



APECS SWITZERLAND

SWISS POLAR DAY

4 April 2018

@ ETHZ

9h30 - 17h30



Swiss Federal Institute for Forest,
Snow and Landscape Research WSL



Swiss Academy of Sciences
Akademie der Naturwissenschaften
Accademia di scienze naturali
Académie des sciences naturelles

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Schnee, Eis und Permafrost

SEP

Société Suisse de Neige, Glace et Pergélisol

NGP

Swiss Snow, Ice and Permafrost Society

SIP

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)

- International and interdisciplinary organization for early career researchers working in the Polar Regions and the wider Cryosphere

Members:

- Bachelor and master students
- PhD, PostDoc
- Early faculty members, young professionals
- Educators and others

Overview and challenges of Swiss Polar science

→ viewed from early career scientists



- Survey: 18 participants
- ETH (VAW), WSL, UniZH, SLF, UniFR
- Three blocks of questions:
 1. Polar (and 3rd pole) science in Switzerland: Present and future
 2. Challenges for early careers in the academia
 3. Future visions/wishes
- Summarized with two questions per block



1. Polar science in Switzerland: Present and future

How do you think Switzerland is positioned compared to other countries in polar research?

Polar research:

- Ok positioned for polar research
- Better positioned in Greenland than in Antarctica
- Most of the early careers do not have the overview of what going on in polar research in CH

Alpine research

- Well positioned in alpine research but not a powerhouse anymore.

What kind of science would you like to see in the future?

- Swiss polar research good in very specific topics instead of being averages in many.
- Stronger national collaboration
 - Find collaboration through SEP, APECS or SGM.
- Would like a national communication channel that convey the information
- Increase international collaboration for polar research
 - Enough instruments: conferences, summer schools, visiting scientists.
- A modern = multi-disciplinary science
- Reproducibility, transparency and no more black box papers.



<http://www.mariskakret.com>

2. Challenges for early careers in academia

What is the main challenge for you if you are pursuing an academic career?

- Uncertainties about the career in the long-term perspective
- Low job security due to short working contracts
- Strong competition
- Life partners

- Single
- Married
- It's complicated
- In a Relationship
- In Ph D

<https://www.quora.com>

Do you think you have enough opportunities in Switzerland to pursue an academic career?

For the start to medium term

The career opportunities in CH are great with regards to other countries.

- Many early career willing to go abroad
- To: European countries (alpine range countries, Scandinavia, UK), Canada, US,
- For: 2 to 5 years (few up to 10)

For the long-term

The career opportunities in CH are small

3. Future visions and wishes

If there were strong early career groups giving career opportunities, courses, excursions would you join one?

- Helps for networking
- Find information
- Find potential working partners
- Nice to meet people facing similar problems and dreams

Further wishes?

- Want to be better represented/heard in the polar community
- A realistic opportunity to go in the field (i.e. the poles)
- More job security
- Long-term and part time jobs
- Stay in Switzerland and be able to continue in the field of polar research
- Let early careers know what their perspective and chances are at an early stage





APECS
Association of Polar
Early Career Scientists

OUR PARTNERS



Swiss Federal Institute for Forest,
Snow and Landscape Research WSL

sc | nat 

Swiss Academy of Sciences
Akademie der Naturwissenschaften
Accademia di scienze naturali
Académie des sciences naturelles

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Schnee, Eis und Permafrost

SEP

Société Suisse de Neige, Glace et Pergélisol

NGP

Swiss Snow, Ice and Permafrost Society

SIP

APECS INTERNATIONAL

Website: www.apecs.is

Email: info@apecs.is

Twitter: @Polar_Research

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APECS4u>

Membership is free!

APECS SWITZERLAND

Website: <http://apecsswitzerland.wixsite.com/home>

Email: apecs.switzerland@gmail.com

Facebook: APECS Switzerland NC