



UNIVERSIDAD
DE CHILE
FACULTAD DE DERECHO

2025 SC-HASS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

"ANTARCTICA IN TIMES OF CHANGE"

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



SC-HASS

ONLINE CONFERENCE

2025

Antarctica in Times of Change

Oct 7 - 9, 2025

Welcome from the Convenor
Luis Valentín Ferrada

Chilean Lecture - Keynote speaker
Consuelo León Woppke

"Rethinking the origins of 'the South American Antarctic' from the perspective of the 21st century: An introductory and comparative analysis."

Lewander lecture

Adrian Howkins

"Going there: Some reflection on the human dimensions of Antarctic conservation from the McMurdo Dry Valleys"

Final Remarks from SC-HASS Chiefs Officers

Peder Roberts

Hanne Nielsen



Registration, Program and more information: <https://www.scarschass2025.com/>

Academic responsible
Luis Valentín Ferrada



Standing Committee
on Antarctic
Humanities and
Social Sciences



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ANTÁRTICOS Y
SUBANTÁRTICOS





Opening Remarks from the Convenor and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the 2025 SC-HASS Conference “Antarctica in Times of Change”

Welcoming Note – 7 October 2025

It is a true honour and a deep personal pleasure to officially open the 2025 Biennial Conference of the Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

Over the next three days, we will share research, reflections, and experiences that explore the complex relationship between humanity and the Antarctic region, a continent that, despite its apparent remoteness, remains deeply connected to the world’s environmental, political, and cultural dynamics.

This year’s programme is vibrant. It reflects both the intellectual diversity and the growing maturity of our community. During these three days, we will hear from voices across every continent, representing fields as varied as law, political science, sociology, anthropology, history, literature, and the arts. Together, they shed light on new ways of understanding human presence and imagination in Antarctica.

Structure of the Conference

Today and tomorrow will be dedicated to academic sessions, while Thursday will host the business meetings of our Standing Committee.

We are honoured to begin with two keynote lectures that set the tone for this gathering. Immediately after these remarks, Professor Consuelo León Wöppke will deliver the opening keynote entitled “Rethinking the Origins of the South American Antarctic,” which revisits the region’s early visions of Antarctic engagement through a 21st-century lens. Tomorrow, we will hear Professor Adrian Howkins, who will deliver the Lewander Lecture, reflecting on the human dimensions of Antarctic conservation based on his work in the McMurdo Dry Valleys.

Beyond these two core lectures, we offer an impressive programme of 61 individual presentations, some co-authored — 51 live and 10 pre-recorded — as well as five thematic panels that will unite researchers around shared questions and methods.

To foster dialogue and coherence, the sessions are organised into four broad thematic areas:

1. **Law, International Relations, and Antarctic Governance**, analysing the legal and institutional foundations that underpin cooperation in the south polar region.
2. **Antarctic Identity and Cultural Sociology**, examining how societies conceive, depict, and internalise their connection with the Antarctic.



3. **Antarctic history and heritage**, focusing on preserving material and immaterial legacies in a rapidly changing environment.
4. **Literature and Cultural Studies on Antarctica** remind us that narrative, art, and symbolism are essential for any human understanding of the polar world.

This thematic architecture highlights the vibrant role of humanities and social sciences within SCAR — disciplines that not only “complement” the natural sciences but also expand their significance by placing them within human contexts of value, power, and imagination.

A Glimpse at the 2025 Programme

The Day 1 sessions focus on governance, international cooperation, and the sociocultural aspects of human activity in Antarctica. We will hear, for example, about studies on marine protection and peacebuilding, reflections on digital heritage and regional diplomacy, and analyses of tourism and media portrayal in the far south.

Panels such as “Environmental Protection as Peacebuilding” and “Latin American Antarctica: Multiplicity and Identity in the Mirror” will promote interdisciplinary dialogue between legal scholars, political scientists, and cultural theorists.

Day 2 will delve deeper into the history and heritage of Antarctica, exploring everything from early exploration archives to modern architecture, as well as decaying heritage sites and new artistic residencies. Sessions will investigate linguistic diversity, industrial archaeology, and the rise of southern perspectives that challenge traditional Eurocentric narratives.

Panels such as “Antarctic Arts Residencies” and “A Call to Future Problem Solvers” emphasise the increasing involvement of artists and young scholars in reshaping the cultural significance of Antarctica.

And on Day 3, during our Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences Business Meeting, we will reflect on our structure, agenda, and collective direction —ensuring that the intellectual vitality of our committee remains matched by its institutional strength and inclusiveness.

Why Humanities and Social Sciences Matter in Antarctica

Today, the Antarctic region stands at a crossroads. The impacts of climate change are transforming its ecosystems and ice landscapes faster than ever before. However, alongside environmental pressures, there are also geopolitical tensions, technological advancements, and cultural shifts that challenge our understanding of and approach to managing the polar regions.

In this context, the social sciences, humanities, law, and the arts are essential. They enable us to ask not only what happens in Antarctica but also why it occurs, who is involved, and

what values inform our choices. They assist us in exploring the ethical aspects of science, the cultural influence of narratives, and the social responsibilities linked to exploration, research, and tourism.

Our task, then, is to produce knowledge that is not only accurate but also meaningful — knowledge that informs policy, shapes education, and inspires the public imagination.

We must strive **for objectivity, but also for empathy; for rigour, but also for vision.**

It is through this synthesis that Antarctic research can truly serve humanity.

As many of you have demonstrated in your work — from analysing Antarctic architecture and heritage to studying public engagement, from exploring social media imaginaries to the ethics of tourism — the humanities and social sciences uncover the human dimension of Antarctica: the hopes, fears, and stories that shape our presence there.

On Connectivity and Collaboration

This year, our conference is held online — a format that, although lacking the warmth of face-to-face meetings, significantly broadens our reach and inclusivity. Colleagues who might otherwise be hindered by distance or cost can now share their voices. Virtual gatherings, in this sense, expand our community and emphasise that polar research is truly worldwide.

Our Standing Committee alternates between in-person and online meetings in the years when the SCAR Open Science Conference is not held. This alternation guarantees continuity: some years we participate in the broad interdisciplinary dialogue of the wider SCAR family; other years, like this one, we concentrate on the specific epistemological, methodological, and ethical challenges of the humanities and social sciences.

Many of the conversations initiated last year in Pucón, Chile, continue today during this virtual meeting, coordinated from Santiago, and will find their following expression at our 2026 gathering in Oslo. Each of these encounters builds upon the previous one, reinforcing a network of collaborations that spans across hemispheres.

Acknowledgements and Closing Reflections

Before closing, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who made this event possible — to our keynote speakers, to the presenters and panellists, and especially to the young researchers and students from the Universidad de Chile's Antarctic Studies Programme, who have contributed their time and effort to organising this meeting. Your participation exemplifies the renewal and continuity that our field needs.

I also want to recognise the artists, writers, and musicians who bring new forms of expression to the Antarctic experience. Through their work, they remind us that this continent is not only



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a scientific frontier but also a cultural one — a place where creativity and reflection coexist with data and observation.

Antarctica, as we understand, is not just a land of ice. It is a realm of ideas, serving as a symbolic and ethical reflection of humanity. In its seemingly silent expanse, it poses questions about who we are, how we live on this planet, and what kind of world we aim to leave for future generations.

As we commence this 2025 Biennial Conference of the Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences, let us reaffirm our dedication to curiosity, cooperation, and compassion — the three pillars underpinning all serious Antarctic research.

I wish you all an inspiring and productive meeting.

I hereby declare the 2025 Biennial Conference of the SCAR Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences officially open.

Thank you very much.

Professor Luis Valentín Ferrada

Convenor & Lead of the Local Organising Committee
Universidad de Chile, Law Faculty
BASE Millennium Institute



Note from the SC-HASS Chiefs Officers

Thank you for your contributions to the SCAR Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences (SC-HASS) online conference on Antarctic in times of change, which is a very timely topic. The Antarctic physical environment is changing fast, but so too is the social environment, as reflected in the ways we think about Antarctica; interact with the place; and do work on and about the continent. Wherever humans are involved, the HASS disciplines are key.

SC-HASS is a community of researchers working on diverse aspects of the humanities and social sciences as they relate to Antarctica. Its membership – which we see well-represented at this conference – includes historians, legal experts, tourism scholars, anthropologists, literature scholars, archaeologists, musicologists, political scientists. A key goal of SC-HASS is to help strengthen local and regional networks in Antarctic humanities and social sciences. We hope you have made or renewed some networks and connections over the course of the online conference, and will continue those conversations long after the sessions have drawn to a close.

We thank Luis Valentín Ferrada and the many who assisted, such as María Jesús Maibe, María Paz Aravena, Magdalena Madrigal, Daniel Troncoso, Diego Arenas, and Italo Galliani. Thanks also to Consuelo León Wöppke and Adrian Howkins for setting the tone for the event with their informative keynote presentations.

Looking forward to the next IPY5 (2032-22), it will be important to focus on collaboration – both international and interdisciplinary – and to ensure we are asking the right questions. We look forward to hearing about new research developments at the next in-person event at the SCAR OSC in Oslo in August 2026, and then at the SC-HASS in-person conference in 2027

Thanks again, and congratulations.

Hanne Nielsen and Peder Roberts



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Individual Oral Presentations



Antarctica Ad Astra: Historic Sites and Monuments in the Frozen South and in Outer Space

Bryan Lintott¹

Dr **Bryan Lintott**'s academic research and heritage advocacy is based on the remains of the past in the polar regions and beyond the Earth, across the Solar System. His broader interests in diplomacy, governance, management, conservation and interpretation of the remains of the past provide the foundation for his fundamental interest in how to utilise these remains, and their associated intangible legacies and dynamics, in peaceful and productive ways. He is active in the International Council on Monuments and Sites and has served a Secretary-General of ICOMOS Polar Heritage, and is Secretary-General of ICOMOS AeroSpace Heritage. His PhD was on Scott's and Shackleton's Huts: Antarctic Heritage and International relations

Abstract

Theoretical Background / Goals / Motivation: The Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) governance of Historic Sites and Monuments (HSMs). has evolved. How can this inform heritage governance in outer space.

Methods: Data was analysed in the context of heritage studies and international relations. Proposals for governance of outer space heritage were reviewed.

Results: The evolution of Antarctic HSM governance: Creation (1950s–1960s): Focus on territorial claims, e.g. exploration huts, while graves were universally respected.

Consolidation (1970s–1980s): HSM list formalised. Codification (1990s–2000s): Annex V of the Environmental Protocol (1991) prohibited damage, destruction or removal of HSMs.

Conservation (2000s–Present): Advanced conservation; promotion of intangible heritage. Challenges (2010s): Criticism, e.g. no sealing HSMs, and concerns about proposals not meeting minimum criteria.

Environmental research (2020s): ICOMOS Polar Heritage endorses related environmental research for HSMs.

Implications: Antarctic HSM governance offers insights for international cooperation and legal protections.

Conclusion: ATS HSM governance history is relevant when developing an HSM governance regime for outer space.

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Antarctica as a Beacon of Peace: Marine Protection and the Preservation of International Cooperation

Horacio Werner², Mariano Aguas³ and Patricia Cavalcanti⁴

Horacio Werner, PhD, is Executive Director of Agenda Antártica (AANT), an NGO focused on preserving Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, promoting peace, and polar research. With a career spanning sustainability, tech, and government, he previously led Motorola Latin America, served as Argentina's Vice-Minister of International Economic Development, and was Managing Director at Cisco Systems (Smart Cities/IoT). He holds a PhD (magna cum laude) in Natural Sciences (LMU Munich), an Executive MBA (IAE), and certifications from Harvard and Singularity University. His expertise bridges technology, policy, and environmental conservation.

Mariano Aguas is a political scientist and university professor. He serves as Social and Governance Director at Agenda Antártica NGO and the Director of the Climate Change Observatory at Universidad de Palermo.

Patricia Cavalcanti is an economist and international relations analyst. She serves as Program Director and Head of the Asia Pacific Chapter at Agenda Antártica NGO and previously led diverse international initiatives, advancing conservation, global diplomacy, and institutional development.

Abstract

Theoretical Background / Goals / Motivation: In a fragmented global context, Antarctica remains a unique model of peaceful international cooperation. For over 60 years, the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) has preserved the continent for science and environmental protection. Today, it faces growing challenges from climate change, resource pressures, and weakening multilateralism. This presentation examines how environmental mechanisms—especially Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)—support both ecological conservation and the ATS's peacebuilding goals, using the proposed Domain 1 MPA (D1MPA) as a case study.

Methods: An interdisciplinary approach combines legal, political, and environmental policy analysis. Sources include CCAMLR records, regional frameworks, and comparative cases from areas like the South Atlantic. The presentation focuses on the Argentina-Chile partnership and its role in advancing both conservation and cooperation.

Results: The D1MPA illustrates both promise and tension in Antarctic governance. While Argentina and Chile show how science-based collaboration can overcome geopolitical

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divides, ongoing delays within CCAMLR reveal limits of consensus-based decision-making. Misinformation—such as false claims about the Treaty's expiration—also threatens the system's integrity.

Implications: Key takeaways: strengthening institutional resilience against disinformation; expanding civil society involvement to build public support; and recognizing MPAs as tools of preventive diplomacy to reduce future marine conflicts.

Conclusion: Environmental protection and peacebuilding in Antarctica are deeply linked. The D1MPA case shows that inclusive, science-led governance is essential to uphold the ATS and ensure Antarctica remains a global commons in an uncertain world.



Assessing Regional Effectiveness in Antarctic Affairs: The Cases of AFoPS, EPB, and RAPAL

Yanyan Shan⁵ and Giovannina Sutherland⁶

Shan Yanyan is a social scientist at Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC) and a PhD candidate at Shanghai Maritime University, majored in International Shipping and Law. She is interested in the research of Antarctic governance, Antarctic shipping, politics & law as well as China's participation in Antarctic related affairs.

She received her master degree from the Bush School of Texas A&M University and had been working as program manager at the position of international cooperation of PRIC, and was fortunate to participate in the establishments of three regional international organizations, namely, the Asian Forum for Polar Science (AFoPS), the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG), and the China Nordic Arctic Research Center (CNARC), as well as many other bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

Giovannina Sutherland is a PhD student in law at the University of Chile. Doctoral researcher at the Millennium Institute for the Biodiversity of Antarctic and Subantarctic Ecosystems (BASE) and Associate Researcher at the Millennium Nucleus: Impacts of China in Latin America and the Caribbean (ICLAC).

Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of three key regional organizations—AFoPS (Asian Forum for Polar Sciences), EPB (European Polar Board), and RAPAL (Reunión de Administradores de Programas Antárticos Latinoamericanos)—in promoting cooperation on Antarctic affairs. As regional forums dedicated to polar science and governance, these organizations play a significant yet underexplored role in shaping international engagement with Antarctica.

The analysis is structured around three interrelated dimensions. First, it explores the internal dynamics of each organization, including their institutional structures, decision-making processes, leadership selection mechanisms, and the scope of their polar engagement (e.g., whether their activities also involve the Arctic). Second, it evaluates the divergent interests and capacities of the member states within each organization—focusing on their Antarctic priorities, logistical and scientific infrastructure, institutional development, and the challenges they face in regional coordination. Third, it assesses governance effectiveness through a comparative review of documents submitted to the Antarctic Treaty System, including Background Papers (BPs), Information Papers (IPs), and Working Papers (WPs), as well as records from annual meetings and participation in Intersessional Contact Groups.

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By systematically comparing the operational modalities and outputs of AFoPS, EPB, and RAPAL, this study highlights the strengths and limitations of each structure in contributing to Antarctic governance. It also reflects on the broader implications of regional collaboration in a global commons context, where scientific cooperation, logistical synergy, and institutional alignment are increasingly vital. The findings aim to inform both policymakers and scholars about the potential and challenges of regional frameworks in enhancing Antarctic cooperation under the evolving landscape of polar geopolitics.



Chile's Middle-Power Diplomacy in Antarctic Governance: Lessons for the Arctic

Isabel Gimenez⁷

Isabel Gimenez is a political scientist with a Master's degree in International Studies, with professional experience in United Nations agencies and public institutions. Her work specializes in international relations, multilateral cooperation, and science diplomacy, with a particular focus on the Antarctic region.

Abstract

Drawing on theories of middle-power diplomacy and normative leadership, this study examines Chile's pivotal role within the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), highlighting its sustained commitment to scientific cooperation, environmental stewardship, and peaceful governance.

The research aims to understand how Chile's historical, geographical, and diplomatic ties to Antarctica have shaped its multilateral engagement, and to assess whether its governance approach offers transferable insights for the Arctic, despite structural and legal differences between the two polar regimes.

Using a qualitative comparative case-study methodology, the study combines document analysis of ATS records and Arctic governance frameworks.

Findings indicate that Chile's active participation in Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and its permanent scientific presence have enabled it to shape cooperative norms, particularly in environmental protection and science diplomacy. In contrast, Arctic governance remains more fragmented, with overlapping national jurisdictions and less institutionalized scientific collaboration.

Chile's experience demonstrates the potential of science-based, ecologically responsible diplomacy to influence global governance debates, even for states without superpower status.

By adopting a comparative polar lens, the study underscores the value of cooperative governance models in times of rapid environmental and geopolitical change, offering lessons for fostering trust, inclusivity, and sustainability in other contested global commons.

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Factors influencing conservation efforts at Fildes Bay, King George Island

Anisja Obermann⁸

Anisja Obermann is a PhD candidate in the Environmental Policy Group and the Earth Systems and Global Change Group at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Her PhD research is part of the international ANTARC-SHIP project, which investigates environmental stewardship among Antarctic tourism governance actors and institutions. Anisja's project, in particular, focuses on exploring the potentials and limitations of self-regulation of the Antarctic tourism industry. She holds a BSc in Geography from the University of Würzburg, Germany, and an interdisciplinary MSc called Sustainability, Society, and the Environment from Kiel University, Germany. Before starting her PhD, Anisja worked as a lecturer in Human Geography at Kiel University.

Abstract

Increasing tourism activity in the Antarctic affects the environment and shapes the dynamics of other Antarctic human activities. This can especially be observed at Fildes Bay on King George Island, where a growing number of tourists is channeled through an area that hosts several research stations. A set of state and non-state regulations is in place to avoid environmental impacts and ensure smooth operations. Even though several studies have called for enhanced environmental management at Fildes Bay, a joint conservation effort is still lacking. This study adopts a Mobilities perspective to explore the dynamics at Fildes Bay, local perspectives on potential management options, and which factors influence conservation efforts. To this end, the author team has conducted semi-structured interviews, a short survey, and observation data during two field trips to Fildes Bay in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Preliminary results show that the responsibility for decision-making and implementation is spread over multiple levels of governance, from tour guides and station personnel over station leaders to government officials of the Antarctic Treaty Parties. There is a disconnect between the knowledge about local needs, practices and concerns of those on the ground and the authority and capacity to act upon them. Moreover, the transitory character of individuals' presence in the Antarctic, together with a dependence on the commitment of individual people shape conservation efforts. These findings will give insights for future design processes of regulations and management strategies.

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Interdisciplinary Strategies for preserving Sealer Heritage in a Changing Antarctica

María Ximena Cruz⁹, Gersa de Alkmim Radicchi¹⁰ and Andrés Zarankin¹¹

María Ximena Cruz is an archaeologist and postdoctoral researcher at the National Museum, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since 2007, she has been part of the Antarctic Historical Archaeology Project. She studies the nineteenth-century presence of sealers in Antarctica, focusing on food practices, zooarchaeology, memory and production processes.

Gersa de Alkmim Radicchi is a researcher specialising in the conservation in archaeology, with a particular emphasis on the Antarctic context. Her expertise encompasses the preservation of wet organic materials and historical archaeological sites. She holds a PhD in Heritage Conservation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV), Spain, where she concentrated on conservation strategies during archaeological excavations in Antarctica. Since 2010, she has been actively engaged with the Laboratory of Antarctic Studies in Human Sciences (LEACH) in Brazil, contributing to projects related to Antarctic history and heritage conservation. Currently, she is an associated researcher at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE) and a member of the Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA), Portugal. She also serves as the principal investigator of a Horizon Europe MSCA project, where my research focuses on cultural and heritage studies in Antarctica.

Abstract

Antarctica's 19th-century sealer sites—particularly those on Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands—are fragile witnesses to the earliest human interactions with the region's environment. These archaeological remains, including shelters and artifacts, now face unprecedented pressures from accelerated climate change and growing human activity. Their vulnerability makes them a sensitive indicator of how environmental and social transformations reshape the continent's cultural record.

This paper presents an interdisciplinary approach that bridges archaeology, heritage conservation, and environmental analysis to address these challenges. Based on extensive fieldwork at Byers Peninsula (ASPA 126) and Elephant Point, we have developed a practical risk-assessment guide and matrix that integrate site characteristics, material vulnerabilities, and environmental data to identify priorities for in situ preservation. The matrix has been tested on a limited dataset from these two areas, serving as a proof of concept. This guide represents an important first step: its value lies in offering a simple, accessible methodology

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that is didactic, adaptable, and promising for further development and application to other Antarctic contexts experiencing rapid change.

By linking material evidence of past exploitation with present-day environmental dynamics, our proposal contributes directly to understanding and mitigating climate-driven deterioration of cultural heritage in polar environments. It also reframes sealer sites as dynamic records where human history, ecological processes, and current geopolitical realities converge.

In a time when Antarctica's natural and cultural systems are both under stress, safeguarding these sites means preserving irreplaceable archives of human–environment interaction—archives that can inform adaptive heritage management and enrich our collective understanding of the past in Antarctica



Plastic pollution is an emerging environmental threat in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

Vaibhavi Dwivedi¹²

Vaibhavi Dwivedi is a PhD candidate at the School of Social Sciences, University of Tasmania. She is currently researching the governance of plastic pollution in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. With a background in Law and Environmental Management, her work explores how global, regional, and national governance frameworks are addressing plastic pollution in the Antarctic region. She has previously lived and worked across India and the U.S. in various disciplines. Her professional experiences include working for Hawaiian monk seal conservation, co-founding and leading a climate literacy organization, being a nature tour guide, and tutoring different undergraduate level courses- from applied calculus to Antarctic governance!

Abstract

Despite growing concerns, the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) has not yet developed a coordinated response to it. This presentation investigates how the ATS has engaged with plastic pollution to date, drawing on global environmental governance and regime theory to assess institutional responses and policy developments within the ATS framework. Using qualitative methods, primarily document and interview analysis, it examines how different actors within the ATS have engaged with the threat of plastic pollution. The findings reveal that the ATS has adopted a cautious approach shaped by scientific uncertainty, consensus-based decision-making, and the regime's preference for soft-law mechanisms.

While recent institutional discussions within the ATS acknowledge the growing risk of plastic pollution, particularly microplastics, specific regulatory measures targetting plastics remain limited. This analysis suggests that existing responses reflect a slow and reactive approach, rather than applying a precautionary strategy. This presentation argues that without stronger institutional leadership, the ATS risks falling behind in addressing one of the most pervasive forms of pollution affecting the Antarctic region. This research contributes to understanding the potential and limitations of the ATS, highlighting the need for this regional regime to evolve in response to mounting global and scientific pressure to address plastic pollution.

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The power of not saying yes: objections without justification in Antarctic conservation politics

Hanna Yevchun¹³

Hanna Yevchun is an ecologist specializing in Antarctic terrestrial biodiversity, conservation planning, and environmental management. She is a PhD student (biodiversity), with field experience from two Antarctic summer expeditions. Since 2019, she has worked at the National Antarctic Center of Ukraine, contributing to international conferences including SCAR, workshops, and publications, as well as preparing policy documents on Antarctic protection and tourism impacts. Received the SCAR fellowship in 2022 for her research in applying machine learning to detecting the vegetation in Antarctica. Skilled in GIS mapping and data analysis, she developed a management plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area and Visitor Site Guidelines for Antarctic sites. Hanna is passionate about science communication, having volunteered to deliver Antarctic explorer talks in UK schools. She is expanding her expertise into environmental management and, recently, Antarctic policy in conservation.

Abstract

We trust that the decisions made during the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings are based on evidence and guided by a shared vision for a better future. However, when a single party can block a conservation initiative without clear justification, consensus turns into a game – not a tool of successful cooperation. Can we still protect Antarctica’s nature effectively if trust in the transparency of decision-making is undermined?

While cooperation on designating new Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and revising existing ones has been productive in general, troubling patterns have emerged over the past 15 years. To explore these patterns, we conducted a case-based analysis of ASPA initiatives, focusing on the nature of objections raised during the decision-making process. Our analysis reveals that objections to ASPA proposals are frequently applied selectively, depending on who the proponent is and whether the proposal aligns with the objecting party’s interests.

In some cases, a party blocks an initiative by objecting to the same features – such as a precautionary approach or a weak scientific basis – that were previously accepted for other initiatives. Objections like ‘too large an area’, ‘too many sites’, or ‘insufficient justification’ appear inconsistently, undermining the credibility of the process. This inconsistency is enhanced by the absence of measurable criteria for what constitutes ‘sufficient’ justification or how many sites are ‘too many’. Moreover, some objections remain vague or persist even after additional clarifications are provided. To address these issues, we propose concrete procedural improvements to strengthen transparency and scientific integrity in Antarctic conservation decision-making.

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What Deserves Priority in a Changing Climate: Visiting Antarctica or Experiencing it from Afar?

Kasuni Koswaththage¹⁴

Kasuni Koswaththage is a second-year PhD student at the University of Canterbury, originally from Sri Lanka. She had a bachelor's degree in Zoology and has a background in environmental science. After completing her undergraduate studies, she worked at the Department of Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka, where she was involved in several nature-based tourism initiatives, including community-based ecotourism and environmental education programs. These experiences sparked her interest in the relationship between tourism, conservation, and local communities. To further develop her knowledge, she pursued an MSc in Biodiversity, Ecotourism, and Environmental Management. Her doctoral research focuses on the impacts of Antarctic tourism on gateway cities, with a particular emphasis on Christchurch. Her research takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing from environmental science, tourism studies, and sociology.

Abstract

Antarctic tourism constitutes a significant aspect of human presence in Antarctica. Each year, during the austral summer, a substantial number of travellers visit the region. As interest in Antarctica continues to grow, concerns regarding the environmental footprint of tourism and its potential impact on fragile Antarctic ecosystems are also gaining increased attention. In light of these growing environmental concerns, it is crucial to explore and promote alternative ways of experiencing and appreciating Antarctica without necessitating a physical presence on the continent. An expert elicitation workshop held in Christchurch in October 2024 brought together stakeholders from different Antarctic sectors, including the tourism industry, government officials, logistic providers, consultants, researchers and business leaders, to discuss the role of Antarctic tourism in Christchurch as an Antarctic gateway. The workshop identified the different sub-sectors that shape Antarctic tourism in Christchurch as an Antarctic gateway and highlighted potential future challenges, such as overtourism and questions around the relevance of linkages between Antarctica and Christchurch, and opportunities, in relation to education and outreach opportunities, for the city in this context. One of the key insights that emerged from the workshop was the potential for Antarctic gateway cities to facilitate Antarctic engagement for the broader public in a sustainable manner, thereby minimising environmental pressures on the continent. The findings from the workshop can inform Antarctic tourism policy and contribute to rethinking the roles of Antarctic gateway cities as centres for Antarctic – and climate-change-related – education and outreach.

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Antarctic tourism and the Environmental Impact Assessment as a tool for tourism management

Gabriela Roldan¹⁵

Gabriela Roldan is a postdoctoral fellow at Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury. Gabriela's research focuses on human connections with Antarctica, particularly from outside the southern polar region. Her research interests include gateway cities to Antarctica, polar tourism management and trends in the industry, Antarctica's workforce, and Antarctic education modalities. Gabriela co-leads the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's Antarctic Tourism Action Group - SCAR Ant-TAG, and collaborates with international and multidisciplinary research projects focused on the polar regions. In addition, Gabriela has over twenty years of experience as a tour guide in Antarctica.

Abstract

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been the key tool within the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty to assess human impacts in the Antarctic. Tour operators must submit an EIA of their proposed activities in Antarctica to their national competent authority. Moreover, in the last decade, some tour operators submit a multi-year Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE), which includes the proposed activities for the next five seasons. Despite scholars' criticism that EIAs are not suitable tools for assessing Antarctic tourism activities impacts, particularly in a rapid changing industry, most EIAs submitted by tour operators have been approved.

On the field, tour expedition leaders make decisions on where and whether to conduct operations in Antarctica largely based on the availability of a known site, existent experienced staff, and industry-led training. Legally binding permits, such as EIAs are poorly understood by actors making decisions on the ground, largely considered to be administrative procedures rather than a guiding document on permitted, or not, activities granted to the specific operator.

This research analysed the IEEs submitted for tourism activities for the last two decades, available at the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty website. This paper shows the need for a standardised approach on the information provided in the IEE by tour operators, and the need to reevaluate what is considered a minor to transitory impact in tourism activities. Also, we argue that tourism industry practitioners are detached with the regulatory management system posing further threats to management and environmental protection of Antarctica.

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The use of Soft Power in the geopolitical dispute over Antarctica: A comparative study between Argentina, Chile and the United Kingdom (1961–2024)

María Agustina Falco¹⁶

María Agustina Falco is a Political Science graduate from the National University of La Matanza, with an associate degree in Public Management. Her interest in Antarctic issues began during her academic training and deepened through her participation in Agenda Antártica, an NGO where she collaborates on educational and awareness-raising initiatives. She is passionate about international relations and the role of Argentina in global governance, particularly in polar regions. She enjoys working in interdisciplinary and multicultural environments, and she is always eager to learn and contribute. She speaks Spanish as her native language, and she has a C1 level of English.

Abstract

This research explores how Argentina, Chile, and the United Kingdom have employed soft power strategies in the geopolitical dispute over Antarctica from the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty in 1961 to 2024. Adopting a qualitative and comparative approach, it examines how each country, despite overlapping territorial claims, has deployed non-coercive tools of influence in a space where hard power is limited.

The analysis focuses on four key dimensions of soft power across six historical periods and evaluates their effectiveness through five analytical axes. The findings reveal notable structural asymmetries among the actors. Argentina demonstrates a consistent physical presence and a strong identity narrative but faces budget constraints, limited diplomatic articulation, and reduced international visibility. Chile implements a coherent strategy combining scientific cooperation, cultural diplomacy, and environmental discourse, effectively positioning itself as a “gateway” to the continent. The United Kingdom stands out as the most effective soft power actor, leveraging its leadership in international forums, integration into global networks, and ability to transform scientific legitimacy into geopolitical influence.

The study concludes that soft power in Antarctica is not autonomous but shaped by deeper structural conditions, such as economic capabilities, scientific infrastructure, and multilateral engagement. Strategic alliances and negotiation skills also play a crucial role. Finally, the research reflects on the growing challenges for Antarctic governance amid increasing competition for natural resources, environmental risks, and shifting global power dynamics.

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Fields of competence? Navigating the areas where ATCM has become active

Gustavo Ramírez Buchheister¹⁷

Gustavo Ramírez Buchheister is a lecturer in International Law and Constitutional Law at Universidad de Magallanes (Punta Arenas, Chile) and PhD Candidate in Law at KU Leuven (Belgium). His research interests include International Law in Antarctica, currently focusing on the exercise of sovereignty under the Antarctic Treaty System, as well as its links with International Institutional Law.

Abstract

Over the course of six decades, ATCMs have addressed multiple topics and made decisions on them, producing recommendations, measures, decisions, and resolutions. If the Antarctic Treaty had created an international organisation, a list of competences could be expected; however, the myriad of topics discussed and decided upon at past ATCMs far exceed article IX's five literals. Which fields does the ATCM's scope currently include? This contribution aims at providing an overview of the areas that currently can arguably be considered as part of its scope – and some that can be said to be excluded. Inquiry will be done by ascertaining the topics of the Meetings' agreed agendas and of “recommendations” through documentary analysis.

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Tourism at the Edge: Environmental Histories and the Shifting Governance of Antarctica's Human Footprint

Indu Vinayagam¹⁸

Indu Vinayagam is a recent graduate in Global Environmental Studies and is currently pursuing a PhD. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and completed her master's as valedictorian, focusing on the environmental history of the Antarctic Treaty System. Her work bridges environmental history, global governance, and polar studies. Her PhD project, *Tourism at the Edge*, explores how tourism governance in Antarctica has evolved through shifting environmental imaginaries, legal frameworks, and geopolitical dynamics. She examines IAATO, treaty archives, and compares governance in exceptional domains like Outer Space. Her research interests include multilateral environmental agreements, intergenerational justice, and the role of imaginaries in international law. Originally from India, she has studied and conducted research in Japan and is committed to interdisciplinary approaches in the polar humanities.

Abstract

Antarctica's transformation from a remote scientific reserve to a rapidly growing tourism destination shows a deeper historical trajectory of how humanity has imagined, accessed, and managed the planet's most fragile frontiers. This research uses an environmental history lens to look at the evolution of Antarctic tourism governance from mid-20th-century adventure voyages to contemporary challenges posed by mass visitation, luxury expeditions, and climate vulnerability.

Focusing on the ATS and its associated bodies, the research reconstructs how regulatory approaches to tourism have been shaped by geopolitical shifts, environmental ethics, and institutional experimentation. It examines how voluntary self-regulation, particularly by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) has filled legal gaps in the absence of binding tourism limits, and how recent pressures have spurred renewed calls for a comprehensive regulatory framework. Drawing from archival records, treaty negotiations, and stakeholder interviews, the research explores how environmental imaginaries and legal norms have evolved in tandem.

The research also situates Antarctic tourism within a broader planetary context, comparing it to governance efforts in similarly exceptional domains like Outer Space. In doing so, it highlights tourism as a revealing site through which changing global values—around environmental protection, commercial access, and intergenerational justice—are being contested.

As Antarctica enters a new era marked by climate change and intensifying interest, this research foregrounds the urgent need to rethink how tourism is governed—not only as a

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matter of policy, but as a reflection of who we believe should tread in places meant to be preserved. It's not a prison, a place trapped in ice, but a place still unopened, full of possibilities—an infinite world reminiscent of outer space, waiting to be approached with care, curiosity, and hope.



Implementing the protection of intrinsic value in Antarctica – a case study

Rupert Summerson¹⁹, Lynda Goldsworthy²⁰ and Rebecca Konijnenberg²¹

Rupert Summerson first went to Antarctica in 1980 as a field assistant with the British Antarctic Survey. He was employed as the manager of the Australian Antarctic Mapping and Geographic Information Program from 1990-1995. He has spent three and a half years living in Antarctica, including three winters and has visited the continent 10 times with three national Antarctic programs, most recently on a tourist ship. In 2013 he was awarded a PhD on The Protection of Wilderness and Aesthetic Values in Antarctica at the University of Melbourne and has published a number of papers and book chapters on the subject. He is currently leading the SC-HASS Action Group on Intrinsic Value in Antarctica.

Lynda Goldsworthy is a Research Associate and member of the geopolitics lab at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and Member of the Centre for Marine Socioecology at the University of Tasmania. Since 1983, she has been actively engaged in Antarctic and high seas policy development, governance and conservation and has attended multiple Antarctic Treaty, CCAMLR and Regional Fisheries Agreements meetings.

She completed her Ph.D. in 2022 at IMAS on the viability of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in the geopolitically dynamic and climate changing environment. Her current research and consultancy focus is on high seas marine governance, and conservation, and responses to climate and biodiversity protection actions.

Lynda was awarded the Order of Australia (Member) for services to conservation and environment in 1991 and the New Zealand Antarctic Conservation Trophy in 1990.

Abstract

The Madrid Protocol, mandates the protection of the intrinsic value of Antarctica: The protection of the Antarctic environment [...] and the intrinsic value of Antarctica, including its wilderness and aesthetic values [...] shall be fundamental considerations in the planning and conduct of all activities in the Antarctic Treaty area. The Madrid Protocol therefore links wilderness and aesthetic values with intrinsic value.

There is some justification in doing so. Immanuel Kant argued that “a judgement of taste is devoid of all interest”, in other words it is a disinterested judgement, in which case it cannot be an instrumental value but must therefore be an intrinsic value. The concept of wilderness can be problematic, but it is also a candidate for intrinsic value, on condition that the wilderness, however it is defined, is protected for its own sake, not for instrumental reasons.

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There are arguments for and against wilderness and aesthetic values being intrinsic values but given that the Madrid Protocol links them and the focus is on protecting these values in Antarctica, it can be safely taken as a starting point.

That being the case, the tools that have been developed for assessing wilderness and aesthetic values, which were first developed in the US in the 1970s can be applied. A case study area in the Vestfold Hills will be described. Results from a survey of perceptions of wilderness and aesthetic value will be presented, which have been re-assessed using potential indicators of intrinsic value.



Towards transparency and accessibility in Southern Ocean governance: assessing the applicability of ATCM 47 WP16 to CCAMLR

Katie Marx²² and Lynda Goldsworthy²³

Katie Marx is a postdoctoral researcher within the University's Antarctic Tourism Research Program. Her doctoral research focused on the concept of place attachment in Hobart, an Antarctic gateway city. From this, she has built an interest in exploring how we can support members of the public to form a meaningful relationship with remote places (such as Antarctica) that they themselves may never visit. Katie has a professional background in community development; a skillset that she draws upon when examining methods for increasing public participation in the conservation of the polar regions.

Lynda Goldsworthy spent many years working as a non-government advocate for high seas and Antarctic conservation and climate change action, and guiding a broad range of non-government organisations to become more effective and efficient in their governance. She then undertook a Ph.D. at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, graduating in 2022, and is now an IMAS Associate. Her research focus is high seas and Antarctic governance and geopolitics. Current projects include spatial protection in the Southern Ocean, the rights of nature for Antarctica, and decision-forming mechanisms for the Antarctic Treaty System.

Abstract

Transparency is now a fundamental element utilised when considering the effectiveness of international environmental governance regimes. Many international bodies routinely make their negotiating papers available to the general public and invite stakeholders with relevant expertise to attend, present position papers, and make interventions. The Antarctic Treaty System of Treaties have long been criticised for their failure to address modern transparency norms. The recent 2025 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting discussed a proposal (ATCM47-WP16) addressing this issue and including recommendations around increased media access and the participation of community stakeholders.

In this paper, we consider CCAMLR's approach to transparency and ask whether the ATCM's recent discussions may also be relevant for the wider Antarctic Treaty System. Taking ATCM47-WP16 as a starting point, we assess its applicability to CCAMLR and identify any additional avenues that may support transparency within CCAMLR. Our analysis uses the reports of CCAMLR's Annual meetings to review of the application of CCAMLR's rules of procedure, and observer participation. We also examine the existing opportunities for media and other stakeholders to be included in CCAMLR's proceedings. We find that CCAMLR lags behind even the minimal suggestions for transparency outlined in WP16. Furthermore, we see an additional need for CCAMLR to view audience

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comprehension as a key component of transparency. Our paper concludes with some practical recommendations to improve CCAMLR's performance in relation to transparency.



Emerging trends in Antarctic and Southern Ocean academic publishing

Elizabeth Leane²⁴

Elizabeth Leane is Professor of Antarctic Studies in the School of Humanities, University of Tasmania. She has a career-long drive to understand how non-specialists can connect with remote or seemingly inaccessible places and ideas. With degrees in both science and literature, she uses the insights of the humanities to understand how humans relate to the Antarctic, the 'continent for science'. She has visited Antarctica as a writer-in-resident, an educator and a researcher, with the Australian, New Zealand and Chilean national programs, and with tour operators. Her books include *Antarctica in Fiction* and *South Pole: Nature and Culture* and the co-edited collections *Anthropocene Antarctica* and *Performing Ice*. She is currently leading several large projects focused on the Antarctic region, including partnered research with government agencies nationally and internationally, and tourism operators.

Abstract

At a time when the West Antarctic region is rapidly warming and its ice shelves are destabilising, understanding the Antarctic and Southern Ocean (ASO) environment through research is more critical than ever before. The volume, quality, national and disciplinary distribution, and collaborative nature of ASO research occurring can signal the collective effort humans put into understanding the Antarctic region and can also play a role in political decision-making.

This presentation provides a preliminary report on research led by the University of the Arctic with the University of Tasmania analysing scientific output on ASO topics, using peer-reviewed publications as a proxy. We examined relevant papers over 2016-2024 using the Scopus database and (primarily) a fractional counting method.

We found that the number of ASO publications peaked in 2021 and fell slightly yearly through 2024. Of the top six countries in overall publications, all except China have declined in publication numbers since 2016, including in top quartile publications. While previous bibliometrics studies have found that the US produces the most ASO research, our results indicate that China overtook the US in overall publication numbers in 2022, and in top quartile publication numbers in 2024. ASO publications involve collaboration between countries that is greater than the average rate for all fields and topics, but Russia, India and China have anomalously low rates of ASO collaboration as captured in publications.

Our results align with recent media reports of decreasing investment in ASO in the US. They may indicate a changing of the guard in ASO research and concomitant influence.

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The Polar Plunge: Fostering ambassadorship or just making a splash?

Elizabeth Leane²⁵ and Katie Marx²⁶

Elizabeth Leane is Professor of Antarctic Studies in the School of Humanities, University of Tasmania. She has a career-long drive to understand how non-specialists can connect with remote or seemingly inaccessible places and ideas. With degrees in both science and literature, she uses the insights of the humanities to understand how humans relate to the Antarctic, the 'continent for science'. She has visited Antarctica as a writer-in-resident, an educator and a researcher, with the Australian, New Zealand and Chilean national programs, and with tour operators. Her books include *Antarctica in Fiction* and *South Pole: Nature and Culture* and the co-edited collections *Anthropocene Antarctica* and *Performing Ice*. She is currently leading several large projects focused on the Antarctic region, including partnered research with government agencies nationally and internationally, and tourism operators.

Katie Marx is a postdoctoral researcher within the University's Antarctic Tourism Research Program. Her doctoral research focused on the concept of place attachment in Hobart, an Antarctic gateway city. From this, she has built an interest in exploring how we can support members of the public to form a meaningful relationship with remote places (such as Antarctica) that they themselves may never visit. Katie has a professional background in community development; a skillset that she draws upon when examining methods for increasing public participation in the conservation of the polar regions.

Abstract

The 'polar plunge' – a brief immersion into the freezing ocean – has long been a standard ingredient of expedition-style tourism in Antarctica. One online guide to Antarctic cruising identifies three reasons to do the plunge: "The Ultimate Rush"; "A Badge of Honor"; and "A Connection to the Environment." With researchers and policy-makers becoming increasingly concerned about diversification of activities in Antarctica, the mix of these motivations is important. If tourism is aimed, as the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators claims, at creating a corps of ambassadors, then connection to the environment – or what in theoretical terms is called 'place attachment' – should be paramount. But does the polar plunge actually foster place attachment?

The University of Tasmania's Antarctic Tourism Research Program has partnered with two operators to conduct in situ interviews with 189 tourists to understand how different experiences influence their relationship with Antarctica. As part of this broader project, we asked participants about their polar plunge experiences in what is, to our knowledge, the first empirical study into this topic. We found that, while environmental connection was not a primary motivation for most polar plungers, some participants felt that plunging increased

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their environmental awareness and helped them bond with fellow passengers. While more research is needed into culturally specific responses to the plunge and other forms of cold-water immersion in Antarctic waters, such as ice-swimming, these results demonstrate the potential for the plunge to contribute to a pro-environmental ambassador effect.



Digitization of Cultural Heritage: The Case Study of the Antarctic Legacy of South Africa (ALSA)

Dana Jellin²⁷

Dana Jellin recently graduated with a Master of Philosophy specialising in Digital Curation from the University of Cape Town (2025). She also holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies. Her MPhil research focused on the Antarctic Legacy of South Africa (ALSA), and in early 2025 she joined the ALSA project as an Assistant Digital Archivist. She will be presenting findings from my master's dissertation, which explored ALSA's digitisation approaches and challenges.

Abstract

This study investigates and documents the digitisation approaches and challenges faced by the Antarctic Legacy of South Africa (ALSA), a project dedicated to preserving South Africa's involvement in the Antarctic region since the Antarctic Heritage Era. The research examines why ALSA digitises cultural heritage materials, its digitisation approaches, challenges encountered, and how they can be addressed. Conducted within the interpretive paradigm using a qualitative case study approach, the research involved thematic analysis of ten ALSA documents and semi-structured interviews with six individuals associated with ALSA. The findings highlight ALSA's value in enhancing research, public awareness, and national pride, as well as its initiative to preserve and provide access to SA's Antarctic involvement via a digital archive. The conclusions outline ALSA's digitisation approaches, identify capacity and workflow challenges, and propose strategies to address them. It recommends applying the Theory of Constraints, which guided this study, as well as developing a formal digitisation policy. Further research into user experience of ALSA's archive is suggested.

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Polar Fried Chicken? Tensions between public engagement and fast food marketing in KFC South Africa's Beyond the Sea campaign

Adrienne van Eeden-Wharton²⁸ and Charne Lavery²⁹

Adrienne van Eeden-Wharton is an artist-researcher based in Cape Town, South Africa. Her current research focuses on intra-oceanic environmental histories linking Africa with the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic regions. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pretoria on the 'Antarctica, Africa and the Arts' project (2021-2023) and is a member of the research team for the South African National Research Foundation project 'Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme (AWP) Pilot' (2024-2026). Her praxis has been shaped by years of walking and gathering along the shores of the southern African mainland coast and adjacent islands, and more recently journeying to the sub-Antarctic.

Charne Lavery is an associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She is co-founder, with Isabel Hofmeyr, of the Oceanic Humanities for the Global South research project and platform (www.oceanichumanities.com), and principal investigator on the South African National Research Foundation project 'Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme (AWP) Pilot'. She is the author of *Writing Ocean Worlds: Indian Ocean Fiction in English* (Palgrave 2021), and articles including 'Antarctic and Africa' and 'The Oceanic South'. She has also published three co-edited books: *Maritime Mobilities in Anglophone Literature and Culture* (Palgrave 2023), *Reading from the South: African Print Cultures and Oceanic Turns in Isabel Hofmeyr's Work* (Wits University Press 2023), and *Reading for Water: Materiality and Method* (Routledge 2024).

Abstract

Background: This paper describes a recent marketing campaign by Kentucky Fried Chicken South Africa which prominently features Marion Island – part of South Africa's southernmost territory and the site of significant long-term scientific research and monitoring programmes. Beyond the Sea tells the story of two fictional overwintering expeditioners on the remote sub-Antarctic island who miss home (or rather, the taste of KFC) so much that they head out in a rigid inflatable on the 2,000km journey back to the fast food chain's nearest outlet on the mainland. The integrated campaign blends promotional material and unbranded science communication, and raises questions about how corporate advertising can contribute to public awareness of and engagement with the polar regions.

Methods: We examine these tensions through a thematic analysis of the filmic advertisement and critical discussion of the campaign's messaging within the context of South Africa's polar histories and existing public engagement programmes.

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Results: While the campaign may have helped polar awareness in minor ways, its main function is the production of brand recognition and customer loyalty.

Implications: This leads not only to mistakes in representation, but also more insidious narratives of distance and disconnection which may undermine, rather than promote, a sense of care and stewardship.

Conclusion: Polar science communication and public engagement programmes can learn from the campaign's popularity and reach, including the value of humour and inclusivity. These have a bearing on "science communication for social justice" and encouraging Antarctic artistic and cultural production from Africa and globally.



Antarctic Imaginaries on Social Media: Visual Regimes, the Pharmakon Effect, and Environmental Implications

Fernando Huayquiñir³⁰

Fernando Huayquiñir is an artist and geographer whose work bridges cultural geography, artistic research, and environmental studies. Currently pursuing a Master's in Artistic Research at Universidad Mayor (Chile), complementing a Master's in Residential Habitat and a BA in Geography from the University of Chile, where I explored the aesthetic–affective dimensions of dwelling and spatial perception through creative methodologies. Completed the Polar Studies Diploma at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. My current art-based research focuses on Antarctic imaginaries, human–landscape affective relations, posthuman perspectives on ecosystems, tourism imagery politics, and the intersections of art, geography, and climate change. I have participated in residencies such as Radicante and TSONAMI, and presented at the XII Chilean Antarctic Research Congress (CCIA), “Las Potencias Vitales de las Tierras Fronterizas” (University of Chile), and the XL National & XXV International Geography Congress (SOCHIGEO).

Abstract

Theoretical background: This research examines how Antarctic imaginaries are constructed and reproduced through social media images, particularly on Instagram and TikTok. Drawing from cultural geography, visual culture studies, and aesthetic philosophy, it conceptualizes such images as an environmental “pharmakon” (Soto-Calderón, 2020)—both remedy and poison—capable of mobilizing protective emotions while enabling symbolic, aesthetic, and economic exploitation. The study aims to reveal how visual narratives shape perceptions, desires, and potential interventions in the territory.

Methods: An exploratory qualitative approach was adopted, collecting and analysing images posted in the last year across Instagram and TikTok, doing a content analysis of visual, textual information (Acuti et al., 2018) and sound information. Selection focused on posts explicitly referencing Antarctica, with attention to recurring aesthetic tropes and narrative framings. The visual analysis was contextualized through historical comparisons with colonial engravings for example Paul Gauguin’s idealized depictions of Tahiti (Staszak, 2004).

Results: Findings indicate a dominance of imagery that emphasises sublimity, exclusivity, luxury tourism, and extreme adventure, aligning with a hegemonic visual regime that naturalises elite tourism and territorial appropriation, echoing historical exoticist and colonial constructions.

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Implications: Such visual tropes contribute to environmental pressures, mirroring phenomena like the “Bieber effect” in Iceland (Pálsdóttir, 2019), where media exposure accelerates unsustainable tourism. The persistence and circulation of these images reinforce geopolitical and extractive narratives (Goffard, 2019).

Conclusion: Antarctic imagery in digital culture is not merely descriptive but performative, actively shaping the continent’s symbolic and material futures. Challenging this visual hegemony requires alternative representations that interrupt dominant narratives, foster critical engagement, and promote more ethical relationships with the Antarctic landscape.

This research is part of the author’s artistic research project within the Master’s in Artistic Research, which will conclude in an artwork.



Antarctic Living Heritage: Approaching Emerging Cultural Manifestations in a Context of Transient Inhabitancy

Gerusa de Alkmim Radicchi³¹

Gerusa de Alkmim Radicchi is a researcher specialising in the conservation in archaeology, with a particular emphasis on the Antarctic context. Her expertise encompasses the preservation of wet organic materials and historical archaeological sites. She holds a PhD in Heritage Conservation from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV), Spain, where she concentrated on conservation strategies during archaeological excavations in Antarctica. Since 2010, she has been actively engaged with the Laboratory of Antarctic Studies in Human Sciences (LEACH) in Brazil, contributing to projects related to Antarctic history and heritage conservation. Currently, she is an associated researcher at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE) and a member of the Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA), Portugal. She also serves as the principal investigator of a Horizon Europe MSCA project, where my research focuses on cultural and heritage studies in Antarctica.

Abstract

This presentation explores emerging cultural manifestations in Antarctica and their points of intersection and divergence with global conceptual instruments and political frameworks aimed at identifying and documenting intangible heritage. UNESCO, for instance, defines Living Heritage as dynamic cultural manifestations, part of everyday life, deeply rooted in places, continuously transmitted and recreated across generations. While situated within the broader framework of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the concept of Living Heritage offers a more flexible and contemporary perspective, encompassing both enduring traditions and newly emerging practices shaped by present-day realities. Nonetheless, in making these concepts the focus of the present work, we remain mindful that they are not neutral tools; instead, they inherently reflect and promote specific values, and too often, these values have been defined through top-down approaches.

Antarctica, in turn, presents a unique and complex context for heritage studies, shaped by its transient population, international collaboration, and the principle of geopolitical neutrality. These distinctive conditions prompt critical reflection: Can existing international frameworks for the nomination of living heritage effectively encompass the emerging cultural manifestations in Antarctica, or is there a need to develop an alternative conceptual and methodological approach?

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The Antarctic Living Heritage (ALIGHT) project, funded by the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship (Horizon Europe), investigates these questions. We argue that culturally embedded practices shape social interactions, as well as our relationships with the environment and with other living beings, and can promote education and peacebuilding in the Antarctic context.



Antarctic Drift: Southern Africa's Heritage of Ice

Siyotula-Siegemund³²

Sikho Siyotula-Siegemund is a visual artist and curator based in Pretoria. Her digital drawings reimagine Southern African landscapes as layered, living archives. Currently a research associate at the University of Pretoria and a postdoctoral fellow with the Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme Pilot, her work spans artistic practice and curatorial inquiry. Drawing from fragments of archaeology, history, and anthropology, she explores how the distant past shapes alternative futures. For Siyotula-Siegemund, images and exhibitions alike serve as active agents — tools for questioning inherited narratives, reclaiming marginalised histories, and opening new ways of seeing and sensing the world. She completed a PhD with the Research Training Group Minor Cosmopolitanisms, where she examined the Southern African Late Iron Age as a site of overlooked cosmopolitanisms, offering new perspectives on the region's historical complexity.

Abstract

Motivation: The exhibition *Antarctic Drift: Southern Africa's Heritage of Ice* explores the environmental, cultural, and historical interconnections between Southern Africa and Antarctica amid accelerating climate change. Though geographically distant, these regions are linked through atmospheric circulation, ocean currents, migratory species, and shared histories of exploration and scientific collaboration. Despite this, Antarctica remains largely absent from African cultural consciousness, even as its ice melt critically affects Southern African rainfall, biodiversity, and coastline.

Methods: Developed in partnership with the South African National Research Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme (AWP) Pilot within the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP), the exhibition employs "drift" as both a glacial process and a curatorial methodology. This interdisciplinary framework facilitates dialogue among artists, writers, and scientists, integrating creative practices such as photography, installation, performance, and writing with scientific research in climate science, oceanography, and glaciology.

Results: By positioning Antarctica alongside post-apartheid and postcolonial Southern African landscapes, the exhibition reveals submerged connections and temporal slowness, reframing Antarctica as part of Southern Africa's environmental and imaginative heritage.

Implications: The exhibition highlights the cultural invisibility of Antarctica within African discourse and emphasises its crucial environmental role, encouraging audiences to recognise intertwined ecological and historical narratives that transcend geographic distance.

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Conclusions: Antarctic Drift foregrounds how Southern Africa is spoken about in relation to Antarctica, making these often invisible connections visible to audiences. The exhibition challenges dominant cultural narratives by presenting Antarctica as integral to African environmental futures and encourages new modes of thinking about shared planetary histories and responsibilities.



From Punta Arenas to Hobart: an action research project to support youth Antarctic engagement in the gateway cities

Katie Marx³³, Elizabeth Leane³⁴ and Katherine Vollrath³⁵

Katie Marx is a postdoctoral researcher within the University's Antarctic Tourism Research Program. Her doctoral research focused on the concept of place attachment in Hobart, an Antarctic gateway city. From this, she has built an interest in exploring how we can support members of the public to form a meaningful relationship with remote places (such as Antarctica) that they themselves may never visit. Katie has a professional background in community development; a skillset that she draws upon when examining methods for increasing public participation in the conservation of the polar regions.

Elizabeth Leane is Professor of Antarctic Studies in the School of Humanities, College of Arts, Law and Education. She has a career-long drive to understand how non-specialists can connect with remote or seemingly inaccessible places and ideas. With degrees in both science and literature, she uses the insights of the humanities to understand how humans relate to the Antarctic, the 'continent for science'.

Abstract

As cities that enjoy a range of geographic, social, political, and economic connections to the far south, the Antarctic gateways are well placed to foster a sense of polar environmental stewardship in their residents. One challenge for gateways, then, is to support residents from different cities to connect with both Antarctica and one another. The Antarctic Youth Coalition: from Punta Arenas to Hobart is a new project designed to address the issue of youth engagement within the gateways. Developed by the University of Tasmania, City of Hobart, and the Antarctic Youth Coalition (AYC), and with support from the Council of Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR), this project aims to establish a new AYC chapter in Hobart, drawing on the insights of and forming connections with the Punta Arenas AYC. We will conduct an action research project around these activities to understand how the Antarctic sector can best support grassroots youth engagement in and beyond the gateway cities.

In this paper, we discuss emergent project findings, with a particular focus on the potential methodological contribution of action research to the field of Antarctic public engagement. We find that action research has allowed us to draw upon and empower a diverse range of Antarctic voices, but that timeline and funding constraints have necessitated trade-offs in the co-design process. To this end, we recommend that future projects consider strategies to incorporate reflexivity practices as an ongoing component of the research process.

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The Value of Participatory Science Programs on Antarctic Travelers Experiences

Julia Lowe³⁶

Julia Lowe is an early career researcher who recently received her Master's of Advanced Studies in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. She has a background in education and completed her undergraduate degree in Development Sociology from Cornell University. She is interested in learning about how we connect to our environments, and how to best facilitate this connection, specifically through participatory sciences. Her graduate project focused on travelers' experience participating in science programming on Antarctic cruise ships.

Abstract

Travel to Antarctica is increasing, with more than 123,000 visitors traveling to the continent last season. As visitation increases, Antarctic tour expedition vessels are increasingly incorporating participatory science programs (PSP) on board as engagement activities for travelers to contribute to scientific efforts. FjordPhyto is a PSP engaging visitors with phytoplankton (microscopic algae) and their ecological importance in Antarctica, and operates annually on fifteen cruise ships throughout the western Antarctic Peninsula. Over 10,000 travelers have aided in gathering phytoplankton samples facilitated by FjordPhyto-trained expedition guides. After the activity, travelers can volunteer to fill out a post-participation survey. Surveys were distributed to participants on board 15 different IAATO-member cruise expedition vessels between November and March during 2021-2025. Analysis of 250 surveys showed participation in FjordPhyto contributed to travelers' perceptions of a more meaningful travel experience, and positive experiences could be attributed to the role of guides in facilitating connections to the Antarctic ecosystem. Responses indicated that 62% of participants were unaware that PSP would be available prior to booking their trip. Additionally, 65% of participants reported that the availability of PSP would influence their decision to book trips in the future. Further analysis can help to develop programming to further enhance the traveler experience, with the potential to transform travelers into passionate polar advocates and community science participants upon return home.

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The evolution of dwelling at Brown Station: Architecture, identity and challenges in Antarctica

María Julia Chiesa³⁷

María Julia Chiesa was born in Ushuaia (Argentina) in 1994 and holds a degree in Architecture from the Torcuato di Tella University (UTDT, Buenos Aires, Argentina). She worked for four years as a teaching assistant in multiple courses within the architecture program at UTDT. After returning to her hometown, she began a Master's degree in Antarctic Studies at the National University of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands, which she is currently pursuing. During this time in Ushuaia, she has been working as an architect at the Instituto Fueguino de Turismo and collaborating with an architecture studio based in Mallorca (Spain). In the 2023-2024 Antarctic Summer Campaign, she participated as environmental officer at Brown Station. This experience sparked her interest in exploring the relationship between architecture and live experiences.

Abstract

Since the 20th century, several nations have established stations in Antarctica, which, over the time, have been abandoned, closed, remodeled, expanded or rebuilt. These transformations are shaped by the remoteness of the region, high logistical costs, and the particularities of the territory, which demand unique ways of inhabiting it. In recent years, a trend toward an “Antarctic Style” (V. Nuviala et al., 2023) has become consolidated, tending to homogenize architecture, impose a single narrative, and displace the differences that shape each country's identity within the unique framework of the Antarctic Treaty System. Within this context, and as the modernization of Brown Station is planned through the 2023-2024 Annual Antarctic Plan, this study analyzes the station's architectural transformation process and its impact on the experiences of dwelling. Dwelling is understood as the articulation between a material dimension, architecture, and a mental dimension, constructed through the experiences that give meaning to space.

The analysis covers the period from the station's inauguration to the present, organized into three stages defined by two key events: the transfer of the station's administration to the Argentine Antarctic Institute and the 1984 fire. Through a qualitative approach based on interviews, observations from my participation in 2023-2024 Antarctic Summer Campaign at Brown Station, and documentary sources, the study aims to provide tools for a future remodeling that acknowledges the station's history and uniqueness, advocating for a more authentic way of dwelling, one that goes beyond the logic of standardized architectural objects.

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Guides Who Quit: When Leaving Becomes an Act of Environmental Care

Zdenka Sokolickova³⁸, Elizabeth Cooper³⁹ and Christy Hehir⁴⁰

Zdenka Sokolickova is interested in anthropology of environmental and climate change, globalization, tourism, migration and social justice. Her geographical focus includes Svalbard and Antarctica.

Elizabeth Cooper conducts research on sustainable tourist behavior. She is particularly interested in the relationships between visiting remote destinations and engagement in high-impact pro-environmental behaviors.

Christy's Hehir research examines the role tourism plays in (re)connecting people to nature and understanding the correlations between tourists' experiences and their subsequent pro-environmental behavior.

Abstract

We examine Antarctic tour guides who voluntarily leave the industry as a response to ethical concerns about tourism's environmental impacts. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 25 former guides, we investigate how individuals who are professionally and emotionally invested in Antarctica come to view their own participation in tourism as morally untenable.

Using a theoretical framework grounded in moral dilemmas, ethical negotiation, and care theory, the study traces how participants move from awareness of environmental harm to the decision to disengage. We reconceptualise the often-cited attitude–behaviour gap by identifying a series of smaller, cumulative gaps. Rather than a linear shift from concern to behaviour, we observe a recursive and reflective process described by participants as a kind of moral spiral.

The findings challenge dominant assumptions in pro-environmental behaviour research that equate environmental care with active engagement or mitigation strategies. Instead, this study positions withdrawal—refusing to participate—as a legitimate and often deeply considered expression of care for both place and self. For these guides, quitting was not abandonment, but a form of ethical alignment with their values and the vulnerable ecosystems they once helped others to access. This research contributes to scholarship on environmental ethics by foregrounding the voices of frontline actors making high-stakes moral decisions.

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Environmental stewardship and wicked problems: Identifying meaningful pathways to ambassadorship for Antarctic tourists

Katie Marx⁴¹ and Elizabeth Leane⁴²

Katie Marx is a postdoctoral researcher within the University's Antarctic Tourism Research Program. Her doctoral research focused on the concept of place attachment in Hobart, an Antarctic gateway city. From this, she has built an interest in exploring how we can support members of the public to form a meaningful relationship with remote places (such as Antarctica) that they themselves may never visit. Katie has a professional background in community development; a skillset that she draws upon when examining methods for increasing public participation in the conservation of the polar regions.

Elizabeth Leane is Professor of Antarctic Studies in the School of Humanities, College of Arts, Law and Education. She has a career-long drive to understand how non-specialists can connect with remote or seemingly inaccessible places and ideas. With degrees in both science and literature, she uses the insights of the humanities to understand how humans relate to the Antarctic, the 'continent for science'.

Abstract

The concept of the "Antarctic ambassador" has become a central narrative in polar tourism, based on the idea that tourists can play a constructive role in supporting Antarctic conservation. With over 100,000 people visiting Antarctica each year, this group represents a potentially powerful force in shaping environmental outcomes. However, existing scholarship often treats ambassadorship as a straightforward outcome of attitude change, overlooking the complexity of conservation as a wicked problem—a challenge marked by interwoven social, political, and ecological factors. This study aims to examine how post-trip ambassadorship is conceptualized within Antarctic tourism and to propose a more nuanced, action-oriented framework that accounts for the diversity of tourist motivations, capabilities, and contexts.

As part of a broader project on Antarctic tourist experiences, we conducted semi-structured interviews with 121 tourists who had recently returned from Antarctica. Participants were asked about their emotional and cognitive responses to the trip, how it influenced their views on Antarctica, and what actions they intended to take upon returning home. Analysis revealed six distinct types of Antarctic ambassadors, differentiated by their preferred modes of engagement and areas of influence, and five key conditions necessary for successful ambassadorship. Antarctic conservation is a wicked problem that requires multi-faceted responses. We argue that fostering effective ambassadorship demands a more tailored, systems-based approach. To this end, we propose a multi-level model that maps strategic pathways to action for the six identified ambassador types, offering a foundation for both scholarly advancement and practical intervention within the tourism sector.

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Feedback and Way Forward after 1st Workshops on Establishing a Polar Archive Network and Proposal Development of a Polar Archive Action Group

Maria Olivier⁴³

Ria Olivier is the Principal Investigator, Digital Archivist, and Project Manager of the Antarctic Legacy of South Africa (ALSA), funded by the NRF under DSTI. ALSA is based at Stellenbosch University's Department of Botany and Zoology. With a background in Information Science, her focus is on managing digital information. Since 2012, she has worked within the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) and SCAR, serving on the SC-HASS and SCADM committees. She is a founding member of the Polar Museum Network. Her role is to preserve and promote South Africa's Antarctic legacy through a digital repository, websites, and outreach. She was awarded the APECS International Mentorship Award (2020) and the Stellenbosch University Societal Impact Award. Ria has visited all seven continents, including Antarctica during the 2019 SANAE IV takeover. Her passion is making information accessible to inspire national pride in South Africa's polar achievements.

Abstract

The human relationship with the Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic, and Southern Ocean is rich and multifaceted. While much attention has been given to the preservation of scientific data, the historical and social narratives of the people who conduct research, provide logistics, and govern in these regions are often overlooked. Preserving this human dimension is critical for a more complete understanding of Antarctic engagement.

This presentation offers feedback and insights from the first workshop aimed at establishing a Polar Archive Network and developing a proposal for a Polar Archive Action Group. Held from 17–18 March 2025 at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, UK (and online), the workshop brought together researchers, archivists, and key stakeholders to initiate a collaborative effort under the SCAR Standing Committee on the Humanities and Social Sciences (SC-HASS).

Key goals of the workshop included:

- Mapping existing polar archives relevant to the humanities and social sciences
- Exploring collaboration models and technical infrastructure
- Drafting proposals for a SCAR Action Group and a polar archive platform
- Developing a management plan for future coordination

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The session will highlight outcomes from the workshop, lessons learned, and proposed next steps in building a sustainable and inclusive polar archival ecosystem. Join us in shaping the future of Antarctic(polar) archival collaboration and ensuring that the human stories of the polar regions are preserved and accessible for generations to come.



Hospitality and symbolic contestation in Antarctica (1947–1956): A Derridean Reading of Welcoming Performances

Ignacio Javier Cardone⁴⁴ and Pablo Gabriel Fontana⁴⁵

Ignacio Cardone is a tenure-track professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. He holds a PhD in International Relations from King's College London and the University of São Paulo, and has held academic positions at the University of São Paulo, the National University of Tierra del Fuego, the National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco, and the University of Buenos Aires. His research focuses on epistemology and methodology in the social sciences, political theory, international security, and Antarctic politics. He has published extensively on Antarctic governance and policy, including *The Antarctic Politics of Brazil: Where the Tropic Meets the Pole* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), contributions to the *Handbook on the Politics of Antarctica* (Edward Elgar, 2017), and *Colonialism and Antarctica* (Manchester University Press, 2025).

Pablo Gabriel Fontana is a PhD researcher at the Argentine Antarctic Institute (IAA) and at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET). His main focus is on the history of Argentine Antarctica in the XX Century. In the IAA he is head of the Social Sciences, Communication and Dissemination Area between 1918 and 2025 and he organizes the institutional historical archives of photography and film. He published the book *The Antarctic struggle: the conflict for the Icy continent* and presented his works at several international conferences. He participated in more than ten Antarctic campaigns, usually in camps, where focused his field work in Argentina and the international heritage. Fontana also participated in the Argentine Antarctic Program as scientific chief of the Icebreaker ARA *Alte. Irizar* (2020/21) and chief of Brown Station (2023/4).

Abstract

This paper employs Jacques Derrida's concept of hospitality as a heuristic tool to examine selected welcoming practices between foreign expeditions in Antarctica during the period 1947–1956. In a context of overlapping territorial claims and mutual non-recognition, such acts —observed in interactions involving Argentina, Chile, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand— constituted political performances in which the host–guest relationship was framed in terms of symbolic parity rather than subordination, allowing for forms of symbolic resistance. A welcome was extended to the other while denying their territorial legitimacy and, in some cases, was reciprocated in a symmetrical manner, sometimes followed by interpersonal cooperation. Drawing on a historical-interpretive approach grounded in secondary sources and archival documentation, the analysis explores how these performances created spaces of symbolic contestation in which sovereign disputes assumed a form that was not strictly conflictual, through the enactment of welcome. It is further

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suggested that the distance and extreme character of the Antarctic environment may have conditioned both the recurrence and the strategic value of such practices.



The rescue extravaganza at Antarctic Gateway Cities

Rosario Hubert⁴⁶

Rosario Hubert is Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Trinity College, where she works on the crossover of world literature, geography, and the visual arts. Her book *Disoriented Disciplines. China, Latin America, and the Shape of World Literature* (2024, Northwestern University Press, FlashPoints Series) was recipient of the ACLA Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award and was funded by fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies. She is currently working on new project about poetics of the inhospitable and polar modernity. Tentatively entitled “Antarctic Avant-Garde: Aesthetics and Exploration on the Edge,” the book proposes a comparative study of Antarctic cultures at a time of historic artistic experimentation.

Abstract

This presentation explores the critical role of South American rescue ports during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration (1897–1922). Serving as key maritime hubs, the Antarctic gateway cities of Buenos Aires and Punta Arenas became focal points for the coordination of recovery missions, the storage of supplies, and the dispatching of ships to aid stranded explorers, such as the renowned Ernest Shackleton (1916) or Otto Nordenskjöld, from the Swedish Antarctic Expedition (1903). Yet rescue operations were also spectacular events that assembled curious crowds on the docks and avid readers in the press. This presentation seeks to underscore the theatrical dimension of rescue ports, where the mass media, immigrant communities, and whaling barons convened to display their own economic and cultural interests in a coveted continent that was only starting to be mapped. Through an analysis of historical accounts, digital collections, and geographical society proceedings in Spanish and English, this presentation proposes a comparative approach to Antarctic cultures, as well as a reflection on the power of environmental Humanities to study the relationship between humans and the most inhospitable nature on Earth.

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Performing an Imagined Antarctic Environment: Exploration through Admiral Byrd's South Pole Game "Little America"

Carl Walling⁴⁷

Carl Walling lectures in the fields of dramatic literature, directing, theatre production and theatre history. His current research focuses on the performance of the Antarctic and performance design theory with recent conference presentations at the Australian Antarctic Research Conference and the Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies Conference. He is a long-standing member of the International Organization for Scenographers, Theatre Architects, and Technicians (OISTAT) and a new member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences (SCAR CS-HASS). Carl holds a PhD in Theatre from Bowling Green State University and an MFA in Theatre Studies (Lighting Design) from Kent State University. In addition to his research, he serves as the Coordinator for Theatre & Performance at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Abstract

How does one nurture a society's shared imagination of Antarctica during the mid-20th century? In December 1933, Parker Brothers Incorporated finalized an endorsement contract leveraging Admiral Richard E. Byrd's celebrity status, their gaming expertise, increased American awareness of the Southern Continent and recent technological achievements into a commercial board game: Admiral Byrd's South Pole Game "Little America." Both parties sought to take financial advantage of Byrd's Second Antarctic Expedition while the expedition's reports and scientific discoveries absorbed American imagination during the Great Depression.

Performance studies provides a theoretical methodology for unpacking the board game's playing mechanics, the game's licensing agreement and the potential gameplay impact on its players. To play Admiral Byrd's South Pole Game "Little America," players learnt gameplay mechanics (point-to-point map movement driven by a spinner device) alongside the game's rules about performance. Throughout the course of the game, these imaginary Antarctic explorers describe their encounters on the Southern Continent through provided microphone game pieces. As a result, Parker Brothers crafts a game experience enhanced by the players' Antarctic knowledge, their engagement with the expedition's radio broadcasts and previous encounters with Byrd's various engagement activities. Taken as a case study, this presentation argues that Admiral Byrd's South Pole Game "Little America" offers a fascinating synthesis of mass communication, targeted engagement with popular culture, and commercialisation of Antarctic scientific endeavours.

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Taboo to Speak about Colonization and Development in Antarctica: The Art of Bulletproofing an International Treaty Regime

Edythe Weeks⁴⁸

Edythe Weeks is an author, award-winning professor, and Fulbright Specialist with a PhD and Juris Doctor. She brings a unique multidisciplinary lens to global challenges, bridging international space law and polar law to investigate legal regimes in the Arctic, Antarctica, and outer space.

A recognized contributor to the Polar Law Symposium and SCAR SC-HASS, Dr. Weeks offers a distinctive "seeds" methodological approach. This framework, informed by critical legal theory, acts as a "legal ultrasound" to detect hidden power dynamics and "legal footprints" left by key actors. Her work prepares future scholars to identify these emerging phenomena and foster international competence, ultimately shaping a more equitable and just future. She currently teaches international relations at Webster University.

Abstract

This presentation addresses the 2025 SCAR SC-HASS theme, "Antarctica in Times of Change," reflecting unprecedented challenges to the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). While the 1959 Treaty and 1991 Madrid Protocol preserved peace and banned mineral extraction, melting ice, geopolitical tensions, and rising tourism now threaten these agreements. The ATS's aging legal architecture may lack the "teeth" to withstand growing pressure. I contend that new bases and infrastructure are "seeds" of geopolitical control, fostering "creeping jurisdiction" and a "pre-colonization" phase where key actors may claim resources.

Drawing on critical theories like Foucault, Gramsci, and Critical Legal Theory (CLT), and inspired by Spivak's "Can the Subaltern Speak?", I propose a "legal ultrasound" to detect hidden power dynamics. This presentation will argue for a proactive re-imagining of the continent's future, inspired by Neville Goddard's concept of "revising the seed."

The application of this "legal ultrasound" allows for the recognition of imbalances and the uncovering of "wiggly things operating underground" to foster just development. This approach counters proposals to divide Antarctica, which risk increasing inequality and repeating historical patterns of conflict.

To safeguard Antarctica, the ATS must be strengthened by expanding its scope to address climate change and comprehensive resource management, improving decision-making and enforcement, promoting international cooperation, developing sustainable economic models, and promoting inclusive perspectives that integrate unconventional knowledge, including and the Rights of Nature, we can ensure Antarctica remains a model for peace, collaboration, and global equality, preventing a future "battle for the seventh continent."

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Recognizing Sealing Landscapes as Industrial Heritage: A Call for Inclusive Narratives in Antarctica

Melisa A. Salerno⁴⁹, Andrés Zarankin⁵⁰ and María Ximena Cruz⁵¹

Melisa A. Salerno is an archaeologist and researcher at the Multidisciplinary Institute of History and Human Sciences (IMHICIHU) within the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) in Argentina. Her work centers on the archaeology of the South Shetland Islands in Antarctica, specifically examining the 19th-century sealing era. Salerno investigates the practices, identities, and exploitation strategies of sealers, as well as their cultural construction of the landscape, all framed within the context of capitalist and colonial dynamics. In addition, she critically examines the interplay between dominant historical narratives and contemporary understandings of Antarctica. Salerno is a co-author of *Archaeology in Antarctica* (Routledge, 2023) and has contributed to various prestigious journals, including *Polar Record*, *Historical Archaeology*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*, among others.

Andrés Zarankin is an archaeologist and full professor at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil). He is the director of the Laboratório de Estudos Antárticos em Ciências Humanas at the same University, and he leads the international project *Landscapes in White*, focusing on the incorporation of Antarctica into the modern world. His research interests include archaeological theory and the use of new technologies in the discipline. He is the main author of *Archaeology in Antarctica* (2023) and *Historias de un Pasado en Blanco: Arqueología Histórica Antártica* (2007). He has also published numerous articles in leading journals such as the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* and the *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*.

Abstract

This paper aims to reflect about the recognition of 19th-century sealing landscapes in the South Shetland Islands as a necessary part of Antarctica's industrial heritage. In the face of accelerating environmental transformations and renewed geopolitical interest in the continent, heritage practices must critically re-evaluate which human pasts are made visible—and which are marginalized. Current frameworks, including the Historic Sites and Monuments (HSM) list under the Antarctic Treaty System, overwhelmingly commemorate exploration and science while overlooking early extractive industries that had deep ecological and historical consequences.

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Drawing on recent archaeological fieldwork, documentary research, and spatial analysis, we reconstruct sealing as a complex, mobile, and spatially distributed industrial system. We argue that its exclusion from dominant heritage narratives stems from narrow definitions of “industry” based on monumentality and mechanization. Instead, we propose a landscape-oriented and taskscape-based perspective that acknowledges sealing’s role in embedding Antarctica within global capitalist and ecological histories.

Our goal is to show how recognizing these overlooked landscapes not only enriches our understanding of human-environment relations in the Antarctic past, but also expands the ethical and political horizons of heritage management in the present. In times of climate crisis and geopolitical change, confronting the full spectrum of human activity—including its exploitative dimensions—is vital for fostering more inclusive, critical, and responsible engagements with Antarctica’s future.



Decay as a geopolitical agent in Antarctic heritage

Kati Lindström⁵² and Lize-Marié Hansen van der Watt⁵³

Kati Lindström is an associate professor (docent) of the history of science, technology and environment at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, researching the protection and non-protection of the Antarctic environment and cultural heritage from a transnational historical perspective. She is the vice president and the Antarctic Treaty Liaison Officer of the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee. She serves as the vice chair of the Polar Research Committee of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, the Estonian Contact Point to the Antarctic Treaty System and has represented Estonia at Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings.

Lize-Marié Hansen van der Watt is a senior researcher and serves as the Head of the Division of the History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH. She is an environmental historian working extensively on Antarctic heritage and polar history, including the Antarctic minerals regime and biosecurity. She has worked at the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and repeatedly served as rapporteur at Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings. In the South African Antarctic Legacy Project, she interviewed Antarctic scholars and diplomats and worked on an online database of South African government documents. She is currently the PI of the Decay Without Mourning: Future-thinking Heritage Practices Project, financed by the Volkswagen Foundation and Riksbanken Jubileumsfond.

Abstract

This presentation discusses decay as a generative agent in Antarctic heritage, departing from the critical heritage perspective. With examples from real sites, we will demonstrate the different stages of decay and its geopolitical agency in Antarctic heritage. Decay is an ontological precondition of Antarctic heritage, as all objects currently designated as historic sites and monuments or museum objects were initially one-time-use items intended to be discarded as the expedition progressed or concluded. As such, they were never intended to be durable or spectacular, but rather light, perishable over time, and most of all, functional.

In a critical heritage perspective, decay plays a dual role in all heritage. The signs of material decomposition are proof of authenticity and age, a certificate of the passage of time. At the same time, it is a threat to the integrity and the existence of the object. Thus, all heritage lives in a constant state of arrested decay, where signs of wear and tear are simultaneously curated, displayed and feared.

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In Antarctic heritage, this dual nature of decay is even more acute. The fragility of the objects, combined with the harshness of the environment, makes arresting decay particularly challenging. The geopolitical reality of frozen territorial claims makes it doubly important. The presence of decayed artefacts and their careful curation are crucial for demonstrating the political legitimacy of the states that manage them.



Linguistic Equity in Latin America's Antarctic Involvement

Yliana V. Rodríguez⁵⁴ and Diego Aguirrezábal⁵⁵

Yliana V. Rodríguez, Ph.D. is a linguist specialising in sociolinguistics, geolinguistics, and foreign language education. Her research explores language contact, multilingual governance, and linguistic phenomena in extreme, isolated, and confined environments, including the Falkland Islands, and Antarctica. She leads the Linguistic Dynamics in ICE Environments project, focusing on place naming, language contact, psychological adaptation, and decision-making in multilingual contexts.

Abstract

This presentation explores the critical role of linguistic equity (LE) as a dimension of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) within Antarctic governance, focusing on the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and the contributions of Latin American nations. Despite the ATS's quadrilingual policy encompassing English, French, Spanish, and Russian, the former remains the dominant medium, posing barriers for non-native speakers. Through a mixed-methods analysis of ATS documents and Brazil's Antarctic Program (PROANTAR), as well as the Meeting of Administrators of Latin American Antarctic Programs (RAPAL)'s practices, this study examines how linguistic practices shape Latin America's engagement with Antarctic governance, and reflect regional identities, potentially influencing participation in Antarctic governance. The findings reveal entrenched linguistic hierarchies and underline the need for strategic LE strategies to foster inclusivity. Recommendations include planning multilingual strategies, leveraging AI for translation and accessibility, and promoting regional collaboration to amplify Latin America's role in Antarctic governance. This work contributes to interdisciplinary Antarctic studies by addressing the intersection of language and governance, proposing a more inclusive model that ensures equitable participation in decision-making processes.

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Bearing witness: Antarctica, glacier funerals and the climate conscious writer

Elizabeth Lewis Williams⁵⁶

Elizabeth Lewis Williams is a Norwich based writer, teacher and independent researcher, a Visiting Fellow at the University of East Anglia. After completing her PhD on poetic and scientific measure in Antarctic poetry, she published two books of Antarctic poetry, 'Deception Island' and 'Erebus', as well as touring a poetry film installation in a replica Antarctic hut. She is currently working on a book of creative non-fiction about Antarctica and guest editing an Antarctic edition of the poetry journal Magma for publication in 2026.

Abstract

In her latest book *Latitudes*, the writer Jean McNeil looks back on her life, asking “...how much can we forget or bear witness to something as vast and dispersed as the Anthropocene – a cold, intimidating word for everything I have seen happen to nature in my very brief lifetime” Her question distils one of the problems for the writer at a time of accelerated global loss: the position – physically, intellectually and emotionally – of the individual consciousness within the vast scales of impact and entanglement which make up the Anthropocene. Writing about Antarctica has always posed a similar problem: its vastness dwarfs the human, challenges the capacity of language to express human experience. The scale of datasets and temporalities emerging from Antarctic science, and the enormity of their implications provide a similar challenge for the climate conscious writer.

With reference to Jean McNeil’s memoir *Latitudes* and Katie Hale’s novel *The Edge of Solitude*, this paper will look at two different approaches to writing Antarctica in the Anthropocene, taking into account grief and loss. In the first funeral for a glacier . “This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it,” reads the memorial to the glacier Okjökull. It will consider the importance of bearing witness, not just as a record of the past but as a reckoning with the future.

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Environmental narratives and Antarctic governance in the Anthropocene

Lucía Wolaniuk⁵⁷

Lucía Wolaniuk is an interdisciplinary researcher and Antarctic expedition guide and lecturer from Ushuaia. With a background in Political Science, her work in Antarctic Studies combines professional expertise in local development and public policy implementation with strong academic foundations in the humanities. Her 2022 CLACSO prize-winning essay examines how regional cooperation through Antarctic 'gateway' cities can enhance glocal territorial identities entangled with Antarctica. While her SCAR Conference poster explores climate action within the ATS through predictive politics. She is currently pursuing a postgraduate diploma in Public Policy at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella while completing a Philosophy degree at Universidad Nacional de La Plata. Her current research on Antarctic governance and imaginaries in the Anthropocene addresses human-environment relations by examining how Antarctica shapes narratives about planetary futures, blurring boundaries between local and global.

Abstract

Building on Hemmings' assertion that Antarctica faces a reframing in the Anthropocene, with the end of the idea of nature as separate from humans, I examine Antarctic narratives through the etymological distinction between *natura* (latin) and *physis* (greek). While both originate in verbal forms denoting growth or birth, they differ in their implications. While the past participle in *natura* gives the idea of something completed, the infinitive form associated with *physis* emphasizes the active element in becoming. The concept of nature which prevails in Antarctic narratives on 'protecting wilderness' is derived from the meaning of *natura*, framing Antarctica as a bounded, passive territory. In an era in which the white continent reveals itself as a planetary-scale agent whose material processes shape global futures, the meaning of *physis* seems to be more adequate for governance frameworks that must account for planetary interconnectedness. This shift reveals a critical tension, challenging the coherence of the Antarctic Treaty System framework, highlighting the inadequacy of treating Antarctic policy as geographically localized and isolated from global carbon politics. I argue that the fundamental challenges that climate change poses for Antarctic governance underscore a paradoxical condition for human agency in the Anthropocene: while revealed as a key driver of planetary transformations, it cannot fully predict nor control them. Understanding nature as *physis* overthrows the assumption that our relations to the environment can be external. This urges us to embrace what Haraway defines as response-ability facing planetary futures where Antarctica becomes central to ethical and geopolitical definitions.

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Indigenous Voices in Antarctic Governance

Alejandra Mancilla⁵⁸

Alejandra Mancilla is professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo. She is the author of *The Right of Necessity* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016), and co-editor of *Theories of Justice* (Ashgate, 2016) and *Colonialism and Antarctica* (Manchester University Press, 2024). Her work on the foundations of basic human rights, global justice, territorial rights, and resource rights has been published in leading journals like *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Ethics and International Affairs*, and *Social Philosophy and Policy*, among others. She is currently working on a book project about how Antarctic governance can both be a model for global environmental governance and become more inclusive and representative.

Abstract

What should be the role of Indigenous voices in Antarctic governance? In this article, I start by reviewing some recent contributions to the literature showing that—despite its lack of an Indigenous population—Antarctica was colonized and remains to be decolonized. I then ask about the specific role that Indigenous voices should have in such a process. Although there is a tendency to point to the special role that peoples like the Māori or the Mapuche should play in the Antarctic Treaty System, I suggest that we should resist it, insofar as it (partly) appeals to the same justificatory strategy that the colonizers used to claim Antarctic territory. Instead, Indigenous voices should be incorporated first as observers and eventually as full participants in the Antarctic Treaty Meetings and especially in the Committee for Environmental Protection. This, not because of "where they come from", but because of "where they lead to"; namely, to a greater emphasis on the protection of the environment and a richer understanding of the concept of guardianship of the nonhuman natural world, which the Antarctic Treaty and its Environmental Protocol already implicitly recognize as guiding principles.

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Through the Telescope Lens: an Afar Relationships with Antarctica

Emilie Pillon⁵⁹

Emilie Pillon is a third-year PhD student in anthropology at the LAA-LAVUE laboratory (UMR 7218). Her PhD focuses on the scientific communities working in and on Antarctica, and how the scientific infrastructure helps to maintain the mainland as a territoire-laboratoire [‘territory-laboratory’].

Abstract

Under Concordia’s clear and freezing sky, located within Antarctica’s French and Italian plateau, lies a telescope. It is part of a whole infrastructure of research installed on the continent to produce scientific data. Turned toward the sky, it is looking at faraway stars and observing the transit of exoplanets. Almost fully automated, it is being remotely monitored and managed by a French researcher team, while a winterer takes care of the basic general maintenance. The acquisition and monitoring software are (almost) always accessible from France through an internet connection.

From March to October, as part of a multi-sited ethnography, we were able to attend the team’s online weekly meeting. Based on these observations and follow-up interviews, we propose to unfold the overlapping temporalities we followed during this period: the everyday monitoring of the telescope as a technical object, the scientific observations and analysis, the winter-over experience seen from afar.

We want to question this meeting as ‘chronotope of Antarctica’ ; a specific, yet virtual, space-and-time that brings Antarctica into existence beyond its physical geography. It participates into building a different relationship between the scientist and Antarctica, interlacing the virtual and the physical ties and trying to close the physical distance by achieving a « real time connexion ».

All of these relations are another layer of the ‘infrastructure of research’. They contribute to making Antarctica last as a place of science, as a laboratory of our past and future.

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Voices of the Southern Ocean

Elizabeth Lewis Williams⁶⁰

Elizabeth Lewis Williams is a Norwich based writer and Visiting Fellow at the University of East Anglia. After completing her PhD on poetic and scientific measure in Antarctic poetry, she published two books of Antarctic poetry, 'Deception Island' and 'Erebus', as well as touring a poetry film installation in a replica Antarctic hut. As well as working as a director of Story Machine, a small press, she is currently working on a book of creative non-fiction about Antarctica.

Abstract

Can some of the storytelling structures of myth be reimagined for an active retelling of Antarctica's more than human stories? Whilst from a scientific perspective, myth can be seen as something which needs to be busted, it is originally a form of telling which encodes an often sophisticated understanding of the world. Is there a way of combining the mythic and the scientific to convey an understanding of the more than human world to people who are unable to access the language of science? And can this kind of storytelling help to connect people with distant places and complex forces?

Voices of the Southern Ocean is a poetry science collaboration between the poet Elizabeth Lewis Williams and the marine ecologist Jen Freer in which we will attempt to answer these questions through creative practice. The sequence of poems will compose an unfolding mythic drama which personifies and highlights inter-relationships between different layers of the ocean and the ecosystems within it, as well as changes at the ice edge and in the atmosphere. The poems will give voice to different characters and forces of the ocean, such as the components of global ocean circulation, the creatures which inhabit the different ocean layers, and the forms of ice in and by the ocean. How do they speak? As individuals or as a chorus? What poetic form should each voice take? And how should they communicate with one another?

This presentation will involve a reading of work in progress.

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Pole Dancing and Skinny Dipping: Exotic Entertainment in Antarctica

Ellen Cressman Frye⁶¹

Ellen Cressman Frye completed her Ph.D. in Spanish language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania, and she is a full professor and chair of English and Languages at William Paterson University of New Jersey. In addition to her first field of specialization, Renaissance and Baroque literature, Ellen has been examining and analyzing the literature and culture of Antarctica, with a recent focus on religion and spirituality. An active member of SCAR's (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) Standing Committee on the Humanities and Social Sciences, Ellen has given 11 papers at international conferences and has four publications on Antarctica, with an additional two forthcoming.

Abstract

While Antarctica is typically associated with scientific research, environmental conservation, and extreme weather, the human presence on the continent has always brought with it a need for leisure and morale-boosting activities. This paper explores the tongue-in-cheek yet culturally revealing phenomenon of “exotic entertainment” in Antarctica, framed here through two symbolic extremes, “pole dancing” and “skinny dipping.” Drawing upon expedition diaries, oral histories, and contemporary accounts from research stations, the study examines how playful, risqué, and often absurd acts of performance and recreation emerge in one of the world's most inhospitable environments. “Pole dancing” is interpreted both literally—as dances and theatrical performances improvised around ship masts or station poles—and metaphorically, as the art of turning environmental hardship into spectacle. “Skinny dipping,” meanwhile, serves as shorthand for spontaneous, high-risk aquatic plunges in subzero waters, often performed as initiation rites or markers of personal endurance. These activities, while appearing frivolous, reveal deeper themes: the psychological adaptation of isolated communities, the negotiation of identity in extreme spaces, and the creation of shared folklore that blurs the line between myth and memory. By situating these practices within the broader context of Antarctic leisure culture, the paper contributes to the growing scholarship on Antarctic social history. It argues that such “exotic entertainment” is not merely escapist, but a vital part of human survival in polar frontiers, transforming the coldest place on Earth into a stage for humor, camaraderie, and the defiance of environmental limits.

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Logbooks and ship journals as a valuable source for science and research

Ursula Rack⁶²

Ursula Rack is a polar historian and an Adjunct Senior Fellow at Gateway Antarctica, School of Earth and Environment, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, where she also teaches in Antarctic Studies courses. She was awarded a COMNAP Research Fellowship in 2012. In 2018, she was appointed a New Zealand Winston Churchill Memorial Fellow and became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in London. Ursula has spent six seasons in the Antarctic as tutor for the PCAS (Post graduate Certificate for Antarctic Studies) course and as lecturer and expedition staff on Antarctic expedition cruise ships. She is since 2018 the Austrian Honorary Consul for the South Island of New Zealand. Ursula convened and co-convened many SCAR and SC-HASS meetings and is a member of the Steering Committee for SC-HASS since 2022. She works in the field of Polar history since 2003 and publishes her research in English and German.

Abstract

Logbooks or ship journals have been a focus since quite a while for extracting information for scientific research. Especially the weather data is more than ever of great value for climate scientists and modelers.

However, it is not only the numerical information important from that material, but there is also so much more evidence embedded in these journals. Even the name is not always identical. Some name it logbook, some journal or ship's diary. The information comes also in different formats and developed slowly in its current form. Nowadays, many of these logbooks are digital, but there are still many of these books hiding in archives and museums. It is occasionally a big effort to get access to that material.

Historical context is critical to examine the material and avoid misinterpretation or wrong information. Scientists occasionally work together with historians to extract the information they need for their research. Nevertheless, logbooks gain new meaning in a much broader sense such as an item of colonisation.

This paper is based on fifteen years of working experience with climate scientists and the challenges this collaboration can involve. However, the logbook as an item of different meanings will also be discussed, especially where the limits and opportunities lie. A paper on the topic is in the making and will go to the reviewers after the conference.

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The United States in Antarctica at the dawn of the Cold War. The Operation Highjump, 1946-1947

Pier Paolo Alfei⁶³

Pier Paolo Alfei is an Italian polar historian, with a Ph.D. (2024) from the Catholic University of Milan. Peer-reviewed articles: "Finn Malmgren and polar exploration" (2024), "Una storia della missione aerea finlandese in soccorso dei naufraghi del dirigibile 'Italia'" (2023), "I due tour di Umberto Nobile attraverso gli Stati Uniti e gli italiani d'America tra consenso e dissenso politico (1926-1927)". Forthcoming works: "'None of us had ever seen the midnight sun before'. History of the first Swedish air mission to the Arctic (1928)"; "The Norwegian scientific support to the airship 'Italia' polar expedition".

Abstract

The paper offers a transnational history of Operation Highjump (1946-1947) in the context of US Antarctic policy in the early years of the Cold War, with a focus on American interests on Marie Byrd Land, Palmer Land, Ross Ice Shelf, Wilkes Land, American Highland, and the South Pole. Conceived as a joint mission of the US Army and Navy, Operation Highjump involved the use of thirty-three aircraft, seventy ships, and 4,700 men, and one of its main achievements was the aerial exploration of approximately 2,188,539 km² of the Antarctic continent. One of the main objectives of the operation was to consolidate and extend US sovereignty over the largest unexplored territory. Operation Highjump can indeed be considered the culmination of a phase of proactive defense of US interests in Antarctica, which began with the US Antarctic Service Expedition (1939-1941) and was to last until the signing of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. While in the 1920s and 1930s the US government adopted a wait-and-see policy toward Antarctica, from 1939, and especially from 1946, it embarked on a more marked expansionist policy aimed at controlling a well-defined territorial sector of the sixth continent. Operation Highjump had a considerable impact in European diplomatic, political, and military circles, which interpreted the largest polar (military) expedition ever organized at the time as a revealing episode of the growing tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. This article is based on archival sources kept in the United States and Europe (Italy, Belgium, and Norway).

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Insta-Antarctic: Spectacle, Privilege and South Africa's Polar Paradox

Adrienne van Eeden-Wharton⁶⁴ and Mehita Iqani⁶⁵

Adrienne van Eeden-Wharton is an artist-researcher based in Cape Town, South Africa. Her current research focuses on intra-oceanic environmental histories linking Africa with the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic regions. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pretoria on the 'Antarctica, Africa and the Arts' project (2021-2023) and is a member of the research team for the South African National Research Foundation project 'Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme (AWP) Pilot' (2024-2026). Her praxis has been shaped by years of walking and gathering along the shores of the southern African mainland coast and adjacent islands, and more recently journeying to the sub-Antarctic.

Professor **Mehita Iqani** was appointed to the South African Research Chair in Science Communication at Stellenbosch University from January 2022. She is also the Director for the Centre for Science Communication (CSC) as of January 2025. Prior to this she was Professor in Media Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she taught, researched and collaborated for almost eleven years. She is the author and editor of several books on media, consumer culture, luxury, waste, and the global south, the most recent of which include *Garbage in Popular Culture* (2021), *Consumption Media and the Global South* (2016), *Media Studies: Critical African and Decolonial Approaches* (2019), *African Luxury* (2019) and the forthcoming book *African Luxury Branding: From Soft Power to Queer Futures* (2023).

Abstract

Theoretical background: As one of five Antarctic gateway nations, South Africa occupies a fraught position in polar commerce, politics and travel, where histories of exploration and exploitation intersect with ongoing inequalities in mobility, access and visibility. From Instagram reels and TikTok shorts, to luxury drop-in excursions – in as little as 24 hours, return – via direct flights from Cape Town, the Antarctic is promised as a readily and perpetually available bucket-list destination and consumable spectacle.

Methods: Analysing the aesthetics and discourses employed by social media influencers who have travelled to the Antarctic, we examine how online content – often framed by narratives of epic adventure and (fleeting) environmental concern – reflects and reinforces conceptions of the region as exotic, conquerable frontier. By contextualising these representations within South Africa's legacy of Antarctic engagement, including colonial and apartheid-era expeditions, we consider how 'ice-fluencers' both draw upon and obscure the Far South's contested histories.

Results: Tailored luxury experiences and stylised, curated imagery – pristine white landscapes, untouched wilderness and heroic 'influencer poses' – smack of colonial and

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neoliberal fantasies, often overlooking the racialised and classed dimensions of Antarctic access, and the region's ecological and geopolitical precarity.

Implications: We ask whether Antarctic travel influencers perpetuate, rather than challenge and disrupt, exploitative legacies under the guise of inspiration.

Conclusion: Emphasising the tensions between performativity and spectacle, privilege and exclusion, we suggest that popular online content all-too-often reproduces dominant cultural narratives of who belongs in and gets to have a say about the future of the Antarctic.



Connecting the Poles to the Caribbean: Bringing Polar Science to Puerto Rican Students

Allison Cusick⁶⁶, Martina Mascioni⁶⁷, Elena Neibaur⁶⁸, Áurea E. Rodríguez Santiago⁶⁹ and Juan Torres-Pérez⁷⁰

Allison Cusick studies how changing polar environments may influence phytoplankton communities and succession. She runs her research in partnership with Antarctic and Arctic tour expedition vessels through the framework of the FjordPhyto Citizen Science / Participatory Science project.

Abstract

Antarctica is Earth's air conditioning system and a central driver of the global ocean conveyor belt, but perceived by many outside of the Antarctic community to be remote and disconnected from other parts of the world, such as the tropics and the Caribbean. FjordPhyto is a participatory science program that partners with expedition cruise vessels in Antarctica and has successfully involved more than 10,000 travelers to date; however, engagement with individuals outside of Antarctica has remained limited. To expand our reach to younger generations in the tropics, from 2023 to present, FjordPhyto partnered with the NASA Science Activation outreach team OCEANOS - Ocean Community Engagement and Awareness using NASA Observations and Science for Spanish-speaking Students - Over three consecutive summer internships (2023, 2024, 2025), a total of 70 program participants including high school students, college undergraduates, and teachers participated in a bilingual (Spanish-English) curriculum. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) delivered lectures, hands-on microscopy and DNA extraction workshops, and introduced immersive virtual and augmented reality tools to bring Antarctic science and phytoplankton to life. Participants showed great interest in phytoplankton and polar environments, with interest in polar science career paths. The collaboration demonstrated how phytoplankton and polar research connect to Puerto Rico's marine environment, suggesting that locally relevant, experiential learning can effectively bridge geographic distance and foster a deeper understanding of global climate change impacts.

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Preserving the Legacy of the First Permanent Antarctic Station: Achievements and Challenges in the Heritage Conservation of Moneta House

Pablo Fontana⁷¹ and Maria Angélica Guerriere⁷²

Pablo Gabriel Fontana is a PhD researcher at the Argentine Antarctic Institute (IAA) and at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET). His main focus is on the history of Argentine Antarctica in the XX Century. In the IAA he is head of the Social Sciences, Communication and Dissemination Area between 2018 and 2025 and he organizes the institutional historical archives of photography and film. He published the book *The Antarctic struggle: the conflict for the Icy continent* and presented his works at several international conferences. He participated in more than ten Antarctic campaigns, usually in camps, where focused his field work in Argentina and the international heritage. Fontana also participated in the Argentine Antarctic Program as scientific chief of the Icebreaker ARA *Alte. Irizar* (2020/21) and chief of Brown Station (2023/4).

Maria Angélica Guerriere has a PhD in Arts from the Arts College of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP) and a Degree in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage from the Universidad Nacional de las Artes (UNA). She received a PhD fellow from the Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas de la Provincia de Buenos Aires and she has been advising various research teams on issues related to the conservation of historical materials for over a decade.

Abstract

The Moneta House, built by Argentina in 1905 on Laurie Island (South Orkney Islands), is one of the few surviving structures from Antarctica's Heroic Age and the first scientific facility with a permanent character on the continent. It served as the main residence for the personnel of the Argentine scientific observatory until 1945 and now functions as a museum visited by tourists from various countries. It is also part of the Historic Site and Monument 42 under the Antarctic Treaty System.

Despite the preservation of its original structure over 120 years, maintained continuously by the station's staff, recent years have brought new conservation risks, especially those related to biological deterioration and environmental exposure.

This paper discusses recent actions and ongoing challenges in the preservation of Moneta house. It explores preventive conservation measures, architectural documentation, digital heritage strategies, and efforts to control and remediate biological deterioration. Furthermore, two initiatives are presented to promote public engagement with Antarctic heritage and scientific research: the planned construction of a replica the Gateway City of

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Ushuaia, and the development of an educational video game focused on the historical experiences of the early scientific overwintering teams at the observatory.

These actions seek not only to safeguard a unique Antarctic heritage site but also to broaden awareness of its historical, scientific, and symbolic relevance.



Imagining Futures from the Global South. An Antarctic Architecture Workshop

Victoria Nuviala⁷³, Violeta Nuviala⁷⁴, and Guadalupe Tagliabue⁷⁵

Victoria Nuviala Antelo has a PhD in Archaeology, MA in Anthropology and Archaeology. Associate Professor of the History of Architecture, University of Buenos Aires. Chair of Archivo SUR: Architecture & Habitat in Antarctica. Researcher specializing in Antarctic architectural heritage, heritage management, and policy under the Antarctic Treaty System. Author of Archivo SUR: Arquitectura & Hábitat en Antártida (2024) and Pink Dust: Humans, Architecture, and Heritage in the Antarctic (forthcoming). Former postdoctoral fellow at CONICET, Casa de Velázquez, Madrid Institute for Advanced Study, and SCAR. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Violeta Nuviala is an architect at 3N Arquitectos. Master in History and Criticism of Architecture, Design, and Urbanism (Universidad de Buenos Aires). Co-founder of the Interdisciplinary Research Group, 6044 SUR, dedicated to analysing Antarctic architectural and cultural heritage. Associate Professor of Architectural and Urban History, as well as Associate Professor in the Master's Programme in Urban Studies and Housing in Latin America (MEUVAL) at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. Coordinator and researcher at the Centro de Investigaciones de Historia de la Vivienda en América Latina (CEIHVAL). Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Abstract

In recent decades, the Global South has asserted its right to revise dominant historical narratives and reclaim its contributions. More recently, decolonial scholars have drawn attention to its exclusion from imagining the future. Addressing these absences requires both critical reflection on the past and the active production of alternative, situated futures. Antarctica, long framed through Global North agendas in science, governance, and design, offers a compelling arena to question who gets to shape the continent's cultural and built environment.

In 2023, the interdisciplinary collective 6044SUR launched “Diseñar en blanco”, an architectural design workshop developed with local universities to explore how Latin American perspectives can contribute to Antarctic architectural imagination. Bringing together archival research, seminars on polar history and governance, and speculative design exercises, the program invited students and early-career architects to propose new scientific facilities that integrated environmental constraints, cultural heritage, and everyday life in extreme conditions.

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The resulting eighteen projects marked a clear departure from purely functional or technocratic models. Designs combined heritage preservation with ecological ethics, embedded local cultural references, and proposed adaptive infrastructures responsive to climate change. These speculative visions challenge dominant narratives of Antarctica as a purely scientific space, instead framing it as a shared cultural landscape. We argue that speculative design, when grounded in decolonial frameworks, serves both as a pedagogical tool and a political act, expanding the repertoire of possible futures and affirming the Global South's right to participate in shaping the global commons.



Antarctic competition: architectural device for dwelling design in the white continent (Davis, Bharati, and Comandante Ferraz Stations)

Lucía Flor Roitman⁷⁶, Cristian Lorenzo⁷⁷, Victoria Nuviala⁷⁸ and Violeta Nuviala⁷⁹

Lucía Flor Roitman is an architect. Phd Student in History (Universidad Nacional de San Martín). Researcher at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Centro de Investigaciones de Historia de la Vivienda en América Latina (CEIHVAL) - National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Master in History and Criticism of Architecture, Design, and Urbanism (Universidad de Buenos Aires). Member of 6044 SUR (Interdisciplinary Research Team in Architecture and Dwelling in Antarctica). Teacher of Architectural and Urban History at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Cristian Lorenzo has a Phd in International Relations. Researcher at the Austral Center of Scientific Research (CADIC) - National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET). National University of Tierra del Fuego. Member of the Executive Committee at the SCAR Standing Committee on the Humanities and Social Sciences (SC-HASS) and the Federal Council of International Studies in Argentina. Ushuaia, Argentina.

Abstract

In the 21st century, architectural competitions were introduced in Antarctica, setting a shift in the region's long history of dwelling design. This presentation is part of a broader study to understand this practice, conducted through eight architectural competitions organized by the National Antarctic Programs between 2003-2024. Here, we focus on a selected subset of cases: Davis Station (2003), Bharati Research Station (2006), and Estação Antártica Comandante Ferraz (2013). This narrower scope enables a more in-depth exploration of how national representations are articulated through architectural design.

This work presents our initial theoretical framework, introducing Antarctic competition as a research object from a historical perspective. Our methodological approach involves an inductive comparative case study, examining the following sources: design briefs, technical drawings, three-dimensional images, photographs, writing descriptions, environmental evaluations, reports, and media coverage.

Preliminary results suggest the intersection between competitions and Antarctica as a bidirectional dynamic: while competitions reshape Antarctic narratives, Antarctica redefines the competition itself. The analysis highlights the relevance of these competitions for

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planning Antarctic inhabitation and for the decision-making process within the Antarctic Treaty System. Finally, we discuss the broader implications of architectural competitions for the architectural history of the Antarctic.



Artists' tourism encounters with Antarctica

Hanne Nielsen⁸⁰, Elizabeth Leane⁸¹, Carolyn Philpott and Adele Jackson⁸²

Hanne Nielsen is a Senior Lecturer in Antarctic Law and Governance at the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. Her research focusses on representations of Antarctica in popular media, including in theatre and advertising material; polar tourism; and Antarctica as a workplace. Her monograph *Brand Antarctica: How global consumer culture shapes our perceptions of the ice continent* details how Antarctica has been framed in various ways throughout its human history. Dr Nielsen's current work focusses on the interactions between imagined versions of Antarctica and embodied encounters with the place in the context of Antarctic tourism and the media. She is a Chief Officer of the SCAR Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences; serves on the WMO PCAPS steering committee; and led Theme 7 (An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean) of the Southern Ocean Decade Action Plan.

Abstract

When considering creative tourism, Antarctica – which is more often cast as the “continent for science” – may not immediately spring to mind. Yet tourism is now the main route through which humans encounter Antarctica directly, with over 100,000 people visiting the continent as tourists each season. Amongst those tourists are artists – both professional and amateur – and the art and literature they create can inspire new ways to conceive of the Antarctic region. Drawing on a set of interviews with Australian artists who have visited the Antarctic and/or the sub-Antarctic region, this paper examines both the role of tourism as a facilitator of arts residencies, and the ways artists can enhance the tourism experience. We contextualize the role of artists in the Antarctic region through a historical overview, then use data from interviews with 53 artists who have visited the far south, including 24 who visited as tourists, to ask how tourism and art practices interact in the far south. The paper considers what the growing accessibility of the continent means in terms of artistic responses, and what the growth of tourism to the region suggests about the ways creative responses to Antarctica might develop into the future. Finally, we suggest concrete ways that arts residencies to the region might be supported through tourism practices in the future, arguing that providing opportunities for professional artists to have in-situ research experiences and time dedicated to the creation of art has wide-ranging benefits.

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The Wanderer. Representing a Southern Ocean icon in music

Rupert Summerson⁸³

Rupert Summerson first went to Antarctica in 1980 as a field assistant with the British Antarctic Survey. He was employed as the manager of the Australian Antarctic Mapping and Geographic Information Program from 1990-1995. He has spent three and a half years living in Antarctica, including three winters and has visited the continent 10 times with three national Antarctic programs, most recently on a tourist ship. In 2013 he was awarded a PhD on The Protection of Wilderness and Aesthetic Values in Antarctica at the University of Melbourne and has published a number of papers and book chapters on the subject. He started learning to play the shakuhachi, an end-blown Japanese flute, on a voyage to Antarctica in 2000 and now studies with Dr Riley Lee. He has performed in Antarctica.

Abstract

19 June 2025 was the Sixth World Albatross Day, a day to raise awareness of the conservation crisis being faced by many species of albatrosses and petrels from fishing operations, invasive species where they nest and disease. In the past, everyone who travelled to Antarctica by sea would have seen albatrosses following the ship, marvelling at the effortless flight and the sheer size of the wandering albatross. It is a horrifying thought that the wandering albatross may be extinct before the end of the 21st century.

All living things share the same genetic code which comprises four bases: guanine, cytosine, adenine and thymine, which are represented by the letters G, C, A and T respectively. G, C and A are also musical notes which made could convert DNA into musical notation. T could easily be converted into a musical note.

Dr Andrea Polanowski, scientist the Australian Antarctic Division, kindly provided a sequence of 261 bases from the genome of *Diomedea exulans* (wandering albatross). In order to avoid a robotic sound by giving each base, now a note, equal weight, the sequence was re-composed into music and played on a 2.0 shakuhachi by the author.

The piece was named “The Wanderer” and released on 19 June 2025 simultaneously on SoundCloud and YouTube, the latter accompanied by animations composed by Dr Lisa Roberts.

It has now been listened to 348 times. It is hard to judge the impact only two months after release but comments received include the words “haunting” and “magical”.

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Panel Communications



Environmental Protection as Peacebuilding: Strengthening Antarctic Governance in a Fragmenting World

Horacio Werner⁸⁴, Mariano Aguas⁸⁵, and Patricia Cavalcanti⁸⁶

Horacio Werner, PhD, is Executive Director of Agenda Antártica (AANT), an NGO focused on preserving Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, promoting peace, and polar research. With a career spanning sustainability, tech, and government, he previously led Motorola Latin America, served as Argentina's Vice-Minister of International Economic Development, and was Managing Director at Cisco Systems (Smart Cities/IoT). He holds a PhD (magna cum laude) in Natural Sciences (LMU Munich), an Executive MBA (IAE), and certifications from Harvard and Singularity University. His expertise bridges technology, policy, and environmental conservation.

Mariano Aguas is a political scientist and university professor. He serves as Social and Governance Director at Agenda Antártica NGO and the Director of the Climate Change Observatory at Universidad de Palermo.

Patricia Cavalcanti is an economist and international relations analyst. She serves as Program Director and Head of the Asia Pacific Chapter at Agenda Antártica NGO and previously led diverse international initiatives, advancing conservation, global diplomacy, and institutional development.

Abstract

Theoretical Background: In a time of rising geopolitical tensions and erosion of multilateralism, Antarctica stands as a unique symbol of peaceful, cooperative governance. The Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) has long embodied a framework for science-based collaboration and environmental stewardship. Yet, climate change, increasing interest in resource exploitation, and political polarization now threaten this stability. This panel explores how environmental protection—particularly through Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)—can bolster the ATS as both a conservation and peacebuilding mechanism.

Methods: The panel adopts an interdisciplinary approach, combining legal analysis, political science, and environmental policy. It centers on a case study of the proposed Domain 1 Marine Protected Area (D1MPA) around the Antarctic Peninsula. Drawing on policy documents, negotiation records, and regional case comparisons (e.g., South Atlantic fisheries governance), the discussion integrates insights from ongoing advocacy, diplomatic initiatives, and civil society engagement.

Results: The D1MPA process illustrates both the promise and the fragility of Antarctic governance. Joint efforts by Argentina and Chile showcase how shared scientific agendas

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can transcend national divides and foster constructive diplomacy. However, persistent delays and resistance within the consensus-based Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) highlight growing political strain and vulnerability to external geopolitical pressures. Meanwhile, disinformation campaigns—such as false claims about the Treaty’s expiration—expose the regime to public misunderstanding and sovereigntist narratives.

Implications: Three key dimensions emerge from this analysis. First, institutional resilience must be strengthened by addressing misinformation and reaffirming the legal and normative continuity of the ATS. Second, broader civil society participation—through education, tourism, and advocacy—can help cultivate a more durable constituency for Antarctic values. Third, MPAs should be understood not only as conservation tools but as instruments of preventive diplomacy that reduce risks of conflict over marine resources and extend peaceful norms beyond the Southern Ocean.

Conclusion: Protecting Antarctica’s environment is inseparable from preserving its status as a continent of peace and science. The D1MPA case underscores how environmental governance can reinforce geopolitical stability when rooted in collaboration and scientific integrity. By supporting adaptive, inclusive, and transparent governance, the ATS can continue to navigate complex global challenges. This panel contributes to SC-HASS’s broader exploration of Antarctic governance, values, and societal engagement by revealing how environmental protections can function as critical pillars of both ecological sustainability and international peace.



Latin American Antarctic: Multiplicity and Identity in the Mirror

Ignacio Javier Cardone⁸⁷, Julián Kelly, Andrés Levinson and Ana Flávia Barros-Plataiu

Ignacio Cardone is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. He holds a PhD in International Relations from King's College London and the University of São Paulo, and has held academic positions at the University of São Paulo, the National University of Tierra del Fuego, the National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco, and the University of Buenos Aires. His research focuses on epistemology and methodology in the social sciences, political theory, international security, and Antarctic politics. He has published extensively on Antarctic governance and policy, including *The Antarctic Politics of Brazil: Where the Tropic Meets the Pole* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), contributions to the *Handbook on the Politics of Antarctica* (Edward Elgar, 2017), and *Colonialism and Antarctica* (Manchester University Press, 2025).

Abstract

This closed panel brings together selected papers from the forthcoming special issue *Latin American Antarctic: Multiplicity and Identity in the Mirror*. Its purpose is to discuss these works before final publication, identify points of connection, and strengthen the coherence of the volume.

The Antarctic Treaty, signed in 1959 and in force since 1961, defined the continent as a space for peace and science. Latin America has been part of Antarctic affairs from the start: Argentina and Chile with a long-standing presence; Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, and Ecuador with active participation; Colombia and Venezuela with emerging programs. Proximity, historical ties, and a sense of connection to the Frozen Continent have shaped a relationship that combines geopolitical interests, scientific activity, environmental concerns, and cultural imaginaries.

The papers in this panel address the multiplicity of “Latin American Antarcticities” from different perspectives, from imaginaries and representations to policy and geopolitical strategy. They examine how national trajectories, institutional frameworks, and regional dynamics shape Latin American engagement with Antarctica, and explore the elements that give this engagement a distinctive place in global Antarctic politics. The panel gathers scholars from political science, history, anthropology, and cultural studies, based in different parts of Latin America. It aims to show the value of comparative and collaborative approaches, and to contribute to the development of interdisciplinary Antarctic studies in and about Latin America.

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A Call to Future Problem Solvers: Uncovering Hidden Power and Charting a Just Future for Antarctica

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Edythe Weeks is an author, award-winning professor, and Fulbright Specialist with a PhD and Juris Doctor. She brings a unique multidisciplinary lens to global challenges, bridging international space law and polar law to investigate legal regimes in the Arctic, Antarctica, and outer space. A recognized contributor to the Polar Law Symposium and SCAR SC-HASS, Dr. Weeks offers a distinctive "seeds" methodological approach. This framework, informed by critical legal theory, acts as a "legal ultrasound" to detect hidden power dynamics and "legal footprints" left by key actors. Her work prepares future scholars to identify these emerging phenomena and foster international competence, ultimately shaping a more equitable and just future. She currently teaches international relations at Webster University.

Elvir Mandzukic, M.Ed., BSBA, AAS, is a faculty development coordinator and multimedia specialist based in St. Louis, Missouri. With over 15 years at Webster University, he has led global webinars, advanced curriculum development, and integrated instructional technologies to support teaching excellence. He holds degrees in Education, Business Administration, and Information Systems. A multilingual professional, he has served as a Bosnian teacher, USAID interpreter, and interfaith speaker. His humanitarian work includes partnerships with WHO, the UN, and International Medical Corps. Elvir has coordinated citywide festivals and global forums, saving costs through in-house video production. Honored with the 2019 HateBraker Award, he exemplifies innovation, service, and global citizenship in education and community engagement, combining technical skill with a strong commitment to equity, learning, and international collaboration.

Abstract

Theoretical background: This session addresses the 2025 SCAR SC-HASS theme, "Antarctica in Times of Change," by critically examining the challenges to the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). While the ATS has a strong history of fostering peace, melting ice, geopolitical tensions, and rising tourism now threaten its foundational agreements. This

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session posits that what appear as benign scientific, tourism, and infrastructure projects are actually "seeds" of geopolitical control, fostering "creeping jurisdiction" and a "pre-colonization" phase.

Our theoretical framework, a synthesis of Foucault, Gramsci, and Critical Legal Theory (CLT), is informed by postcolonial and post development theories. This includes addressing Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's foundational question, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" and Edward Said's analysis of how dominant narratives justify expansionism. Post development theory, articulated by scholars like Arturo Escobar, challenges the notion that "development" is a neutral process, arguing it often reinforces global power asymmetries. The session's motivation is to provide a framework for analyzing these "new frontiers"—Antarctica, the Arctic, and outer space—to prevent repeating historical patterns of colonialism and marginalization.

Methods: The session will introduce a methodological tool—a "legal ultrasound"—to detect hidden power dynamics and "uncover the wiggly things operating underground." This method draws lessons from historical failures and provides a way to "see" embryonic legal and social phenomena. It is crucial for understanding how existing legal "footprints" may predetermine exploitative outcomes and perpetuate historical patterns of inequality, even before full-scale development.

Results: The application of this "legal ultrasound" reveals that the legal uncertainty surrounding Antarctica—the tension between terra nullius (unowned land) and terra communis (land collectively owned by humanity)—reflects a power struggle. It shows why proposals to divide Antarctica, which risk increasing inequality and repeating historical patterns of conflict, are flawed. Instead, this approach, inspired by Neville Goddard's concept of "revising the seed," enables us to proactively re-imagine the continent's future by privileging subjugated knowledge and amplifying silenced voices.

Implications: The session is a direct call to future problem-solvers to move beyond a reactive stance. It will argue that the ATS must be strengthened by expanding its scope to include Earth jurisprudence and the Rights of Nature, improving decision-making, enhancing enforcement, and promoting inclusive perspectives that integrate Indigenous knowledge. These strategies will protect these unique environments and ensure equitable benefits for all humanity.

Conclusion: In conclusion, Antarctica is on the brink of a "battle for the seventh continent." By working together to proactively transform governance and prevent future conflict, we can ensure Antarctica remains a model for peace, collaboration, and environmental stewardship, with a steadfast commitment to global equality grounded in the principles of Earth jurisprudence and the Rights of Nature.



Antarctic Arts Residencies 1

Charne Lavery⁹³, Kirsten Carlson⁹⁴ and Jean Brundrit⁹⁵

Charne Lavery is an associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She is co-founder, with Isabel Hofmeyr, of the Oceanic Humanities for the Global South research project and platform (www.oceanichumanities.com), and principal investigator on the South African National Research Foundation project ‘Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme (AWP) Pilot’. She is the author of *Writing Ocean Worlds: Indian Ocean Fiction in English* (Palgrave 2021), and articles including ‘Antarctic and Africa’ and ‘The Oceanic South’. She has also published three co-edited books: *Maritime Mobilities in Anglophone Literature and Culture* (Palgrave 2023), *Reading from the South: African Print Cultures and Oceanic Turns in Isabel Hofmeyr’s Work* (Wits University Press 2023), and *Reading for Water: Materiality and Method* (Routledge 2024).

Abstract

Theoretical background: Formal Antarctic arts residencies have been part of the national Antarctic programmes of several nations for, in some cases, over forty years. Australia, New Zealand and the United States have the longest running arts programmes. Several others have been briefly attempted – the Chilean, British and Argentine Antarctic programmes hosted annual arts residencies for three, eight and twelve years respectively. The Antarctic programmes of nations including Brazil, China, France, Sweden and South Korea, have hosted artists on a more occasional basis. More recently, new programmes are being proposed and attempted – such as the South African pilot programme.

Methods: This panel aims to provide an overview of current and recent past programmes, with the aim of providing an assessment of the opportunities they presented and challenges they encountered.

Results: 1A partial survey and record of existing arts residency programmes and early stage ideas towards planning for the IPY2032/3.

Implications: Artists and writers have a key role to play in the dissemination of scientific research about Antarctica and creative strategies for achieving this. Arts residencies have been successful at promoting artistic engagement, but have experienced numerous challenges. Assessing what has been done in the past will aid in the planning for arts-related work in the Far South in the future, as well as improve diversity of participation and output.

Conclusion: Sharing the successes and failures, challenges and opportunities, of past and existing Antarctic arts residencies will reveal opportunities for synthesis and collaboration towards planning arts-related activities for the IPY2032/3.

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Antarctic Arts Residencies 2

Adele Jackson⁹⁶, Elizabeth Leane⁹⁷, Carolyn Philpott⁹⁸, Patrick Shepherd⁹⁹ and Andrea Juan¹⁰⁰

Abstract

Theoretical background: Formal Antarctic arts residencies have been part of the national Antarctic programmes of several nations for, in some cases, over forty years. Australia, New Zealand and the United States have the longest running arts programmes. Several others have been briefly attempted – the Chilean, British and Argentine Antarctic programmes hosted annual arts residencies for three, eight and twelve years respectively. The Antarctic programmes of nations including Brazil, China, France, Sweden and South Korea, have hosted artists on a more occasional basis. More recently, new programmes are being proposed and attempted – such as the South African pilot programme.

Methods: This panel aims to provide an overview of current and recent past programmes, with the aim of providing an assessment of the opportunities they presented and challenges they encountered.

Results: A partial survey and record of existing arts residency programmes and early stage ideas towards planning for the IPY2032/3.

Implications: Artists and writers have a key role to play in the dissemination of scientific research about Antarctica and creative strategies for achieving this. Arts residencies have been successful at promoting artistic engagement but have experienced numerous challenges. Assessing what has been done in the past will aid in the planning for arts-related work in the Far South in the future, as well as improve diversity of participation and output.

Conclusion: Sharing the successes and failures, challenges and opportunities, of past and existing Antarctic arts residencies will reveal opportunities for synthesis and collaboration towards planning arts-related activities for the IPY2032/3.

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Pre-recorded Presentations



Antarctic Disasters – And Avoiding Them

Ilan Kelman¹⁰¹

Ilan Kelman is Professor of Disasters and Health at University College London, England. His overall research interest is linking disasters and health, integrating climate change into both. Three main areas are: (i) disaster diplomacy and health diplomacy <https://www.disasterdiplomacy.org/> ; (ii) island sustainability focusing on safe and healthy living and livelihoods <https://www.islandvulnerability.org/> ; and (iii) risk education for health and disasters <https://www.riskred.org/>

Abstract

For fifty years, one fundamental mantra from disaster research has been that we can and should act to avoid disasters. Consequently, the phrase ‘natural disaster’ is a misnomer and should not be used. Does this idea, that disasters are not natural, hold for Antarctica? This talk explores what a disaster is, and the baseline of why disasters happen, in order to examine how these understandings do and do not apply for Antarctic disasters and especially for avoiding them.

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Threshold - An experimental music video inspired by the sea-ice research of Dr. Tokoholo Rampai

Senna-Marie Bosman¹⁰²

Senna-Marie Bosman is a Johannesburg-based songwriter and interdisciplinary artist interested in the necessary frictions that accompany intimacy. Rooted in the emotional resonance of her lyricism, her work often evolves from song and musical composition into video, performance, and audiovisual experimentation. Alongside her upcoming full-length album (due December 2025), Senna-Marie has been writing music in dialogue with Antarctic sea-ice research through the FicSci Writers Residency and, more recently, the Antarctic Artists & Writers Programme. Her latest song, *Threshold*, is an affective reflection on the points at which matter and meaning shift: drawn from South African sea-ice research. Senna-Marie performs regularly, sharing work at festivals, residencies, and experimental performance events across South Africa. Senna is also active in arts education, running songwriting workshops and teaching.

Abstract

Threshold is a four-minute experimental music video by Senna-Marie and Nicola Pilkington, developed in response to the Antarctic sea-ice research presented by Dr Tokoloho Rampai during the 2024 FicSci 03 Writers Residency. The project explores points of transformation: material, emotional, and ecological; drawing from Rampai's research on sea-ice dynamics and microstructures.

The video combines archival footage from South African expeditions aboard the S.A. Agulhas, found and stock footage, and newly filmed material. Using analogue projection, overlays, and the body, they produced visuals that speak to themes of excitement and agitation; boundaries and failure; overcoming and transformation; as well as rebellion and cataclysm.

This pre-recorded presentation includes a short introduction and a full screening of the music video. *Threshold* is a creative response to Antarctic science and presenting this video is part of sharing how one can engage with Antarctic research through sound, image, and movement; encouraging cross-disciplinary conversations that stimulate interest and awareness.

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White Landscapes: New Digital Technologies and Their Application in Antarctic Archaeology

Alex da Silva Martire¹⁰³ and Andrés Zarankin¹⁰⁴

Alex da Silva Martire is an Adjunct Professor of Archaeology at the Federal University of Rio Grande (FURG), Alex Martire is a pioneer in Cyberarchaeology in Brazil, integrating digital technologies into archaeological practice. His work spans interactive simulations, 3D modeling, Virtual and Augmented Reality, and video games to recreate and interpret complex historical contexts. From Roman mining studies during his FAPESP-funded graduate research to Antarctic Archaeology in postdoctoral work, Martire has combined traditional methods with innovative tools. He leads the ARISE research group, develops educational games, and explores Archaeogaming, demonstrating how digital platforms can transform the study, communication, and preservation of cultural heritage.

Andrés Zarankin is a Full Professor at the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at UFMG and permanent faculty member of the Graduate Program in Archaeology at the National Museum (UFRJ), he has held key academic and administrative roles, including coordinating graduate programs and leading UFMG's journal portal. With a PhD in History from UNICAMP and postdoctoral research at CONICET and UNICAMP, he has published numerous books and over 100 articles. He coordinates an international project on early human occupation of Antarctica and leads the Laboratory for Antarctic Studies (LEACH-UFMG). His research spans archaeological theory, historical and architectural archaeology, repression-resistance studies, and Antarctic archaeology.

Abstract

The Laboratory for Antarctic Studies in the Humanities – LEACH-UFMG has been implementing a range of digital technologies over the past decade to support both academic research and initiatives aimed at dissemination and dialogue with society, under the perspective of Public Archaeology. Specifically, LEACH leads the international project “White Landscapes”, which seeks to understand the historical and cultural relationships between humans and the Antarctic continent over time. This project is part of a multidisciplinary investigation conducted by archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, and curators from various institutions and nationalities, producing alternative narratives about the colonization of Antarctica.

The incorporation of new digital technologies is enabling the development of data, information, and products that, until recently, might have been regarded as science fiction. In this context, in collaboration with Alex Martire (ARISE and FURG), the project employs tools such as video games, three-dimensional scanning of archaeological sites, 3D printing of artifacts, videos, digital databases, and the LEACH website as potential instruments for

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research, academic work, and engagement with non-specialist audiences, framed within the scope of Digital Humanities. The products generated by these technologies have become fundamental to the rewriting of Antarctic history, and this paper aims to present a synthesis of these outcomes.



Mapping Time in Antarctica: An Experimental Approach to Synchronism

Maria Ximena Senatore¹⁰⁵

Maria Ximena Senatore is a researcher at the Instituto de Ciencia del Patrimonio, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (INCIPIT-CSIC) in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. She holds a degree in Archaeology and a PhD in History. For the past two decades, she has been leading research projects in Antarctica. Her research fields include contemporary and historical archaeology, polar history, polar heritage, and material culture studies in Antarctica.

Abstract

Maps and timelines have long shaped how we visualize human presence in Antarctica—especially throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries—whether through national milestones or dots marking the location of research stations. But what happens when we try to represent not where bases are, or when they were established, but how long they have coexisted?

This presentation explores an experimental method for analyzing Antarctic presence through synchronism: the overlapping years in which different bases have been simultaneously active. Drawing on data from over 100 stations active from the early twentieth century to the present, we use tools from graph theory to construct annual networks that reveal how such overlaps have evolved over time.

Rather than assuming a specific model or outcome, this analysis tests how network visualizations might open new ways of understanding duration, coexistence, and intensity of occupation. The approach does not rely on spatial contiguity or linear time, but on relational patterns that emerge from shared temporal activity.

What these networks reveal is not a static or episodic occupation, but complex configurations of simultaneous presence. While the broader implications remain open, this method suggests that time itself can be mapped relationally—and that doing so may shift how we ask questions about the history and future of human presence in Antarctica.

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An Introduction to Relational Studies of Antarctica and Outer Space

Emma Johanna Puranen¹⁰⁶

Emma Johanna Puranen is a postdoctoral research associate in astrobiology ethics at The Open University. Her current project investigates the viability of Antarctica as an environmental ethics analogue for human activity in outer space, furthering study into the relational trajectories between the icy continent and space. Her interdisciplinary background includes research at the intersection of data science, literature, and astronomy, and includes experience in the museum sector working on the historic Antarctic research ship RRS Discovery in Dundee, Scotland, as well as designing a museum exhibition on exoplanets for the Wardlaw Museum entitled Alien Worlds. An early career researcher, Puranen is a member of APECS and part of the Polar Archive Network.

Abstract

Antarctica and outer space share relational trajectories across past, present, and future axes of human experience and impact. This presentation will introduce why Antarctica and space are compared. It will proceed to an overview of areas of comparison including their physical environments, human psychosocial experiences, governance, science fiction portrayals, and as analogues of scientific study and exploration. Given climate challenges, pressure on the Antarctic Treaty System, increased commercial interest in exploiting outer space resources, and other current events, interdisciplinary research at the intersection of Antarctica and space is timely to help secure sustainable futures for both. This presentation contributes to the discussion of the value the humanities can provide for science, particularly by providing an ethical check and asking critical questions regarding rights and sustainability. It concludes its introduction to this area of research by advocating for more work relating the challenges and opportunities presented by Antarctica and space, to the benefit of both.

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Agreements between scientists and Armed Forces divers for sample collection at Carlini Station

María Laura Fabrizio¹⁰⁷

María Laura Fabrizio is a PhD and Professor of Anthropological Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) and Specialist in Scientific Research Methodology at the National University of Lanús. Researcher in Social Sciences and Humanities at the Argentine Antarctic Institute and in the Anthropology and Education Programme at UBA. Professor in Special Didactics and Teaching Practices in Anthropology and in Anthropology seminars at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the UBA.

Her research focuses on the different processes of knowledge production, in which she conducts ethnographic investigations regarding the development communities of practice among the scientists that travel to Antarctica and their connections towards military personnel that fulfill logistical tasks. On the other hand, she investigates social production in education and childcare and analyzes the children's educational path and family life at Esperanza Station in Antarctica.

Abstract

This paper presents a series of reflections on Argentine scientific work at Carlini Station, Antarctica. Every year, researchers and technicians travel to the station to conduct fieldwork for the development of various research projects. Armed Forces personnel also arrive in this territory and participate as part of the logistics team. The objective of this presentation is to analyze the connections established between researchers and technicians who need to take samples from Potter Cove, for various research projects, and the Armed Forces divers, who are the only ones authorized to dive in Antarctic waters and, therefore, the only ones who can take samples.

The data analyzed in this study were obtained through extensive ethnographic fieldwork carried out during the 2023/24 Antarctic Summer Campaign, involving both interviews with scientific, technical, logistical, and military personnel and participant observation across the different activities undertaken by each of these subjects. Thus, we argue that the process of establishing agreements between divers and researchers on sampling methods often involves diverging opinions regarding the technical skills required, timing, weather conditions, and diving regulations in these waters among other factors that generate not only tensions and disagreements, but also instances of consensus, sense of community, and collective work.

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The new vision at the end of the world: the changing shape of Antarctic tourism

Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger¹⁰⁸

Lea Kannar-Lichtenberger completed both a Master of Fine Art and a Master of Contemporary Art at Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney. She was recently confirmed as a member of the Royal Society of NSW and is a Fellow of The Arctic Circle Residency Expedition.

Kannar-Lichtenberger is an artist, writer and presenter who works to increase the community's awareness around the impact of the Anthropocene and contemporary tourism in environmentally sensitive and isolated areas of our planet. Her mediums of choice are varied, embracing painting, drawing, video, sound and installation, along with elements of Bio-art and Land-art in her environmental examinations and art practice.

She has exhibited her artworks internationally, including 6 Australian solo exhibitions specifically surrounding her 2017 research trip to Antarctica. Globally, Lea has spoken extensively about her research at conferences; her writings have been published in peer-reviewed journals and a book.

Abstract

This paper will explore the role of the artist in creating awareness surrounding tourism. Kannar-Lichtenberger will examine how various media connect to those who view the artistic product by delving into it from multiple angles. The different ways visual/performing arts and science are interlinked and how both are crucial to increase awareness and to generate a greater discourse surrounding human impact in this fragile environment.

Having travelled to Antarctica in 2017 with an NFP and again in 2023 within the tourism bubble, Kannar-Lichtenberger will embark on an examination that moves from the current tourism trail, expanding to discuss the unknowable environmental stresses associated with the newest travel route of Antarctic tourism. Beginning in 2024 with a voyage from New Zealand into the Ross Sea up the Antarctic Peninsula and across to Ushuaia. The tourism juggernaut itself creates a juxtaposition between exploitation and environmental protection, which sits at the heart of this paper.

As an artist/traveller observer, Kannar-Lichtenberger's lens as the artist will look at the ways in which awareness can be improved. These examinations attempt to provoke a diverse and distinctive narrative which highlights the crucial role the artist plays in increasing the broader discussion.

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An introduction to the PCAPS horizon scan: identifying key social and behavioural science research questions for advancing Polar forecast information services

Hanne Nielsen¹⁰⁹

Hanne Nielsen is a Senior Lecturer in Antarctic Law and Governance at the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. She specializes in representations of Antarctica and has a particular interest in the commercial history of the continent. Dr Nielsen's current work focusses on the interactions between imagined versions of Antarctica and embodied encounters with the place in the context of Antarctic tourism and the media. She is a Chief Officer of the SCAR Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences; a steering group member of the WMO PCAPs project; and led Theme 7 (An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean) of the Southern Ocean Decade Action Plan.

Abstract

The Polar Coupled Analysis and Prediction for Services (PCAPS) project, which sits under the World Meteorological Organization's World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), is an interdisciplinary project that aims to enhance environmental forecasting services in the Arctic and Antarctic. As climate change intensifies pressures on polar socio-ecological systems, PCAPS seeks to bridge the gap between the forecast information that is available and its effective application by end users. We do this by integrating scientific methods, approaches from humanities and social sciences, and the perspectives of a range of users into polar prediction value chains.

To support this goal, PCAPS is conducting a horizon scan to systematically identify and prioritise key scientific questions related to the relevance, actionability and impact of polar environmental forecasting services. Input from polar operators, researchers, and stakeholders informs the scan, which draws on structured expert elicitation methods. The horizon scanning process includes an initial open-ended exploratory survey followed by a second round where experts refine and rank identified needs. The process, which is similar that used by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research in 2014, will lead to the development of an interdisciplinary research agenda for the next decade.

This presentation introduces the scope of the horizon scan and situates the process within the broader PCAPS framework. The priorities identified will help guide future research. By aligning research with operational needs, PCAPS will support improved forecast usability and address broader socio-environmental challenges such as indigenous knowledge integration, governance, and adaptation strategies for decision-makers and communities.

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The Environmental Security on the scientific presence of southern cone countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay): a comparative study

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Abstract

Environmental security constitutes a pivotal theme in International Security Studies, especially in this century. The preservation of the Antarctic environment is not only the guarantee of environmental security for the world but above all for the countries of the Cone South of America. This justifies considering the geographical proximity and the role of Antarctica ecosystem in the South Atlantic Ocean amongst other factor. The present research aims to understand the environmental strategies of Argentina, Brasil, Chile and Uruguay in their scientific presence in Antarctica. The research problem is: Does the scientific presence of these Southern Cone countries in Antarctica reflects national strategies for environmental security (2020-2024)? The research hypothesis is that: the scientific presence of these Southern Cone countries in Antarctica has been guided by strategic guidelines directly related to environmental safety and peaceful and scientific objectives. Regarding the methodology, this is a qualitative, exploratory research study, conducted as a comparative analysis based on bibliographic and documentary sources. The specific objectives of the research are: i) understand the issue of environmental security and how it relates to protection in Antarctica; ii) analyze the scientific presence of these countries in Antarctica based on institutional and operational data and iii) appreciate their official national defense documents in order to identify the environmental focus. The partial results suggest that the four countries, to a greater or lesser extent, have a very important environmental commitment to the Antarctic environment, the Antarctic Treaty system that is present in their documents, speeches, and actions.

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Raising awareness of the Antarctic protection through E&O activities in pre-university education

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Abstract

Antarctica plays an essential role in the global climate balance. The ice sheet melting trends, the damage to biodiversity, and the ocean currents modification are phenomena with a direct impact on the planet life. Raising awareness among new generations is crucial, pre-university education representing an important training channel. Since Education and Outreach (E&O) activities can bring Antarctica closer to students through interactive/interdisciplinary methods, the Romanian programs included activities integrating multidisciplinary notions. The Romanian activities structuring considered various formal and informal education methods within national programs (School Otherwise, Green Week), the National

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Commission for Antarctic Research program “Know and Protect Antarctica”, and international ones (Antarctica Day, Polar Week), such as: integration in schools (lessons about Antarctica’s role), workshops/conferences with polar researchers participation; media/storytelling campaigns (recommended/commented documentary books and films, photographic exhibitions, interviews with explorers/scientists); immersive experiences (interactive Antarctic tours); civic engagement (exhibitions and experiments in public spaces – Researchers’ Night and Open Day at museums or research institutes); use of artistic means: student creations illustrative for Antarctic issues - classroom lessons, national contests. Romanian E&O activities addressed all levels of pre-university education (kindergarten to highschool) and categories of high schools (theoretical, technological, vocational) also involving students with special needs. Pre-university education thus raises awareness of Antarctic protection importance, contributing to formation of responsible and active citizens.