctoral researchers – is facing an exciting year 2017: Our research will be subject to review by an international expert panel set up by the Helmholtz Association! On 4 - 6 October 2017, a group of about 15 scientists from all over the world will visit GEOMAR, evaluate our past performance and discuss future plans with us. This meeting will include plenary sessions with presentations on our various lines of research as well as poster sessions and other opportunities for direct exchange with the reviewers. Well before the actual review meeting we will submit a written report to the Helmholtz Association highlighting the activities of all four Research Divisions as well as GEOMAR's overall structure and strategy. The outcome of the review will help us sharpen GEOMAR's scientific strategy and will – last but definitely not least – also have implications for GEOMAR's core funding during the next decade.

As doctoral researchers you will be invited to attend the plenary sessions, and potentially also to contribute with

a poster or other means of direct interaction with the reviewers. The upcoming months will be filled with vivid discussions and cooperative phrasing of the report, mostly on the level of the four Research Divisions, but also at the institutional level. One preparatory event at the institutional level is specifically focusing on doctoral researchers and other early career scientist: the "Young Scientist' Symposium: OCEANS 2020 and beyond" on 20 January 2017, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lecture Hall East Shore Campus. Please join in and engage into discussions with your colleagues, both junior and senior, and from all over GEOMAR: GEOMAR needs your knowledge, thoughts, ideas, and visions! An invitation has been circulated via "mitarbeiter@geomar" as of 18 November 2016, a reminder will follow in due time. See you there!