

UK ANTARCTIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2026



DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Session	Time	Speaker	Title
Registration opens	12:30 onwards		
Lunch	13:00 – 14:00		
Science talks session 1	14:00 – 14:15	Durham LOC	Welcome and housekeeping
	14:15 – 14:30	Nina Kinney	From Antarctic Mosses to Southern Ocean Clouds: Ice Nucleation Activity and Its Molecular Basis
	14:30 – 14:45	Jun Saito	Internal Shortwave Absorption Drives Seasonal Subsurface Warming and Promotes Runoff in Antarctic Blue Ice
	14:45 – 15:00	Freya Alldred	Carbon and Nitrogen Stable Isotope Analysis of Antarctic Macroalgae: a 35-Year Record for Environmental Change
	15:00 – 15:15	Ronja Reese	Ice-Sheet–Ocean Interactions and the Reversibility of a Regime Shift Beneath Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf
	15:15 – 15:30	Neil Ross	Ocean-driven dynamic thinning of Berkner Island?
Coffee break	15:30 – 16:00		
Science talks session 2	16:00 – 16:30	Kate Winter	Moving mountains: sediment transfer in Antarctica (keynote)
	16:30 – 16:45	Martin Rogers	Emulating Global Climate Model Downscaling over Antarctica using Machine Learning
	16:45 – 17:00	Wen Chyin Yew	Inter-annual Microbiota Dynamics of Penguin Guts and Rookery Soils on Signy Island, Maritime Antarctic
	17:00 – 17:15	Katherine Deakin	Controls on the distribution of Antarctic ice tongues
	17:15 – 17:30	Eva Riehle	Rothera Research Station: a gateway to Antarctic science
Close of day	17:30		

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DAY 2: THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER



Session	Time	Speaker	Title
Science talks session 3	09:00 – 09:15	Sian Henley	Antarctic and Southern Ocean science into policy across spatial and temporal scales
	09:15 – 09:30	Rebecca Knight	Using Antarctic subglacial relic landscapes to inform past ice sheet retreat
	09:30 – 09:45	John Smellie	Sedimentation during retreat of the Late Oligocene (c. 26-27 Ma) Oi2b ice sheet on King George Island (South Shetland Islands, Antarctica) and implications for regional ice configuration
	09:45 – 10:00	Younghyun Koo	Uncertainty assessment of passive microwave sea ice concentration at a pan-Antarctic scale using MODIS imagery
	10:00 – 10:15	Ryan Neely III	Preliminary cloud-regime contrasts in the East Antarctic escarpment at Troll
	10:15 – 10:30	Bethan Davies	The Antarctic Peninsula under present day climate and future low, medium-high and very high emissions scenarios
Coffee break and posters	10:30 – 11:00		
Science talks session 4	11:00 – 11:30	Sharon Robinson	Islands in the Ice: Interpreting the future of Antarctic ecosystems (keynote)
	11:30 – 11:45	Ross Herbert	Sources of ice-nucleating particles influencing the Southern Ocean and Antarctica
	11:45 – 12:00	Samantha Kentwell	British Antarctic Survey's new Controlled Environmental Facility
	12:00 – 12:15	Paul Burgum	Resilient Polar Expedition Well-being: The Role of Basic Psychological Needs
	12:15 – 12:30	Kali McDougall	Larsen C Ice Shelf Rift Detection and Evolution Using C- and L-band Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar
Lunch	12:30 – 13:30		
Science talks session 5	13:30 – 13:45	Sophie Fielding	The RRS Sir David Attenborough UK polar research vessel: science systems update and ways to access
	13:45 – 14:00	James Lawrence	The First Identification of Metabolites from Antarctic Subglacial Sediment >2 km in Depth
	14:00 – 14:15	David Pearce	The atmospheric microbiome – complexity and the Polar regions

	14:15 – 14:30	Rob Larter	Key findings from the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration and Future Challenges
	14:30 – 14:45	Amena Boyd	Publishing Antarctic Data with the UK Polar Data Centre
	14:45 – 14:50	Peter Convey / David Pearce	Antarctic Science International Bursary
	14:50 – 15:00	Kristina Chan	Antarctic visual art
Coffee break and posters	15:00 – 15:30		
Poster session	15:30 – 17:00		
Drinks (Grey College bar)	17:30 – 18:30		
Conference dinner (Grey College)	18:30 – 20:30		
Close of day	20:30		

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DAY 3: FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Session	Time	Speaker	Title
UK Antarctic strategy in the build-up to IPY-5	09:00 – 09:10	Jane Francis	BAS update
	09:10 – 09:25	Jane Rumble	UK Antarctic Strategy
	09:25 – 09:40	Petra Heil	Strategic Imperatives for UK Antarctic Science: Aligning Science Drivers and Policy Frameworks for IPY-5
	09:40 – 10:30	Everyone!	Group discussions on UK Antarctic strategy
Coffee break and posters	10:30 – 11:00		
Science talks session 6	11:00 – 11:15	Sabrina Raziuddin	An Observationally Constrained Pan-Antarctic Sea Ice Volume Budget (2002–2024) and Its Dynamic–Thermodynamic Decomposition
	11:15 – 11:30	Georgia Hole	Reconstructing Antarctic Sea Ice across Past Climate States via Marine Proxy Data Synthesis
	11:30 – 11:45	Mark Tarn	Evidence for underestimated ice-nucleating particle concentrations in the Southern Ocean from the Southern Ocean Clouds (SOC) 2024 cruise
	11:45 – 12:00	Amélie Kirchgaessner	A new database to explore Antarctic Extreme Weather Events during the observational period
	12:00 – 12:10	Durham LOC	Wrap-up and closing remarks
Close of day and departure	12:10 onwards		

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LIST OF POSTERS

Jiao Chen: Interannual variability of supraglacial drainage networks and meltwater transport across the Nansen Ice Shelf, East Antarctica

Amena Boyd: Demystifying Data: a practical guide to research data management with the UK Polar Data Centre

Peter Convey: Accelerating range expansion and habitat occupation by the invading chironomid midge, *Eretmoptera murphyi*, on Signy Island, South Orkney Islands

Emma White: DeCAdeS – A New Array of Ocean Moorings in the Amundsen Sea

Corbyn Johannes: First Direct Observations of Dilute Antarctic Turbidity Currents

Sammie Buzzard: Polar Observation and Modelling Datasets to Facilitate Polar Research

Erin McClymont: Snow petrels as sentinels of modern and past sea ice ecosystems in the Weddell Sea

Charlie Smith: Nutrient release from Antarctic Sediments in synthetic sea water

Connor Burke: Antarctic sea ice and snow thickness retrievals in the Southern Ocean Marginal Ice Zone: A multi-frequency analysis with SWOT

Guy Paxman: Geomorphological characterisation of the Wilkes and Aurora Subglacial Basins of East Antarctica: a template for long-term ice-sheet dynamics

Grace Nield: Late Holocene ice history dominates present day glacial isostatic adjustment in the northern Antarctic Peninsula

Becky Sanderson: The Foundation-Patuxent-Academy ice stream system, Antarctica

Svetlana Radionovskaya: Living benthic foraminifera beneath an ice shelf in the Bellingshausen Sea revealed by a recent calving event

Pascal van der Bij: Antarctic ice sheet dynamics reconstructed by identifying the sources of subglacial tills

Kate Winter: Antarctic Place names: From Scientific Discovery to Public Engagement

Deaven Butler: Elemental Accumulation in Hydrothermal Vent Fauna of the East Scotia Ridge

Katie Meddins: A multi-proxy analysis of Holocene ice-ocean interactions in the south-eastern Weddell Sea

Georgia Lane: Penguins as geomorphic agents of change on Antarctic raised beaches

Laura Wilkie Johnston: Assessing the effects of ship-derived Black Carbon on Scotia Sea phytoplankton

Geena Spencer: British Antarctic Survey's new Controlled Environmental Facility

Edmund Lea: Constraining Greenland and Antarctic ice-sheet history and geology from morphological comparison of subglacial landscapes with former ice-sheet beds

Jack Humby: The Ice Chemistry Facility at the British Antarctic Survey

Katie Miles: Firn saturation from field observations on three Antarctic ice shelves

Laura Byrne: Modelled Antarctic Ice Sheet loss during the Miocene Climatic Optimum

Eloise Littley: British Antarctic Survey: Polar Sediment Core Facility and Geology Labs

Anamika Poyil: Objective Mass-balancing of Southern Ocean Ecopath Models

Connor Bamford: An updated census of southern elephant seals *Mirounga leonina* at South Georgia using satellite imagery

Freya Alldred: Stable Carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and Nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) profiles of the brown seaweed *Himantothallus grandifolius*: a case study at Chiriguano Bay, Brabant Island, Antarctica

Max Thomas: New tracer functionality in the SI3 sea-ice model

Hiromi Beran: Shallow-water benthic ecosystems of the Arctic and Antarctic: food web architecture and responses to climate change

Kate Horan: Sedimentology of the SWAIS2C Crary Ice Rise Core

Hakan Hazzard: Revealing buried continental landscape structure through residual analysis of Antarctic Ice Sheet surface elevation

Jim Jordan: The current state of ice-shelf calving in numerical models

Dominic Hodgson: Subglacial cosmogenic nuclide and luminescence evidence of Quaternary West Antarctic Ice Sheet deglaciation

Mike Bentley: A Holocene relative sea level database for Antarctica

Stewart Jamieson: Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Enables Year-Round Remote Sensing Observations of Emperor Penguins

Andrew Hoggett: Ice, Ice, Babies! Larval Connectivity Modelling for Porifera Populations Beneath an Antarctic Ice Shelf Under Future Warming Scenarios

Rhona Kent: A Dataset of Sediment Core Carbon Properties from the Southern Ocean and Wider Polar Front: Distribution, Composition, and Metadata for Future Blue Carbon Assessment

INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS

- Please bear in mind that the conference is attended by people with a broad range of scientific (and non-scientific) interests at a wide range of career stages. Most attendees will not be experts in your sub-discipline! Please aim to keep presentations as widely accessible as possible.
- Oral presenters are allocated 15 minutes, unless otherwise stated. **Please allow 12 minutes for your presentation and 3 minutes for Q&A.** If you have a shorter talk, please allow a couple of minutes for questions, as appropriate.
- Keynote speakers are allocated 30 minutes. Please allow 24 minutes for your presentation and 6 minutes for Q&A.
- For presentations, please bring your slides (.pptx or .pdf) on a (e.g.,) USB drive or e-mail them to ukantarctic2026@durham.ac.uk. Please ensure that we receive your presentation during the break/interval before your session, at the latest.
- Posters should be in **portrait format** and **up to A0** in size.
- Poster boards will be available from the Thursday morning coffee break (10:30); we encourage presenters to attach their posters at this time. Pins / Velcro will be provided to affix the posters. Aside from the dedicated poster session on Thursday afternoon, posters will be available during the coffee and lunch breaks on Thursday and Friday. Posters should be taken down at the end of the conference.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

Venue

The conference will take place at Durham University's Mill Hill Lane site (Business School; DH1 3LB).

Registration will be in the reception area and will open at 12:30 on Wednesday 9th September. The conference will conclude at around midday on Friday 11th September. WiFi will be available on site, and we will provide details at the venue. QR codes will be available for viewing the conference programme.

For those arriving from the railway station, the conference venue is approximately a 30-minute walk. There is also a taxi rank at the station and busses run regularly from the city centre to South Road, which is a short walk from the conference venue.

Meals and refreshments

Refreshment and lunch breaks will be provided each day at the Mill Hill Lane site (**please note lunch is not provided on Friday 11th September**, but there are plenty of good options in the city centre). If you have a reusable travel mug or refillable water bottle, please bring this with you (disposable cups will be available if not). The conference dinner will take place at Grey College (10-minute walk from the conference venue) on Thursday 10th September at 18:30. The college bar will be open from 17:30 and will remain open during dinner.

Accommodation

Those staying in college accommodation will have booked a room at either Collingwood College (DH1 3LT) or Hatfield College (DH1 3RQ).

- Collingwood: check in is from 2 pm and check out is by 10 am on the day of departure. Report to reception and the staff will issue you a room key. If no one is in the reception area, a duty Porter can be contacted by calling 0191 334 5000. Breakfast is served in the main dining hall on a self-service basis from 8 to 9 am.
- Hatfield: rooms are ready by 2 pm on the day arrival and check out is by 10 am on the day of departure. Reception is open between 9 am and 5 pm daily. Outside these times, a 24-hour porter can be contacted using the internal telephone at the reception desk. Breakfast is served in the dining hall from 8 to 10 am unless otherwise indicated.

Any queries, please contact ukantarctic2026@durham.ac.uk