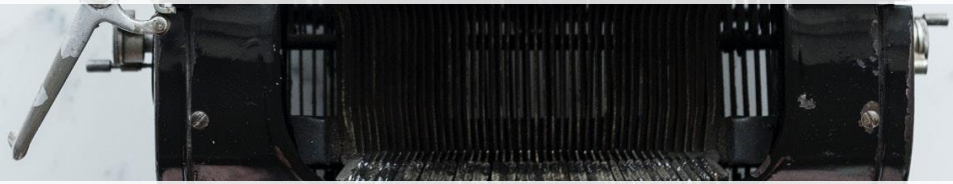
Getting your proposal funded: an ERC Success Story
PAGES-ECN Webinar

PAGES PAST GLOBAL CHANGES

Getting your proposal funded

an ERC Success Story

Alessio Rovere



WARMCOASTS

marum

erc

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No. 802414)

An ERC StG is about …

You

The brilliant young researcher

An ERC StG is about …

You

The brilliant young researcher

Your idea

The ground-breaking stuff you'll do

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You

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The ground-breaking stuff you'll do

Conception

Having the first idea

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Inception

Streamlining the idea

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Fixing the idea on paper

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Interview
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Your aren't giving up, are you?

Conception
Having the first idea

erc

Disclaimer!

The following is what worked **for me**!

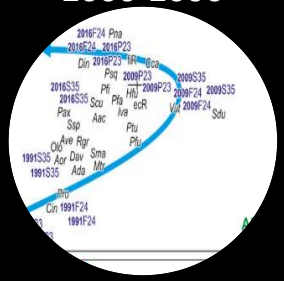
Take what you need
Leave what you don't think will work for you

My path

I am attracted by things that I like
but that I don't know how to do

Bachelors and Masters

2000-2006



Learned to:

Get data
Analyse them
Publish (2006)

My path

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PhD

2008-2011

Learned to:

Work on a subject
Follow my interests
Publish more

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2012-2014

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Write better proposals
Write higher quality papers

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Spinoff CEO
2010-2015

Learned to:

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2012-2014

Learned to:

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Spinoff CEO
2010-2015

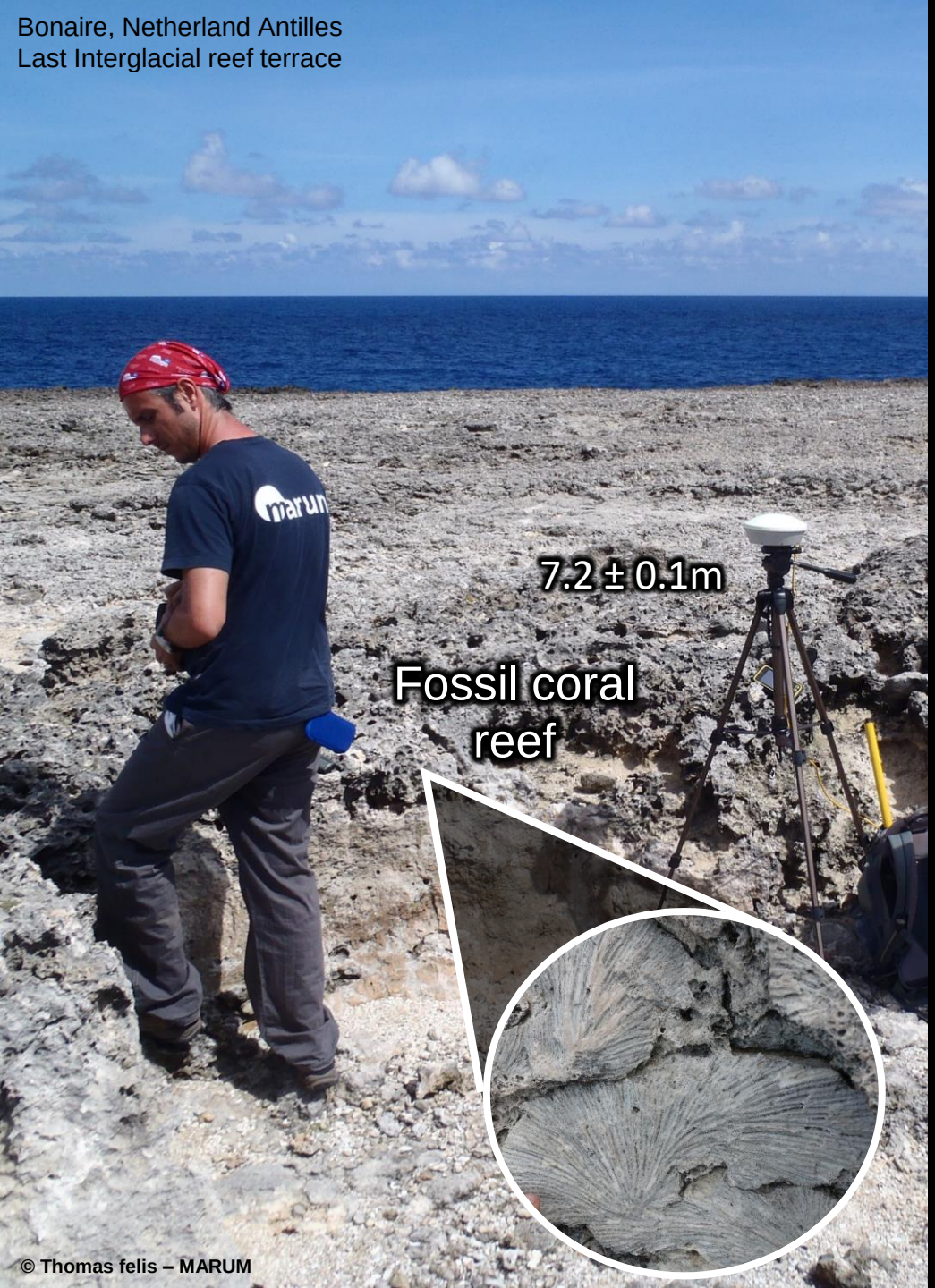
Learned to:

Take budget responsability

Jr. Group leader
2014-2018

Learned to:

Supervise
Keep improving writing
Think collaboratively



Bonaire, Netherland Antilles
Last Interglacial reef terrace

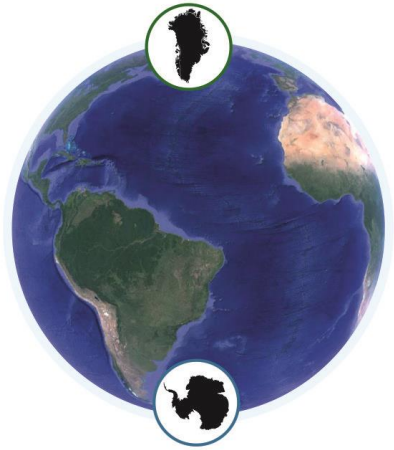
7.2 ± 0.1m

Fossil coral reef

Last Interglacial
~125.000 years ago

Arctic atmospheric temperature
+4-8°C

Global atmospheric temperature
+1°C



Atmospheric CO_2
287 ppm

Antarctic atmospheric temperature
+4-5°C

The last time the Earth was **slightly warmer than today**

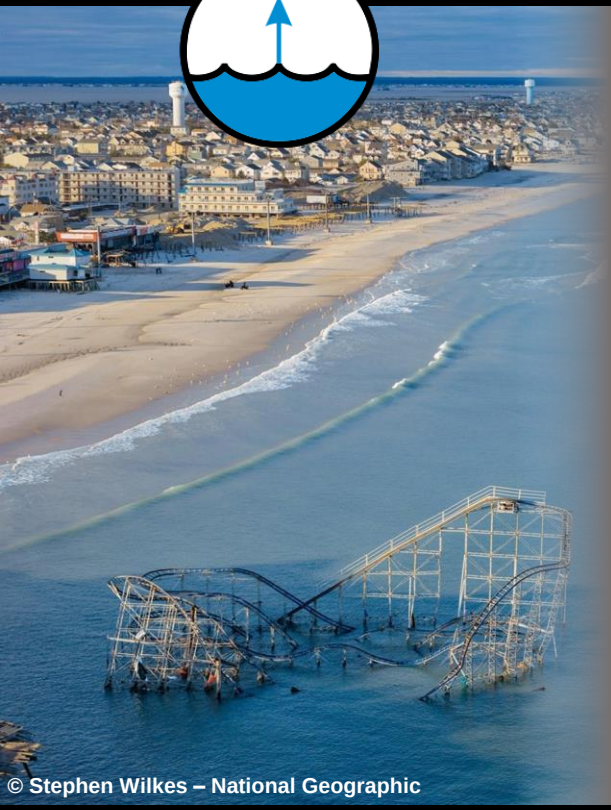
An analog for **future warmer worlds**

The big questions in sea level science:

How much will sea level rise?

How fast will it rise?

Will there be stronger storms?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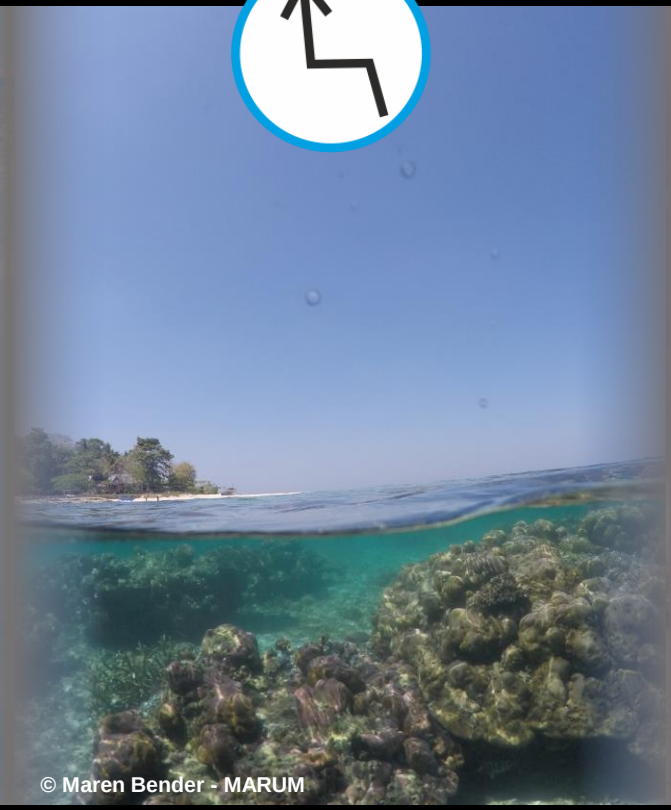
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My path

I am attracted by things that I like
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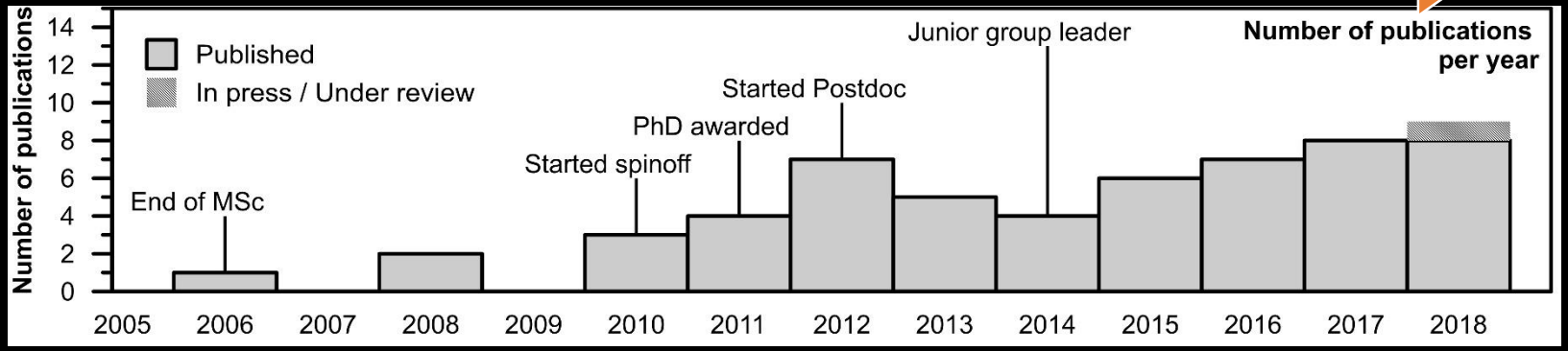
More quantity than quality
Regional scale
Limited applications

Focussing on quality
Global scale
Bigger implications

Collaborative research
Senior authorship
Papers with students



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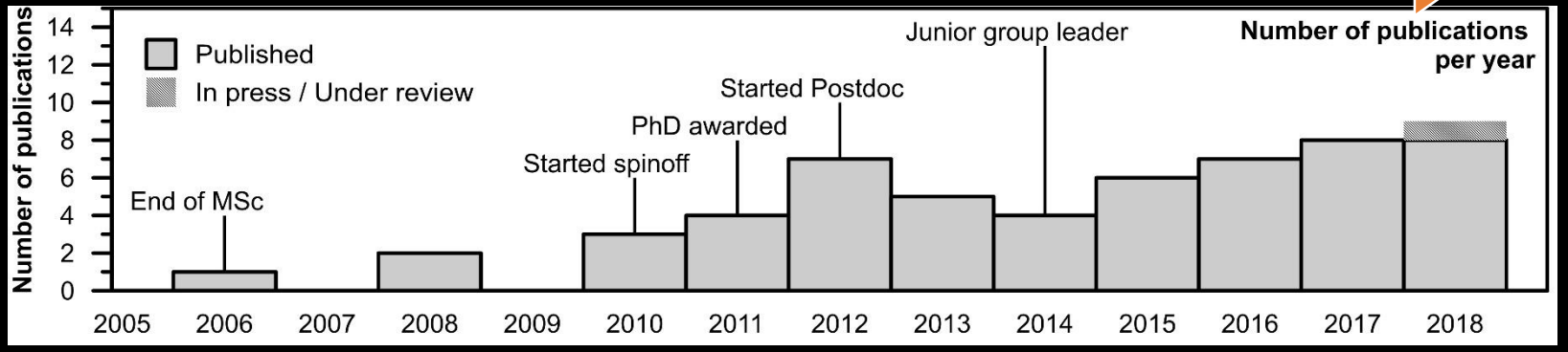

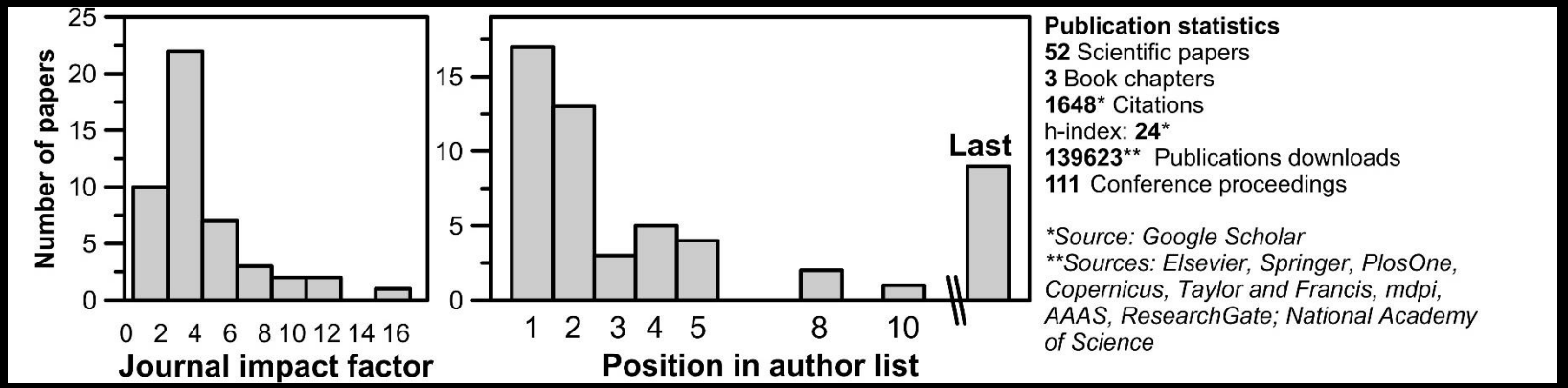

Publication statistics
52 Scientific papers
3 Book chapters
1648* Citations
h-index: **24***
139623** Publications downloads
111 Conference proceedings

**Source: Google Scholar*
***Sources: Elsevier, Springer, PlosOne, Copernicus, Taylor and Francis, mdpi, AAAS, ResearchGate; National Academy of Science*

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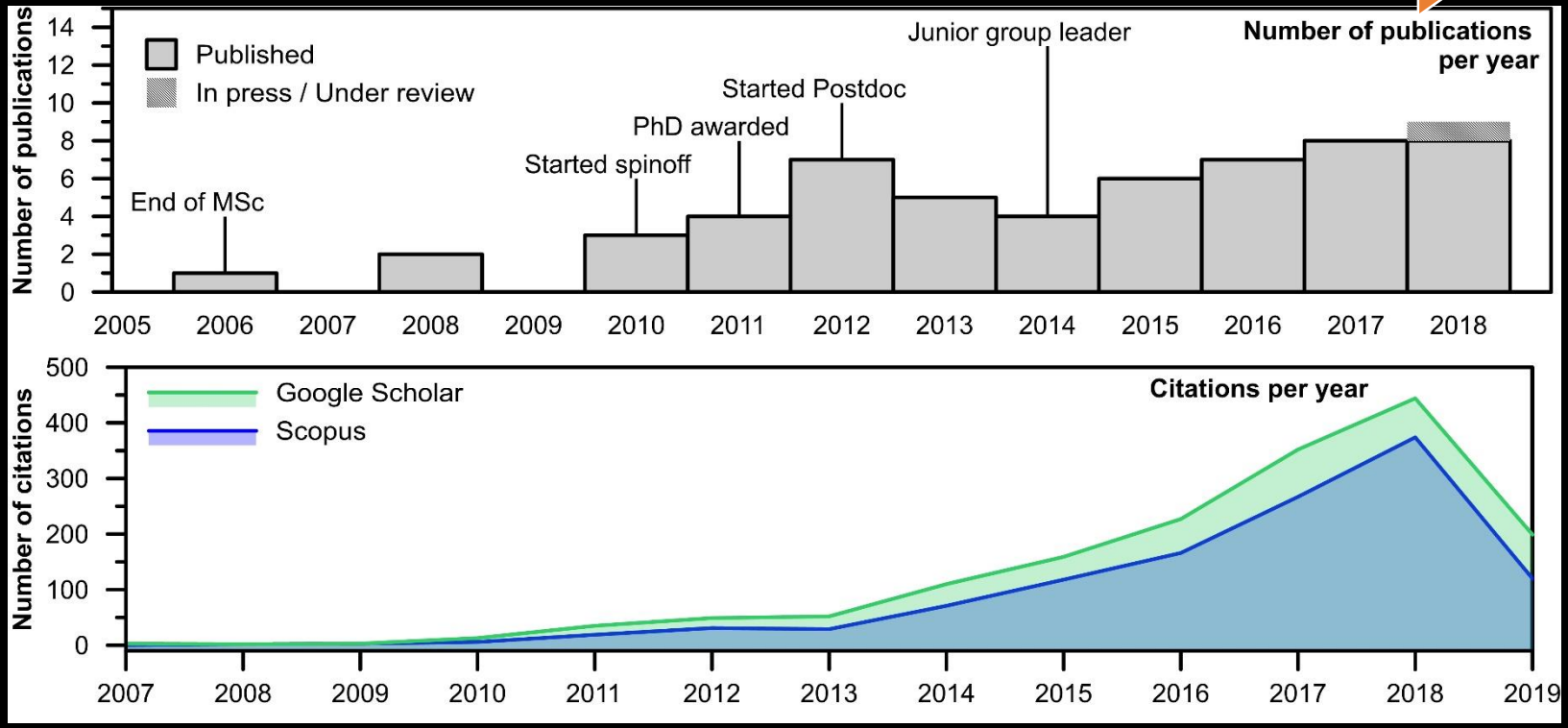

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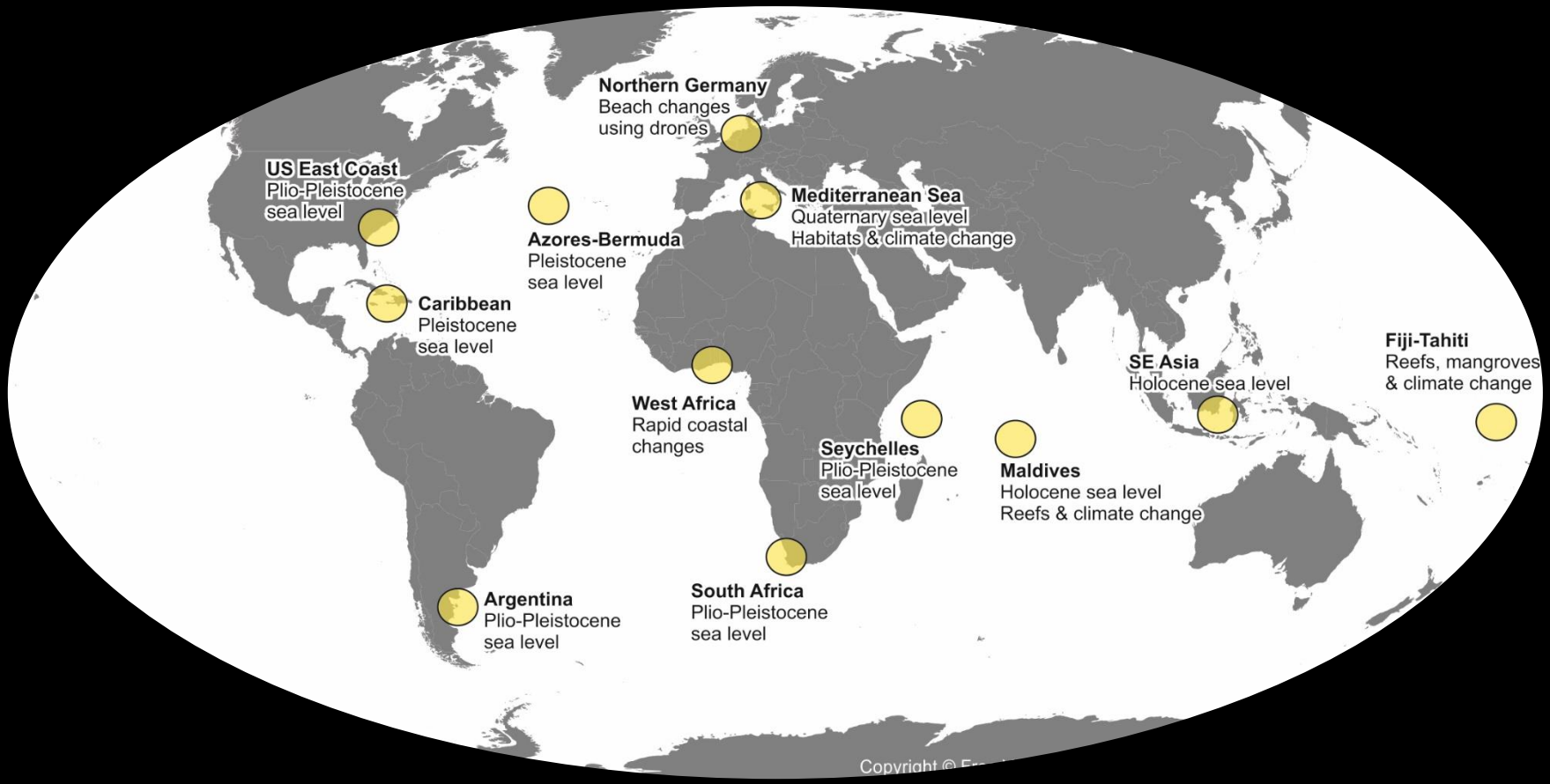

My path

I am attracted by things that I like
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The publication statistics must be good, BUT…

More important are these four points

1) Demonstrated ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research
2) Ability of creative independent thinking
3) Early achievements beyond the state of the art
4) Level of commitment to the project

Some comments on my profile from the ERC reviewers

An excellent publication record

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Clear evidence of independence and leadership

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There is strong evidence of independent thinking.

Your CV counts, but…

Your idea will “seal the deal”

Innovative, risky, not incremental
It may take years to develop – this includes rejections!

Conception

Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward. They may be beaten, but they may start a winning game.
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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NERC, 2011

NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

MARE NOSTRUM: NERC Post-doctoral fellowship proposal

MARE NOSTRUM: a comprehensive, coherent, spatially explicit and updatable holocene sea level markers database for the Mediterranean

Quick facts

What do I want to do and how much time will it take?
Build a database of reviewed relative sea level markers for the Mediterranean to sustain sea level studies, especially those related to eustasy and glacio-hydro-isostatic modeling and coastal vulnerability assessment in this basin. The project will last three years and the database will be online also after the project end.

How does the proposed project relate to NERC interests?
Among the environmental issues investigated by NERC, there are 'Rising sea levels'. This project is related mainly to the improvement of past information to tune glacio-hydro-isostatic models in an important part of the European Union.

What difference will the project make to the state of the art?
The methodology is not new, but a similar project in the Mediterranean has never been carried out. Another novelty resides in the freely available and updatable database which will be the main output of the project.

What has already been done in the area of my project?
A great quantity of literature dealing with local areas, in some case reviewed by some author. Similar projects have been successfully carried out in US and UK coastal areas. Some similar project in different geographic areas has been already funded by NERC.

Why should I, rather than someone else, do this project?
I have the interdisciplinary preparation necessary to review biological, sedimentological, geomorphological and archaeological relative sea level markers. I have also good skills in the building of spatial databases.

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Problems:

- Too local (Mediterranean)
- Immature wording and organization
- Data oriented, not innovative

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spatially explicit and updatable holocene

database for the Mediterranean

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Few years later, we did it anyway!

Earth-Science Reviews 155 (2016) 172–197

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Earth-Science Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/earscirev

Multiproxy assessment of Holocene relative sea-level changes in the western Mediterranean: Sea-level variability and improvements in the definition of the isostatic signal

Matteo Vacchi [a], Nick Marriner [b], Christophe Morhange [a], Giorgio Spada [c], Alessandro Fontana [d], Alessio Rovere [e]

[a] Aix-Marseille Université, CEREGE CNRS-IRD UMR 34, Europole de l'Arbois BP 80, 13545 Aix-en-Provence, Cedex 4, France
[b] CNRS, Chrono-Environnement UMR 6249, Université de Franche-Comté, UFR ST, 16 route de Gray, 25030 Besançon, France
[c] Università degli Studi di Urbino, Dipartimento di Scienze Pure ed Applicate (DiSPeA), Via Santa Chiara 27, Urbino, Italy
[d] Università degli Studi di Padova, Dipartimento di Geoscienze, Via Gradenigo 6, Padova, Italy
[e] University of Bremen, Marum, ZMT, Bremen, Germany

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Marie Curie IEF, 2011

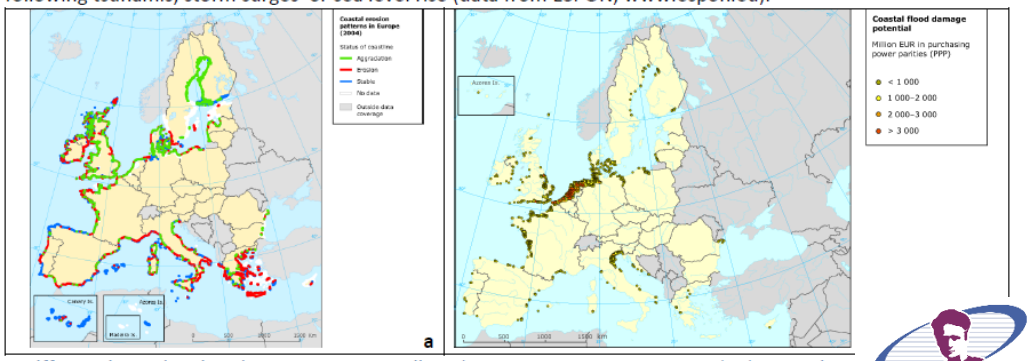
EUCOAST is the acronym for "Classification an Indexing of EUropean COASTlines"

B1 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL QUALITY (MAXIMUM 8 PAGES)

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL QUALITY, INCLUDING ANY INTERDISCIPLINARY AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

Coastal areas are one of the most rapidly evolving systems on Earth. Their evolution is both natural and human-driven, and, according to the last IPCC report, they will be one of the systems mostly affected by climate changes in terms of human population. With about 43% of citizens living in coastal areas (Source: EuroStat), the European Union has a strong attention towards coastal management practices and adaptation policies (e.g. Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action – COM 2009 147 final). In fact, about 15% of EU coasts are at risk of erosion (EUROSION, www.eurosion.org), and large tracts of the coast are at risk of coastal flooding following tsunamis, storm surges or sea level rise (data from ESPON, www.espon.eu).



Different hazards related to European coastlines (Source: www.eea.europa.eu). a) Coastal erc
Coastal flood damage potential.

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

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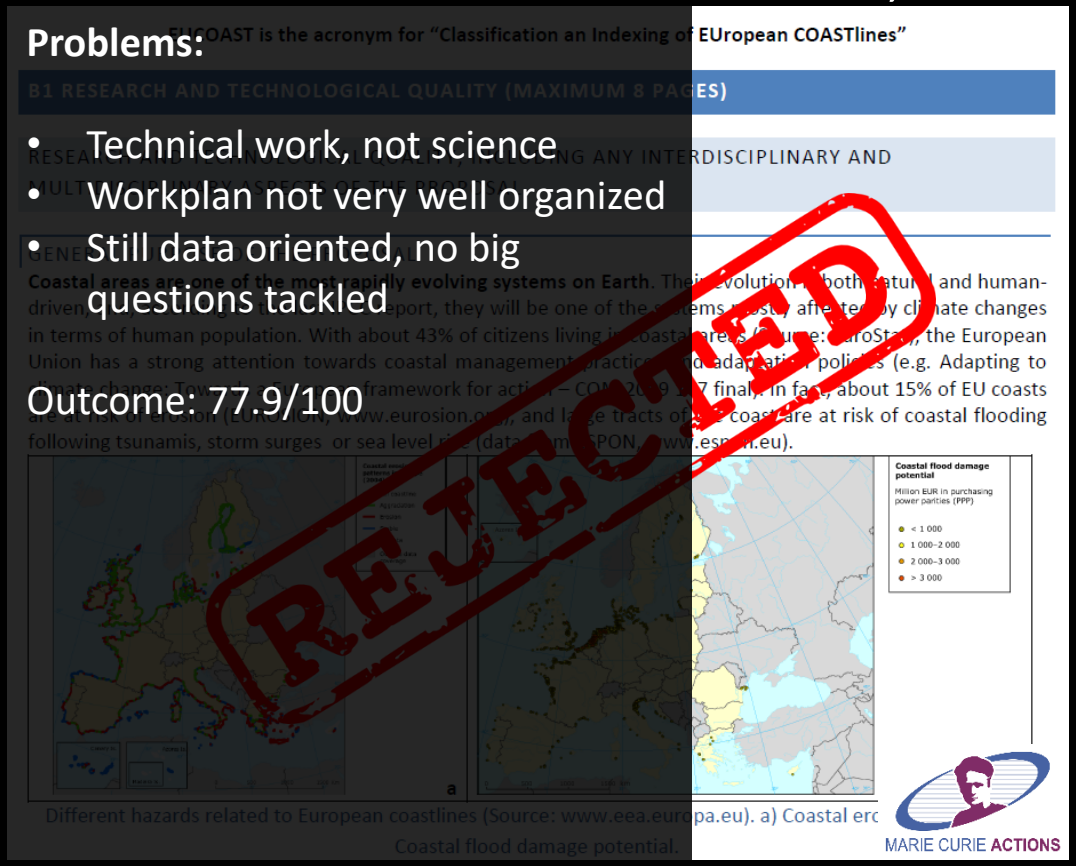
Marie Curie IEF, 2011

Problems:

- Technical work, not science
- Workplan not very well organized
- Still data oriented, no big questions tackled

Outcome: 77.9/100



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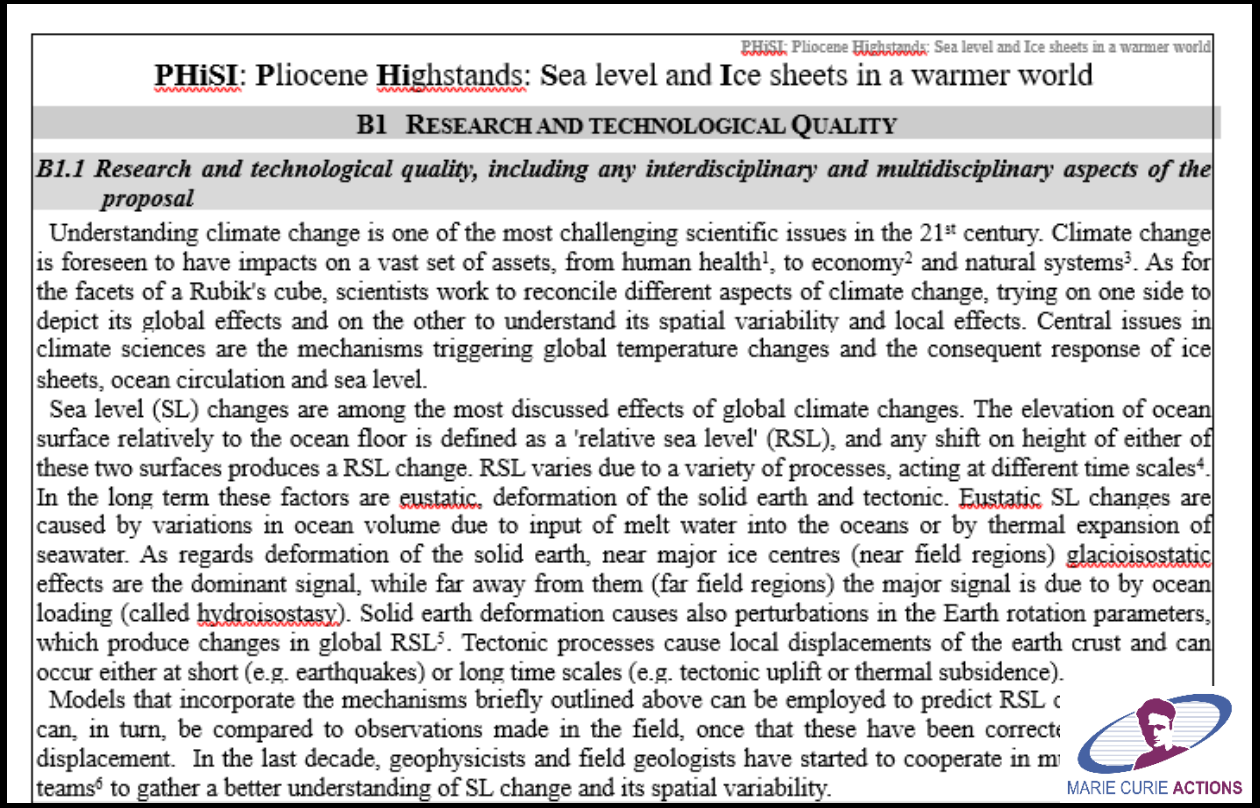

PHiSI: Pliocene Highstands: Sea level and Ice sheets in a warmer world

B1 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL QUALITY

B1.1 Research and technological quality, including any interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal

Understanding climate change is one of the most challenging scientific issues in the 21st century. Climate change is foreseen to have impacts on a vast set of assets, from human health[1], to economy[2] and natural systems[3]. As for the facets of a Rubik's cube, scientists work to reconcile different aspects of climate change, trying on one side to depict its global effects and on the other to understand its spatial variability and local effects. Central issues in climate sciences are the mechanisms triggering global temperature changes and the consequent response of ice sheets, ocean circulation and sea level.

Sea level (SL) changes are among the most discussed effects of global climate changes. The elevation of ocean surface relatively to the ocean floor is defined as a 'relative sea level' (RSL), and any shift on height of either of these two surfaces produces a RSL change. RSL varies due to a variety of processes, acting at different time scales[4]. In the long term these factors are eustatic, deformation of the solid earth and tectonic. Eustatic SL changes are caused by variations in ocean volume due to input of melt water into the oceans or by thermal expansion of seawater. As regards deformation of the solid earth, near major ice centres (near field regions) glacioisostatic effects are the dominant signal, while far away from them (far field regions) the major signal is due to by ocean loading (called hydroisostasy). Solid earth deformation causes also perturbations in the Earth rotation parameters, which produce changes in global RSL[5]. Tectonic processes cause local displacements of the earth crust and can occur either at short (e.g. earthquakes) or long time scales (e.g. tectonic uplift or thermal subsidence).

Models that incorporate the mechanisms briefly outlined above can be employed to predict RSL c
can, in turn, be compared to observations made in the field, once that these have been correcte
displacement. In the last decade, geophysicists and field geologists have started to cooperate in m
teams[6] to gather a better understanding of SL change and its spatial variability.

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

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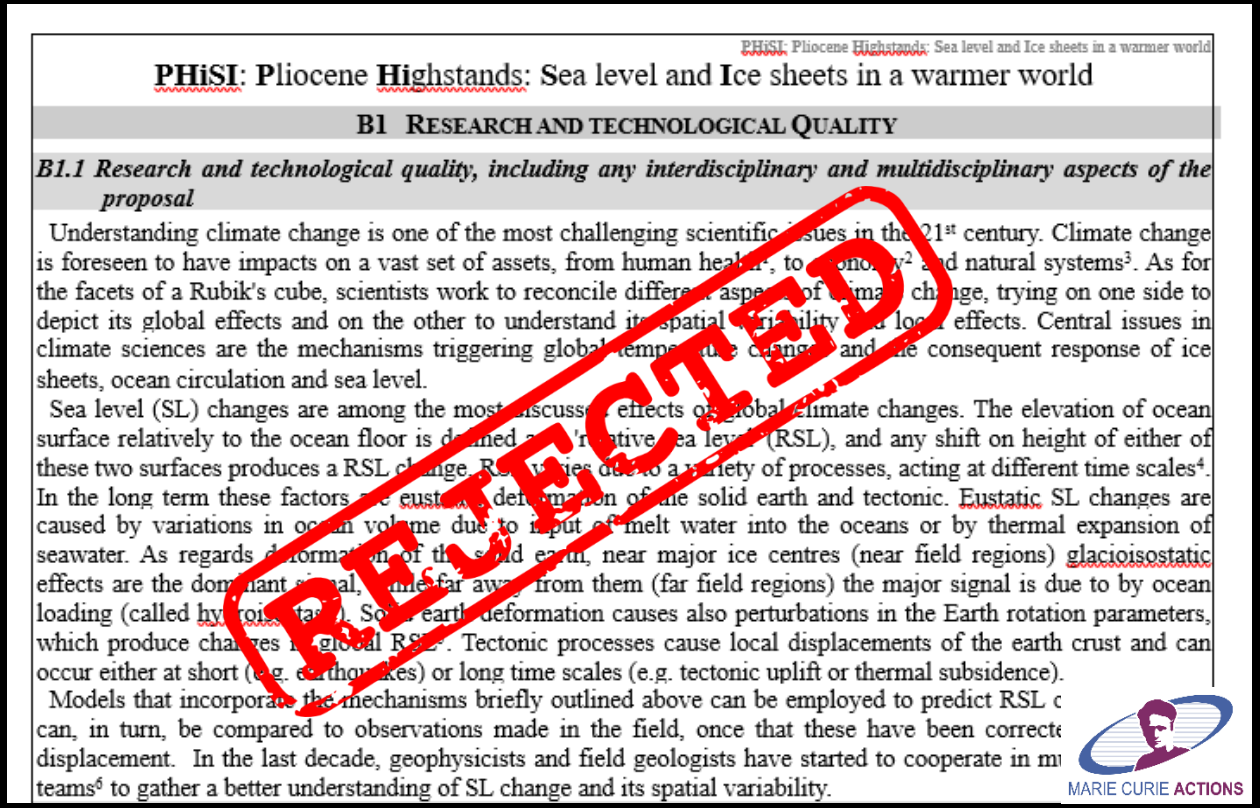

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Models that incorporate the mechanisms briefly outlined above can be employed to predict RSL changes that can, in turn, be compared to observations made in the field, once that these have been corrected for tectonic displacement. In the last decade, geophysicists and field geologists have started to cooperate in multidisciplinary teams[6] to gather a better understanding of SL change and its spatial variability.

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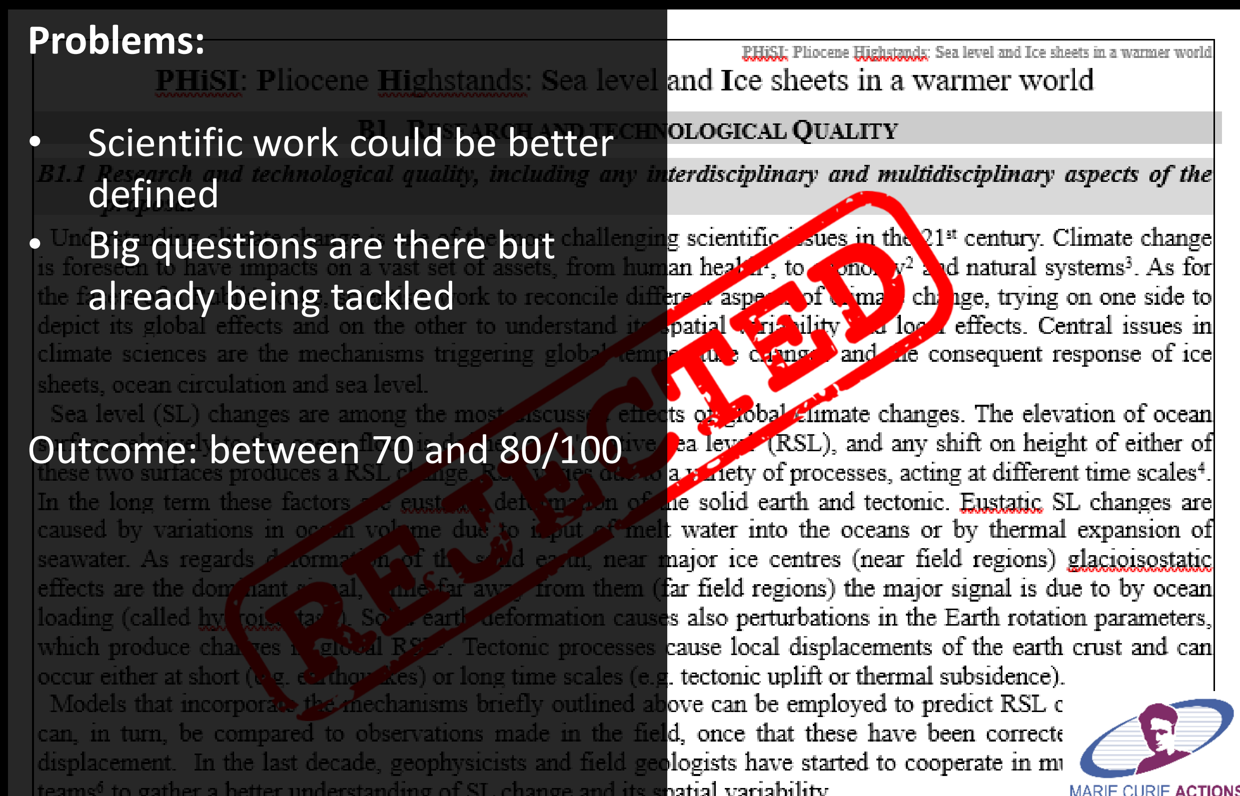
Marie Curie IOF, 2012

Problems:

- Scientific work could be better defined
- Big questions are there but already being tackled

Outcome: between 70 and 80/100


PHiSI: Pliocene Highstands: Sea level and Ice sheets in a warmer world

PHiSI: Pliocene Highstands: Sea level and Ice sheets in a warmer world

B1. RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL QUALITY

B1.1 Research and technological quality, including any interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal

Understanding climate change is one of the most challenging scientific issues in the 21st century. Climate change is foreseen to have impacts on a vast set of assets, from human health[1], to economy[2] and natural systems[3]. As for the f... work to reconcile different aspects of climate change, trying on one side to depict its global effects and on the other to understand its spatial variability and local effects. Central issues in climate sciences are the mechanisms triggering global temperature changes and the consequent response of ice sheets, ocean circulation and sea level.

Sea level (SL) changes are among the most discussed effects of global climate changes. The elevation of ocean ... relative sea level (RSL), and any shift on height of either of these two surfaces produces a RSL change. RSL changes due to a variety of processes, acting at different time scales[4]. In the long term these factors are eustasy, deformation of the solid earth and tectonic. Eustatic SL changes are caused by variations in ocean volume due to input of melt water into the oceans or by thermal expansion of seawater. As regards deformation of the solid earth, near major ice centres (near field regions) glacioisostatic effects are the dominant signal, while far away from them (far field regions) the major signal is due to by ocean loading (called hydroisostasy). Solid earth deformation causes also perturbations in the Earth rotation parameters, which produce changes in global RSL. Tectonic processes cause local displacements of the earth crust and can occur either at short (e.g. earthquakes) or long time scales (e.g. tectonic uplift or thermal subsidence).

Models that incorporate the mechanisms briefly outlined above can be employed to predict RSL c... can, in turn, be compared to observations made in the field, once that these have been correcte... displacement. In the last decade, geophysicists and field geologists have started to cooperate in mu... teams[6] to gather a better understanding of SL change and its spatial variability.

Conception

Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward. They may be beaten, but they may start a winning game.
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Marie Curie IOF, 2012

Some of it was used in a later review paper!

Earth-Science Reviews 145 (2015) 117–131

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Earth-Science Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/earscirev

Mid-Pliocene shorelines of the US Atlantic Coastal Plain — An improved elevation database with comparison to Earth model predictions

A. Rovere [a,b,*], P.J. Hearty [c], J. Austermann [d], J.X. Mitrovica [d], J. Gale [b], R. Moucha [e], A.M. Forte [f], M.E. Raymo [b]

[a] MARUM, University of Bremen and ZMT, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Germany
[b] Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, NY, United States
[c] Department of Environmental Studies, UNC Wilmington, NC, United States
[d] Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University, MA, United States
[e] Department of Earth Sciences, Syracuse University, NY, United States
[f] Département des Sciences de la Terre et de l'Atmosphère, UQAM, Canada

Conception

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- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

National Science Foundation, 2014

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Polar Ice Sheet Dynamics During MIS 5e: A Combined Field Data and Modeling Approach

Principal Investigators: Maureen E. Raymo (Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory)
& Paul J. Hearty (University of North Carolina, Wilmington)
in collaboration with Dr. Alessio Rovere[1] (MARUM, Germany)

1. Introduction: MIS 5e sea level and hypotheses to be tested

Past interglacials are of interest for the scientific community (and society at large) as they provide us with natural experiments involving a climate system as warm or slightly warmer than today. Of particular interest is the degree to which relatively small perturbations to climate forcing variables such as atmospheric temperature, insolation, or CO_2 can lead to polar ice volume and sea level changes. Currently, the research community is intensely focused on understanding sea level and ice volume history during marine isotope stage (MIS) 5e, which was the last interglacial period as warm as today and which occurred between ~128 and 116 kyr BP. During MIS 5e, ice core evidence suggests greenhouse gas concentrations were comparable to pre-industrial levels [*Petit et al.*, 1999], however, summer insolation at high latitudes was higher by ~10%. This small increase in solar heating was apparently sufficient to warm polar temperatures in both hemispheres by about 3-5 °C relative to today [*Otto-Bliesner et al.*, 2006] and global mean temperature by an estimated 1.5°C [*Turney & Jones*, 2010]. By comparison, global mean temperature has already increased by an estimated 0.85°C s 1880 [*IPCC*, 2013] and an additional warming of 1°C, likely to occur by the end of this century, i expected to raise polar temperatures by an additional 3-6 °C [*Kattsov et al.*, 2005]. Indeed, the e Peninsula has warmed by an average of 0.5°C/decade over the last 60 years [*Mulvaney et al.*, 2

How did the polar ice sheets respond to the comparable MIS 5e warming? Sea level at this time

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How did the polar ice sheets respond to the comparable MIS 5e warming? Sea level at this time

REJECTED

Conception

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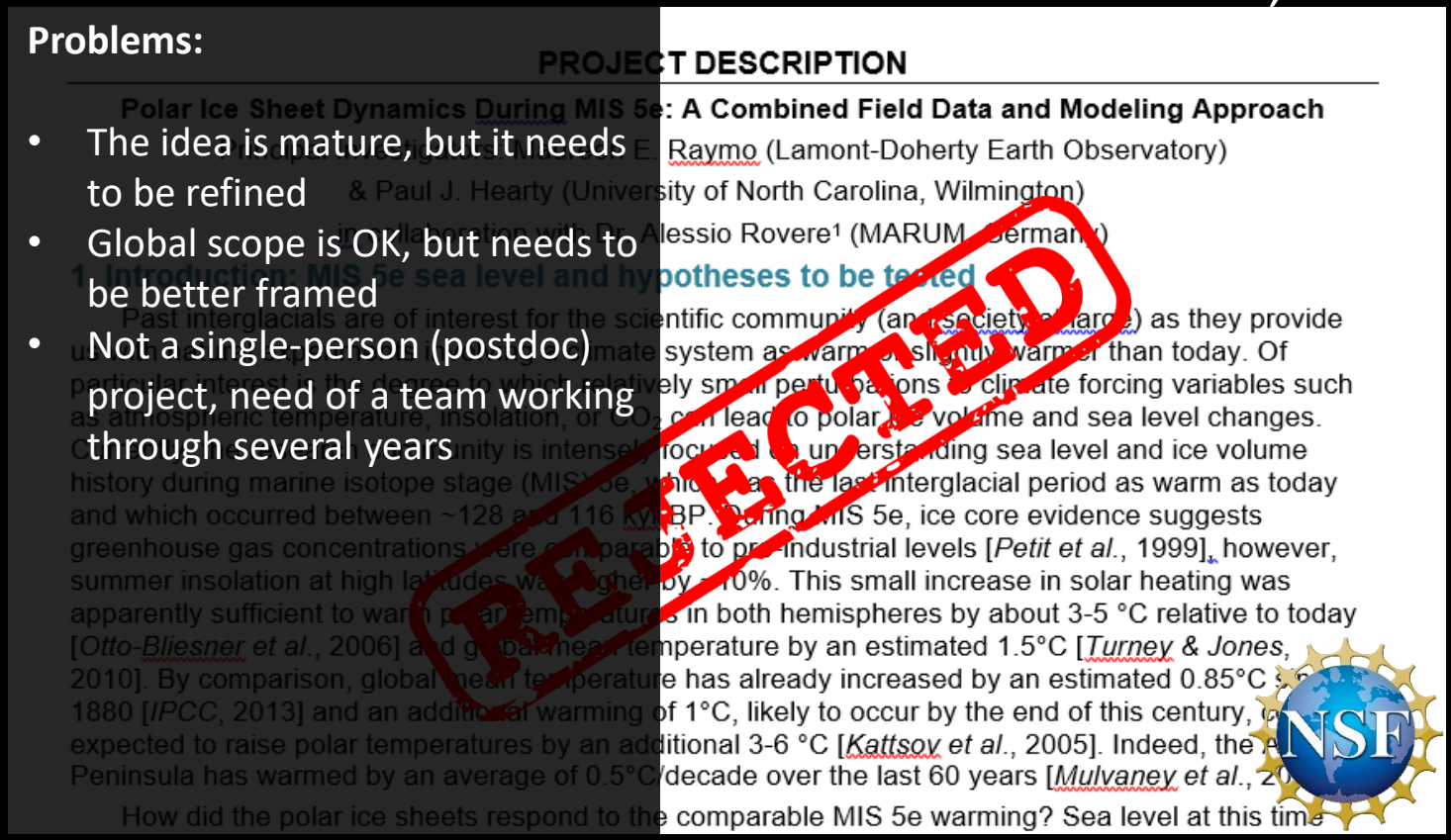
National Science Foundation, 2014

Problems:

- The idea is mature, but it needs to be refined
- Global scope is OK, but needs to be better framed
- Not a single-person (postdoc) project, need of a team working through several years



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Polar Ice Sheet Dynamics During MIS 5e: A Combined Field Data and Modeling Approach

Raymo (Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory)

& Paul J. Hearty (University of North Carolina, Wilmington)

Alessio Rovere[1] (MARUM, Germany)

1. Introduction: MIS 5e sea level and hypotheses to be tested

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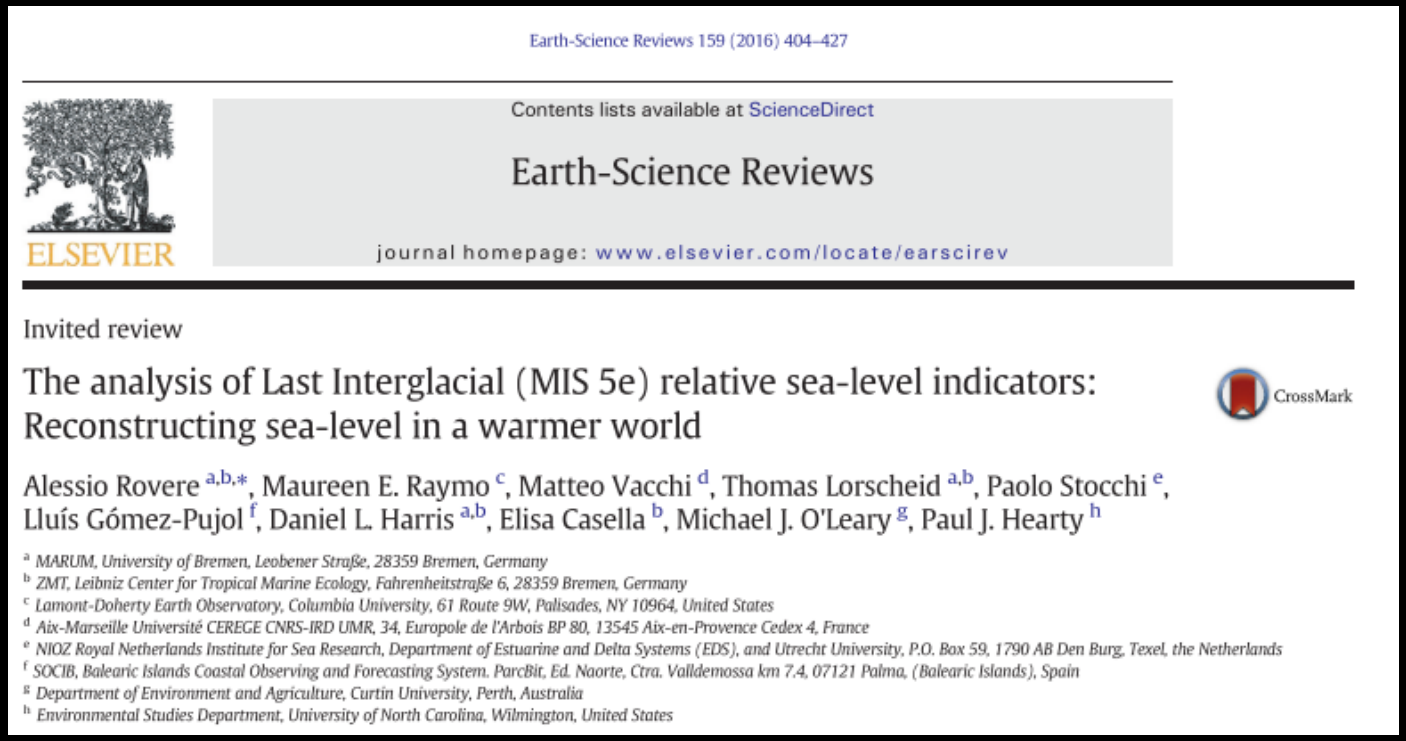

Earth-Science Reviews 159 (2016) 404–427

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Earth-Science Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/earscirev

Invited review

The analysis of Last Interglacial (MIS 5e) relative sea-level indicators: Reconstructing sea-level in a warmer world

Alessio Rovere [a,b,*], Maureen E. Raymo [c], Matteo Vacchi [d], Thomas Lorscheid [a,b], Paolo Stocchi [e], Lluís Gómez-Pujol [f], Daniel L. Harris [a,b], Elisa Casella [b], Michael J. O'Leary [g], Paul J. Hearty [h]

[a] MARUM, University of Bremen, Leobener Straße, 28359 Bremen, Germany
[b] ZMT, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Fahrenheitstraße 6, 28359 Bremen, Germany
[c] Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, 61 Route 9W, Palisades, NY 10964, United States
[d] Aix-Marseille Université CEREGE CNRS-IRD UMR, 34, Europole de l'Arbois BP 80, 13545 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 4, France
[e] NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Department of Estuarine and Delta Systems (EDS), and Utrecht University, P.O. Box 59, 1790 AB Den Burg, Texel, the Netherlands
[f] SOCIB, Balearic Islands Coastal Observing and Forecasting System. ParcBit, Ed. Naorte, Ctra. Valldemossa km 7.4, 07121 Palma, (Balearic Islands), Spain
[g] Department of Environment and Agriculture, Curtin University, Perth, Australia
[h] Environmental Studies Department, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, United States

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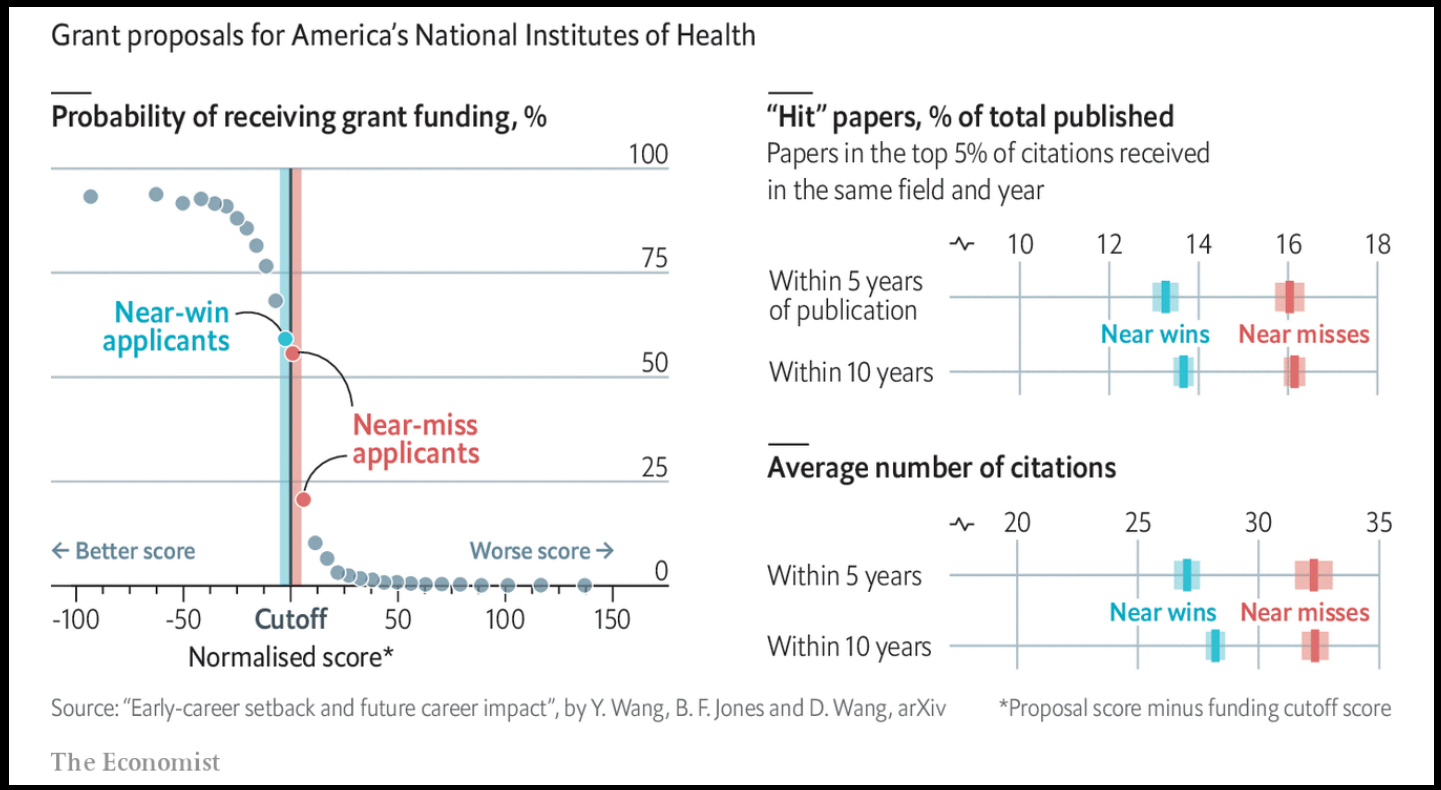

Scientists who fail early in their careers may benefit from the experience

https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2019/05/10/success-in-academia-is-as-much-about-grit-as-talent

Conception

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MARUM Excellence Initiative 2014

FIVE-YEAR PROJECT PLAN – ALESSIO ROVERE

APPROVED

FOREWORD

The following research plan represents a projection of my ongoing research activities for the next five years. As Junior research group leader at the University of Bremen, my plan is to lead a small research group (e.g. 2 doctorate students and myself) that will carry on the activities described hereafter in collaboration with fellow colleagues both at MARUM and ZMT as well as with other colleagues in US, European, Australia. Each research activity I plan to develop is described hereafter in the form of a work package (WP), where the state of the art is briefly described alongside the preliminary work I did in the past years in the field, the objectives for the next 5 years and the main ongoing collaborations. Successively, are listed the costs and the personnel that would be needed to achieve the objectives of each WP (excluding personnel cost).

The overall goal of my five year plan is to contribute to the advancement of science in understanding sea levels during past interglacials to some extent analogues of slightly warmer worlds and to investigate the occurrence and magnitude of past rapid sea level changes imprinted in the Pliocene to Holocene geologic record. This kind of research is of direct relevance to the study of the magnitude of both present and future sea level changes.

Conception

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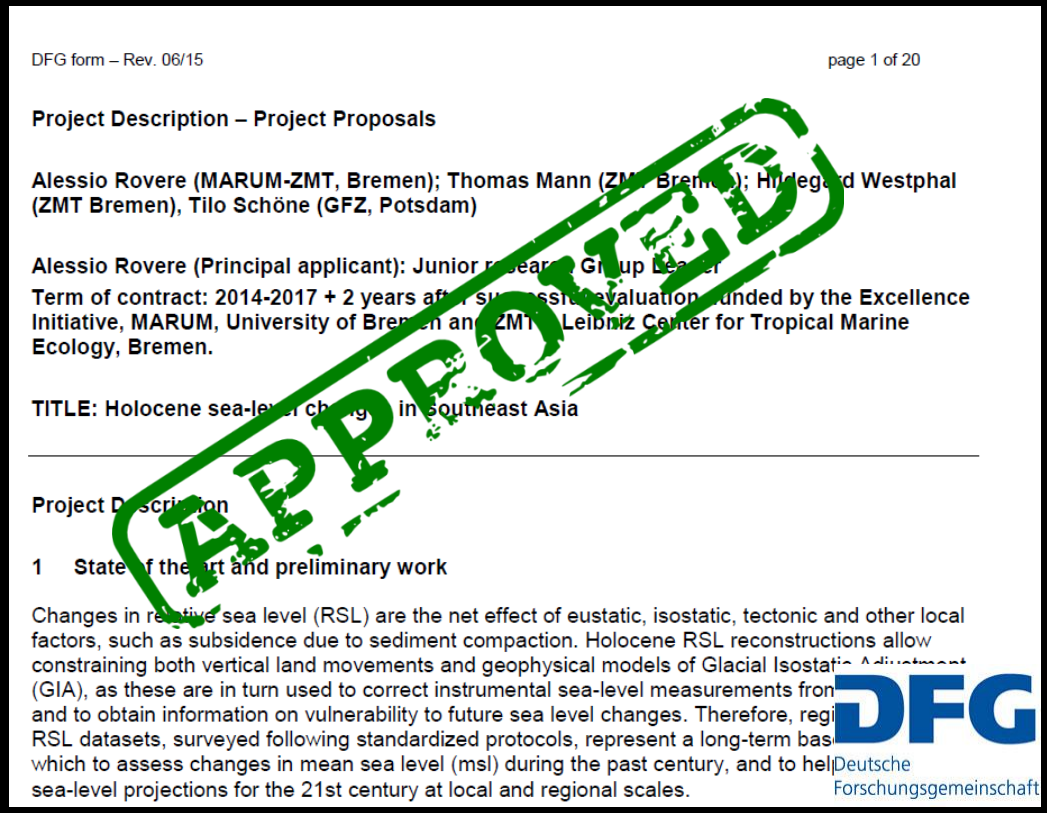
DFG Spp Sea Level 2016



DFG form – Rev. 06/15 page 1 of 20

Project Description – Project Proposals

Alessio Rovere (MARUM-ZMT, Bremen); Thomas Mann (ZMT Bremen); Hildegard Westphal (ZMT Bremen), Tilo Schöne (GFZ, Potsdam)

Alessio Rovere (Principal applicant): Junior research Group Leader
Term of contract: 2014-2017 + 2 years after successful evaluation. Funded by the Excellence Initiative, MARUM, University of Bremen and ZMT Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen.

TITLE: Holocene sea-level changes in Southeast Asia

Project Description

1 State of the art and preliminary work

Changes in relative sea level (RSL) are the net effect of eustatic, isostatic, tectonic and other local factors, such as subsidence due to sediment compaction. Holocene RSL reconstructions allow constraining both vertical land movements and geophysical models of Glacial Isostatic Adjustment (GIA), as these are in turn used to correct instrumental sea-level measurements from and to obtain information on vulnerability to future sea level changes. Therefore, regi RSL datasets, surveyed following standardized protocols, represent a long-term bas which to assess changes in mean sea level (msl) during the past century, and to hel sea-level projections for the 21st century at local and regional scales.

APPROVED

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Conception

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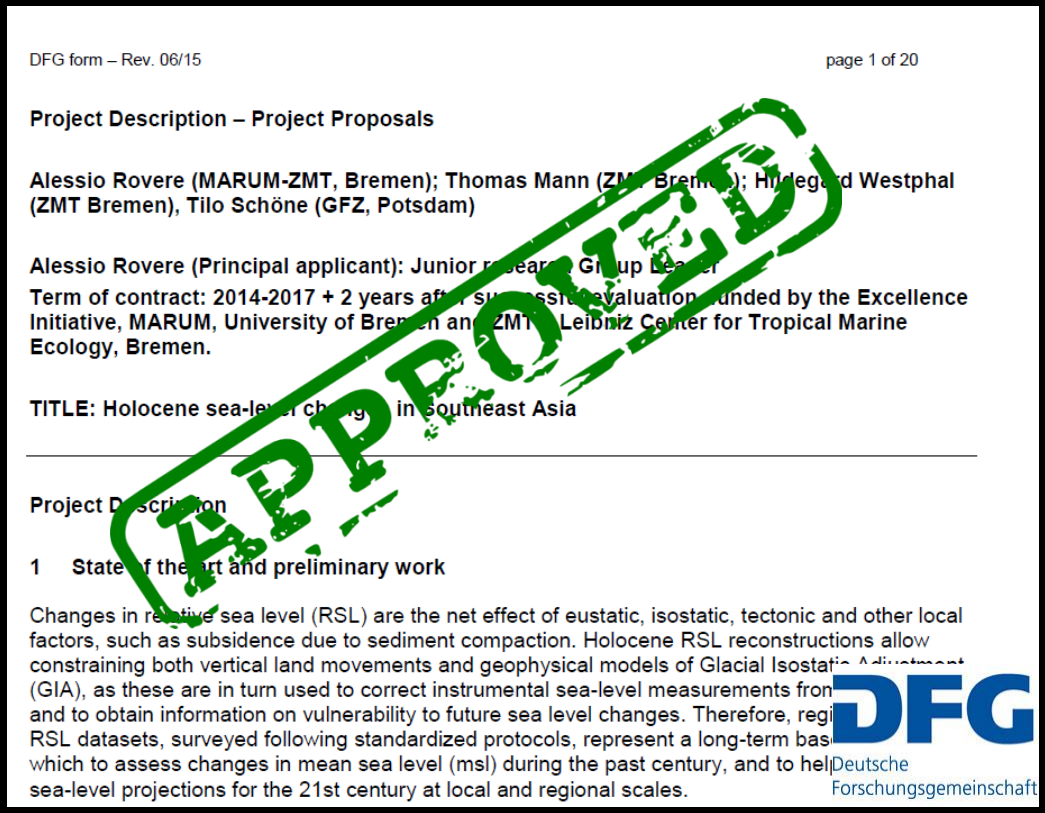
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

DFG Spp Sea Level 2016

What changed

- Mature ideas, naivety is gone
- Big problems are tackled
- More focused writing
- Care on graphics



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APPROVED

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Lessons learned

2011-2019

It is a marathon, not a sprint
If an idea is good, persistence pays off
Use what you write for review papers
Keep reshaping the idea as new literature comes out

Inception

No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come

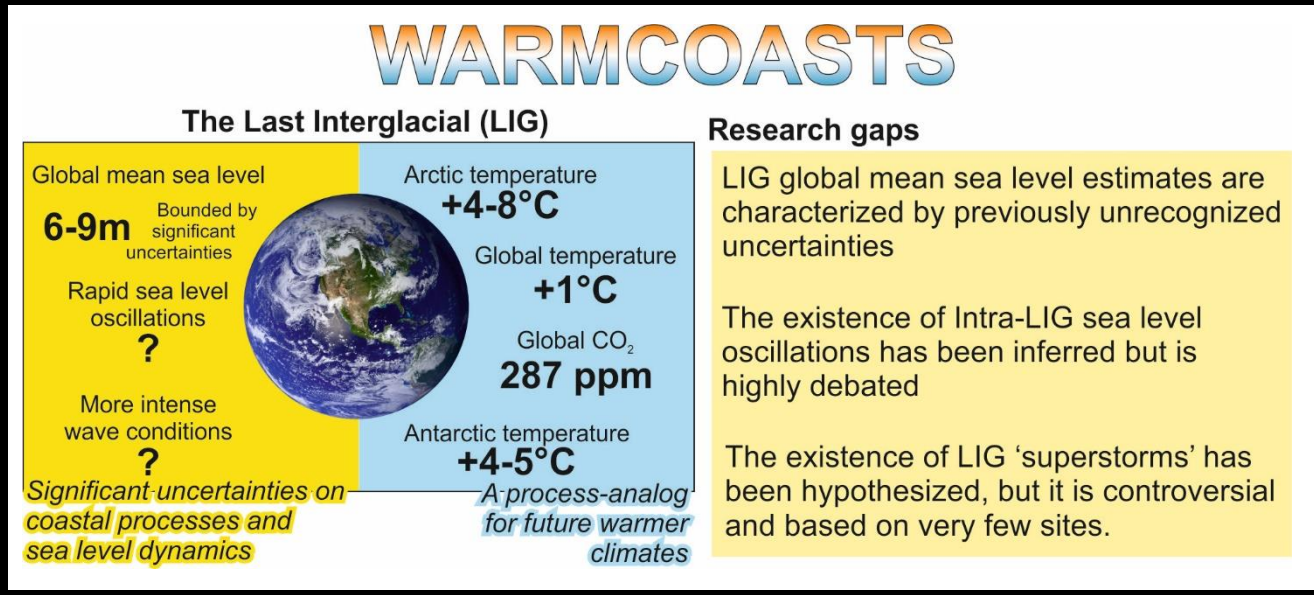
- Victor Hugo

Inception

No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come
- *Victor Hugo*

Streamline your idea into a project draft by defining your ROAR points

Research gaps



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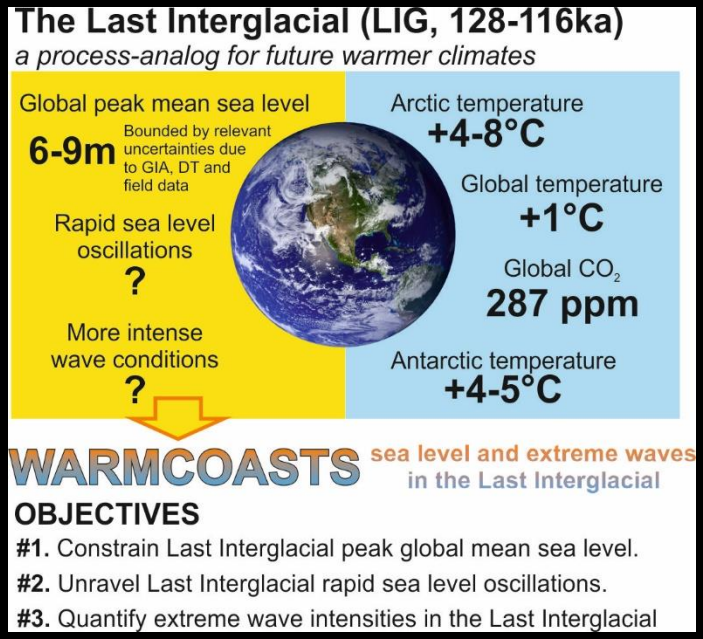
Streamline your idea into a project draft by defining your ROAR points

Research gaps
Overarching goals



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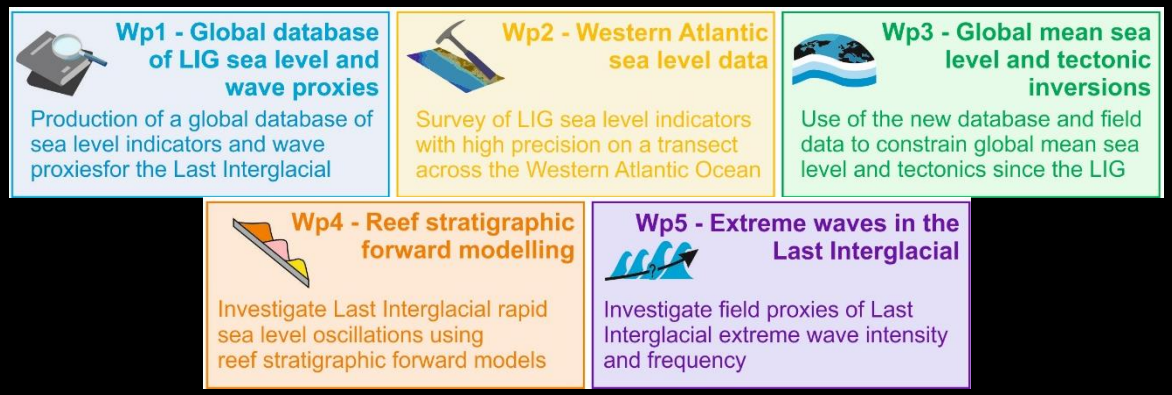
Streamline your idea into a project draft by defining your ROAR points

Research gaps
Overarching goals
Actions



Inception

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Streamline your idea into a project draft by defining your ROAR points

Research gaps
Overarching goals
Actions
Relevance

Inception

No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come
- Victor Hugo

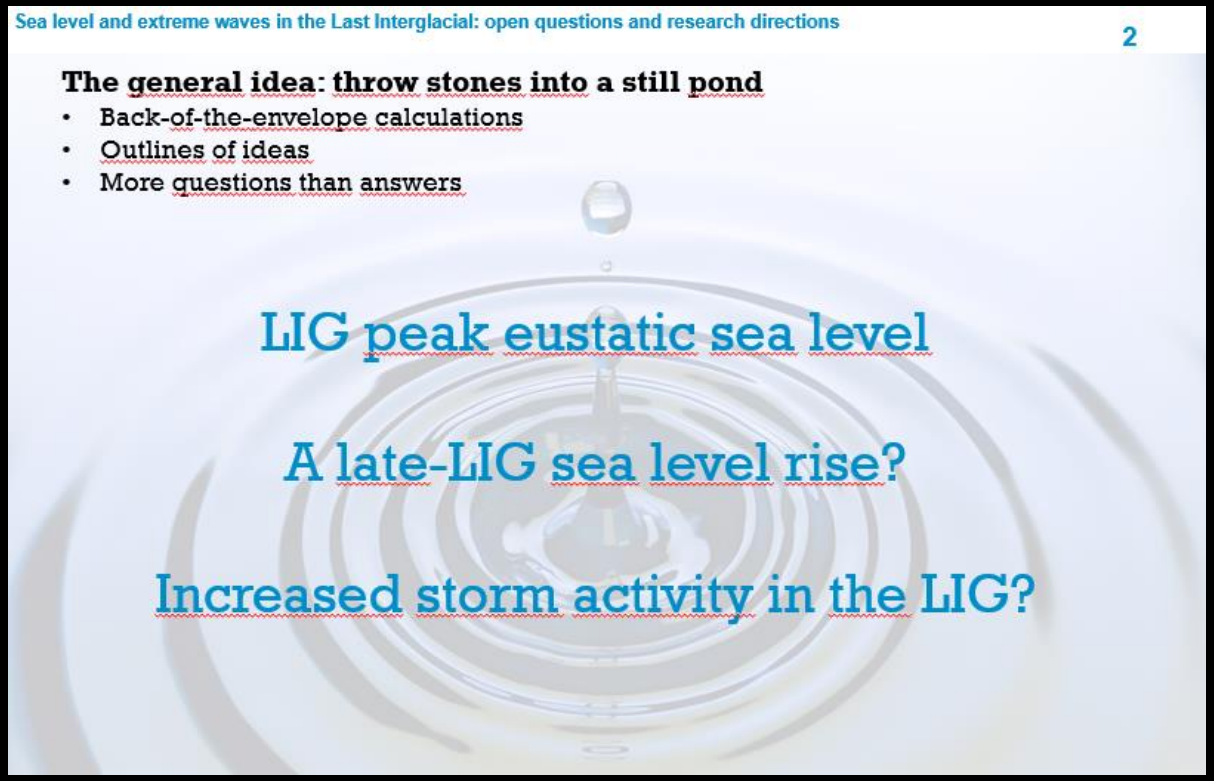
Ask yourself the hard questions

Is my idea ground-breaking?
Is it feasible, but with risky aspects?
Is it incremental? (It should not be)
Do I really need a team and lots of money?

Inception

No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come
- *Victor Hugo*

Get out there and challenge your colleagues



European Geosciences Union

START WRITING!

Writing

If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter

- Blaise Pascal

Writing

If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter
- Blaise Pascal

1. Follow the instructions!

Read and conform to all instructions found on the ERC website.

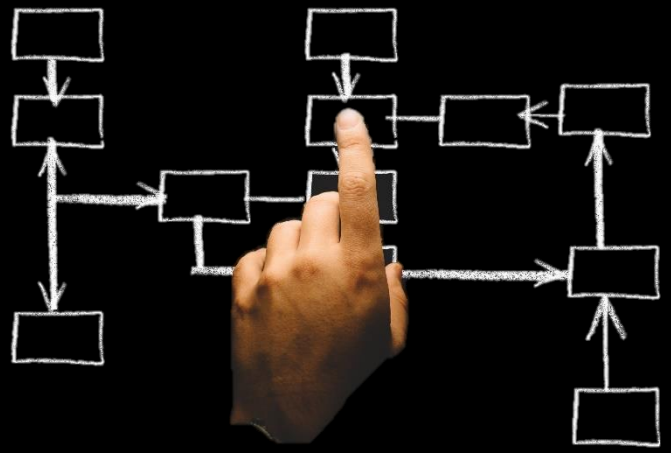
Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter
- *Blaise Pascal*

1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Break down your proposal into points**

For each section, lay out in point form what you will discuss.



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Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

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1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Break down your proposal into points**
3. **Know your audience**

Describe your research proposal in non-technical terms. Use clear, plain language and avoid jargon.

ACRONYMS. We give hereafter a brief definition of common terminology used throughout this proposal. We refer the reader to a review paper by Rovere et al (2016a)[5] for further details.
Eustatic Sea Level (ESL) is a synonym for **global mean sea level**. Changes in ESL are driven by processes that cause changes in the volume or mass of the world ocean (i.e., ice melting or thermosteric processes)[6].
Glacial Isostatic Adjustment (GIA) is the viscoelastic response of the Earth to the redistribution of ice and ocean loads[7], and varies spatially according to the distance from former ice centers.
Dynamic Topography (DT) is caused by mantle flow that drives significant vertical motions of the crust along large areas[8]. Previously considered a significant driver of uplift/subsidence at scales of few million years, recently DT proved to be a significant process also in the reconstruction of LIG histories.
Relative Sea Level (RSL) is any sea level estimate that includes the sum of eustatic and other non-eustatic processes, such as GIA, DT and tectonics[9]. **RSL indicator** is any fossil coastal feature that can be used, once interpreted to assess the environment where it was formed, as a direct proxy for paleo RSL.

Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

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- *Blaise Pascal*

1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Break down your proposal into points**
3. **Know your audience**
4. **Make an impact in the first few sentences**

Reviewers are very busy people. But they are also scientists, so they are keen to know new things. You must grab their attention and excite them about your project from the very beginning. Make it easy for them to understand (and thus fund) your proposal.

Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

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1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Break down your proposal into points**
3. **Know your audience**
4. **Make an impact in the first few sentences**
5. **Have a clear title.**

It is important that the title of your project is understandable to the general public, reflects the goal of the study, and attracts interest.

WARMCOASTS

Sea level and extreme waves in the Last Interglacial

Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

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1. **Follow the instructions!**
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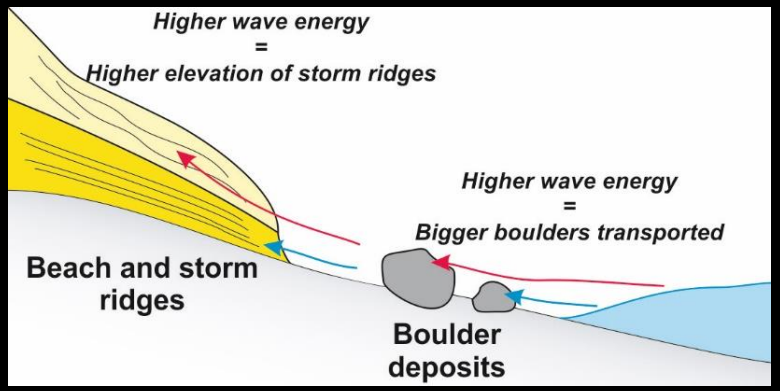
3. **Know your audience**
4. **Make an impact in the first few sentences**
5. **Have a clear title**
6. **Care about your graphics!**

Make your own graphics, your proposal should look sharp, fresh, exciting. Avoid as much as possible copy-paste.



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Writing

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2. **Break down your proposal into points**
3. **Know your audience**
4. **Make an impact in the first few sentences**
5. **Have a clear title**
6. **Care about your graphics!**
7. **Show that your research is feasible**

Demonstrate that you are competent to conduct the research, and that you can tackle risks. Do not hide risks, state them and analyze them!

Source: Wikipedia

Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

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5. **Have a clear title**
6. **Care about your graphics!**
7. **Show that your research is feasible**
8. **Indicate how your research will make a "contribution to knowledge"**

Claim a vision, tell it to the reviewer

The final statement. Our vision is that the results of this project the LIG, and will re-define the state-of-the-art. We envision that forthcoming IPCC or similar climate reports. A vision for a poss shown below. Bold letters indicate the numbers that we will be a

Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

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4. **Make an impact in the first few sentences**
5. **Have a clear title**
6. **Care about your graphics!**
7. **Show that your research is feasible**
8. **Indicate how your research will make a "contribution to knowledge"**
9. **Get the proposal reviewed and commented on by others**

Get feedback and edit. Then edit some more. And get more feedback. The more diverse opinion and criticism you receive on your proposal the better suited it will be for a multi-disciplinary audience.

Pexels.com

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https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Writing

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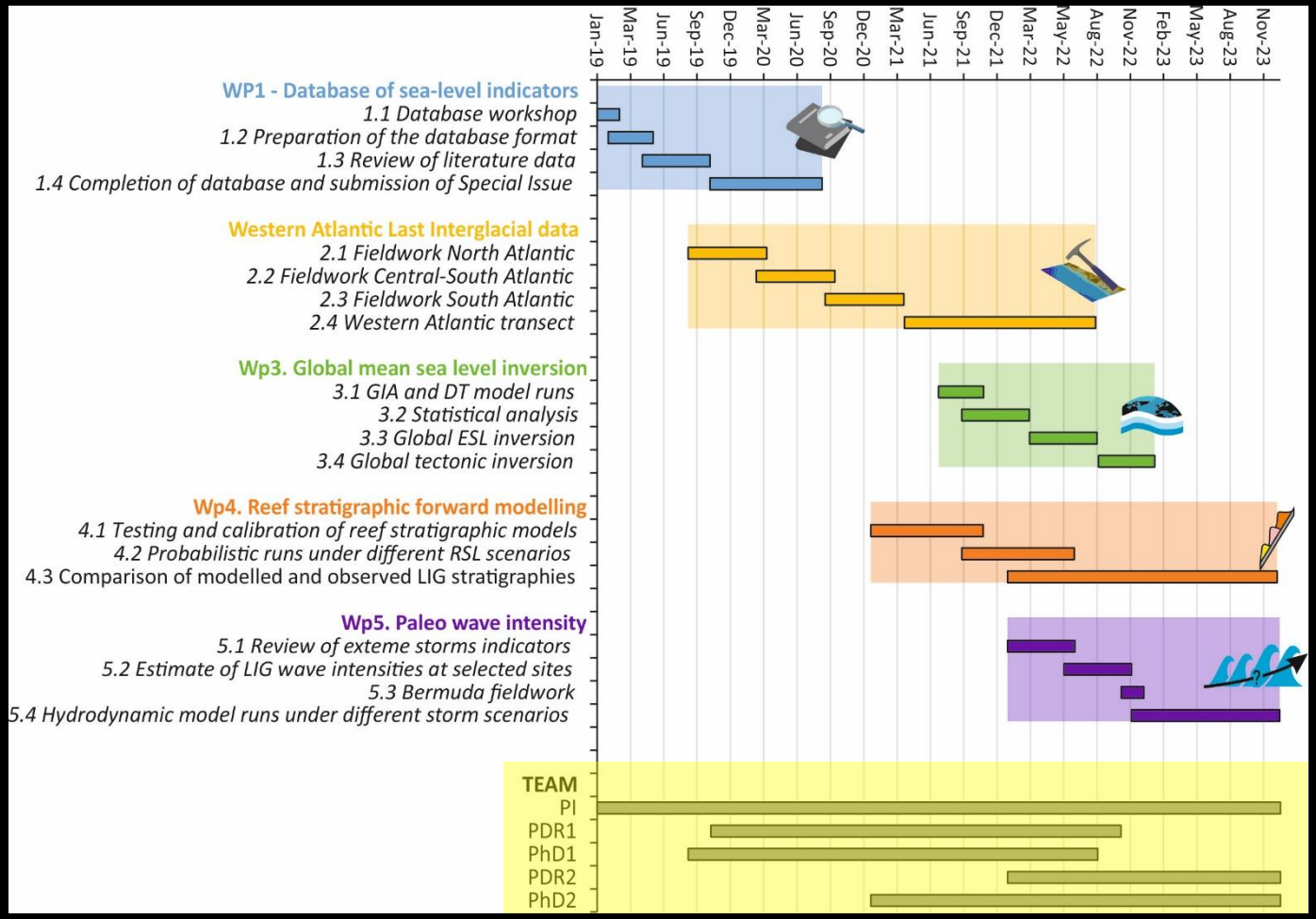
1. Follow the instructions!
2. Break down your proposal into points
3. Know your audience
4. Make an impact in the first few sentences
5. Have a clear title
6. Care about your graphics!
7. Show that your research is feasible
8. Indicate how your research will make a "contribution to knowledge"
9. Get the proposal reviewed and commented on by others
10. **Spend time on your budget!**

The administration of your institute knows how to draft it, but you need to think about your needs

Pexels.com

Edited from
https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals

Budget (and workplan)



1. Describe each action
2. Assign researchers to each action
3. Describe the expertise needed
4. Budget for the team

If you have anything available at no cost…
SAY IT!

Available Equipment
Sea Level and Coastal Changes Group

GNSS

Pro XRT Receiver
Tornado Antenna
Juno 5D handheld with Terrasync
Trimble LaserAce 1000 Rangefinder
Trimble Pathfinder Office

Echosounders

BioSonics MX Aquatic Habitat Echosounder
Deeper smart sonar PRO+
10 INW Pressure Temperature loggers

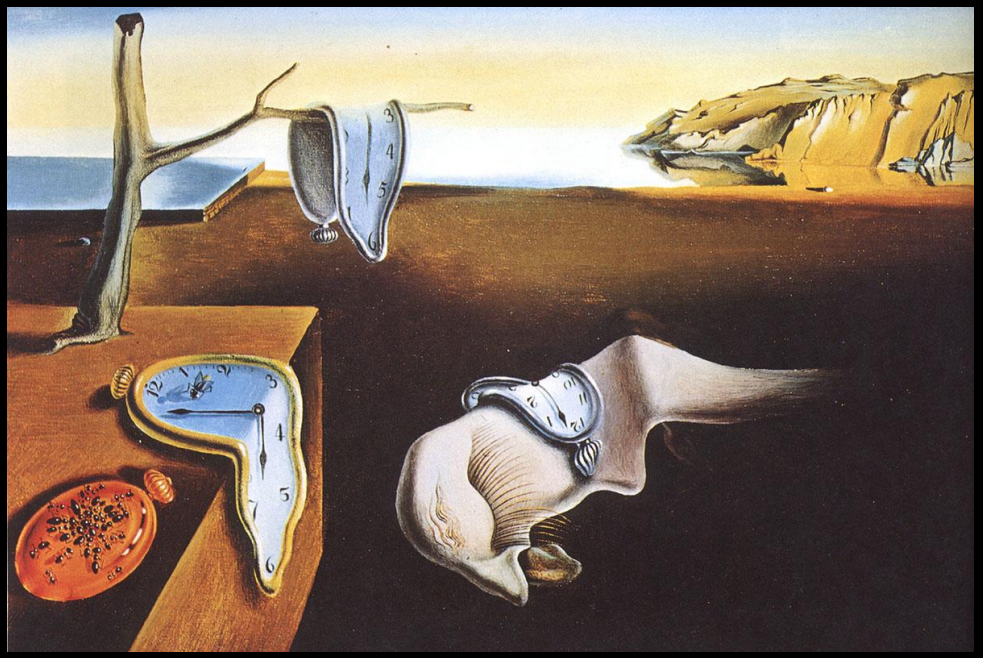
GIS laboratory

4 dedicated PCs
DELFT 3D and Flexible Mesh
DIONISOS Flow Stratigraphic model
Global Mapper with LIDAR module
Agisoft Photoscan
Pix4D
ESRI ArcGIS
MATLAB
Surfer & Grapher
ENVI
ATCOR
Trimble Ecognition

Drones

DJI Phantom 2
DJI Mavic Pro
LA 300 Fixed wing
Gopro 4 camera
Sony RX III camera
Parrot Sequoia Multispectral

1 YEAR
from inception
to written proposal



Wikipedia

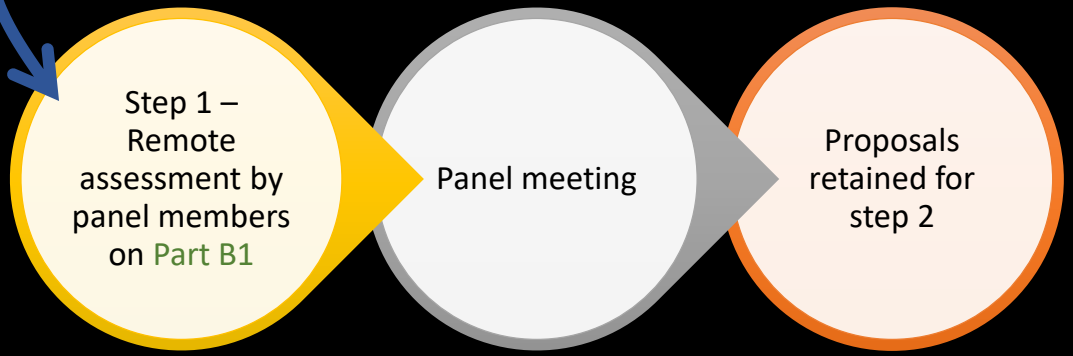
The review process

Part **A**	Part **B1**	Part **B2**
Info on:	Info on:	Info on:
Proposal and PI	PI track record	Full project description including ethics and budget
Host institution	Extended project synopsis	
Budget		

The review process

Part **A**	Part **B1**	Part **B2**
Info on:	Info on:	Info on:
Proposal and PI Host institution Budget	PI track record Extended project synopsis	Full project description including ethics and budget

Eligibility checks



The review process

Part **A**	Part **B1**	Part **B2**
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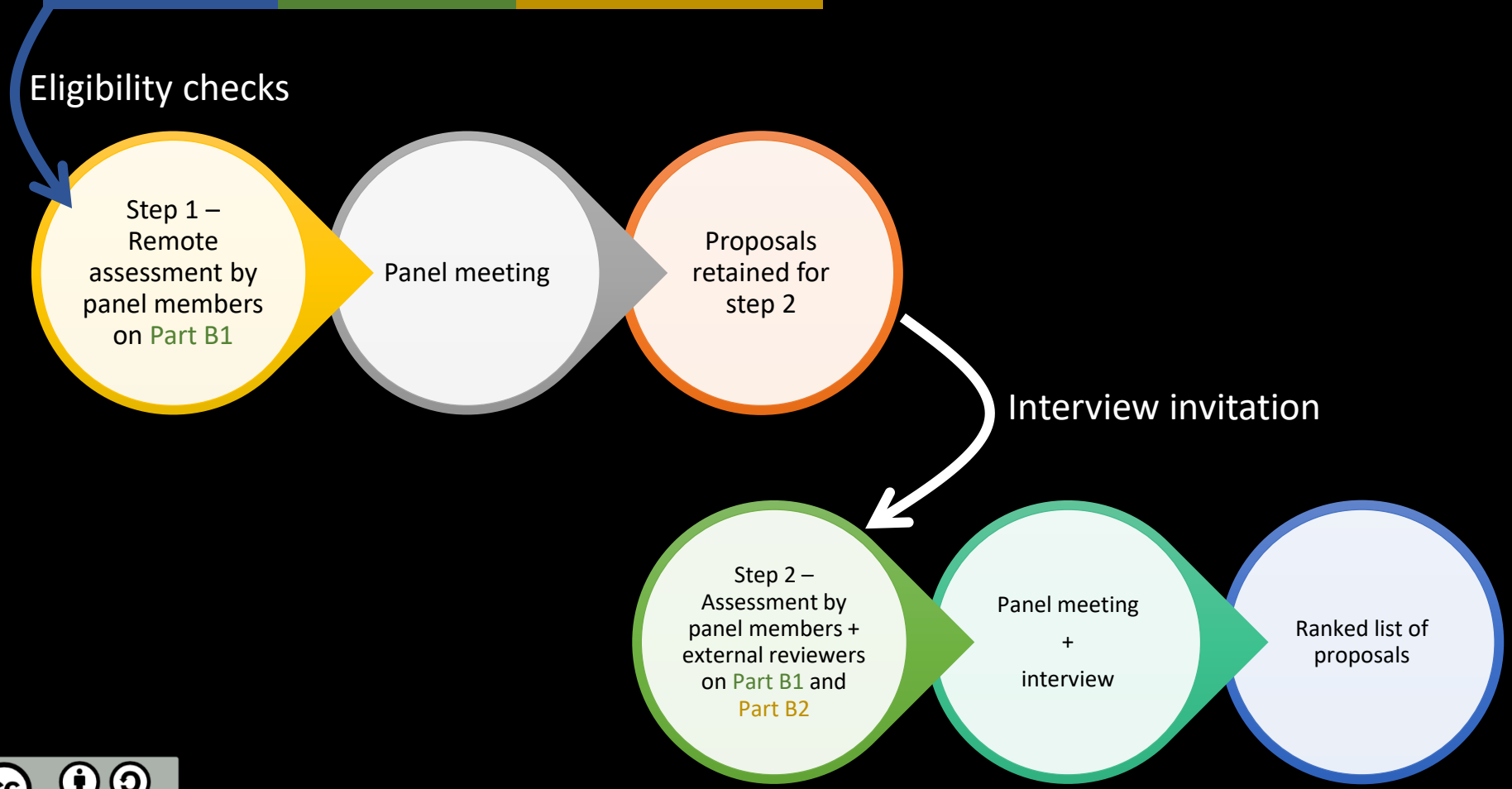
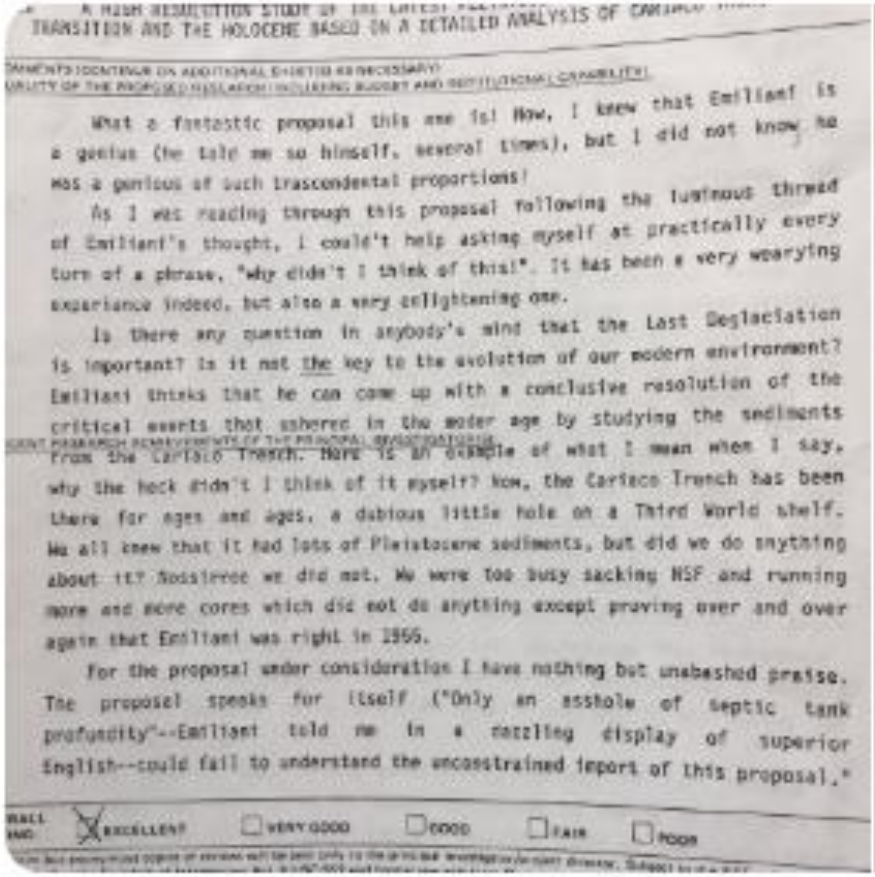


The review process

1984, Cesare Emiliani is accidentally sent his own proposal to review: comedic gold



TRANSITION AND THE HOLOCENE BASED ON A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF

What a fantastic proposal this one is! Now, I knew that Emiliani is a genius (he told me so himself, several times), but I did not know he was a genius of such trascendental proportions!

As I was reading through this proposal following the luminous thread of Emiliani's thought, I could't help asking myself at practically every turn of a phrase, "Why didn't I think of this!". It has been a very wearying experience indeed, but also a very enlightening one.

Is there any question in anybody's mind that the Last Deglaciation is important? Is it not the key to the evolution of our modern environment? Emiliani thinks that he can come up with a conclusive resolution of the critical events that ushered in the modern age by studying the sediments from the Cariaco Trench. Here is an example of what I mean when I say, why the heck didn't I think of it myself? Now, the Cariaco Trench has been there for ages and ages, a dubious little hole on a Third World shelf. We all knew that it had lots of Pleistocene sediments, but did we do anything about it? Nossirree we did not. We were too busy sacking NSF and running more and more cores which did not do anything except proving over and over again that Emiliani was right in 1955.

For the proposal under consideration I have nothing but unabashed praise. The proposal speaks for itself ("Only an asshole of septic tank profundity"--Emiliani told me in a dazzling display of superior English--could fail to understand the encoastrained import of this proposal."

EXCELLENT ☐ VERY GOOD ☐ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ POOR

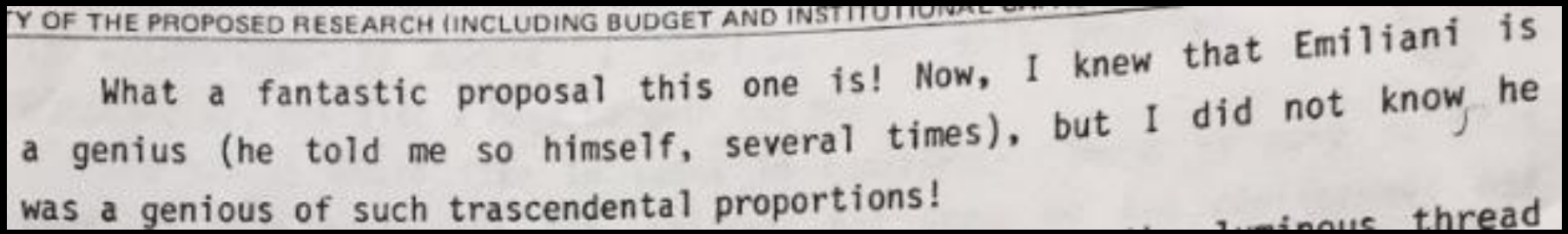
has the cores, the problem, and the equipment. He also has Dr. Price, the senior Micromass engineer now on the American Plate, and the cooperation of Kurt Bostrom in Stockholm, all of this at no cost. The budget, therefore, is extraordinarily modest. I conclude that this proposal is not only outstanding, but also a huge bargain for NSF.

And now I would like to speak in confidence. There is more to this proposal that meets the eye. Emiliani has shown me [in confidence] his newest composite isotopic curve with the time scale fixed by radiometric dates. I have examined it in minute detail. There is an amazing correspondence [Emiliani, pers. comm.] between all insolation maxima and minima at high latitude, large and small, and the major and minor isotopic inflexions. The Postglacial is an exception. Emiliani has come to the unbelievable conclusion that we are right now smack in the middle of the biggest glaciation of them all, and that the so-called Postglacial is entirely artificial--the result of inadvertent climate modification [forest fires] by prehistoric man beginning about 12,000 y ago. At first I was stunned, but Emiliani has a lot of good arguments and even some evidence (although he assured me that good ideas need no evidence). Anyway, it seems that Emiliani has a paper with NATURE presenting this explosive notion and recommending that we keep pumping CO_2 into the atmosphere to keep the earth from freezing. He also points out that the 'nuclear winter' of Sagan and Co. could be brought about by much less megatonnage than recommended. "In other words--he says--we can have our nuclear holocaust at a bargain cost to the taxpayer if we don't dilly-daily and get it off during the present glacial age."

Now, this is what I call penetrating thinking. Emiliani intends to prove that the Postglacial is indeed artificial by adding to the work to be done on the Cariaco Trench cores a detailed study of the concentration

@moraymo, Twitter

The review process



TY OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH (INCLUDING BUDGET AND INSTITUTIONAL

What a fantastic proposal this one is! Now, I knew that Emiliani is a genius (he told me so himself, several times), but I did not know he was a genious of such trascendental proportions!

luminous thread

@moraymo, Twitter

European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

Brussels, 24 April 2018
Ares(2018)2146554

Review session: Step 1

Alessio ROVERE
Leobener Strasse 2, FVG-OST building, Room 0200
28359 Bremen
Germany

Dear Dr. ROVERE,

Subject: Additional information on the interview

As announced in our previous communication, please find below additional information regarding your interview.

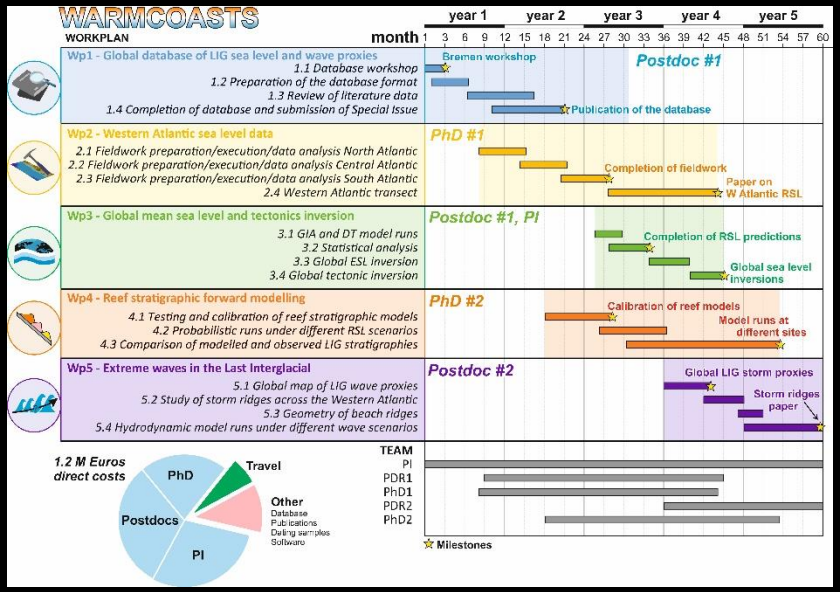
Applicant name	Alessio ROVERE
Applicant address	Leobener Strasse 2, FVG-OST building, Room 0200 28359 Bremen Germany
Panel:	PE10
Interview date:	14 June 2018
Interview slot:	11:00 - 12:10

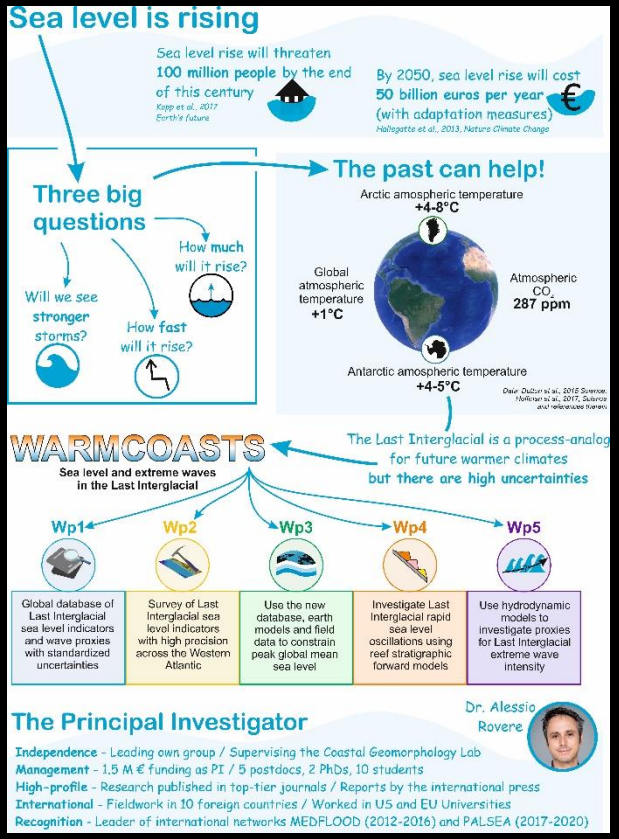
Interview

It usually takes me more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech
- Mark Twain

1. Follow the instructions!

PE 10 (Earth sciences) has a 5 minutes presentation and 20 minutes discussion. STAY ON TIME
Slide printouts are possible – Ask if an infographic is accepted as well.





Interview

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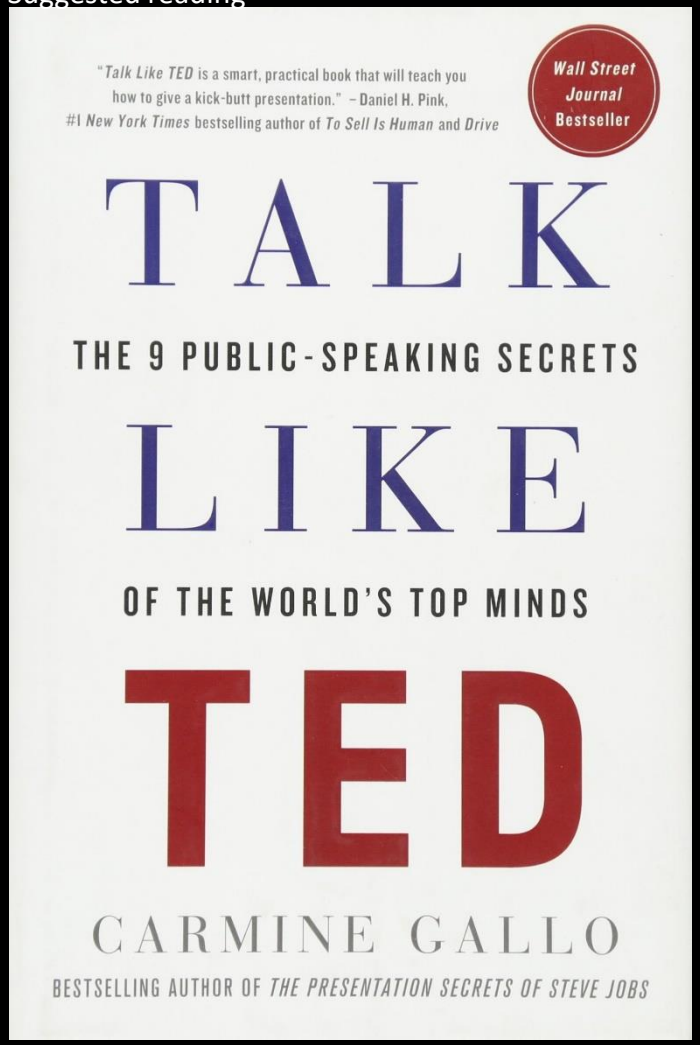
- Mark Twain

1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Practice make you perfect**

Watch presentations online (Ted Talk). Take a presentation course, learn how to stand on the podium and how to present. Record your talk, keep changing it until you are happy with it. Ask feedbacks from colleagues and organize trial panels.

Suggested reading



Interview

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- Mark Twain

1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Practice make you perfect**
3. **Be confident**

It is your project, your idea, and it is brilliant. If you are there, the panel thinks you are good. They just need to confirm the impression they had on paper

Wikipedia

Interview

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- Mark Twain

1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Practice make you perfect**
3. **Be confident**
4. **Study your panel**

ERC panels from previous years are available online. How they are composed in terms of expertise? Someone you know in your field?

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Home » Funding » Starting Grants

STARTING GRANTS

Deutsch

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Are you a talented early-career scientist who has already produced excellent supervised work, is ready to work independently and shows potential to be a research leader? The ERC Starting Grant could be for you.

Who can apply?

Researchers of any nationality with **2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD** (Extensions are possible under certain circumstances — see the latest ERC Work Programme), a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal

What proposals are eligible?

- *Criteria*
  Applications can be made in **any field of research**
  The ERC's grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities.
- *Location*
  Research must be conducted in **a public or private research organisation** (known as a Host Institution/HI). It could be the HI where the applicant already works, or any other HI located in one of **the EU Member States** (see also eligibility of UK legal entities) **or Associated Countries**
- *Host Institution*
  Applications for an ERC grant must be submitted by a single Principal Investigator (PI) in conjunction with and on behalf of their Host Institution, called the applicant legal entity.
  Grants are awarded to the Host Institution with the explicit commitment that this

OPEN CALL

There are currently no open calls for Starting Grants

ON-GOING EVALUATIONS

Timeframe Starting Grant 2019

UPCOMING CALL

See 'OPEN CALL'

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

ERC Work Programme 2019
ERC Starting Grants 2019 – Information for applicants
ERC Guide for Peer Reviewers 2019

More documents are available in the ERC document library or on the Funding and Tenders Portal

CHOOSE YOUR PANEL

ERC peer review evaluation panels (2019 calls)

COMPOSITION OF EVALUATION PANELS

ERC Starting Grant 2019:
Panel Chairs
Panel Members

ERC Starting Grant 2018:
Panel Chairs
Panel Members

Click here to check Panel Chairs and Panel Members from previous calls

Interview

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- Mark Twain

1. **Follow the instructions!**
2. **Practice make you perfect**
3. **Be confident**
4. **Study your panel**
5. **Know your weaknesses**

And turn this into a strength. Try to anticipate questions and pre-formulate the best possible answers. If it makes you feel better, use additional slides. But remember that when you answer they should focus on you, not on the slides…

Thank you for your attention and happy grant writing!