

Dear SSC attendees,

The conference is now 10 days away and we are looking forward to seeing you and the 280 other registered participants.

On the [SSC2021 webpage](#) under program you can find the program, book of abstracts and list of abstract numbers. In page 2 in this letter, we have included some practical information. If you have not already booked the hotel the link to the discounted price can be found on the registration page. Under the tab side meetings, you will find information about and contact to the organizers of events held in connection to the SSC.

All Corona restrictions in Norway are lifted and infection rates are generally low. However there are still [travel restrictions](#) for some travellers entering the country and masks are mandatory in the airports. The hotel is responsible for hygiene and we ask participants to observe the [hygiene advice](#) and to be aware that some people still prefer to avoid physical contact with others. If you have any questions during the conference the RCN and SSF staff will be wearing red t-shirts with the SSF logo.

On Monday evening there is no formal program, but the hotel offers a buffet dinner (including dessert and coffee) from 18.00-20.00 for 350 NOK. please contact [Scandic Fornebu](#) if you wish to book. We also encourage people to meet at the bar from 20.00 for drinks and mingling. These events are not covered by the conference fee.

We would also like to remind you of the overall focus of the conference: Added value through cooperation. Our hope is to stimulate and inspire scientists to increase the international relevance of research from Svalbard.

We had very few contributions to the "A polarbear ate my Zodiac" session so the session is unfortunately cancelled.

All sessions except the poster session will [be streamed live online](#). Please feel free to invite others to join in digitally. Questions will be submitted through Slido giving everyone a chance to send in.

On page three you will find information of special interest to young researchers.

See you in Oslo soon!

On behalf of the planning group

Karoline Bælum, SSF

Practical information:

How to find your way: The venue is: Scandic Fornebu, Martin Linges vei 2, 1364 Fornebu. +47 21 05 70 00. There are direct trains from the airport via Oslo Central station to **Lysaker station**. You can either take the airport express (trains F1 or F2) or the regular trains (trains R10, R11 or L12). The airport express runs more often and is slightly faster but more expensive. At Lysaker station you shift to bus 81 Fornebu, 31 Fornebu or 31 Snarøya. It is 5-10 min to "IT Fornebu" 200m from the hotel. Find more information on departures and how to buy tickets on Ruter.no.

Registration: The registration desk is situated in the main lobby, to the left of the reception. The registration opens 2nd of November at 08:00. Please collect your name tag at the registration desk. If you have sent your poster by mail you collect it here.

What is included in the registration fee: Access to all sessions. Lunch and coffee breaks on 2nd and 3rd of November and the conference dinner on the 2nd (including 2 glasses of wine/beer/soft drinks).

Poster presentations: The poster session is on November 2nd from 16:00 to 18:30. You can hang your poster (maximum size portrait A0) in your assigned space from 08:30. The poster wall is marked with your abstract number. An alphabetical list of all presenters and abstract numbers can be on the SSC webpage. If you need help or just some extra tape, ask the staff at the registrations desk. Please take down your poster before 15:00 on 3rd of November. If you do not want to travel with your poster you can order from www.vistaprint.no (or another company of your choice) and ship to:

The Research Council of Norway
Postboks 564
1327 Lysaker
Att: "*your name*" SSC2021 – Marianne Johansen

Oral presentations: The timeslots in the program are either 10 or 15 min depending on the session, but this includes change of presenter and questions so actual presenting time is 8 or 12 min. Please upload your presentation well in advance of the session in the speaker's room. You deliver the presentation on a USB memory stick so remember to bring one. Be in the presentation room at least 10 min before the session starts. There will be seats reserved for the presenters on the front row. Please let the chair of the session know you are in place and have uploaded your presentation. There is no set template for the presentations.

Early-career items related to the SSC

1. In collaboration with the Norwegian chapter of the Association for Early Career Polar Scientists (APECS), we would like to announce a poster competition. We invite all early career poster presenters (held during the evening of Day 1) attending the SSC to participate in the competition. Here, early career is defined as current students or postdocs up to 2 years post-PhD. To be considered for the competition, you just need to collect a label at the registration desk in-person upon arrival at the conference and affix it to your poster so the judges can identify you. The winners will be announced during the closing session on Day 2.

2. APECS Norway would also like to draw your attention to a free, side workshop on Monday the 1st November, the day before the SSC conference begins. The "Research in Svalbard: An APECS workshop" will be held from 1000-1830h in the Oslo Botanical Gardens. The day will include a number of experts from Svalbard and provide an opportunity to meet fellow attendees in advance of the SSC. You are encouraged to bring your poster for the networking part of the evening. Lunch and tapas will be provided. Please see the side meeting tab on the SSC webpage for more information

Registration for the side workshop and applications for travel/accommodation support (will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis) can be found

here: <https://www.mn.uio.no/ceed/english/research/news-and-events/events/conferences-and-seminars/apecs-workshop-2021.html>

The workshop is co-organized by APECS Norway, APECS Russia and the UK Polar Network.