

Subject: Newsletter 04.2026: Attention first deadline and events already 15.04.2026!!
Date: Monday, 13. April 2026 at 14:30:21 Central European Summer Time
From: TG Polar- und Meerespolitik
Attachments: InIIS Lunchtime SoSe 2026.pdf, Programm Albert-Ballin-Forum Hamburg Mai 2026.pdf, CfP - Coloniality of the modern state.pdf, AIA CfA.pdf, Käte_Hamburger_Kolleg_Kassel_CfA.pdf, CfP_Anthropocene_Ocean.pdf, CASS CfP.pdf, KDM DAM Strategiegruppentreffen CfP.pdf, SCiCAO policy brief.pdf

Dear colleagues interested in ocean and polar politics and our thematic group,

welcome to our first newsletter since November last year. We apologize for the long silence - due to sick-leaves and too much other things on our plates - and hope to be back more regularly again during the rest of this year.

In this newsletter, we briefly reflect on the very nice **Thematic Group annual Conference** (TGC) we had in Frankfurt, and briefly report from the members' assembly at the conference (1+2), followed by the announcement of a new link for **TG's ECR online coffee chat** (3). We then go to a number of very **interesting calls for conference contributions** (4-9), **please not the very close deadlines particularly for the KDM/DAM meeting!!** These are followed by **two fellowship calls and a PhD position** offer (10-12). Again, **please note the very close deadline for the first call!!** We then alert you to **two interesting events** in which TG members participate (13+14), as well as to **interesting remarks** by new AWI director Hajo Eicken on interdisciplinary polar research (15). The mail is concluded by **publications** from our group's ranks and other **interesting materials** (16-17), before we finish with the usual call for contributions to the next newsletter and information on subscription.

1. Brief Recap from Thematic Group's 2026 Annual Conference (TGC) in Frankfurt

From 25-26.02.2026, we met for the Thematic Group's 5th annual conference at Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). For a look at the exciting program we had and reflections, see <<https://www.dvpw.de/gliederung/themengruppen/polar-und-meerespolitik/veranstaltungen#c7994>>. Photos from the TGC can be found here: <<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/bczqoll0n3op38gpvszue/AEkoMyGMUKDPLnfSf-RD2bU?rlkey=ngtsn2kwqcdf70t8gyewh371h&st=jcw2eujv&dl=0>>. A big thank you again to our marvellous hosts at PRIF, coordinated by Patrick Flamm!!

2. Notes from TG's member assembly at the 2026 TGC, Outlook to 2027 TGC, and Update on 2026 Activities

At the member's assembly, Annegret Kuhn reported from the Consortium German Marine Research (KDM). KDM will merge into the German Alliance for Marine Research (DAM). DAM will issue a call for a fourth interdisciplinary research mission later this year. See also the CfP of KDM's Strategy Group for Social Sciences and Humanities below. For the next Thematic Group Conference (TGC) we will offer optional submission of papers two weeks before the conference next year, so that other participants can comment. We will also try to develop more diverse formats like the walk and talk as something people can take up. Parallel sessions will be avoided. The initially envisioned date for next year's TGC in Bremen collides with the German Society for Polar Research's International Polar Conference in Bremerhaven, which is scheduled in the same week. We are in contact with the IPC organizers to arrange integration in the program.

TG members and followers will be discussing ocean and polar politics at the European International Studies Association's Annual Conference in Lisbon, 01-04.09.2026 among other sites in 10 expected panels of the Global Ocean and Polar Justice Standing Section. Do not forget to register and look out for the exciting program. Moreover, TG members will discuss "Why, how, and how much should IR care about the polar regions – and why your average IR scholar knows nothing about them" in a roundtable at DVPW's IR

Section's conference in Würzburg, 21-23.09.2029.

3. New Online Meeting Link for Thematic Group's Early Career Researcher's Café

Are you an early career researcher working on polar or marine stuff? Then start your week off right by joining us for an informal coffee chat to share updates on funding opportunities, discuss your research interests, and swap advice with others in the field. There's no need to prepare—just bring yourself and your favourite beverage. Every first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM (CET). Dates in 2026: May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st. If you would like a calendar invite with the meeting link, please email <charlotte.gehrke@hifmb.de>.

Meeting link:

<<https://awi.webex.com/awi/j.php?MTID=m67b2f833395c666d8c87009ce6862ddd>>.

Meeting number: 2782 708 7854; Meeting password: TGTCafeMeetz26.

4. Call for Papers: KDM/DAM Strategy Group for Marine Social Sciences and Humanities, deadline for submissions, 15.04.2026

The meeting takes place at Center for Ocean and Society at Kiel University, 11-12.06.2026 under the title **"Political Tides: Reflection & Relevance of Marine Social Science and Humanities"**. The organizers call for two types of contributions: Empirical research and findings (no draft proposals) in marine social and cultural sciences against the backdrop of current (geo-)political transformations, and contributions that explicitly reflect on political context conditions and implications for methodological and strategic challenges for marine social and cultural sciences and that highlight research practices for dealing with these challenges (e.g. transdisciplinary research approaches). [PDF with the Call and further information is attached.](#)

5. Call for Papers: "The Anthropocene Ocean – Navigating towards a Sociology of the Sea", deadline for submissions, 30.04.2026

The call is for an Ad-hoc-Group at the 43. Congress of the German Society for Sociology (DGS), 28.09.-02.10.2026 at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany. Contributions are sought which explore key socio-marine entanglements and their impact for social theory and methodology; discuss the ontological particularity of the geophysical materiality, texture, gravity and planetary scope of the sea, reflect on infrastructural socio-marine interdependencies throughout sea, science and society, profile sociological expertise for collaboration with the marine natural and engineering sciences, frame current transformations of international ocean related science-policy organization. [PDF with the Call and further information is attached.](#)

6. Call for Papers: 19th Polar Law Symposium, deadline for submissions, 30.04.2026

The PLS takes place at University of Waikato, Hamilton campus, New Zealand, 09-11.11.2026, with the twin themes: "Regime Interaction: Biodiversity, Climate, Oceans, and Protecting the Polar Environments"; and "Biculturalism and Polar Governance". Abstract submission via the symposium website <<https://lnkd.in/e6vMRT5k>>. For other details visit the dedicated webpage: <www.ivvy.com.au/event/MHLPOT/home.html>.

7. Call for Papers: "Coloniality and the State", deadline for submissions, 15.05.2026

The workshop takes place, presence only, 12-13.11.2026 at Salle Kant, Institut d'études européennes (IEE), Brussels and is co-hosted and organized by Centre de Recherche et études en politique internationale (REPI) of ULB, Centre d'étude de la vie politique (CEVIPOL) of ULB, and Border Criminologies of the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford. While neither specific polar or ocean oriented, the focus might be interesting to anyone confronted with settler-colonialism in Arctic research or colonial pasts in ocean and marine research in the Global South, and past and present of ocean and polar politics and policies of colonizing states. The four major themes of the workshop, "the knowledge of, and produced by, the state", "Sovereignty-based international order and masking colonial hierarchies", "Postcolonial state formation as

reproduction of coloniality internally", "Borders and bordering entrenching order across neocolonial lines", tacitly but clearly ask for bringing in polar and ocean perspectives. Further information here : <<https://repi.phisoc.ulb.be/fr/cfp-coloniality-of-the-modern-state>>. PDF of Call attached.

8. Call for Papers: Critical Arctic Studies Symposium, deadline for submissions, 31.05.2026

The symposium will take place 25-26.08.2026 in Kemi, Finland in hybrid mode under the title **"Waterscapes in the Bothnian Bay and beyond"**. The call reads "Land-based methods of knowledge production largely ignore the enormous role that water plays in our everyday life. In the era of global environmental crisis, however, land and water can no longer be separated from each other – on an ontological or epistemological level, as well as in practice in everyday life." Conceptual, methodological, artistic and empirical papers from various disciplines and fields that discuss the theme of the symposium are invited. PDF with the Call attached.

9. Call for Panels: Arctic Circle Assembly (ACA) 2026, deadline for submissions, 01.05.2026

The ACA will take place in Reykjavik, 08-10.10.2026. The Call for Session Proposals is now open. Instructions and submission link can be found here: <<https://www.arcticcircle.org/assemblies/2026-arctic-circle-assembly>>.

10. CfA: Fellowships "Rohstoffwelten", deadline for applications, 15.04.2026

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Rohstoffwelten – Kulturen im Umbruch", based at the University of Kassel, starting in August 2026, is dedicated to interdisciplinary research on the global transformation of raw material worlds (Rohstoffwelten) and the profound cultural, aesthetic, political, economic, social, and ecological changes associated with them. It offers a space for collaborative, theory-driven, and empirically grounded research on the possibilities and conflicts of contemporary material and cultural transformations and energy transitions. It operates through three main profile areas related to an overarching focus. The latter for the present call is **Carbon Culture**, examining the epistemic, cultural, political, and socio-economic foundations of fossilism and related raw materials, and seeks to explain their remarkable persistence despite decades of climate debates, technological alternatives, and ecological crises." The profile areas are: Raw Material Cultures (Rohstoffkulturen), Raw Material Regimes (Rohstoffregime), and Raw Material Practices (Rohstoffpraktiken). For both focus and each profile ocean and polar politics are clearly relevant - even though not explicitly stated. PDF with the Call attached.

11. CfA: PhD-Position "Knowledge Co-Production and Participatory Scenario Development", deadline for applications, 22.04.2026

The Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen is searching for a PhD-candidate on the topic of Knowledge Co-Production and Participatory Scenario Development for Modelling Coastal Social-Ecological Systems. Focus region is the Eastern Tropical Pacific (Central America, particularly Costa Rica), with potential for comparative work in Colombia or Indonesia. The specific PhD project will be jointly developed with the successful candidate, taking into account their interests and skills. For further information see here <<https://www.leibniz-zmt.de/en/vacancies/doctoral-candidate-gn-wg-transformation-through-transdisciplinarity-triplet.html>>.

12. CfA: Fellowships "Comprehensive Security for a Changing World. Building Strategic and Technological Resilience", deadline for applications, 31.05.2026

The fellowships are at Academy for International Affairs of North-Rhine Westfalia in Bonn. The call develops the focus theme as follows: "Europe is entering a period of profound geopolitical transformation. The return of interstate war on the European continent, growing geopolitical and geoeconomic competition, pressures on global supply chains and energy systems, and the erosion of long-standing political partnerships are reshaping the foundations of international order. In this context, questions of security,

resilience, and strategic capacity have moved to the centre of political debate across Europe. At the same time, the understanding of security itself is expanding. Security today encompasses defence, but also the resilience of democratic institutions and societies, the protection of critical infrastructures, the governance of emerging technologies, and the capacity of states to respond to complex and interconnected risks." Clearly, polar and ocean areas as well as maritime security are relevant topics here. [PDF with the Call and further information is attached.](#)

13. Event: Hybrid lecture "Indigenous Sovereignty and Arctic Governance", 15.04.2026, 12.00-13.30

TG member Christoph Humrich is giving the talk as a Lunchtime Talk at University of Bremen's Institute for Intercultural and International Studies. [PDF with respective information attached.](#)

14. Event: "Interdisziplinäres Symposium zu Krieg und Frieden auf See", 12-13.05.2026, registration required!

The symposium takes place as third Albert-Ballin-Forum organized by Hapag Lloyd AG at Kühne Logistics University Hamburg. Among other interesting speakers are Herfried Münkler and TG member Anna Meine. PDF with program is attached. Registration here: <https://www.hapag-lloyd.com/de/company/responsibility/albert-ballin-award/albert-ballin-forum-hamburg-2026.html>.

15. Interesting News: New Director at AWI on Interdisciplinary Polar Research

The Alfred-Wegener Institut for Polar Research has a new director: Hajo Eicken. On several occasions he has emphasized the importance and relevance of more than natural science polar research. Bremen local news "buten un binnen" quotes him: <"Meine langjährige Tätigkeit in Alaska hat zu einem erheblichen Teil darin bestanden, Brücken zu bauen", sagt der 60-Jährige. "Das wird künftig auch für das AWI immer wichtiger werden." Konkret meint Eicken die Brücken zwischen Sozial- und Naturwissenschaften, zwischen Wissenschaft und Entscheidungsträgern in Politik und Wirtschaft, zwischen akademischer Forschung und indigenen Wissensformen."> Link to interview and article here: <https://www.butenunbinnen.de/nachrichten/bremerhaven-awi-neuer-direktor-eicken-boetius-100.html>. An other interesting interview appeared in FAZ, 30.03.2026, p. 15, where he again speaks of "holistic polar research" (ganzheitliche Polarforschung).

16. Publications from TG-members and followers

(a) Anja Menzel and Charlotte Gehrke have edited a special issue of Ocean and Society on "Ocean Pop: Marine Imaginaries in the Age of Polycrisis" Available open access at <https://doi.org/10.17645/oas.i518>.

(b) Tobias Etzold wrote a review of Mia Bennett's and Klaus Dodds' (2025) „Unfrozen. The Fight for the Future of the Arctic". Accessible here: <https://www.pw-portal.de/aussen-und-sicherheitspolitik/ueberblick/mia-bennett-klaus-dodds-unfrozen-the-fight-for-the-future-of-the-arctic>

(c) Wenwen Lyu, Arne Langlet-Uranüs, Alice B.M. Vadrot (2026) published "From data rationales to data infrastructure: Implications for the BBNJ clearing-house mechanism", Marine Policy, 188, 107079, open access here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X26000497?via%3Dihub>.

17. Other Interesting Material

(a) Bennett, Mia/ Dodds, Klaus (2025): Unfrozen. The Fight for the Future of the Arctic, Yale, Yale University Press

(b) Flores, Hauke (2025): Setting the scientific knowledge base of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement, SciCAO Policy Brief, [PDF is attched.](#)

(c) Jacobsen, Marc/Wilson Rowe, Elana (eds. 2026): Arctic Security and Governance, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

(d) Hønneland, Geir/Østhagen, Andreas/Svein Vigeland Rottem (eds. 2026): Handbook of the Politics of the Arctic, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

As always, watch out for our next mail. Deadline for submitting information for distribution in the next newsletter is 28.04.2026. Any reports, sources, other information you would like to share with the group? Please send it to the address below until above indicated deadline! If you would not like to receive this mail anymore or if your address has changed, please let us know with mail to this address: <polarmar@dvpw.de>. We are looking forward to an active year with you! Do we see each other at EISA or DVPW's IR Section's conference in 2026? If not, reserve the date for our TG annual conference in 2027, scheduled to take place in Bremen end of February 2027!

All best,

Charlotte, Doro, Christoph und Hannes