



future ocean
KIEL MARINE SCIENCES

INTEGRATED SCHOOL OF OCEAN SCIENCES

2014

ISOS Alumni-Newsletter

Dear Alumni,

This past year has been full of alumni visits and contacts, bringing home to us how rewarding it is to keep in touch! As several of you change jobs, we see more paths leading out of academia, and many successes within, and it is wonderful to have visits from alumni on holiday or work in Kiel. When Marius Müller came by *en route* to Sao Paulo we grabbed him for an interview. Yasmin Appelhans, herself an alumna and now finding her way in journalism, interviewed other alumni and wrote us a short article (a *précis* of which is in this newsletter). Malte Prieß took time to be with ISOS PhDs at their “Life After the PhD” retreat in May. And recently I bumped into Andrea Frommel, walking her daughter down the Holtenauerstraße, visiting from Rio where she and Frederik Noack are stationed. Nina Bergmann, herself an alumna, has been giving the ISOS programme a lot of new input and is now on parental leave, and being filled in for by Stephanie Stratil, fresh out of her PhD at GEOMAR. Many more of you have been in touch or have dropped by. It’s tremendously encouraging for us to be in touch with you, so keep coming back and sending us information! Meanwhile, enjoy this newsletter!

Warm wishes,

Avan, Nina, Stephanie and Angelika

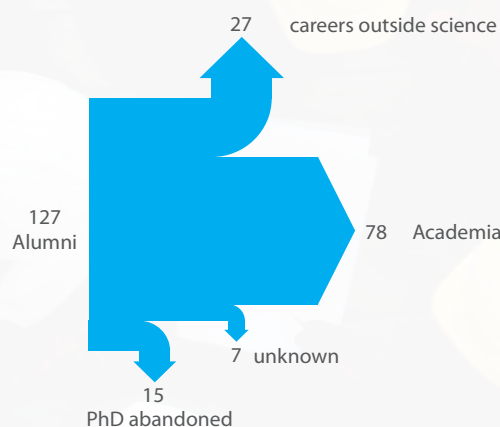
Meet the Alumni 2013: Former PhD Students Pass on Their Experiences

Seven ISOS alumni met in Kiel on June 18th and talked about their career decisions and paths with ISOS candidates. They shared their experiences as post-docs, in science management, consulting and federal agencies in small discussion rounds. Mobility and work-life-balance as well as career planning were hotly discussed issues. “The opportunity to

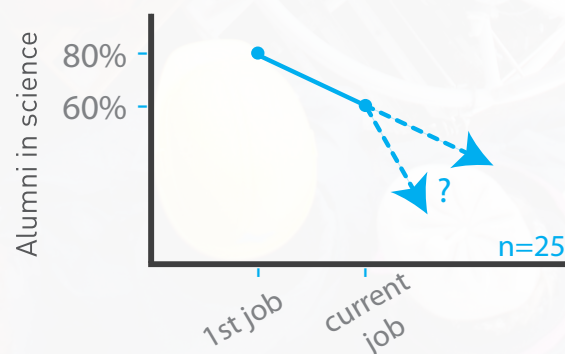
meet experts who have been in my shoes before and know my situation is great – it enormously facilitates networking.” said a PhD student.

We plan the next Meet the Alumni for spring 2015 as a networking event for all former ISOS members – we will keep you posted!

Alumni moving on



Fresh out of the PhD, the bulk of ISOS Alumni stay in academia



Of 25 ISOS Alumni who have changed jobs, many choose to work in other fields. A persistent trend?

ISOS Retreat: Life After the PhD

Some of you will remember the 2009 retreat under the same motto: "Life After the PhD". Once again, we asked invited guests from different professional fields (science, consultancy, management, industry, teaching and a government agency) to come talk to PhD candidates. Set up in a "speed-dating" format, many questions about career options inside and outside of academia were answered. In a second program point the PhD students practiced portraying themselves and their work in so-called "elevator pitch-

es". From acting coach Kate Simmons they learned that, besides the scientific content, body language plays an important role in getting a message across. Mingling at the campfire and climbing trees at the "Hochseilgarten" were part of a winning group experience that combined getting to know each other with serious thinking about life after the PhD.

Career on Course – ISOS Alumni Report on Life After the PhD

Completing the PhD is both exciting and daunting; it is a phase of re-orientation with its own challenges. We tracked down a few ISOS alumni:

Physicist-turned-modeller Malte Prieß was successful in several areas, but hadn't felt "quite at home" in any one of them. What to do after the PhD? Take the post-doc offer? Join a consultancy? Teach schoolchildren? Ultimately, he did all three; he did a short post-doc, then spent a year at a consultancy firm. He is now perusing his dream job: becoming a teacher. "Through these professional detours, I now profit from a wide range of experiences", Prieß says.

Katrin Bluhm chose the more direct track. The biologist is currently employed by the company Akvaplan-Niva AS in Tromsø, Norway, where she moved with her family after her PhD. The company conducts impact assessments, does aquaculture and has now established a research division, allowing Bluhm to directly apply her scientific expertise from the doctorate; an ideal

combination for Bluhm.

Wiebke Mohr chose to go abroad to a post-doc position at Harvard University. The start was easier than expected: "I sent in a question on a job posting and attached my CV. A week later I was invited for an informal job interview", she happily reports. Inevitably, reality is harder; she hopes the high investment of energy and time will soon result in a tenured faculty position.

Thinking back on their post-PhD transition, what would the three ISOS alumni advise? "Unoriginal as it sounds: Networking is very important", Malte Prieß emphasises. Further to "just give things a try". To which, Katrin Bluhm adds, to have the courage to leave the beaten track of academia. For Wiebke Mohr spending time abroad was crucial. All three alumni agreed that it is important to focus on individual strengths and talents. Good luck to them all!

ISOS Alumna Yasmin Appelhans interviewed the alumni as part of her foray into journalism and science communication

Sailing the Seven Seas: Interview with Marius Müller



Marius Müller has seen quite a lot of the world. From his PhD at GEOMAR in 2009 he moved to the Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche-sur-mer in France for a year. When he applied – "just for fun" for a job at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies in Tasmania, he was accepted and spent three years there. On his way to Brazil to take up a job at the Oceanographic Institute of the University of Sao Paulo, he dropped in on us:

Marius, you apparently enjoy moving around?

Yes, I enjoy going to other places and starting new things. Marine sciences give you the opportunity to work worldwide and see how science works in other countries. It makes you see things from another perspective. During my PhD I always felt the pressure to publish in order to succeed. Now I realize that a long publication list, though of course necessary to get funding, is not a guarantee for a job. It is helpful to be at the right place at the right time. Talking to the right people can be as important as five publications.

Did you ever consider working outside academia?

No, that was never a question. Of course working in science is sometimes stressful. Still, I think the way you can organize your time and your work independently at the university is almost unique, and a great luxury.

Tasmania is certainly an exotic destination. But apart from that, did you benefit scientifically?

Yes, it definitely broadened my scientific knowledge as it gave me insights into Antarctic research. I worked with ice algae and carbon chemistry and I took part in two expeditions to the Antarctic, bivouacking on the sea ice which was a great experience.

So now you've ended up in Sao Paulo.

Right. Going to Brazil was mostly a private decision. My partner is Brazilian and we wanted career perspectives for both of us. So I checked funding opportunities in Brazil and now have a three year project where I will continue working on ocean acidification and phytoplankton.

Is there anything you would recommend to PhDs who want to stay in science?

Yes: Follow your own way – there is not the one right way that leads to success

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