

PYRN Report

by George Tanski, Josefine Lenz, Boris Radosavljevic and Jens Strauss

Permafrost Young Researchers Network Activities 2015



The Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN), established under the patronage of the IPA, is a network of young and enthusiastic permafrost scientists and engineers from all around the world. PYRN works closely with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and strives to apply its multi-disciplinary talents toward global awareness, knowledge and response to permafrost-related challenges in a changing global climate. PYRN has continuously expanded since its inception during the 4th International Polar Year, and now has more than 1,200 members. The organization supports capacity building through its website, newsletter and member listing, and most recently has developed its first printed flyer (http://pyrn.arcticportal.org/images/activities/PYRN_flyer.pdf).



PYRN presentation at the Arctic Science Summit Week 2015 in Toyama (Japan); from left to right: George Tanski, Josefine Lenz, Elena Kuznetsova, Aleksey Maslakov (all PYRN Executive Committee)

10th anniversary of PYRN- Wrap up and census

PYRN is celebrating its 10th anniversary during the 2014-2016 mandate of its executive. A report entitled “The Permafrost Young Researchers Network is getting older – a decade of PYRN: review, state and outlook is in preparation to summarize the development of the network since its establishment and its goals for the future.” The PYRN census, which was carried out in 2015, will be published as part of this document.

PYRN events and workshop

Three main PYRN events were organized in the first and second quarters of 2015. A short course for students and early career researchers entitled “The future of permafrost in a climate changing world” was hosted by the Soil System Sciences Division during the EGU General Assembly in Vienna and a social evening was also organized. During the Arctic Science Summit Week in Toyama (Japan) in April, PYRN promoted its network with a poster entitled “Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN): Perspectives and Priorities of the next generation on permafrost research” and advertised itself to the Asian research community as part of its

outreach strategy. One month later, early career researchers were involved in the organization of the 3rd PAST Gateways conference and workshop in Potsdam (Germany), co-chairing sessions and giving speed presentations of their posters. Two poster awards were given



PYRN award presentation at GeoQuébec. The prize was shared by Brendan O'Neill and Marcus Phillips (Carleton University, Canada)

out and a social event for all young researchers attending the conference was organized.

PYRN organized five more events in the second half of 2015. A joint panel discussion with the title “The role of young researchers’ networks in shaping the future of geographical sciences” was organized during the International Geographical Union regional congress in August in Moscow (Russia), by APECS, PYRN Russia, European Geography Association for Students and Young Geographers (EGEA), and ArcticFROST. In September, the 33rd PYRN Russia meeting was organized in the framework of the International Conference “Permafrost in XXI Century: Basic and Applied Researches” in Pushchino (Russia). During the GeoQuébec 2015 meeting in Québec (Canada), PYRN gave awards for outstanding oral presentations by two Carleton University students. At the 11th Annual Scientific Meeting of ArcticNet on December 7-11 in Vancouver (Canada), PYRN supported the organization of the ArcticNet Student Association (ASA) student day by providing onsite and financial support for the icebreaker events. One week later, during the

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AGU Fall Meeting on December 14-18 in San Francisco (United States of America), the United States Permafrost Association (USPA) held its annual meeting and invited non-American PYRN members to join the USPA meeting and social event. In total, eight PYRN members were awarded with USPA travel grants at the social event.

Collaboration with partner organizations

PYRN is constantly in contact with its partner organizations and hosts. Currently, various members of the PYRN Executive Committee are involved in activities of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and APECS as IASC Fellows and APECS

Council members, respectively. PYRN has started to collaborate with the Global Terrestrial Network on Permafrost (GTN-P) with PYRN providing members as national representatives for GTN-P and supporting the network by collecting ground temperature and active layer data. PYRN is currently negotiating with the ASA about a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen its communications with the Canadian research community.

PYRN at ICOP 2016

PYRN is currently organizing the Permafrost Young Researchers Workshop together with APECS and young researcher representatives from USPA and ADAPT (Arctic Development and Adaptation to Permafrost in Transition). The “Young Researchers

Workshop” will take place at the 11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP 2016) and will provide opportunities to young researchers to learn and build interdisciplinary knowledge.



The logo of the joint young researcher workshop of PYRN, APECS, ADAPT, and USPA

PYRN members in IASC Fellowship Program

by Josefine Lenz, Louis-Philippe Roy, Elena Kuznetsova and Robert Way

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) initiated the IASC Fellowship Program during Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2014 in Helsinki to promote and involve the next generation of Arctic researchers. Those Early Career Researchers (ECR) selected actively participate in the IASC Working Groups, giving them a unique opportunity to become involved in leading-edge scientific activities, to start cooperative initiatives at a circum-arctic and international level, to build an international network of contacts and to develop management skills.

During the initial round of the IASC Fellowship Program, PYRN members Elena Kuznetsova (Norwegian University of Science and Technology; PYRN ExCom member) and Louis-Philippe Roy (Yukon Research Centre) were chosen for the Cryosphere Working Group. In early 2015, a second wave of IASC Fellows was selected from 96 applicants by collaboration between IASC and APECS. Two more PYRN members were designated: Josefine Lenz (Alfred Wegener Institute; PYRN ExCom member) as a part of the Terrestrial WG and Robert Way (University of Ottawa) for the Cryosphere Working Group. Each IASC Fellowship has a duration of 1+2 years. During the first year, selected Fellows receive financial support to attend two consecutive ASSWs when annual

WG meetings are held, provided that the Fellow helps to facilitate the meeting organization, including follow-up activities and reporting. In 2014, Elena Kuznetsova and Louis-Philippe Roy contributed to the Rapid Arctic Transitions Related to Infrastructure and Climate Change (RATIC) workshop, which was a joint effort between Cryosphere, Social & Human and Terrestrial Working Groups. In 2015, Josefine Lenz was invited to talk about her ECR perspective on the topic “From Science to Policy” within the Arctic Discussion Series held on June 29th in Potsdam. She was also involved in the organization of the 3rd conference and workshop of the IASC network PAST Gateways held on May 18-22 in Potsdam, Germany, as well as in the organization of the 2nd GTN-P workshop held in Québec City. As an outcome of this meeting, IASC Fellow Louis-Philippe Roy became a GTN-P National Correspondent for Canada and the involvement of PYRN members as Young National Correspondents in GTN-P was decided. Louis-Philippe Roy represented GTN-P at the ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting in Vancouver (Canada) in December 2015. IASC Fellow Elena Kuznetsova took part as an Early Career Scholar the Arctic-FROST Annual Meeting, 15-17 August 2015, St Petersburg, and Polar Data Forum II held in Waterloo in October 2015, and together with Robert Way she was invited to a thematic

committee of the Arctic Observing Summit at ASSW 2016.

In 2016, IASC approved a cross-cutting initiative led by these four scientists, to facilitate a workshop session on “Community-based Research” with participation of indigenous people during the Young Researcher Workshop at the International Conference on Permafrost in June in Potsdam.



IASC Fellows Josefine Lenz, Elena Kuznetsova, Robert Way and Louis-Philippe Roy presenting their permafrost research at the GEOQuébec 2015 conference in Canada