

***On the occasion of the Launching of the Society of Spanish Researchers in South Africa
- ACE South Africa,***

Talk by Dr. Jan-Lukas Menzel Barraqueta (Stellenbosch University)

Beyond the Antarctic continent: Climatic feedback loops from microscopic level to large marine mammals

Date: Tuesday 03 December 2019

Time: 18h30

Venue: Centre for the Book

62 Queen Victoria St (in front of Company Gardens)

Cape Town City Centre, 8001

* Spanish wine will be served afterwards.



Científicos Españoles en Sudáfrica

Spanish Researchers in South Africa

Abacwangingi besayensi base Spain eningizimu Afrika

Spaanse Navorsers in Suid-Afrika

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PRESS RELEASE

Cape Town, 19 November 2019

PUBLIC TALK ABOUT ANTARCTIC ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING FROM MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS TO LARGE MAMMALS

Centre for the Book, Cape Town CBD – Tue 03 Dec – 18h30

On the occasion of the launch of the Society of Spanish Researchers in South Africa (ACE South Africa), **Dr Jan-Lukas Menzel Barraqueta** from the *Centre for Trace and Experimental Biogeochemistry* at Stellenbosch University will present the research conducted in two recent Antarctic expeditions he participated in, on board of the South African research vessel “Agulhas II”. The presentation, ***“Beyond the Antarctic continent: Climatic feedback loops from microscopic level to large marine mammals”***, will be suitable for all audiences and illustrated with recent pictures and videos. The event will be opened by **H. E. Dr Jose Pablo Alzina, General Consul of Spain in Cape Town and counts with the institutional and financial support of the Embassy of Spain in Pretoria.**

About the talk

Dr Menzel will highlight how human wellbeing largely depends on oceans since they provide resources and control climate at a global scale, stressing the importance of polar regions, which play a major role in controlling earth’s climate, and focusing in the Southern Ocean surrounding the Antarctic continent. In particular, the talk will be focused from a biogeochemical point of view, which controls the supply of nutrients to low trophic levels and the regeneration of nutrients from high trophic levels back into the system. The presentation will be illustrated with recent pictures and videos taken during his two recent Antarctic expeditions on board of the South African research vessel “Agulhas II”.

Dr Menzel will show how the present rising in global temperatures is causing the rapid decline in total sea ice concentration in polar regions. Throughout the presentation the audience will

discover how ice formation and seasonal ice melting is a key mechanism triggering many complex feedback loops. The talk will serve to illustrate how these feedback loops are interconnected and consequently, how the disturbance of one of them can cause irreversible cascading effects.

About ACE South Africa

ACE South Africa is one of the societies distributed in 27 countries around the five continents, bringing together Spanish Researchers working in those countries. So far, ACE South Africa counts with researchers in more than 10 research centres and tertiary institutions around South Africa and more than 50 associates working in disciplines as varied as Paleontology, Ornithology, Oceanography, Botany and Zoology, Wildlife Conservation, Climate Change, Pure Mathematics, Cosmology, Theoretical Physics, Immunology and HIV, Chemistry and Clinical Psychology.

ACE South Africa objectives include serving as a link for the exchange of scientific information among its members, dissemination of research, funding and job opportunities, development of bilateral Spain-South Africa scientific projects and exchanges of human capital between universities and research institutes of both countries, management of meetings of its members with political and scientific representatives of both countries, enhancement of technological opportunities for Spanish R&D&I companies operating in South Africa, as well as an increase in the flow of communication between scientists, companies and society.

During the event, the recently elected Executive Committee of ACE South Africa will also be presented.

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Free entry. No confirmation needed

For more information, contact **Ana Moyano de las Muelas**

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