

Open Science Conference Session
***“Presence of the past and methods and innovations in
polar social sciences”***

XXXIII SCAR Biennial Meeting and Open Science Conference
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During the 33rd SCAR Biennial Meeting and Open Science Conference, a session on presence of the past and methods and innovations in polar social sciences was organized by Daniela Liggett (New Zealand) and Cornelia Lüdecke (Germany). Unfortunately there was little time for more talks during such a big conference, resulting in a small session with only six talks, although many more abstracts had been submitted.

Anne-Marie Brady (New Zealand) focussed on Antarctica in China's national narrative in context with the presence of the past. Cornelia Lüdecke (Germany) showed how the discovery of the extinct volcano Gaussberg – an island in the ice – served as representation of Antarctica for German scientists at 1902/03. Elizabeth Leane (Australia) gave the Lewander Lecture and introduced a very prominent controversy on the Macquarie Island penguin-harvesting, referring to science, celebrity and media in a subantarctic wildlife campaign in the 1920s. Stuart Prior (New Zealand) explained the influence of Soviet Antarctic expeditions on the future of Russia's southern polar interests, while Alessandro Antonello (Australia) analysed the verbatim records and sound recordings of Treaty diplomacy in listening in on “live” Antarctic history. Daniella McCahey (USA) presented extreme environment and the shaping of scientific knowledge using the example of the Royal Society expedition to Halley Bay in the period 1955-1959.

Report by Cornelia Lüdecke, Munich