



28 FEBRUARY 2023, ISSUE 9

# 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!

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### LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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# 2023 starts off with a bang!

2023 has started off on a rocky note, from a campus-wide shutdown by the Student Representative Council (SRC) to accusations of the Vice Chancellor Professor Phakeng, then being suspended and has now left UCT on early retirement.

The UCT management is deeply regretful for the disturbances and distress that staff and students have experienced as a result of the unfortunate developments of the past two weeks. If you would like to know more about what has happened since then, please read the news articles written by the Daily Maverick [[Article 1](#) , [Article 2](#)].



## Postponed – Launch of MARiS Centre

On behalf of the MARiS management team, we are pleased to invite you to attend the ECR component of the Official Launch of the MARiS Research Centre.

The launch will take place at:

**Venue:** MARiS Centre, Level 4, John Day Building, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch

**Date:** Thursday, 16 March 2023

**Time:** 13:30pm - 15:00pm

We would be delighted if you can come and celebrate with us the success of MARiS and the research that we participate in.

We think that this event will be a great opportunity for **networking and discussing new ideas, events, and opportunities** that the ECRs can get involved in this year. Please make sure to save the date and fill in this [form](#) (or scan the barcode below) if you wish to attend the launch event (for catering purposes). If you have any queries or questions regarding the event, email [leila.nefdt@uct.ac.za](mailto:leila.nefdt@uct.ac.za).

UCT-MARiS Launch: ECR Meet



# Notices

## Soapbox Science 2023

After the great success of the 2019 SoapBox Science and a long pause due to the COVID regulations limiting public events, we are BACK! and delighted to announce that Cape Town will be hosting a LIVE Soapbox Science event again this September/October 2023.

Soapbox Science is a public and non-profit event promoting women and non-binary scientists and the science they do. The call for speakers is open and available and will close on the 28th of February 2023 so hurry and [sign up](#).

Are you a woman, non-binary or genderqueer person who works in science and who is passionate about your research? Are you eager to talk to the general public about your work in a fun, informal setting? If so, then **Soapbox Science needs YOU!**

We are looking for scientists in all areas of STEMM, from PhD students to Professors, and from entry-level researchers to entrepreneurs, to take part in this grassroots science outreach project. The 12 selected speakers will be trained in public speaking and public engagement by professionals before the event.

### What other benefits will you gain from taking part?

- Training at one of our bespoke Soapbox Science workshops
- Chances to meet other fantastic scientists and join our growing Soapbox Science Alumni community of over 1500 inspirational speakers
- Join the conversation about equality in science and highlight your ideas of how best to increase the visibility of women and underrepresented genders in science

Volunteers will also be needed for this event, so watch this space for the call.

**If you would like more information please contact Dr Lucia Marchetti from UCT - [marchetti.lu@gmail.com](mailto:marchetti.lu@gmail.com).**





# SANCOR Vacancies

March - 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 position: Space weather influences on marine mammal movement**

*University of Pretoria and SANSA, Pretoria*

Closing Date: **16 March 2023**

Find out more information [here](#).

**PhD position: Circulation, mixing and transport in the southern North Sea under the influence of anthropogenic change**

*Environmental Fluid Mechanics, Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands*

Closing Date: **19 March 2023**

See more details [here](#).

**Science Director**

*International Science Council*

*Paris, France*

Closing Date: **31 March 2023**

Find out more information [here](#).



**Two PhD or mobility postdoctoral positions in ocean coupled physical-biogeochemical modelling.**

*Liège University, Belgium*

Closing Date: **31 March 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](#).

**Post-doctoral position: benthic stress indicators**

*UCT Department of Biological Sciences  
Cape Town*

Closing Date: **31 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](#).





## Webinars & Courses

March - April 2023

### SCIENCE ADVANCES AT THE OCEAN-CLIMATE-BIODIVERSITY NEXUS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ATLANTIC

2 MARCH 2023  
14:15 - 16:00 CET  
HYBRID EVENT:  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
ROOM: ASP 3H1 / ONLINE

HOSTED BY  
MEP ISABEL CARVALHAIS



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP ON  
"CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

**CONTACT:**

ILIAS.GRAMPAS@EBCD.ORG  
+32 2 230 30 70

**JOIN THE DISCUSSION:**

TWITTER:  
@EPINTERGROUP\_SD  
@IATLANTICEU



iAtlantic



### SOFLUX Webinars

"The sensitivity of pCO<sub>2</sub> reconstructions to sampling scales across a Southern Ocean sub-domain: a semi-idealized ocean sampling simulation approach"

Laique Djeutchouang  
(Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observatory)

Postponed to: March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023  
1500 CET

Register here:  
[https://bit.ly/SOFLUX\\_webinar\\_register](https://bit.ly/SOFLUX_webinar_register)

We'd like to showcase early career research. If you are or know someone who would like to present go to:

<https://soos.aq/events/soflux-webinars>



European Parliament | 2 March 2023  
|14h15 - 16h00 CET Hybrid | Science advances at the Ocean-Climate-Biodiversity Nexus: Highlights from the Atlantic" | Register [here](#).

The event is a key opportunity to raise awareness of the #AtlanticAll projects outcomes, and discuss their policy relevance with policymakers & key stakeholders Register [here](#).

Laique Djeutchouang | 23 March 2023  
|15h00 CET | The sensitivity of pCO<sub>2</sub> reconstructions to sampling scales across a Southern Ocean sub-domain" | Register [here](#).

For more information check out the [website](#).

"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](mailto:l.scott@unesco.org)
- OTGA Secretariat: [ioc.training@unesco.org](mailto:ioc.training@unesco.org)

# 2023 Opportunities

April - May 2023



## Ocean Visions Summit

4-6 April 2023

Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, GA, USA

The Ocean Visions Summit will offer a scientific solutions program that fosters and inspires discussion throughout the meeting. The Summit will bring together a multisector community working to address critical challenges at the ocean-climate nexus.

**Participants will share latest advances in sciences, engineering, technology, governance, and economics that underpin solutions to the ocean-climate crisis.**

The meeting will be held onsite at the Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, GA, USA, 4-6 April 2023. There will be online sessions for the meeting. Registration is still open. The full meeting program and schedule will be published in February 2023.

For more information, check out the [website](#). Register [here](#) for the summit.

## ISME Symposium: Microbes in Stellenbosch

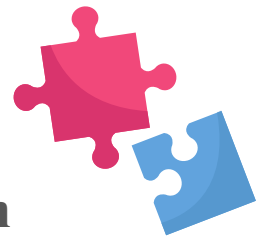
Wed, March 8, 2023 | 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

SAST | STIAS: Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study Marais Road Stellenbosch, WC 7600

The "Microbes in Stellenbosch" symposium, sponsored by the **International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME)**, brings together leading scholars from five countries to discuss the latest advances in the field of microbial ecology. This one-day symposium will be held in the picturesque town of Stellenbosch, South Africa. The symposium will be held in Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), which provides an ideal setting for the exchange of ideas and collaboration among participants. The symposium will cover a wide range of topics related to microbial ecology, including microbial diversity, function, and interactions in various environments, such as soils, water, and the human microbiome. **For more information and to sign up for the event, please view the [website](#).**

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# 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

## 4th Summer School on Theory, Mechanisms and Hierarchical Modeling of Climate Dynamics: Atlantic Variability and Tropical Basin Interactions at Interannual to Multi-Decadal Time Scales

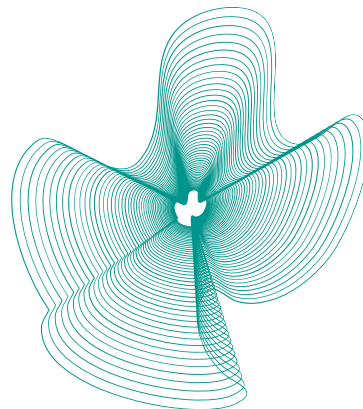
31 Jul 2023 - 11 Aug 2023 (CET) |  
Trieste (Italy) | Register by 1 May 2023

The activity will combine a graduate-level summer school on state-of-the-science knowledge in Atlantic multi-decadal variability and tropical basin interactions, followed by a workshop on current research topics in the field.

Tropical ocean basins influence each other on seasonal and longer timescales. Variations in the Atlantic multi-decadal variability (AMV) can drive changes in the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans via atmospheric teleconnections, even modulating global warming.

The first week of the summer school will be devoted to:

(i) current theories for the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) variability and stability, governing mechanisms of AMV and role in TBIs



(ii) mechanisms underlying tropical mean climate, ocean-atmosphere interactions at interannual to decadal timescales.

The second week will be centered on current research topics, such as the potential factors driving and modulating TBIs, the relative role of AMV and AMOC, as well as historical and future changes. Hands-on training will be aimed at **introducing participants to a hierarchy of climate models for simulating AMV and TBIs.**

Topics:

- The relative role of AMOC in setting AMV spatial patterns and timescale;
- Factors controlling tropical basins interactions (TBIs) at different timescales and their modulation;
- How climate models simulate the AMV/AMOC interaction and TBIs
- How do AMV/AMOC and TBIs evolve in a warming climate

Grants: A limited number of grants are available to support the attendance of selected participants, with priority given to participants from developing countries. **There is no registration fee.** For more information about the programme and how to apply, click this [link](#).



# 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

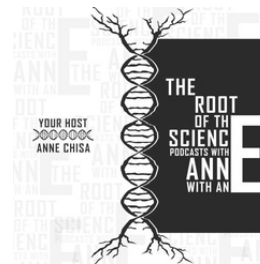
A podcast series exploring the latest thinking, approaches and debates in climate science, hosted by the Climate System Analysis Group, or CSAG, at the University of Cape Town.

### 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](mailto:comms.maris@uct.ac.za).



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**Twitter: @MARIS\_UCT**  
**Instagram: @maris\_uct**

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Because you are part of our MARiS ECR network.



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## 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 newsflash, please email [ecr.maris@uct.ac.za](mailto:ecr.maris@uct.ac.za).*