

Subject: Newsletter 05.2026: Attention, first relevant event date is 30.04.2026!
Date: Wednesday, 29. April 2026 at 09:03:57 Central European Summer Time
From: TG Polar- und Meerespolitik
Attachments: BMFTR Ausschreibung.pdf, Post-Doc IFZO.pdf, Lecture Series Making Waves.pdf, Phd Researcher POESIS WP 3.pdf, PhD Researcher POESIS WP 2.pdf, PhD course GEG syllabus.pdf, BLANO Geschäftsstelle.pdf

Dear colleagues interested in ocean and polar politics and our thematic group, welcome to the second newsletter in 2026! We have news about **next year's Thematic Group Annual Conference (TGC)**, followed by a **reminder for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)** to join TG's ECR next online coffee chat (1+2). We then point to the German Society for Polar Research's 2027 **International Polar Conference (3)**. This is followed by a conference call that might also be of interest to Polar and Ocean politics researchers and itself be interested in Polar and Ocean examples (4). Next we share **four job offers** inside and outside academia, with and without PhD (5-8). Then comes an interesting **BMFTR-call for project consortia**, though with a **very short deadline** for pre-proposal sketches (9). Further we alert you to **interesting events regarding ocean and polar matters**, a **PhD-course** that might be relevant for some Polar- and Ocean Politics' ECRs, and a **Survey** you should participate in (10-14). The mail concludes with **publications** from our group's ranks, other interesting publications, and other interesting polar and ocean materials (15-17), before we finish with the usual call for contributions to the next newsletter and information on subscription.

1. News on Next Year's Thematic Group Conference

We have begun preparations for the next annual thematic group conference in late February 2027 at the University of Bremen (dates and timeline will be announced in the next newsletter). We are working with the German Society for Polar Research (DGP) to coordinate the schedules of TG's annual conference and their International Polar Conference (IPC) in Bremerhaven (22.-26.02.2027), enabling you to take part in our conference and the social science relevant parts of the IPC. You can find the IPC announcement below under (3.)!

2. Reminder: Thematic Group's Early Career Researcher's Café, 05.05.2026, 10.00AM, Online

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. We meet 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.

3. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Polarforschung: 30. Internationale Polartagung "Crossing Boundaries – Poles in Transformation", 22.02.-26.02.2027

The conference will take place at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven. It is dedicated to the upcoming centennial anniversary of the German Society for Polar Research and celebrates nearly a century of interdisciplinary polar and high-altitude research as well as international collaboration. The conference brings together researchers from various disciplines and generations to strengthen scientific exchange and contribute to the scientific agenda of the 5th International Polar Year (2032/33). The program includes scientific presentations and poster sessions, short talks by early-career

researchers, a public evening lecture, and a workshop organized by the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). Find a first circular on the conference here: https://www.polarforschung.de/Resources/Persistent/f/1/c/6/f1c61294182326c5b9dc19508c9f7e83db4f24b8/01-Circular_30-Intl-Polar-Conference_EN.pdf. A second circular will follow shortly and also posted on this list.

4. CfP workshop "Workarounds in Polarized Times: Navigating Deadlock in Global Governance", abstract submission deadline, 01.06.2026

The workshop takes place 27.01.-29.01.2027 at Goethe University Frankfurt. The organizers write: "international cooperation is increasingly shaped by polarization, contestation, and institutional gridlock. In response, international actors frequently experiment with 'workarounds'—practices that bypass, repurpose, or reconfigure constraints to pursue outcomes when established pathways are no longer viable." The workshop invites contributions that examine such workarounds as a mode of international politics under conditions of polarization. One can immediately think of examples from the Polar areas or Oceans!?! Full CfP and submission details at https://farrio.eu/?page_id=534. For questions contact Ben Christian b.christian@soz.uni-frankfurt.de.

5. Two PhD-Positions in research group, Power, Knowledge, and Servitude at Sea (POESIS), application deadline 17.05.2026

The positions are based at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies and the German Institute for Development and Sustainability. The first position is based in Work Package 2: "Extractive Dependencies," exploring meanings and practices of extractivism across interconnected coastal and riverine environments. Proposals are sought examining how extraction may coexist with worker cooperatives, Rights of Nature frameworks, and other forms of ecological personhood, and how these dynamics generate and contest new dependencies across socio-environmental contexts. The second position is for Work Package 3: "Submerged Dependencies," exploring environments below the waterline as sites where biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage management, and security regimes converge, inviting proposals examining how heritage governance, conservation, and security reshape access, custodianship, and the very definition of biocultural heritage under particular conditions. [PDFs with more details on each position are attached.](#)

6. Post-Doc Position on Democratic Resilience in the Baltic Sea Region, application deadline 31.05.2026

The University of Greifswald, at the Institute for Political Science and Communication Studies within the Faculty of Arts, is seeking to fill the position as part of the "Resilient Baltic Sea Region" collaborative project of the Interdisciplinary Research Center for the Baltic Sea Region (IFZO; Interdisziplinäres Forschungszentrum Ostseeraum). It offers the opportunity to conduct independent research on current issues related to democratic stability in times of crisis. The focus is on the foreign and security policy dimensions of societal attitudes in relation to domestic political dynamics. That certainly sounds suitable also for an Arctic, transformative conflict or maritime security focus! More information here: <https://www.uni-greifswald.de/universitaet/information/stellenausschreibungen/wissenschaftliches-personal/stellenausschreibung/n/wissenschaftlicher-mitarbeiterin-interdisziplinaires-forschungszentrum-ostseeraum-ifzo-26-e08-258048/> A PDF with the advertisement is [attached.](#)

7. Stelle für eine Referent:in (d/w/m/x; Post-Doc) im Bereich „Politikwissenschaft / Global Governance“, Bewerbungsschluss 10.05.2026

Für die Geschäftsstelle des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats Globale Umweltveränderungen (WBGU), die vom Alfred Wegener Institut (AWI) administriert wird, wird eine Vertretung für eine:n wissenschaftliche:n Referent:in gesucht für interessante und relevante Arbeit im Spannungsfeld zwischen Wissenschaft und Politik in einem interdisziplinären Team. Im Zentrum der Arbeit steht die wissenschaftliche Analyse und Aufbereitung umwelt- und

entwicklungspolitischer Fragestellungen für politische Entscheidungsträger:innen. Mehr Informationen und Link zum Bewerbungsportal hier:
<<https://jobs.awi.de/Vacancies/2169/Description/1>>.

8. Stelle in der Geschäftsstelle Meeresschutz der Bund/Länder-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Nord- und Ostsee (BLANO), Bewerbungsschluss 10.05.2026

Es wird gesucht, ein/e Bearbeiterin/Bearbeiter (m/w/d). Die Geschäftsstelle Meeresschutz unterstützt die Bund/Länder-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Nord- und Ostsee (BLANO) und ihre Gremien/Arbeitsgruppen bei den gemeinsamen Aufgaben des Meeresschutzes. Zentrale Aufgabe ist die Umsetzung der EG-Meeresstrategie-Rahmenrichtlinie (MSRL) für die deutsche Nord- und Ostsee. Der Aufgabenschwerpunkt des Arbeitsplatzes umfasst die Mitwirkung in der BLANO-Geschäftsstelle Meeresschutz sowie vielfältige Koordinations- und Fachaufgaben mit dem Schwerpunkt menschliche Aktivitäten/Eingriffe, sozioökonomische Aspekte und Maßnahmen zum Schutz der Meeresumwelt von Nord- und Ostsee. Weitere Informationen zur BLANO und ihrer Geschäftsstelle auf <www.meeres-schutz.info>. **Ausschreibung hängt als PDF an.**

9. BMFTR Ausschreibung für Verbundprojekte "Stärkung maritimer Sicherheit und Verbesserung des Schutzes maritimer Infrastrukturen", Einreichungsschluss für Projektskizzen 05.06.2026

In der Ausschreibung heißt es: "Gefördert werden interdisziplinäre, vorwettbewerbliche Verbundprojekte, die mit ihren innovativen Technologien, Maßnahmen und Strategien dazu beitragen, die Sicherheit von Seewegen und maritimen Infrastrukturen weiter zu erhöhen. Ausgangspunkt soll die Analyse existierender oder zukünftiger Bedrohungslagen und deren Folgeeffekte sein. Die Verbundprojekte sollen auf Sicherheitsszenarien aufbauen und den Forschungsgegenstand vollständig beschreiben. Isolierte Insellösungen sollen zugunsten ganzheitlicher Ansätze vermieden werden. Dazu kann auch die Einbindung von Expertise und Erkenntnissen militärwissenschaftlicher Forschung zum Themenfeld maritimer Sicherheit beitragen." Klingt so, als könnten auch Meerespolitikwissenschaftler gefragt sein! **Ein PDF der Veröffentlichung der Ausschreibung im Bundesanzeiger ist angehängt.**

10. PhD-course "Global Environmental Governance", application deadline is 14.09.2026

The 12th edition of the PhD course will take place 12-16 October at Lund University, Sweden. It is open to PhD students from all universities. The organizers write: "The one-week intensive course provides in-depth insights to the actors, processes and problems of global environmental politics and offers both practical and theoretical understanding about the world of international relations." Registration page with further information here: <<https://www.mgeo.lu.se/en/form/phd-course-global-environmental-governance-today-actors-institutions-complexity>>. For questions contact <Fariborz.zelli@svet.lu.se>. **PDF with the course syllabus is attached.**

11. Event: Panel Discussion "From the Arctic to the Strait of Hormuz: Geopolitics Between Climate Change and Global Realignment", 05.05.2026, 18.00-19.30, presence only, registration required

The event is convened by TG-member Charlotte Gehrke as part of the workshop "Rising tensions in the Arctic: issue-linkages evolution and consequences on cooperation" at Academy of International Affairs NRW in Bonn (More information on the workshop: <<https://www.aia-nrw.org/en/e/rising-tensions-in-the-arctic-issue-linkages-evolution-and-consequences-on-cooperation/>>). Panelists are TG-member Dorothea Wehrmann, and new AIA fellows Christian Bueger and Cécile Pelaudeix. The evening event takes place at AIA, Rheinallée 24, 53173 Bonn. Link for participation registration and more information on the event here: <<https://www.aia-nrw.org/en/e/from-the-arctic-to-the-strait-of-hormuz-geopolitics-between-climate-change-and-global-realignment/>>.

12. Event: Public Roundtable "The Future of Sustainable Ocean Governance

(Research)", 07.05.2026, 17.00-18.30, online, registration required

The roundtable is part of the workshop "Sustainability at Sea: Transformations in Contemporary Ocean Governance" organized by Thematic Group member Anja Menzel at University of Bamberg. Bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives, it explores the future of sustainable ocean governance in times of rapid environmental and geopolitical change. Emerging research priorities, key normative challenges, and the role of collaboration across disciplines will be discussed. More information about and program of the workshop here: <<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/polib/news-internationale-politik/artikel/sustainability-at-sea-transformations-in-contemporary-ocean-governance/>>. Registration for online participation with email to <claudia.genslein@uni-bamberg.de>.

13. Event: Lecture Series "Making Waves: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Water and Culture", 1st lecture 30.04.2026

The public lecture series takes place on select Thursdays in the summer term 2026 at University Bremen. [Poster with the dates and lectures attached as PDF.](#)

14. Take part in "TwinPolitics"-Survey and help to unlock "the Full Potential of Digital Twins for Sustainable Ocean Futures"

The Twin Politics project in Vienna develops social science expertise and perspectives regarding use of Digital Twins of Oceans, addressing concerns surrounding the socio-technical aspects. The survey is interested in the use of ocean data, technology, and knowledge by actors involved in ocean-related negotiations and policy-making. It is aimed at academics, diplomats, NGOs, and researchers. It wants to map how and by whom ocean data is used. What challenges the use of data and technology? What prevents decision-makers from using specific knowledge? What are the concrete data needs of the different groups? How do different actors perceive the role of data, technology and knowledge? Help answering these questions by participating in the survey. It takes about 12 minutes to complete. Link to the survey here:

<<https://univie.questionpro.eu/a/TakeSurvey?tt=zImsc9HihSOZx%2BWT1PNcTQ%3D%3D&lcfpn=false>>.

15. Publications from Thematic Group Members and Contributors

(a) Lewis, Brett A. (2026): Reconnected normativity: the role of a contesting world society in Arctic science diplomacy. *International Politics*, <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41311-026-00765-6>, pre-print, access here: <<https://rdcu.be/ffA5s>>.

(b) Paul, Michael (2026): America's Fixation on Greenland. Implications and Policy Options for Europe, SWP Comment 2026/C 08, 16.02.2026. Complete text (PDF) here: <https://www.swp-berlin.org/publications/products/comments/2026C08_US_Fixation_Greenland.pdf>.

(c) Robinson, Carol; Annette Breckwoldt; Alistair Hobday; Eugene Murphy; Prateep Nayak; and Alice Newton (2025): "Integrated Marine Biosphere Research: Ocean Sustainability, Under Global Change, for the Benefit of Society" Collection of 31 articles and 227 authors, and the accompanying e-book available in open access! Download here: <<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/11599/integrated-marine-biosphere-research-ocean-sustainability-under-global-change-for-the-benefit-of-society/magazine>>.

16. Other interesting publications

(a) Barusevicius, A., Garbis, Z., Silber, H. et al. (2026): Reanimating the sacrifice zone: Mechanisms of harm and healing in Yellowknife, *Ambio* 55, 962–974. <<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02267-w>>, open access.

(b) Batalla, O. (2025): Oceanic cartographies: Poetics in a saturated medium, *Social Science Information*, 64(3-4); 05390184251399091.

(c) Boyle, E. (2025): The Oceanic Feeling: Experiencing the Eternal through Swimming, *Theory, Culture & Society*, 42(7-8), 91-104.

- (d) Canova, E. (2026): The European Union's 'geopolitical subjectivity' in the Arctic in question: a case study of France and the Kingdom of Denmark relations, *European Journal of International Relations*, 32(1), 3-29.
- (e) deOliveira CS, Iho A, Heikkilä E, Kyrönviita J, Soininen N, Belinskij A (2025): The source-to-sea nexus between water and ocean law: An international and EU perspective. *Review of European Community and International Environmental Law*, doi:10.1111/reel.70031, Pre-Print
- (f) Moolna, A. (2026): Ocean inspiration for a sustainable future: Rivers to Seas engagement and a UN Ocean Agency?. *Ambio* 55, 775–782
<<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02289-4>>, open access
- (g) Mortensgaard, L. A. (2025): Gatekeeping the Greenland ice sheet: climate change data and the "upstream" production of global governance objects, *European Journal of International Relations*, Pre-Print.
- (h) Pujolras-Noguer, E., & Spengler, N. L. (2025): Stormy weather: Legacies of slavery and emergent forms of political-ecological relation in literary fiction of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, *Social Science Information*, 64(3-4), 05390184251401093.
- (i) Vandenberg, J.M., Ritts, E., Ota, Y. et al. (2026): Toxic tides of change: Ocean pollution as a cultural tipping point, *Ambio* 55, 783–793.
<<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02261-2>>, open access
- (j) Wallis, J., & Koro, M. (2025). Where are the Pacific Islands in the Political Science and International Relations scholarship?, *International Relations*, Pre-Print.

17. Other interesting material

- (a) Watched the film: "Die Wilde Nordsee" already? <<https://mindjazz-pictures.de/filme/die-wilde-nordsee/>>.
- (b) Seen the 2026 edition of UArctic magazine "Shared Voices"? If not, download it here: <<https://www.uarctic.org/about-us/shared-voices-magazine/shared-voices-2026/>>.
- (c) Noticed the new issue of "Cold Humanities" journal "Inter-Nord. Revue internationale d'études arctiques"? Free access here: <<https://miarctic.org/inter-nord>>.
- (d) Seen UNESCO's Courier on "How indigenous knowledge drives scientific discovery"? Find it here: <<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396938>>

As always, watch out for our next mail. Deadline for submitting information for distribution in the next newsletter is **26.05.2026**. 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>.

All best,

Charlotte, Doro, Christoph und Hannes