



14 APRIL 2023, ISSUE 12

Newsflash

ECR Bi-Weekly Newsletter



WELCOME

Welcome to the MARIS ECR newsflash where we share information that will be of use and interest to the broader MARIS ECR community. In this newsletter, you will find the latest news, opportunities and events. Enjoy the read!

LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pg 2 - Monthly ECR Coffee Talks
Pg 3-4 - Notices
Pg 5 - Call for SANCOR Seminar
Pg 6 - Webinars & Courses
Pg 7 - SANCOR Vacancies & Funding
Pg 8 - 11 - Upcoming Opportunities 2023
Pg 12 - Podcasts available

Give MARiS a follow on social media



Join the Monthly ECR Coffee Talks

The MARiS ECR Committee aims to build an inclusive marine and Antarctic 'space' for ECRs, **enabling young professionals to build cross-disciplinary networks within the cohort and foster inter-and transdisciplinary collaboration** amongst the different research foci that MARiS encompasses.

We absolutely loved seeing you all and hearing your ideas and suggestions at the ECR Meet last month. So to keep the momentum going, we thought it would be a great idea to have a friendly chat over coffee once a month. We had our first one this past Wednesday and it was great fun. Discussions ranged from using ChatGPT to life skills to planning lectures as an ECR. Sometimes we all just need to chill and chat about life, so come take a break from your busy schedules and join the MARiS ECR monthly coffee talks.

Join us at the MARiS Centre every second Wednesday of each month at 10:30am for a chat over coffee (or tea).

Bring a mug along and let's chat about anything, including some of the amazing ideas we have for this year!



Just a reminder, the ECR working group is in need of a few volunteers to assist with running the committee. If you are interested in assisting with the MARiS ECR Events, Communications, Transformation and Outreach - please contact the current ECR Representative, Dr Louise Gammage via email at ecr.maris@uct.ac.za.

Hope to see you at the next coffee talk on the 10th May! Look out on our socials for regular updates.

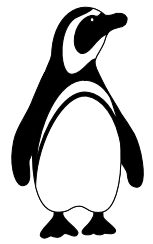
Notices



Doughnut Talks - Sign-Up!

Yeah, buoy! 😊 It's time for Oceanography's bi-weekly doughnut talks again! This is a great opportunity for all our post grads to share their research with the department, and improve our science presentation skills. Please be brave and use this opportunity to showcase just how awesome your research is! To all the doughnut eaters - please bring positive feedback and engage with the science being communicated! Please sign up [here](#) or contact the Oceanography PostGrad Committee at oceanpgc@gmail.com.

Waddle for the African Penguin



Join the Two Oceans Aquarium to waddle in support of the African penguin.

Penguins are whizzes at waddling, which is why the Two Oceans Aquarium is asking the public to join us on a waddle to show support to the cause of African penguins - which are facing extinction by 2035 if they do not receive the protections they need!

We will start at Muizenberg at 08h30 and make our way towards the colony of African penguins in Boulder's Beach. During the 15km waddle, we hope to draw the attention and support of passers-by, casting a light on the plight of the African penguin.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Waddle for the African Penguin

African penguins are facing extinction – and it's going to take a collective effort to ensure their survival. Join us on a walk to Boulders Beach to show love and support for this precious species and to say **not on our watch!**

VENUE : Meet at Muizenberg, Surfer's Corner
End at Boulders Beach (15km walk)
DATE : Sunday 23 April
TIME : From 08h30
RSVP : Sign up online

Wear black and white to show your support. Spot prizes to be won.



Stitch Your Ocean Science 2023

Use textile arts to tell an Ocean Story!

An activity of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Stories connect us to the past, present, future and to each other. They provide opportunities to learn, find commonalities, and understand different perspectives.

Your Ocean Science calls on YOU to craft your ocean #story visually through crocheting, knitting, quilting, weaving, and embroidery.

Is it an expression of the wonders of the #ocean? A #data visualization? A professional or recreational experience? An ocean science solution? Perhaps a call to action?

A yellow poster for 'Stitch Your Ocean Science 2023'. At the top, it asks 'WHAT IS THE OCEAN STORY YOU WANT TO TELL THROUGH TEXTILE ARTS?'. Below this, the title 'STITCH YOUR OCEAN SCIENCE 2023' is prominently displayed. To the right is the logo for the '2021-2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development', with the text 'We have been endorsed as an Ocean Decade activity!'. On the left, there is a graphic of a blue and white geometric pattern resembling a crocheted or knitted sphere. To the right of this graphic, it states: 'Any age/skill level can submit an original piece of crochet, knit, quilt, embroidery, weaving, etc., with an ocean theme for a virtual display'. At the bottom right, it says 'Submit photo/text by Nov. 17' followed by the URL 'https://bit.ly/stitchsci23'.

*Discover how to participate [here](https://bit.ly/stitchsci23).

Call for NRF Postgraduate Scholarships for funding in 2024

Please note that the Call for NRF Postgraduate Scholarships for funding in 2024 has opened. It was shared with universities and students via the NRF [website](#) and social media spaces such as Facebook and Twitter.

Additionally, the NRF is planning a virtual (via ZOOM) call briefing to be held on the 04 May 2023 from 10h00 to 12h30. The details will be shared at a later stage.

Website: [DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding for the 2024 Academic Year - National Research Foundation](#)

Kindly inform your potential students to apply for postgraduate funding for all levels and choose GENERAL NRF Scholarship under the "Scholarship Applying for" drop-down list.

The reference numbers of the students you are recommending for funding must be submitted to HICD. Submission of the reference numbers of the students will enable us to prioritise the students for funding during funding decisions, provided that they are recommended by the universities and meet all eligibility criteria.

Kindly submit the recommended reference numbers for Masters and Doctoral applicants to Mrs Busisiwe Sibiya, by 03 November 2023 at 16:00pm, and for Honours, by 15 December 2023. Please note that no late submissions will be accepted nor accommodated.

Call for SANCOR Seminar Speakers

Share your marine and coastal research findings at the UCT-SANCOR Seminars. Presentations are held during lunchtime at 13h00 at UCT or DFFE in Cape Town. For those outside of Cape Town, a Zoom presentation can be arranged.

Please consider booking the following dates:

April: 24

May: 8, 15, 22, 29

June: 5, 12, 19, 26

Why present a research talk?

- Showcase your research and highlight your findings.
- Connect with potential collaborators and colleagues.
- Prepare for presenting at a symposium or present a talk you gave at a symposium that many of the local colleagues were not able to attend.
- Draw interest from potential postgraduate students to join your lab.
- Raise awareness on a new initiative.

Why attend research seminars?

- Academic enrichment.
- Understand what your colleagues are doing.
- Expand your knowledge in other fields.
- Find inspiration and develop new ideas.
- Career networking - invest in yourself.
- Absorb the energy of like-minded individuals.
- Receive a fresh perspective on common issues and problems.

Contact **Carmen Visser** via email at [SANCOR](#). (See an example of the last seminar by Dr Kirsty McQuaid to the right.)



SANCOR Seminars

April 2023

Low-cost technology practices for ocean observation | 14 April 2023 |

Online | AIR Centre Panel

[More information here.](#)

Vertical Indian Ocean: Postcolonial Cultural Studies, Climate Change and Deep Sea Science | SciCOM Colloquium

By Dr Charne Lavery (University of Pretoria) | 17 April 2023 | Hybrid in Stellenbosch

[More information here.](#)

Using GIS and Earth Observation to Report Changes in Extent and Integrity of Aquatic Ecosystems Aligned with Global Biodiversity Framework

Targets | CMR Seminar By Dr Heidi van Deventer (CSIR) | 18 April 2023 | Online

[More information here.](#)

Webinars & Courses

April 2023

"Implementing the Ocean Data & Information System (ODIS)" training course | 17-21 April 2023 or 14-28 April 2023

More information [here](#). Learn how to become a node in ODIS & make your data more visible in the ocean's digital ecosystem.

Any questions or queries can be sent to the Course Coordinator and the OTGA Secretariat:

- course coordinator: Lucy Scott
l.scott@unesco.org
- OTGA Secretariat:
ioc.training@unesco.org

Introduction to statistical modelling and data analysis in R | 18 – 20 July 2023 | Apply by 18 June 2023

The Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation (SEEC) at the University of Cape Town is presenting a hybrid (in-person and online) short course in statistical data analysis and experimental design using R. The course aims to equip participants with practical experience and skills in analysing data, using some statistical techniques frequently used in the sciences. The course uses the R statistical package throughout, but we do not assume prior knowledge of this package. The course is targeting research students or scientists that require these



skills for their work.

The course will be run for a full three days (18-20 July 2023) and will cover the following broad topics:

- Introduction to R
- Introduction to statistical modelling
- Regression
- Design and analysis of experiments
- Generalized linear models

The course will assume basic knowledge of statistical analysis fundamentals such as the ideas of variability of observations and samples, probability distributions, and the basic principles of hypothesis testing. The course fee is R4500 for in-person attendance at the University of Cape Town and R4000 for online attendance. We unfortunately are not offering any bursaries.

Deadline for applications closes the 18 June 2023.

For more details about the course and applications, please contact [Dr Vernon Visser](#). If you would like to apply for the course, please fill out this [form](#).

SANCOR Vacancies

April - May 2023

Looking out for the next step in your career path?

The South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research (SANCOR) has listed some recent vacancies available within the marine and coastal environment.

Here are a few posts available:

Postdoctoral Fellowship: Signal processing algorithms and systems for localisation of cetacean vocalisations

Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch

Closing Date: **17 April 2023**

Find out more information [here](#).

Postdoctoral Fellowship: development of an advanced coupling method for simulating the transport and dynamics of metagenomics data in marine models

UCT-MARiS, Cape Town

Closing Date: **28 April 2023**

See more details [here](#).



Post-doctoral fellowship program in a wide range of themes in marine science and technology

Interdisciplinary School for the Blue Planet (ISblue)

Various labs in France

Closing Date: **30 April 2023**

Find out more information [here](#).

Oceans and Atmosphere - Assistant, Associate, or Full Researcher

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, California, USA

Closing Date: **1 May 2023**

Find out more information [here](#).

Marine Program Officer – Western Indian Ocean.

The Nature Conservancy, Mombasa, Kenya

Closing Date: **3 May 2023**

Find out more information [here](#).

To view the rest of the vacancies, check out the SANCOR website using this [link](#). Other job opportunities can be found [here](#) too.

Funding Opportunities

Check out UCT's current funding opportunities [here](#) and other student research grants [here](#).

Funding opportunities have also opened up through the Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) Network Programme or you could have a look at the NRF [website](#).



2023 Opportunities

April - July 2023

SEAmester Call for Student Applications and Lecturer Support

19-30 June 2023 | Apply by 14 April 2023

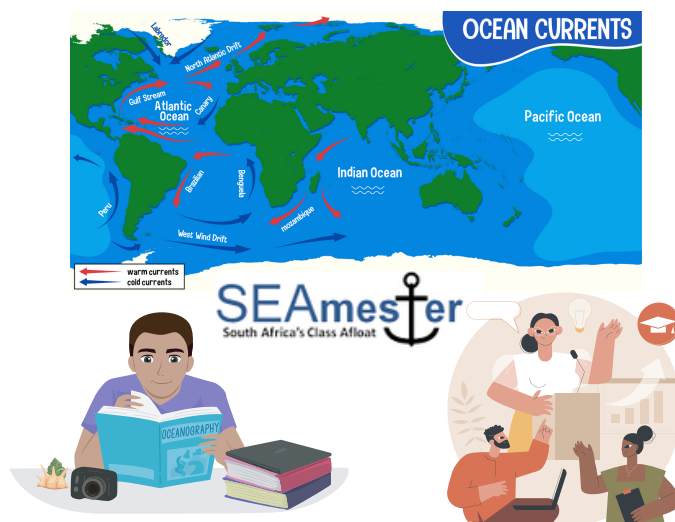
SEAmester 2023 will once again take place onboard the SA Agulhas II and dates are 19th June to 30th June 2023. **SEAmester is South Africa's floating classroom, which aims to introduce marine science as an applied and cross-disciplinary field to postgraduate university students from all over South Africa.** The programme combines traditional class-room lectures with hands-on ship-based deck activities for a maximum of 40 students; while providing them with an opportunity to support specialist scientists in recognized marine research activities.

The purpose of the SEAmester programme

To train a new generation of marine scientists and more importantly to encourage and enthuse the new generation through innovation in teaching platforms. A second objective was to ensure that a national facility such as the SA Agulhas II was open and fair to all tertiary institutes and not only those who are involved in SANAP.

The benefits of the programme

The competitiveness of SEAmester means that students onboard realize the privilege of being accepted... this provides a "can do" style attitude and builds confidence amongst students. In addition, for many this may be the first time they experience life at sea, life away from their homes and SEAmester forces students to grow quickly and



SEAmester. Students and lecturers find common ground and new opportunities amongst their peers. In certain cases, some students find new topics to study at different universities as a result of the connections built during SEAmester. ECRs need to be able to network, build their research base, students and also become more visible through national and international initiatives. SEAmester provides a stepping stone for this!

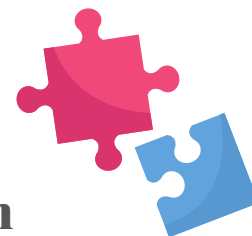
Who can apply as a student or lecturer?

You need to be a registered student or an intern and submit a good application.

Spelling mistakes are not accepted and students who provide sloppy applications are immediately rejected. Berths are extremely tight thus the motivation and application is absolutely critical. We would advise students to take the time to go over their applications and to read and reread for any mistakes. For lecturers we have very limited places and have a core group of about 16. We always look for new and interesting lecturers that build and complement SEAmester modules and take a great deal of interest in new lecturer applications, but it is also extremely competitive! So good luck!

Click on the links to download the [student application form](#) and the call for expression of interest to provide [lecturer support](#). For further information visit www.SEAmester.co.za.

2023 Opportunities



Observational Oceanography Training Course

May 2023

The application window is now open for the next **Nippon Foundation-POGO Centre of Excellence (NF-POGO CoE)**, which provides world class education and training in the field of observational oceanography.

This is an intensive training course for **young professionals at the post-graduate level, ten months in duration, with an intake of ten trainees per year**. The course is sponsored by the Nippon Foundation and hosted by the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research. It is conducted at AWI's site on the offshore island of Helgoland with focus on open-ocean sciences and also at AWI's site on the UNESCO reserve Waddensea island of Sylt where shelf/basin interactions are topics of study.

Successful candidates will begin training in May 2023. You can read more about what the training involves and submit an application [here](#).

Please feel free to circulate this announcement to anyone you think might be interested.

SA Fulbright Foreign Student Program 2024-2025

Closing date: 1 May 2023

The South African Fulbright Foreign Student Program provides grants for South African university graduates to pursue post-graduate studies at a United States university in any subject (excludes MBA and studies that require contact with patients). Students are selected through a rigorous application and interview process and receive a high level of support ranging from visa processing and health insurance to a comprehensive pre-departure orientation and re-entry session.

The following opportunities are available:

- **Visiting Student Researcher (non-degree) :** South African PhD students enrolled with a South African University may apply to conduct one year's research at a U.S. University as a Visiting Student Researcher (VSR). Current National Research Foundation (NRF) funded PhD students are encouraged to apply.
- **Master's or PhD:** Post-graduate students may apply for scholarships towards Master's or Doctorate degrees. Scholarships are awarded for two years towards one degree – Master's or Doctorate.

2023 Opportunities

April - July 2023

Low Technologies and ocean Data Workshop

2 June 2023 | 09:00 - 17:30 SAST (in-person & online)

Cape Town, South Africa

As part of the Observations Coordinating Group (OCG) Meeting, the OCG and AtlantOS team is hosting a Low cost technology workshop that will focus on showcasing the technologies available and their application, and opportunities to ensure collected ocean data is FAIR. This workshop will host both on hands training, lightning talks and posters!!

Please join us either in-person in Cape Town or online at the workshop on **June 2nd, 2023, 09:00 - 17:30 SAST**.

Please fill out this [submission form](#) if you are interested in contributing a lightning talk or poster by March 31st. Due to limited availability of talks we will inform participants by the end of April about their submission and provide additional guidance. For online workshop registration please register [here](#).

Hope to see you there or online!
The AtlantOS and OCG Team



The poster features a background image of a research vessel and a yellow buoy. It includes the following text:

- GOOS** The Global Ocean Observing System
- OCG-14 WORKSHOP**
- JOIN US**
- LOW COST TECHNOLOGIES & DATA WORKSHOP**
- June 2nd, 2023 | 9:00 - 17:30 SAST**
Cape Town, South Africa
- Agenda**
 - 9:00 - 12:00 | An overview of Technologies and Opportunities
 - 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Break
 - 13:00 - 14:30 | Poster session
 - 14:30 - 17:30 | Opportunities for FAIR data practices
- Poster or lightning talk **submission** by **March 31st**
- Online participation Register [here](#)
- Twitter: @AtlantOS_Ocean | @GOOSocean
- Website: www.atlantOS-ocean.org | www.goos-ocean.org
- ORGANIZERS**
 - Patrick Gorringer
 - Lucile Cocquempot
 - Juliet Hermes
 - Kevin O'Brien
 - Ann Zinkann



2023 Opportunities



Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) Symposium

14-18 August 2023 | Hobart, Australia

The first Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) Symposium will be held this year August in Hobart, Tasmania. It is our pleasure to invite you to this milestone event for the SOOS community.

The South African Polar Research Infrastructure #SAPRI will be represented at the #SOOSSymposium2023. Join this milestone event for the Southern Ocean community and beyond. Registration for the SOOS Symposium 2023 is now open! **Early bird rates apply until 30 April.** There is limited travel support available.

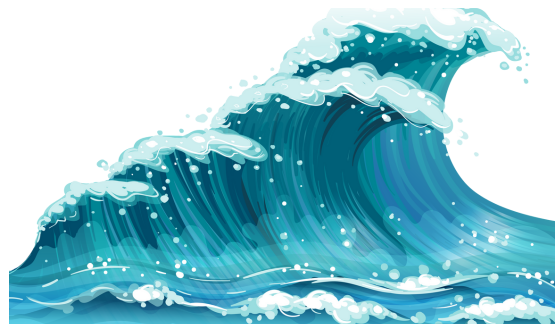
For more information about the symposium, check out their website [here](#).

Ocean Dynamics Course

17- 28 April 2023 | UCT Oceanography Department

Professor Lisa Beal from PSMAS (Miami, USA) will be offering an Ocean Dynamics course for postgraduate students. The course will take place in the UCT Oceanography Department between the 17th and 28th April 2023. It is titled **"Why the Agulhas Current?"**.

The course is aimed at Masters and upwards. There are limited numbers. So if you are interested, please contact Isabelle Ansorge at isabelle.ansorge@uct.ac.za.



Podcasts:

What to listen out for?



There are so many new amazing podcasts available online so we thought we would share some of those that might interest you. Have a listen to them in your spare time, you might learn something new from various people's stories or from the array of environmental topics discussed.

Climate Frontiers

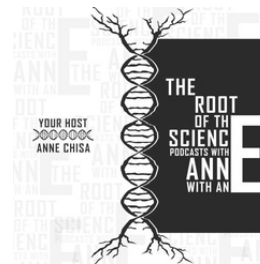
A podcast series exploring the latest thinking, approaches and debates in climate science, hosted by the Climate System Analysis Group, or CSAG, at the University of Cape Town.

The Root of the Science Podcast

Hosted by Anne Chisa. This show has interviews with guests involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Ready or Not, Change is Coming

A 12-part Climate Podcast Series, dedicated to breaking down climate change into chewable elements to help us all understand it better, dispel the myths and remove the ambiguity. Tracey Thomas is the host of the the RONCIC series.



The AtlantECO podcast

A science popularisation show, revolving around conversations between the host and a guest to discuss aspects of AtlantECO, a marine science project which focuses on the Atlantic Ocean.

BEPSII Podcast: Sea Ice Research, Studies, and Scientists

the official podcast of BEPSII brings you the research studies and work, stories and resources by the members of BEPSII (Biogeochemical Exchanges Processes at Sea Ice Interfaces) – scientists from all over the world and at all career stages.

Agulhas Current Affairs

A marine science podcast set in Southern Africa with marine biologists Dr Yanas Kisten and Dr Nelson Miranda.

Call for Content Creators

The **UCT-MARiS Comms Team** is looking out for volunteers to assist us in providing marine related content especially involving interdisciplinary research, whether it may focus on your current research, fieldtrips, cruises, conferences, workshops, events, etc., **we want to know what is happening in the marine and Antarctic sphere and share it with our networks.**

If you are interested in getting involved (once-off or long-term) on a voluntary basis with the MARiS Comms Team in:

- writing up a blog,
 - promoting events and opportunities,
 - suggesting ideas for marine science communication or
 - providing media that will promote marine research,
- then we would love for you to fill in this short [form](#).

For all content and queries, please feel free to mail us at comms.maris@uct.ac.za.



Feel free to tag us on our social media platforms and we'll be happy to repost:

Twitter: @MARIS_UCT
Instagram: @maris_uct



Copyright © 2023 Marine and Antarctic research for Innovation and Sustainability, All rights reserved.

Because you are part of our MARiS ECR network.



Give MARiS a follow on social media

CONTACT US

If you'd like to sign up for the [ECR mailing list](#) or you'd like to include an event or opportunity in our next newflash, please email ecr.maris@uct.ac.za.