

The UK Polar Network and Its Activities

The UK Polar Network Committee - www.polarnetwork.org or info@polarnetwork.org

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The UK Polar Network (UKPN) was formed in 2007 as part of the IPY and makes up the UK branch of APECS (www.apecs.is).

The UKPN has three main aims:

- (i) to provide networking opportunities for early career polar researchers,
- (ii) to promote polar issues to a wider audience through education and outreach, and
- (iii) to provide information about polar issues via newsletters and a dedicated website.

There are currently over 200 UKPN members, all of whom are involved in various fields of polar research.

UKPN members are actively involved in encouraging polar research at many levels, organizing education and outreach events, holding network days, and hosting one-off career advice sessions. It's not all hard work; we have social events, too!



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Get Involved!

It's really easy – just **join our mailing list** to get in the loop! We have a variety of events happening all over the country. Have you considered:

- Visiting local schools to talk about your research,
- Volunteering for a working group,
- Participating in network days,
- Organising a regional event at your institution,
- Sending us photos for the website, or blogging about your research and/or fieldwork?

But I'm a Not so Early Career Researcher...

If you belong in this category and would like to help the UKPN why not:

- Help students attend to network days, or host one,
- Give talks at network events and workshops,
- Let us know about PhD/MSc/Post-Doc places and job opportunities in your department,
- Include early career scientists in program development, or co-chairing sessions at conferences?

To get involved in any way, or if you have any ideas for us, please drop us an email at info@polarnetwork.org

Recent Events



Participants at the Cryospheric Sciences Workshop

2009 Career Skills Workshop Series



2009 saw workshops on Polar Atmospheric Chemistry, Arctic Marine Sciences, and Cryospheric Sciences. Bringing together over 35 early career polar researchers from around the world at each event to present their own research and listen to talks by senior scientists on their research and careers, we hope these will serve as models for events in the future. 2010 already saw its first (very successful) workshop in Leeds!

UKPN Network Day - Southampton

The UKPN hosted a network day with over 50 participants from all over the UK. There was a great diversity of talks and posters ranging from marine geology to terrestrial ecology. Participants were very enthusiastic, and it would be great to see a (bi)annual UKPN conference develop in the future.



Education and Outreach Activities

Polar Science is exciting, and we want everybody to know it! The UKPN supports local schools visits, runs events like 'meet the polar scientist' sessions at regional science centres, and tries to make polar science as hands-on as possible.

In conjunction with the IGS IPY in Newcastle, UKPN volunteers talked to local children about what it means to be a polar scientist. Dressing up in Antarctic kit was by far the most popular activity! A selection of finest field rations was also on display and visitors were asked to come up with innovative yet nutritious menus that could keep hard working field scientists satisfied. Visitors were also given the chance to chat to members of the current wintering teams at Halley and Rothera research stations and select which job they would most like to do at an imaginary Antarctic base.

"What are you going to study when all the ice melts?" asked 10 year old Riley.



UKPN at the 2010 British Science Festival

For the past two years, the UKPN has run workshops for classes of school children at the British Science Festival. This year we'll be back with "Glaciers & Sea Level" - complete with photo slideshows, hands-on demos, and a question-and-answer with field scientists. Students will get to sculpt their own glacier and see how it flows, see what is happening to our oceans as the polar ice caps melt, and test Antarctic field equipment.



UKPN Career Skills Workshop Series 2010-2011

Continuing on the success of the 2009 workshop series, a series of free workshops for UKPN members, supported by NERC, the University of Leeds, Loughborough University, the University of Aberdeen, and others throughout 2010 and 2011.

The aims of the workshop series are to:

- Promote the sharing of ideas between early career researchers and encourage new collaborations
- Increase the technical and scientific knowledge of the participants
- Provide information and advice on careers in polar science.

The workshops provide an opportunity for early-career researchers from different institutions to meet and discuss their science, and combine presentations from leading scientists with group discussions, practical classes, and poster sessions. All invited speakers are asked to include a short section on their careers in their talk and act as mentors for the early-career scientists.

Polar Envi. Change in Loughborough

November 2010 This workshop will focus on the sedimentary archive from the Earth's polar regions considering questions revolving around how palaeo and contemporary sedimentary records provide information about past and present polar processes. Relevant to a range of disciplines, we aim to bring together delegates from a wide spectrum of the UKPN membership to present and discuss their work.

Science Communication in Aberdeen

January 2011 The ability of scientists to communicate their work to the public is becoming ever more important. Therefore, this multi-day event will help UKPN members develop their proficiency in this area. In addition to speakers sharing their personal experience, the workshop will include sessions on outreach with emphasis on school visits and presentation of work through the media.

