

Introduction to the UK Polar Network and its Activities

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Introduction to the UKPN

The UK Polar Network (UKPN) was formed in April 2007 as part of the International Polar Year, and makes up the UK branch of APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists). 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, including an enthusiastic management committee, all of whom are involved in various fields of polar research.

UKPN members have been actively involved in encouraging polar research at many levels, organizing education and outreach events, holding network days, and hosting one-off career advice sessions, for example an APECS mentoring session was included in this year's IGS IPY Symposium at Northumbria University. It's not all hard work; we also have social events and camping weekends!



Get Involved!

It's really easy – just **join our mailing list** to get in the loop! We have lots of different kinds 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 Atmospheric Sciences Workshop

Atmospheric Sciences Workshop

The first in the UKPN Career Skills Workshop Series, this event brought together 35 early career polar researchers from around the world to present their own research and listen to talks by senior scientists on their research and careers.

UKPN at the International Symposium on Glaciology in the International Polar Year 2009

The UKPN hosted an APECS mentoring panel; made of up senior researchers and leading scientists across a range of disciplines within polar science, the mentoring panel gave early career scientists a rare opportunity to discuss polar science with and seek advice from those best placed to provide the answers.

'Ask a Scientist' at the Inspire Discovery Centre

40 Norwich school children arrived to find out what it's like to be a 'real scientist.' A panel of five people answered their questions about scientific inspiration, day-to-day activities, and climate science in general. In addition to their wonderful questions, the children displayed an enormous amount of



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 a recent event 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 (with marine biologist and pilot coming out on top).

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



UKPN @ the British Science Festival
Last year, the UKPN ran their first Festival workshop. This year we'll be back with **Surviving Antarctica: Human innovation and endeavor**, complete with photo slideshows, hands-on kit demos, and a question-and-answer with field scientists. Following the presentation will be a short interactive workshop, where the students are invited to put into practice what they have learnt by brainstorming a design for an Antarctic ice station!



UKPN Career Skills Workshop Series

A series of free workshops for UKPN members, supported by NERC, the British Antarctic Survey, Sheffield University and Plymouth Marine Laboratory amongst others, is taking place throughout 2009.

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 will act as mentors for the early-career scientists.

Arctic Marine Sciences in Plymouth

12-13th October Activities will range from scientific presentations and a poster cruise to round table discussions on career paths and education & outreach, as well as question and answer sessions on national and international collaboration,

Cryospheric Sciences in Sheffield

4-6th November Sessions planned include talks on remote sensing of ice, paleoclimate, mass balance, and ice core studies, practicals on ice flow modelling, panels on field science, and training in Education and Outreach. Activities will include a

