



Centre for Origin and Prevalence of Life Internal Newsletter # 2

October 2023

Dear all,

This is the second issue of the COPL internal newsletter.

If you have any feedback on this issue or any input for the next issue, please contact us via email to copl.management@sympa.ethz.ch.

Best wishes,
The COPL Managing Office - Corinna Marchand and Mathias Beck

Membership updates

New COPL affiliated group leaders

A warm welcome to two new members of the COPL community:



Prof. Marie C. Schoelmerich

Assistant Professor of Environmental Microbiology
ETH Zürich | D-USYS

[Personal web page](#)



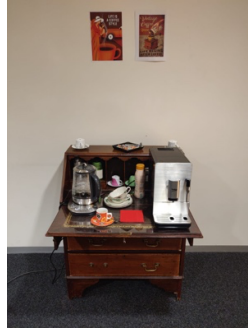
Prof. Sven Panke

Full Professor of Bioprocess Engineering
ETH Zürich | D-BSSE

[Personal web page](#)

Opportunities

COPL: ~~Centre~~ Coffee for Origin and Prevalence of Life



Since 31 October 2023 at 17:35 CET the COPL spaces on the G-Floor of the HIT building are finally operational. Yes, now we can also serve coffee! The first COPL member to pass by and share a coffee with the Management Office will benefit from free coffee until the mystery of the Origin of Life or that of the Prevalence of Life has been solved – whichever comes first. The others simply must queue a bit longer ...

Ad hoc funding – deadline for application 03 November 2023, 17:00 CET

The Scientific Programme Manager started with a short delay compared to the original planning. As a result, we have between 10 and 20 kCHF available for immediate purchase of equipment or services. The invoice must be available by Friday 17th November 2023 at 17:00 CET via email to copl.management@sympa.ethz.ch.

If you have an urgent purchase for equipment or services related to your COPL activities, you can send an email to copl.management@sympa.ethz.ch before this Friday 03 November 2023 17:00 CET with the following information

- Your name and department
- Amount required
- Brief description of the equipment or service to be purchased
- Planned date of purchase

NOMIS ETH Fellowships



The call for applications for the NOMIS ETH Fellowship Programme is open. Applications will be accepted until 10 Nov. 2023.

For details, please consult the COPL website:

<https://copl.ethz.ch/opportunities/nomis-eth-fellowships/nomis-fellowship-call-2023.html>

Short-term Visitors

Applications for visits during the spring semester 2024 can be submitted until 24 Nov. 2023 via the COPL website:

<https://copl.ethz.ch/opportunities/short-term-visitors.html#apply>

Compared to the first call, small changes are applicable to the max. funding:

- Support to travel cost is limited to a max. amount of CHF 500.
 - Support for accommodation and the daily allowance is limited to max. 10 days at a combined upper limit of CHF 250 per day.
 - All expenses need to be justified by invoices. Only the expenses for the visitor can be refunded. The cost for persons accompanying the visitor cannot be refunded.
- Upcoming events

Short-term visitors

See also <https://copl.ethz.ch/opportunities/short-term-visitors.html>

Visitor: [Nozair Khawaja](#), Freie Universität Berlin

Dates: 10 to 21 December 2023

Office: HIT G 41.2

Host: [Veerle Sterken](#)

Seminars

See also <https://copl.ethz.ch/seminars.html>

Seminar series: D-ERDW Colloquium

Speaker: [Peter Driscoll](#), Carnegie Institution for Science

Title: Earth's Inner Core Age and Paleomagnetic Expression

Date: **07 Nov. 2023**, 12:15 to 13:00

Location: NO C 60

Seminar series: *COPL 101 Lunch Seminar*

Speaker: [Loïc Pellissier](#), ETH Zurich, D-USYS

Title: Toward models of planetary systems with life

Date: **10 Nov. 2023**, 12:30 to 13:30 – light lunch from 12:00 to 12:30, [please register](#)

Location: HIT F 23.2

Seminar series: D-ERDW Colloquium

Speaker: [Sonja Geilert](#), Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

Title: How the ocean can help us to mitigate climate change

Date: **21 Nov. 2023**, 12:15 to 13:00

Location: NO C 60

Seminar series: *COPL 101 Lunch Seminar*

Speaker: [Hans Jakob Wörner](#), ETH Zurich, D-CHAB

Title: TBA

Date: **24 Nov. 2023**, 12:30 to 13:30 – light lunch from 12:00 to 12:30, [please register](#)

Location: NO D 45

Seminar series: D-ERDW Colloquium

Speaker: [Alessandro Morbidelli](#), Observatoire Côte d'Azur

Title: The Accretion of Earth
Date: **28 Nov. 2023**, 12:15 to 13:00
Location: NO C 60

Seminar series: *COPL 101 Lunch Seminar*
Speaker: [Nozair Khawaja](#), [Freie Universität Berlin](#)
Title: Exploring the habitability of icy moons through impact ionization mass spectrometers
Date: **14 Dec. 2023**, 12:30 to 13:30 – light lunch from 12:00 to 12:30, [please register](#)
Location: NO D 45

Past activities

Arrival of the 1st NOMIS-ETH Fellow Craig Walton

1st of September was the first day at work for Craig Walton, the 1st NOMIS-ETH Fellow. Craig's office is located on the ETH Zentrum campus in the NW building office D 88.2. A portrait of Craig is available via the COPL website:

<https://copl.ethz.ch/news/COPL-news-channel/2023/09/first-nomis-eth-fellow-dr-craig-walton-first-days-at-eth.html>

A warm welcome to Craig.

2023 General Assembly and Networking Event

The General Assembly of COPL Members was held on 28 Sep. 2023. The Scientific Programme Manager presented an overview on the activities since the 2022 General Assembly. The presentation is available via the [COPL website](#).

The assembly has confirmed the members of the Scientific Steering Committee, see <https://copl.ethz.ch/the-centre/people.html#steering-committee>. The assembly has also approved the budget for the coming year.

The 2024 General Assembly will be held on **Thursday, 03 October 2024 from 14:00 to 16:00 CEST**. Please reserve the date in your agendas. Like this year, a networking event will follow the General Assembly starting at 18:00 CEST.

Inaugural Science Conference of the Origins Federation

From 12 to 15 Sep. 2023 the inaugural science conference of the Origins Federation was held at the Harvard University. A short summary is available via the COPL website:

<https://copl.ethz.ch/news/COPL-news-channel/2023/09/origins-federation-a-gathering-of-minds.html>

The 2024 edition of the conference series will be held in Cambridge, UK - dates are TBD.

COPL and Space Initiative at ETH at Swissnex

On 18 October 2023, the COPL and the Space Initiative at ETH were invited to give a joint presentation for Swissnex, the network of education, research, innovation and art outposts aimed at connecting Switzerland with the world's innovation hubs – see swissnex.org. The recording of the presentation is available on the [Swissnex YouTube channel](#).