

Welcome to 2012!

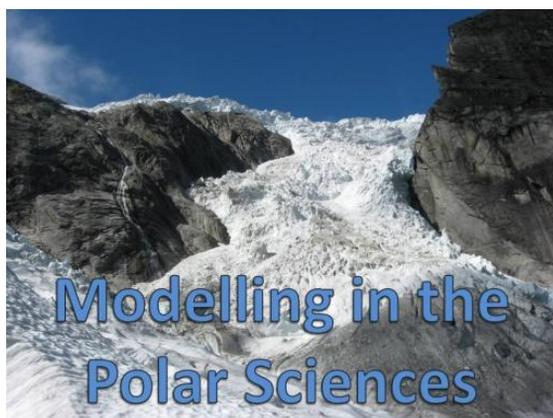
It's been another amazing year for UKPN; workshops, mentoring, schools visits, outreach sessions... we've done it all! And as the new year comes in, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making UKPN a great network and national branch of APECS that we can be proud of... We look forward to another successful round of events for 2012 and we hope that you will continue to join in and make UKPN great!

UKPN Committee 2011-2012

Featured in this Newsletter:

- Modelling in the Polar Sciences workshop in Sheffield
- Find out how you can become a member of the UKPN Committee
- An overview of some of the successful events held in Autumn 2011
- How to get more involved in school's projects...

So please read on and if you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with us on com@polarnetwork.org



Modelling In the Polar Sciences - Workshop April 2012

This free workshop will focus on the use of modelling in the polar sciences and will be held in the Department of Geography at the University of Sheffield on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of April 2012.

Following the format of previous successful UKPN workshops, we are organising lectures, a poster session and practicals covering a broad range of polar science-related subjects where mathematical modelling plays a role. These will be led by highly respected academics including Grant Bigg, Sheffield; Andrew Fowler, Limerick; Edward Hanna, Sheffield; Richard Hindmarsh, British Antarctic Survey; Richard Hodgkins, Loughborough; Pete Nienow, Edinburgh; Felix Ng, Sheffield and Ian Rutt, Swansea.

To register please fill out our registration form with your details and the title and abstract of your poster by following the link below.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7FGGJCY>

The deadline for registration is Friday the 2nd of March 2012. There will be a limited number of spaces available so in the event of oversubscription, decisions will be made by Friday the 9th of March 2012.

Want to become more involved in UKPN?

The UKPN Annual General Meeting (AGM) is being held in Sheffield this year following the Modelling in Polar Sciences workshop. If you want to become more involved in UKPN, meet the current committee members or simply fancy an afternoon getting to know some Polar scientists in the UK, then please come along. We will also have a keynote speaker at the meeting, so keep an eye on our website for more details of this. If you would like to be on the committee then this is a perfect opportunity! Hope to see you there.

UK Map of Polar Speakers!

Are you willing to go into schools and talk about your research? Do you already have established outreach projects or networks with local schools? If so, we want to hear from you. UKPN is currently collecting a database of Polar speakers. We want to make this facility available on our website to allow teachers and educators to search for enthusiastic polar scientists in their area who are willing to engage in Education and Outreach projects. Generous funding from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office is available to cover your costs. If you are interested, please contact Laura Hobbs for more details.

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UKPN at AGU



Prior to the American Geophysical Union Fall meeting held in San Francisco at the beginning of December 2011, APECS (with representatives from UKPN) and POLARTREC hosted a Polar Information Station as part of the public engagement session undertaken at the conference. Over 250 people visited the stand and much fun was had by all.



Biology and Ecosystems Workshop Nov 2011

The workshop 'High latitude biology, ecosystems and the future; A multidisciplinary approach' organised by Coleen Suckling ran for 2 days mid November in the British Antarctic Survey. This was the first biology based workshop from the UK Polar Network's career development series which saw twenty-three early career stage participants arrive to network in Cambridge.

Excellent talks were provided by keynote speakers discussing multi-disciplinary science and future insights for the Arctic (Ray Leakey; Scottish Association for Marine Science), Antarctic (Andy Clarke; British Antarctic Survey) and acclimations and adaptations on the polar regions (Melody Clark; BAS). Some of which will soon be available to view on the APECS website (<http://apecs.is/apecs-news/4533-ukpn-biology-and-ecosystems-workshop>). The participants were given opportunities to network through producing media aimed talks on their fields.



Using information generated from the talks and the skill sets of the participant's mini-mock grant proposals were generated on mutually agreed important polar questions. Future insights on these questions were discussed to determine how approaches proposed to answer them today may change over the next decade. Interestingly the participants drew to similar conclusions – molecular and satellite applications will become increasingly important in the future! Participants also presented their work to each other through a poster session.



Alan Rodger (Science Leader, BAS) closed the meeting with his inspirational talk 'Where is environmental science going?'. He informed the participants that the 21st century is the century for biologists due to the urgency to understand the repercussions of rapid climate change on ecosystems and highlighted the importance on utilizing a multidisciplinary approach.

We would like to thank everyone who helped and participated in the workshop, particularly the British Antarctic Survey for hosting and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office for funding.

Polar Outreach Day

On Monday 28th November 2011, UKPN member and University of Leeds PhD student Chris Williams educated and enthralled sixty children aged 7-8 about science and exploration in the Arctic region.

Chris treated the budding polar enthusiasts to a fascinating photo presentation, lively discussions, real-life displays and interactive exercises to show the wonder and challenge of living and working in the Arctic environment.

Feedback from the children and teachers was excellent and all participants went away with an appreciation of and fascination for the polar regions, and many future explorers were inspired!

Schools outreach activities in India!

In November 2011, UKPN member and Sheffield-based PhD student Sonal Choudhary visited her native India to enlighten young people at three different schools about the opportunities in polar science.

Sonal's inspiring campaign reached several hundred Indian schoolchildren, their teachers and representatives from

Indian media organisations. Sonal informed her audiences in presentations on her research work and the broader importance of polar science, entertained with stories of living and working in polar regions, and answered questions from many newly-inspired polar enthusiasts about how to take up a polar science career, her motivation for choosing an unusual career and how she travelled from their small town, via the UK, to the high Arctic.

We thank the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office for funding these school visits. If you would like to run a schools visit, get in touch!

