

Dear female scientists in marine research,

The **Baltic Gender** newsletter will provide you with information on upcoming events, women networks and interesting reading about women in (marine) science. Conceptually, the first part takes up current topics from marine science and the project which we consider might be relevant for you. The second part briefly addresses the history of women in (marine) science and picks out a certain era or country. Our newsletter will be published every four months and is also available for download under the following link: www.baltic-gender.eu.

If you have information for next issues, comments on the content, or suggestions – let us know! We hope you will now enjoy reading, and we look forward to your feedback to: baltic-gender@io-warnemuende.de.

Best wishes,
Joanna & Friederike

Project news



The **annual meeting of Baltic Gender** was held in the SYKE premises in Helsinki between the 30th of May and 1st of June 2017. On the first day, the consortium members received a training from Yellow Window on setting up, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Gender Equality Plans - based on the [GEAR tool](#) from EIGE. (Below is a link to a video by the trainer of the course Katrien Van der Heyden): <https://twitter.com/SYKEinfo/status/869521306567544832>

On 1st of July the application deadline for the **Baltic Gender Mentoring scheme** passed. Eight applications from four different partner institutions were received and sent to the evaluating board together with additional information. The scoring cards with the evaluation of potential mentees are expected back by mid of August. Until 1st of October 2017 matching of the selected mentees with mentors will take place, before the first round of the BG mentoring scheme will start. In due course IOW is preparing all necessary documents mentor/mentee contracts, reimbursement forms and some initial instruction how to build the mentee/mentor relationship. The first meeting of the group is envisaged for next year between 16th and 20th April 2018 in Warnemünde. We are looking forward to welcome the mentees and mentors in the scheme.

Check also the **Baltic Gender Website Blog** to read the latest entries (<http://www.oceanblogs.org/balticgender/>).

Coming soon – the **Youth Creative Contest**. It will be launched by Klaipeda University in the beginning of september when school starts again. The contest is foreseen to urge the youth to develop an understanding of gender issues related to marine research and technologies. Youth are invited to voice their views on women in marine science and technology via creative projects. Countries participating will be Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden.

CREATIVE YOUTH CONTEST

INSIGHT INTO WOMEN IN
MARINE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

News from Baltic Gender partners



On 18 July 2017, German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (3rd from left) together with the Prime Minister of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Manuela Schwesig (3rd from right) came to the **Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde** (IOW) to have a panel discussion on the topic of "women in executive positions". This talk with the country's women in leadership positions was part of his first visit to Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (photo: S. Kube/IOW).

In July 2017, **GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel** (<http://www.geomar.de>) received the TOTAL E-QUALITY (<https://www.total-e-quality.de>) award for the first time. The award certifies GEOMAR's commitment to promote equal opportunities for women and men. After three years, a renewed application for the award will follow to assess further progress in establishing equal opportunities.

Upcoming events

[herCAREER](#) fair Oct 12-13, 2017 MTC Munich ("the only exhibition in Germany which considers all aspects of a female and family career management")

4th Annual Society for Women in Marine Science ([SWMS](#)) Symposium, Nov 3, 2017, at WHOI in Woods Hole, MA, USA. (SWMS aims to be a source of support for women in marine science)

On 16./17. October 2017, the Contact point women into EU Research [FIF](#) offers a visit to Brussels for women scientists to get to know the European research policies. Information/registration: http://www.eubuero.de/veranstaltungen.htm?id=1207&pk_campaign=nl-fif&pk_kwd=2017-07-12#viewanc

The annual [Briese-Award for marine science](#) honors exceptional doctoral theses in marine science. The dissertations should closely relate to the use of research vessels and to the development of technologies and/or techniques of data acquisition at sea. Application is open to scientists who graduated within the last 2 years from a German university.

[BONUS call 2017: Synthesis](#), open: 9 August – 9 November 2017, preregistration deadline: 9 Oct 2017

Women networks

[AcademiaNet](#)

- Data base with profiles of excellent female researchers from all disciplines in Germany (since 2010) and Europe (since 2012)
- initiative funded in 2010 by Robert-Bosch Stiftung and Spektrum der Wissenschaft

[Femdat](#) Note: Website only partially in English

- Swiss data base of highly qualified women (since 2001) with job offers (since 2006)
- today swiss women career portal (log-in required), tips for job entry, career and switching

[FemConsult](#) Note: Website (currently?) not in English available

- data base of more than 3,000 female scientists with doctoral or post-doctoral qualification from all disciplines from the German-speaking countries

[FEMtech-Expertinnendatenbank](#)

- database of female experts
- initiative of the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT)

GEPRIS Note: project information available mainly in German language

- DFG online database for information on current DFG-funded research projects

epws (European Platform of Women Scientists)

- since 2005
- >100 member networks in 40 countries
- international non-profit organisation that represents >12,000 female scientists in Europe and beyond to give them a voice in EU research policy

FIF (Contact point women into EU Research) Website in German with partial information in English

- initiated 2001 by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- information and service relating to the EU's research framework programmes
- offers for female scientists: (i) seminars, workshops & lectures on EU research funding and participation chances, (ii) first information about funding opportunities, (iii) consulting during application, (iv) information about being a consultant to the EU

Interesting reading about and from female marine scientists

This page features female marine scientist, who all have one in common, each of them make a career by following different path:

<http://www.womenoceanographers.org/>

The original publication of women in oceanography from 2005 can be found here:

http://tos.org/oceanography/assets/docs/18-1_sketches.pdf

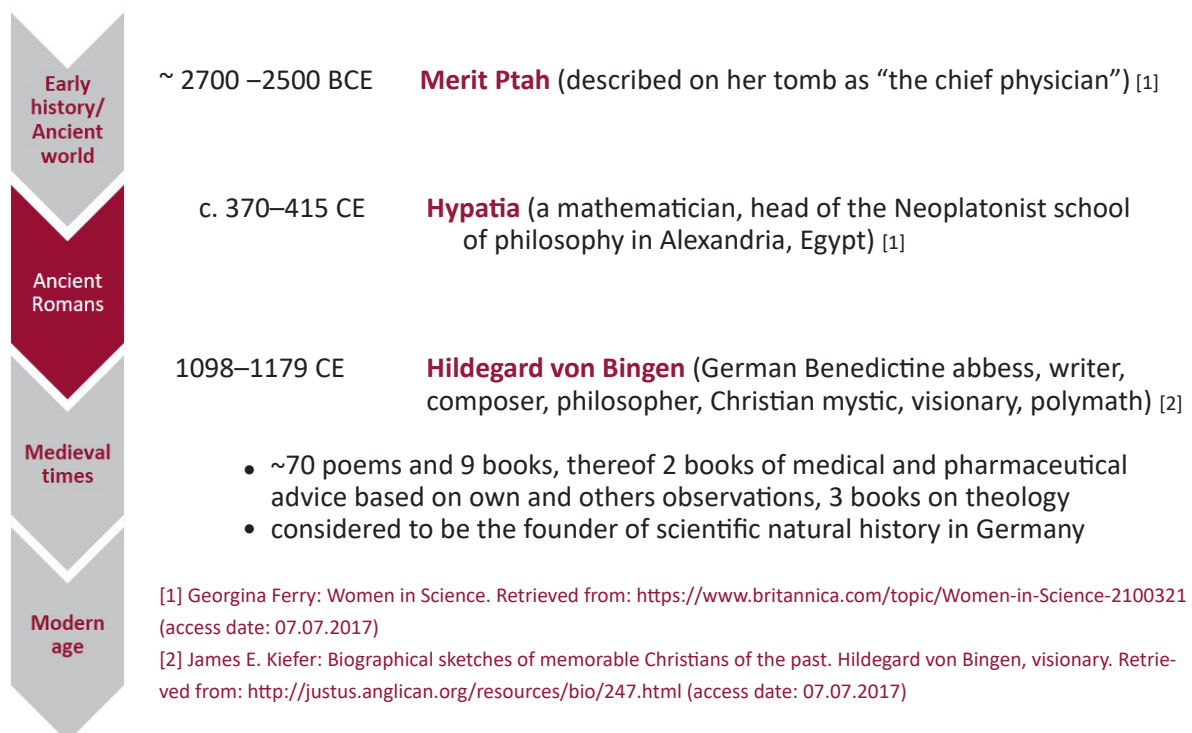
(Oceanography 18(1), Mar. 2005: autobiographical sketches of women in oceanography)

An update publication from 2014 is available here:

https://tos.org/oceanography/assets/images/content/27-4_supplement.pdf

(Oceanography, Vol. 27(4), December 2014, Women in Oceanography: A decade later)

Brief history of women in [marine] science – Part 1



Past and present – Female scientists in portrait

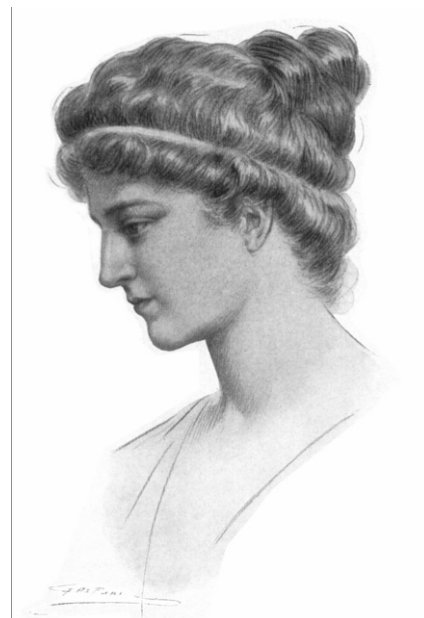
Hypatia of Alexandria (c. 370 CE - March 415 CE) was a female philosopher and mathematician, born in Alexandria, Egypt possibly in 370 CE (although some scholars cite her birth as c. 350 CE). She was the daughter of the mathematician Theon, the last Professor at the University of Alexandria, who tutored her in math, astronomy, and the philosophy of the day which, in modern times, would be considered science. Nothing is known of her mother and there is little information about her life. She was murdered in 415 CE by a Christian mob who attacked her on the streets of Alexandria. The primary sources, even those Christian writers who were hostile to her and claimed she was a witch, portray her as a woman who was widely known for her generosity, love of learning, and expertise in teaching in the subjects of Neo-Platonism, mathematics, science, and philosophy in general.

In a city which was becoming increasingly diverse religiously (and had always been so culturally) Hypatia was a close friend of the pagan prefect Orestes and was blamed by Cyril, the Christian Archbishop of Alexandria, for keeping Orestes from accepting the 'true faith'. She was also seen as a 'stumbling block' to those who would have accepted the 'truth' of Christianity were it not for her charisma, charm, and excellence in making difficult mathematical and philosophical concepts understandable to her students; concepts which contradicted the teachings of the relatively new church. Alexandria was a great seat of learning in the early days of Christianity but, as the faith grew in adherents and power, steadily became divided by fighting among religious factions. It is by no means an exaggeration to state that Alexandria was destroyed as a centre of culture and learning by religious intolerance and Hypatia has come to symbolize this tragedy to the extent that her death has been cited as the end of the classical world.

By all accounts, Hypatia was an extraordinary woman not only for her time, but for any time. Theon refused to impose upon his daughter the traditional role assigned to women and raised her as one would have raised a son in the Greek tradition; by teaching her his own trade.

Hypatia, on the other hand, led the life of a respected academic at Alexandria's university; a position to which, as far as the evidence suggests, only males were entitled previously. She never

married and remained celibate throughout her life, devoting herself to learning and teaching. The ancient writers are in agreement that she was a woman of enormous intellectual power. This heritage was so impressive that Alexandria rivalled Athens as a jewel of learning and culture. From the moment of its founding by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE, Alexandria grew to epitomize the best aspects of civilized urban life. The great Library of Alexandria is said to have held 500,000 books on its shelves in the main building and more in an adjacent annex. As a professor at the university, Hypatia would have had daily access to this resource and it seems clear she took full advantage of it.



Portrait of Hypatia by Jules Maurice Gaspard. Public domain via Wikimedia Commons.

In 415 CE, on her way home from delivering her daily lectures at the university, Hypatia was attacked by a mob of Christian monks, dragged from her chariot down the street into a church, and was there stripped naked, beaten to death, and burned. In the aftermath of Hypatia's death the University of Alexandria was sacked and burned on orders from Cyril, pagan temples were torn down, and there was a mass exodus of intellectuals and artists from the newly-Christianized city of Alexandria. Cyril was later declared a saint by the church for his efforts in suppressing paganism and fighting for the true faith. Hypatia's death has long been recognized as a watershed mark in history delineating

the classical age of paganism from the age of Christianity. ■

This text was in condensed form taken from the article written by Joshua J. Mark, published on 02 September 2009 [1] under the following license: Creative Commons: Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike.

Reference:

[1] Mark, Joshua J. „Hypatia of Alexandria.“ /Ancient History Encyclopedia/.

Last modified September 02, 2009.

Retrieved 06.07.2017, from:

http://www.ancient.eu/Hypatia_of_Alexandria/.

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Baltic Gender brochure gives a summary of the motivation, aim, concept and activities of the project: http://oceanrep.geomar.de/38342/1/fl_final.pdf



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