

## OUR FIRST YEAR

key words: early career scientists, COVID, general resources, murder hornets

BY DR ALEJANDRA SANCHEZ-FRANKS, CHAIRPERSON

*Dear IAPSO ECS community,*

It has been a little over one year since the IAPSO ECS committee was inaugurated at the 27th IUGG General Assembly, Montreal Canada in July 2019.

The 27th Assembly marked our first early career networking event and was our first gathering as an official IAPSO working group. A lot has happened in one year: we have recruited new members, established an online presence and have been working hard building up an ECS network and resources.

A lot of helpful resources for ECS can be found on our new website (<https://www.iapsoecs.org>) including the latest IAPSO news, upcoming events, job postings, fellowship and funding opportunities, openings for joining fieldwork, as well as ECS awards (don't miss out on the nominations for the IAPSO ECS medals!).

You can also find educational resources for outreach and learning that brings together a curated list of materials that can be used for teaching or engagement. You can now find us on Twitter (@iapso\_ecs; follow us to stay in the loop for upcoming events and opportunities in ocean sciences!), We have also been supporting and representing our ECS community by participating in the IPCC review and the draft implementation plan for the UN Decade of the Ocean for Sustainable Development. We've also been working hard to find ways to improve ECS representation in upcoming IAPSO assemblies (encountering some not-so-minor setbacks like a global pandemic along the way). If you haven't already, you can join our mailing list or write in your suggestions here: <https://www.iapsoecs.org/joinus/>. We are always looking for fresh ideas and new ways to improve.

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In the last year, a lot has also happened in the rest of the world. Maybe more so than any one of us has seen in their lifetime. We have seen social injustice, a global pandemic, economic crises, wildfires, murder hornets (!). Some days it truly feels like Pandora's box has been opened, and then I remind myself that for some, those in our community that face daily discrimination and injustice, perhaps Pandora's box was already open. More than ever before, life as an ECS is filled with unprecedented challenges. The usual challenges and milestones one faces in academia, such as completing project/paper, defending a thesis, finding a job, presenting work at workshops and conferences, and networking are now heightened by new uncertainty and challenges no one in recent history has faced.

*What do we do?* I find myself thinking more and more that at the bottom of Pandora's box, what we need to find isn't so much hope (an optimistic expectation for something that hasn't actually happened yet) but unity. The idea that we can get through this by sticking together and supporting one another.

"REMINDING OURSELVES THAT NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT GETS, WE CAN ALWAYS FIND WAYS TO  
SUPPORT EACH OTHER (NO EFFORT IS TOO SMALL),  
RAISE THE VOICES OF THOSE THAT NEED TO BE HEARD, AND LIFT EACH OTHER UP."

I hope that within the IAPSO ECS community we are building a safe space and a supportive network. A space where we will continue to do our best to provide resources needed to ensure everyone in the ECS community has the tools they need to succeed. It's been a little over a year since our group has started and, even in these troubled times,

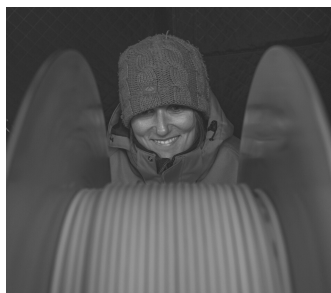
I am proud of what we've achieved and excited for the year to come.

*In the words of some nameless internet meme, I hope everyone is staying positive and testing negative!*



Ale Sanchez-Franks demonstrating the art of scientific power posing in the field.

Photo credit: Ale Sanchez-Franks



BY DR ZOË KOENIG, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

I am Zoe Koenig, a postdoc at the University of Bergen in physical oceanography. I got the opportunity to join the last leg of the MOSAIC expedition (<https://mosaic-expedition.org/>), a one-year long drift of the Polarstern in the Arctic Ocean. I had already been in the Arctic before but MOSAIC was the biggest expedition that I have ever been on. Also, it is the expedition where I had the most responsibilities as I was the team leader for the team Ocean (4 people) during my leg.

An ice camp is different than a normal cruise. There are no shifts and we work on the sea ice from 9am to 5.30pm, and process data/prepare equipment for the day after in the evening. Team OCEAN was in charge of all the physical oceanography on board. For example, we ran the ship CTD, measured turbulence from an ice hole, and deployed ADCP (acoustic doppler current profiler) under the sea ice.

My main interest was the turbulence in the ocean but with such a small team (4 people), we did not work project wise but team wise to ensure that there was greater flexibility for everyone to run every instrument. As team leader, I was also in charge of coordinating the team on a daily basis and interacting with the other team leaders to get good cross-cutting interactions.

Apart from the normal scientific work, I was surprised by the amount of troubleshooting that we had to do. As I was in the last rotation, the instruments had already been used for an entire year in harsh conditions without being properly serviced. I learned not only to operate an instrument but to also dismantle it. For example, we had to dismantle the ship CTD as a sensor got flooded and had to be replaced, or to redo the termination of a cable that got cut...

During MOSAIC, all the media were studied (ocean, sea ice, snow, atmosphere). Apart from the core program for pure physical oceanography, we had the opportunity to build cross-cutting activities, such as trying to understand the dynamics from an ecological, biogeochemical and physical oceanography point of view. I think this cross-cutting activity was one of the interesting aspects of joining such an expedition. Through MOSAIC, I have definitely developed a good scientific network that will lead to great papers/proposals.

"I LEARNED NOT ONLY TO OPERATE AN INSTRUMENT BUT ALSO TO DISMANTLE IT"

The MOSAIC experience was unique scientifically but also socially. I lived for 3 months with the same people on a 110-m long ship. I learned that soft skills might actually be more important than your science competence on a ship. Without good soft skills, the team cannot work and it results in way less measurement. This experience left a strong impression on me and I will remember it for a very long time.

## SHARE YOUR RESEARCH STORIES

Got a story like Dr Koenig's to share or know a fellow ECS who does?

Send your story or nominate someone for our ECS Highlight section in the next issue to [info@iapsoeecs.org](mailto:info@iapsoeecs.org) (attn: Danielle Su)

We invite submissions with a 750 word limit and 1-2 photos of you and Science!

## BULLETIN BOARD >>

### SCOR | 1 DEC

#### Call for 2021 SCOR Visiting Scholars

The SCOR Visiting Scholars Program is a partnership between SCOR and local hosts. SCOR provides up to \$2,500 for airfare and local expenses for each fellow. Click [here](#) for info.

### SENSE ABOUT SCIENCE | 4 DEC

2:30 PM GMT/9:30 AM EST

<https://senseaboutscience.org/activities/peer-review-workshop/>

Quality and Peer Review online workshop for PhD students, postdocs and early career professionals in the USA.. Registration is free.

### IAPSO | 15 JAN

#### Nomination for Early Career Scientist Medal

This award honours Early Career Scientists for their outstanding research in the physical or chemical sciences of the oceans, and for their cooperation in international research.

The IAPSO Early Career Scientist Medals, one for physical ocean science and one for chemical ocean science are presented by the IAPSO President, every two years, at the biannual IAPSO Assembly, where the Awardees are expected to give a talk on a scientific topic of their choice.

More information [here](#)

## EDITOR'S PICK >>

In the spirit of (belated) Halloween, here's a photo of our superstar chairperson, Alejandra! Thank you for all that you do for our IAPSO ECS community!

