

SeaLevel

Newsletter

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Welcome to the 2nd SPP-1889 SeaLevel Newsletter!

The diverse community of natural and social scientists from various disciplines embraced within the *SPP-1889* "*Regional Sea Level Change and Society"* (*SeaLevel*) *program* means that interaction and exchange of knowledge and information are essential elements of its interdisciplinary nature.

This issue, aiming to offer an insight into the SeaLevel activities and achievements of the different research projects, overviews the outcomes of the recent meetings of the SeaLevel members, namely the 2nd Annual SPP SeaLevel Meeting, a workshop dedicated exclusively to the Early Career Scientists of the program, as well as one focusing the scientific interest on Indonesia, one of the SPP SeaLevel study regions.

Other highlights in this issue include a report from fieldwork in Indonesia megacities; an example of the effective collaboration of SPP SeaLevel natural and social researchers and their published work on sea level rise,

Boosting integration & interaction: 2nd Annual SPP SeaLevel Gathering

The SeaLevel program had an exciting and productive 2nd annual status seminar in March at the Institute of Oceanography, CEN, University of Hamburg. About 60 scientists from 19 projects gathered together for 3 days to present and discuss their new results and progress, but also future steps.

The gathering of social and natural scientists working within the SPP-1889 SeaLevel overviewed the complex, multi-dimensional sea level research issue and the state-of-art knowledge on the field, demonstrating the

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flooding and social adaptation in Central Java, Indonesia; as well as a new paper in Nature Climate Change from one of our SPP Pls!

We hope you will enjoy reading our Newsletter and find it useful. We encourage you to get in touch with any comments/questions you may have about the SeaLevel, or if you wish to subscribe to our Newsletter.

Thanks for your interest in the SeaLevel program!



Fig.1: The participants of the 2nd SPP-1889 SeaLevel Annual Meeting (March 2018, CEN/ Institute of Oceanography, University of Hamburg).

comprehensive, multi- and interdisciplinary character of the SeaLevel program.
Science presentations from the SPP community covered new findings on global and regional level changes and extremes in the two study regions of



Fig 2: The 2nd annual gathering of the SPP SeaLevel at CEN/Institute of Oceanography, University of Hamburg on 19-21 March 2018.

the SPP SeaLevel, namely the Northeast Atlantic with the North and Baltic Seas, and the Southeast Asia and Indonesia region, impacts in these regions, as well as developments on adaptation options and different pathways, decision analysis and governance.

Among the meetings' highlights included examples of collaboration between natural and social disciplines and the exchange of complementary information among projects, further pointing out the benefits gained from the cross-disciplinary approach of the SeaLevel program and the great advantage of working within such a wide-ranging scientific community. Moreover, the SPP research scientist Ben Marzeion from the SPP PARSL-Glac project, expert on glaciers, presented results from a new research paper on glacier mass loss, which was first published in Nature Climate Change during the days of the 2nd SPP annual meeting. Find out more about the paper in page 5.

Guest speaker Jason Lowe from Met Office UK, discussed the different aspects and forms that sea level information is needed by a variety of different users for decision making, as well as he talked about sea level rise under 1.5 degree warming, high-end sea level scenarios and associated uncertainties.

A main focus of the SPP SeaLevel meeting was the identification and implementation of new ways to strengthen more and expand this ongoing exchange of information and interactions among the different disciplines and projects, while discussions further covered the future steps of the SPP program and its continuation.











Fig 3: Images from the 2nd annual SPP SeaLevel meeting in Hamburg: (from top left to right bottom)
Johannes Herbeck (Uni-Bremen), Monika Rhein (IUP/MARUM), Gerhard Schmiedl (Uni-Hamburg), Gabriel David (Uni-Hannover) and Susann Adloff (Uni-Kiel), Rapti Siriwardane (ZMT-Bremen), Jochen Kinkel (GCF, Potsdam).

"A meeting from us for us!"

1st SPP-1889 SeaLevel Early Career Scientists (ECS) Meeting

Following the 2nd annual meeting of the SeaLevel on 19th-21st March, another successful and highly stimulating meeting dedicated exclusively to the Early Career Researchers (ECS) of the program took also place at CEN/Institute of Oceanography, University of Hamburg.

The 2-day meeting, initiated, organized and ran by the SPP SeaLevel ECS community itself with the motto "a meeting from us for us", brought together PhD students and postdocs from the social and natural sciences to present their individual research work inside each SPP project, reinforcing interactions with each other and integration within the SPP SeaLevel community.

The meeting served as a great opportunity to understand each other's research to a more fundamental level, providing "down to the basics" information and thus building on

background knowledge, which is essential for obtaining both a wider overview and a deeper understanding into the diverse natural, sociopolitico-economic and cultural aspects of the sea level research field, but also of the interdisciplinary character of the SPP SeaLevel itself. In turn, this enabled the ECS to better perceive the involvement of their own work within the whole SPP SeaLevel program.

Benefiting from the expertise of SPP Principal Investigators (PIs), the ECS meeting further included lectures on key sea level topics.

Jochen Hinkel (Global Climate Forum, Potsdam) discussed to what extent the coastal societies are able to adapt to sea level rise, and what kind of sea level information are required for coastal adaptation and risk management, and Tilo Schöne (German Research Centre for Geosciences-Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (GFZ)), gave a lecture on measuring sea level with different tools and getting a consistent reference frame.

Fig 4:
Snapshots from
the 1st Early
Career
Scientists
Meeting of the
SPP SeaLevel
and their
excursion in
Hamburg
waterfront to
visit the storm
surge and flood
protection cites
of the city.





































Fig 5: Images from the excursion of the SPP ECS members to the flood protection cites of Hamburg, guided by Mr Jan-Moritz Müller from the Department for Roads Bridges and Waterways (LSBG).

We are building a sea level-related literature database!

Go to www.spp-sealevel.de "→ "Resources"→ "SL

Documentation Database".

You can also forward us your papers!

In addition, guest speakers from the Department for Roads, Bridges and Waterways (LSBG) talked about storm surges and flood protection strategies and accompanied the ECS participants for an excursion to the flood protection cites in Hamburg, offering a more thorough insight into the range of storm surge needs, designs and approaches. Moreover, Patrick Wagner, PhD student in the SPP IndoArcipel project, demonstrated a practical exercise on GIT version control software, while the comprehensive agenda of the meeting also included a lecture on writing and presentation skills for interdisciplinary topics and audience from a corpus linguist guest speaker from the University of Birmingham, UK.

Recent SPP SeaLevel Publications:

MOREWACC project: Bacherer, J., J. Hofstede, U. Gräwe, K. Purkiani, **E. Schulz and H. Buchard** (2018), The Wadden Sea in transition- consequences of sea level rise:: Ocean Dyn., 68, 131-151.

TRANSOCAP project: Bott, L.M., J. Illigner, M.A. Marfai, T. Schöne, and B. Braun (2018), Meeresspiegelastieg und Überschwemmungen an der Nordküste Zentraljavas- Physische Ursachen und soziale Anpassungsmaßnahmen, Geographische Rundschau, 70(4), S. 4-8.

CORSEA project: Esselborn, S., S. Rudenko, and **T. Schöne** (2018), Orbit-related sea level errors for TOPEX altimetry at seasonal to decadal timescales, Ocean Sci., 14, 205-223.

PARSL-Glac project: **Marzeion**, **B.**, G. Kaser, F. Maussion, and N. Champollion (2018), Limited influence of climate change mitigation on short-term glacier mass loss: Nature Climate Change, 8, 305-308.

Corsea project: Rudenko, S., K.-H. Neumayer, D. Dettmering, S. Esselborn, **T. Schöne**, and J.C. Raimondo (2017), Improvements on precise orbits of altimetry satellites and their impact on mean seal level monitoring, IEEE Transactions of Geoscience and Remote Sensing, 55(6).

Glacier mass loss: past the point of no return

Climate researchers from the Universities of Bremen and Innsbruck, including Ben Marzeion (Uni Bremen), Principal Investigator of the SPP PARSL-Glac project, show in a recent study that the further melting of glaciers cannot be prevented in the current century - even if all emissions were stopped now. However, due to the slow reaction of glaciers to climate change, our behaviour has a massive impact beyond the 21st century: In the long run, five hundred meters by car with a mid-range vehicle will cost one kilogram of glacier ice. The study has now been published in Nature Climate Change.

In the "Paris Agreement", 195 member states of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have agreed to limit the rise in global average temperature to significantly below 2°C, if possible to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels. This should significantly reduce the risks of climate change. What does this plan - if successful - mean for the evolution of glaciers? Climate researchers Ben Marzeion and Nicolas Champollion from the Institute of Geography at the University of Bremen and Georg Kaser and Fabien Maussion from the Institute of Atmospheric and Cryospheric Sciences at the University of Innsbruck have investigated this question by calculating the effects of compliance with these climate goals on the progressive melting of glaciers. "Melting glaciers have a huge influence on the development of sea level rise. In our calculations, we took into account all glaciers worldwide - without the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets and peripheral glaciers - and modelled them in various climate scenarios," explains Georg Kaser.

One kilogram of CO₂ emitted costs 15 kilograms of glacier ice.

Whether the average temperature rises by 2 or only 1.5°C makes no significant difference for the development of glacier mass loss over the next 100 years. "Around 36 percent of the ice

nature climate change LETTERS
https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-018-0093-1

Limited influence of climate change mitigation on short-term glacier mass loss

Ben Marzeion ¹, Georg Kaser², Fabien Maussion ² and Nicolas Champollion

Glacier mass loss is a key contributor to sea-level Change's sope instability in high-mountain regions* and the change ings seasonality and volume of river flow*. Understandin the causes, mechanism and time scales of glacier change therefore paramount to identifying successful strategies fo precipitation fields from the Coupled Model Intercomparish precipitation fields from the Coupled Model Intercomparish Project Phase 5 output to force a glacier evolution mode quantifying mass reponses to future clinate change. We find that contemporary glacier mass is in disequilibrium with the intercomparish of the coupled with the contemporary glacier mass is in disequilibrium with that contemporary glacier mass is in disequilibrium with that contemporary glacier mass is in disequilibrium with the intercomparishment of the couple of intercomparishment of the couple of significant differences between 13 and 2 K warning scenarior are detectable in the sea-level contribution of glaciers access are detectable in the sea-level contribution of glaciers access are detectable in the sea-level contribution of glaciers access are detectable in the sea-level contribution of glaciers access and an access to the long-term present smallibous measures are necessary for the long-term present and the couple of the couple of

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To quantify this disoquilibrium, we first estimate the glader mas that is sustainable under different gold num enterperstures. Not that the spatial distribution of gladers relative to the spatial patters of atmospheric temperature change inheals that gladers on average experience, higher atmospheric temperature changes that the gladers on average experience, higher atmospheric temperature changes than the globs mean. "We consider all gladers globally but seculd servelpherial gladers globally but seculd servelpherial gladers globally seculd several section of the second section of the section of the

the long-term response of each glacier contained in the Randolph Lindscein returnites (Edit) variants (ref. ¹⁰), which provides installactive inventors (Edit) variants (ref. ¹⁰), which provides installactive inventors (Edit) variants (ref. ¹⁰), which provides installaction (Edit). This is achieved by repeatedly applying identical climate forcing, corresponding to a joven global mean imperature change, to exceed the provides of the placetive forces and placetic forces and provides of the placetic becomes regilibrous and the provides of the provide

Using an approximated linear relationship between global inthropogenet CO, quinsions and global men temperature change (1,700 Ga. CO, emissions per 1 Kr. of warming", we calculate the blobal jacier mass Antige commitment of CO, emission as a furnice on of the global mean temperature (Fig. 2). Since this mass change ommitment is calculated from the equilibrium glacier mass, it is independent of, and in addition to, any potential mass changes committened to a calculated from the equilibrium glacier mass, it is independent of, and in addition to, any potential mass changes committed in the gate, but not yet veitable. We find that under present united in the gate, but not yet veitable. We find that under present yet of the conditions, every emitted by of CO, will eventually be expossible for a glacier mass loss of 15.8 G. 20-20 [s. q. Qatin, instead.

Institute of Geography, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany, Department of Atmospheric and Cryospheric Sciences, Universität Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria, Te-mail: ben marzeion@uni-bremen de

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still stored in glaciers today would melt even without further emissions of greenhouse gases.

That means: more than a third of the glacier ice that still exists today in mountain glaciers can no longer be saved even with the most ambitious measures," says Ben Marzeion.

However, looking beyond the current century, it does make a difference whether the 2 or 1.5°C goal is achieved. "Glaciers react slowly to climatic changes. If, for example, we wanted to preserve the current volume of glacial ice, we would have to reach a temperature level from pre-industrial times, which is obviously not possible. In the past, greenhouse gas emissions have already triggered changes that can no longer be stopped. This also means that our current behaviour has an impact on the longterm evolution of the glaciers - we should be aware of this," adds glaciologist Kaser. In order to make these effects tangible, the scientists have calculated that every kilogram of CO₂ that we emit today will cause 15 kilograms of glacier melt in the long term. Calculated on the basis of

an average car newly registered in Germany in 2016, this means that one kilogram of glacier ice is lost every five hundred meters by car," clarifies Ben Marzeion.

This work was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (grant 01LS1602A) and German Research Foundation (grant MA 6966/1-1), and supported by the former Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research as part of the UniInfrastrukturprogramm of the research platform Scientific Computing at the University of Innsbruck.

Ben Marzeion is also Lead Author of Chapter 4: Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities, of the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryoshere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) which will be finalized in September 2019.

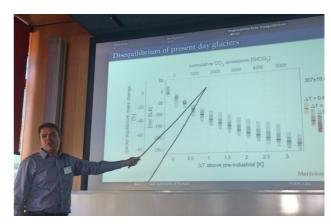


Fig 6: Ben Marzeion, PI at the SPP PARSL-Glac project, presented his new research work at the 2nd Annual SPP Meeting the day when it was also first published in Nature Climate Change.

A Day focusing on Indonesia & Networking

SPP-1889 SeaLevel projects with a main research focus on sea level changes and the impact on society in the Southeast Asia and Indonesia Overflow region gathered in Bremen earlier this year to exchange information and foster their interaction and collaboration. The Indonesian Networking Day, organized by SPP colleagues working in the EMERSA project, took place at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), bringing together representatives from the projects Asia-Floods, CoRSEA, EMERSA, IndoArchipel, SEASchange, and TRANSOCAP. The SPP SeaLevel Coordination Office also joined this interesting meeting.

The participating projects comprising both natural and social scientists presented an overview of their objectives and new results from their research and fieldwork in Indonesia, as well as they had the opportunity to reflect on and discuss each other's research outcomes, as well as to inform each other about future activities and fieldwork, upcoming workshops and other plans.

Among others, the discussion emphasized both the impacts of sea level on the society but also those caused by human action itself, particularly land subsidence, which in cities such as Semarang, Surabaya and Jakarta can reach 10 cm per year, leading to frequent tidal and river floods. Thus, it constitutes a serious issue for the local communities and poses the question of how and for how long affected societies will be able to deal with it in socio-economically feasible manners.

The participating projects further focused on mapping common grounds of interest and possible ways for further interaction, communication and cooperation among the projects.

A focal point of the discussion was what kind of information is needed from the natural sciences to feed into the research of social sciences involved in the SPP SeaLevel program, and vice versa, as well as further pathways to carry out and reinforce this exchange of knowledge. Examples of such a joint effort and collaboration have been already demonstrated, such as between the social scientists from the TRANSOCAP project and the natural scientists from the CoRSEA project, inspiring further courses of actions in this direction among the projects. Read more about this collaboration and the resulting publication in page 8.

Corsea: Field trip to Jakarta, Surabaya and Semarang

Julia Illigner¹, Tilo Schöne¹, ¹Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ)

The aim of the CoRSEA project is to use state-of-the-art geodetic sensors (Tide gauges, GNSS, Radar Altimetry, InSAR) to identify and examine sea level patterns and changes, find extreme sea level events from tide gauge records, and study coastal flooding under the view of local subsidence. This knowledge is then used as background information for socio-economic assessments.

The GFZ installed 3 tide gauges in northern Java, i.e. in Jakarta (2013), Semarang (2012) and Surabaya (2014), to study the local sea level, particularly under the influence of subsidence.

"In February 2018, we carried out a field trip to these tide gauges. For the purpose of vertical land motion monitoring, regular levelling measurements between sensors, GNSS antenna and the surrounding are crucial. To exclude a possible drifting of sensors, it is advisable to carry out regular dipping measurements additionally", explains Julia Illigner, researcher in the CoRSEA project.

In Semarang, subsidence rates of up to 10cm/year cause severe problems for the local community. The population numbers have been growing recently, and accordingly the amount of groundwater withdrawal. Due to land reclamation, some parts of the city have a great potential of soil compaction, which gets even worse by the growing number of massive buildings to accommodate the newcomers.

The surrounding mountains of Semarang intensify the problem. During heavy rain, the water runs down into the city and is dammed by the sea, which is almost on an even level with the city elevation. Especially during high tide, the rainwater cannot drain back to the sea. To avoid the frequent flooding, new building projects, such as the new highway, are built on embankments. These massive constructions add megatons of weight to the compacting soil.

The consequences of the resulting subsidence to the landscape of the city is clearly visible. Even our tide gauge itself, which has been well above the surrounding area in 2012 (Fig 7), is now to be found about 1 m below the new street level (Fig 8).

A site survey in the highly effected areas of Semarang reveals to what extent the population is affected by this development. Some streets were uplifted frequently every 2 years by 20 cm. The houses appear to be 'sinking', while the street level appears to be 'rising'. Fig 9 shows an inhabited house with an eaves height of ~1,20 m. The uplift of the street level clearly deteriorates the situation, since the water has nowhere else to go except into the low-lying houses.

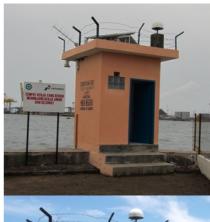


Fig 7: Tide gauge in Semarang 2012 (©Julia Illigner).



Fig 8: Tide gauge in Semarang 2018 (©Julia Illigner).



Fig 9: 'Sinking' houses Semarang 2018
The roof of the house in the foreground is just 1,20m above street level. The 1th floor balcony of the next house now serves as entrance, while the ground floor serves as basement. (©Julia Illigner).

TRANSOCAP and CORSEA:

Sea level rise and flooding on the northeast coast of Central Java. Physical causes and social adaptation

Lisa-Michéle Bott¹, Julia Illigner², Muh Aris Marfai³, Tilo Schöne², and Boris Braun¹ ¹University of Cologne, ²Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), ³Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

Sea level rise and flooding on the north coast of Central Java. Physical causes and social adaptation Coastal floods and their causes and consequences can be understood as coupled socio-ecological systems. The pattern of regional sea level rise in Indonesia is highly divergent, showing rates from -5 to more than +10 cm per annum. In Semarang, the capital of Central Java, GNSS-corrected tide gauge data show a strong rise of the local sea level of 10 cm per annum. This rise of the local sea level is mainly caused by land subsidence, which is due to tectonic instabilities, excessive groundwater withdrawal and increased surface load. As a consequence of the subsiding land surface, lowlying urban districts are faced with frequent tidal and river floods. So far, local people in Semarang have been able to cope with these



Fig 10: Central Java, Indonesia (Source: pixabay).

harsh environmental conditions, largely through mutual help, collective action and social capital. Outmigration from affected areas is very limited. But questions remain of whether people will be able to keep up with a possible future increase in the absolute sea level and how long staying in the affected areas will continue to be economically and socially feasible.

The full article is published at the German journal for Geography Geigraphische Rundscau: Bott, L.M., J. Illigner, M.A. Marfai, T. Schöne, B. Braun (2018), Meeresspiegelastieg und Überschwemmungen an der Nordküste Zentraljavas- Physische Ursachen und soziale Anpassungsmaßnahmen, Geographische Rundschau, 70(4), 4-8.

It will be presented to the public during the **public lectures of Geography Society of Cologne on 21st June** in Cologne by Lisa-Michéle Bott, PhD student in the TRANSOCAP project.

Future Events related to sea-level research:

8th GEWEX Science Conference on Extremes and Water on the Edge, 6-11 May 2018, Canmore, Canada

ESA Cryosphere Remote Sensing Training Course, Svalbard, Norway

SCAR & IASC POLAR2018 Conference: Where the Poles come together, Davos, Switzerland CLIVAR-FIO Joint Summer School on "Past, Present and Future Sea Level Changes", 25-30 June 2018, Qingdao, China

Sea Level Futures Conference, 2-4 July 2018, Liverpool, UK

INQUA-PAGES Early Career Researchers Workshop: "Impacts on sea-level rise from past to future", 26-29 August 2018, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Symposium on "Translating Sea-Level Change in Urban Life: Policies, Practices, and their Intersections in Island Southeast Asia", 5-6 September, Jakarta, Indonesia

IV International Conference on El Niño Southern Oscillation: ENSO in a warmer Climate, 16-18 October, Guayaquil, Ecuador

Main content created by

Dr. Eleni Tzortzi
Other authors are credited
respectively

Coordination team

Prof. D. Stammer & Dr. Eleni Tzortzi

Center for Earth System Research & Sustainability (CEN)/
Institute of Oceanography,
University of Hamburg
Bundesstraße 53, 20146,
Hamburg, Germany

Email:

eleni.tzortzi@uni-hamburg.de

Phone:

+49 (0) 40 42838 2987



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the diverse SPP SeaLevel fieldwork research!

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