

SCAR Open Science Conference (19 - 23 Aug 2024, Pucon Chile)
Abstract deadline: 18 March 2024

- The abstract title is limited to 30 words.
- The abstract text is limited to 300 words.
- Session #35: **Public Engagement with Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research**
- *Convenors: Prof Elizabeth Leane, Franco Orellana, Dr Katie Marx, Anche Louw, Ramcharan Vijayaraghavan, Andrea Peña Aguirre*

Title:

Show Your Work — The Inherent Adventurous Spirit, Hardships and Emotional Bonds of Antarctic Research as Drivers of Public Engagement

Abstract: (Currently 294 words)

Complexity, apathy and desensitization are common obstacles for garnering public attention with charts, graphs and data. How to make the average person appreciate and engage with urgent scientific findings? What makes people sit up and pay attention? What universally nets understanding and appreciation across cultures and across time? Hard work, camaraderie and adventure.

Antarctic researchers are a particularly adventurous breed. It takes a certain kind of character to simply travel to the continent, let alone to spend months surviving on it while conducting complex, in depth science.

This presentation will explore the many facets of Antarctic research to reveal a novel yet simple approach to engaging the public with the vital research and results conducted and obtained on our planet's southernmost continent in an effort to bolster the call for climate change mitigation across the globe.

Footage of the intricate preparation for and conducting of Antarctic research will be shared to suggest how the inherent adventurous spirit of the researchers themselves, their numerous necessary skill sets, the hardships they overcome, the camaraderie they experience, and the joy of discovery and achievement against all odds out on the ice and in the lab can be leveraged as drivers of interest for both the public and policy makers alike.

This presentation will end with an invitation for attendees to join us and submit their own footage to our team for the creation of an awareness campaign which showcases the

inherent beauty and reality of the Antarctic researchers' human experience normally hidden from public view — the vast breadth and depth of work and emotionality of generations of adventurous characters from multiple countries bonded by purpose, concern and curiosity — in order to engage the public in the urgent fight to mitigate climate change for a livable Earth system.

15 min presentation – 12 for talk, 3 for Q + A.

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