

LETTERS

Edited by **Jennifer Sills**

Editorial expression of concern

IN THE 3 June issue, *Science* published the Report “Environmentally relevant concentrations of microplastic particles influence larval fish ecology” by Oona M. Lönnstedt and Peter Eklöv (*1*). The authors have notified *Science* of the theft of the computer on which the raw data for the paper were stored. These data were not backed up on any other device nor deposited in an appropriate repository. *Science* is publishing this Editorial Expression of Concern to alert our readers to the fact that no further data can be made available, beyond those already presented in the paper and its supplement, to enable readers to understand, assess, reproduce, or extend the conclusions of the paper.

Jeremy Berg

Editor in Chief

REFERENCE

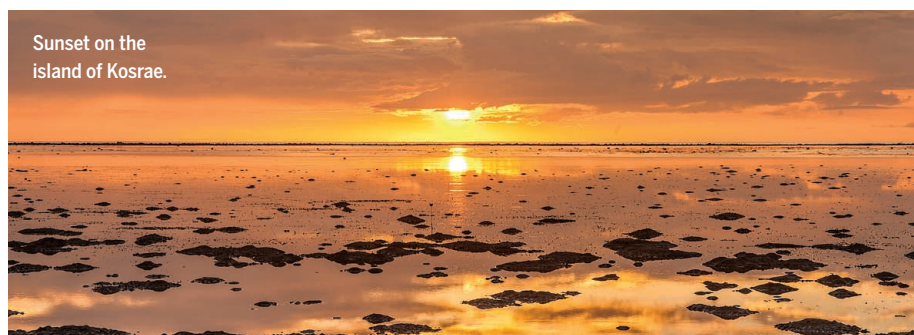
1. O. M. Lönnstedt, P. Eklöv, *Science* **352**, 1213 (2016).

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10.1126/science.aah6990

Instilling integrity

I AM WRITING to correct the record on the Professionalism and Integrity in Research Program (PI Program), which J. Mervis discussed in his News Feature “After the fall” (28 October, p. 408). Our workshop and follow-up program help researchers to operate professionally and with integrity after persistent or serious noncompliance or lapses of research integrity in their labs. All program faculty are funded researchers with training in research ethics and doctoral degrees in psychology. (I am not a sociologist, as asserted in the article.) The article states that “DuBois says he doesn’t always know what his clients have done.” In fact, we always discuss what they have done—superficially during enrollment interviews and in depth during the workshop—and we design professional development plans to help them avoid such difficulties in the future.

The article also states that “DuBois admits that it’s hard to judge the efficacy of his program, especially because recidivism of any sort would be highly unlikely in such a small sample.” However, we have documented the efficacy of the program, and preliminary



Sunset on the island of Kosrae.

LIFE IN SCIENCE

Respect for the ancients

I am finishing the day’s field notes by the light of a kerosene lamp on the Micronesian island of Kosrae, home of the archaeological site of Safonfok, when two Micronesians on my field crew approach my tent and ask me to escort them to the latrine. These local men, who are fishermen in their village when not working on my project, know that this remote terrain was abandoned long ago by their ancestors. They have a deep respect for the ancient history of archaeological sites and the ghosts and spirits that inhabit them.

It is common to ask permission of the local spirits for safe entry into an archaeological site or passage through a remote area. The men do this quietly, sometimes under their breath, sometimes with a ritual. (One man removed his shoes when we entered the jungle.) The night, it is believed, belongs to the spirits and ghosts—you don’t walk around without a purpose, you don’t whistle (the language of ghosts is heard as a whistle), you don’t call out someone’s name (a ghost may take the name and use it to trick you by luring you into a treacherous place), and you don’t walk in the center of a path (this is where ghosts walk).

Because I work in ancient places filled with ghosts, I have developed a reputation on this island as someone who is not afraid of anything. The men who have come to my tent trust me to provide safe passage between camp and the latrine. As we walk through the darkness, we are serenaded by night birds, croaking frogs, and buzzing insects. We quietly talk about the coral fish hooks for which Safonfok is known, and they share the island’s traditional lore as told to them by their grandfathers. I spend my days uncovering ancient artifacts, but sometimes it is at night when history seems to come alive.

Felicia Beardsley

Department of Sociology and Anthropology University of La Verne,
La Verne, CA 91750, USA. Email: fbeardsley@laverne.edu

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data indicate improvements in the use of evidence-based decision-making strategies, attitudes toward compliance, and the use of best practices within labs (such as creating and using standard operating procedures, holding regular meetings, and developing transparent data management procedures). To our knowledge, no other program has such data on positive outcomes.

Most crucially, the stories of the researchers who attend our program are often cautionary tales for other researchers. In most cases, participants are productive researchers whose lapses did

not involve a decision to engage in serious wrongdoing—which is why institutions chose to refer them to a professional development workshop rather than terminate their employment (*1*).

James M. DuBois

Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis,
MO 63110, USA. Email: duboisjm@wustl.edu

REFERENCE

1. J. M. DuBois, J. T. Chibnall, R. Tait, J. Vander Wal, *Nature* **534**, 173 (2016).

10.1126/science.aal3844

Now is the time to protect the Arctic

WE WELCOME THE recent designation of the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area (MPA) as an important step forward in international protection of our polar seas (1). Yet there is a reluctance to take similar steps in the Arctic. We acknowledge that increased scientific effort and collaboration as recommended by C. Tesar *et al.* ("Toward strategic, coherent, policy-relevant arctic science," Policy Forum, 23 September, p. 1368) are much-needed steps for improved Arctic governance. But we are concerned that these steps provide policy-makers with an excuse to stall the protection of the Arctic marine ecosystem, under the premise of insufficient data.

A protected area network in the Arctic was initiated 20 years ago, based on best principles (2, 3). Yet, in 2015 the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council solicited yet another desktop study of Arctic MPAs (4). Are the policy-makers purposely dragging their feet because of the bountiful natural gas and oil reserves, fisheries potential, and expansion of shipping routes in the Arctic?

Management of marine resources at both poles faces similar issues of complicated multinational agreements and resource-exploitation conflicts. But unlike Antarctica, the Arctic hosts both local peoples, who play an important role and rely on the unique environment, and vast natural resources in an area that remains relatively undeveloped. Based on the Antarctic MPA designation process, the unquestionable growth of exploitative activities in the Arctic will only complicate the designation of an Arctic MPA network in the future (C. M. Brooks *et al.*, "Science-based management in decline in

the Southern Ocean," Policy Forum, 14 October, p. 185).

Given rapid environmental changes and the expansion of lucrative human activities in the Arctic, immediate implementation of an MPA network is essential. We implore the U.S. Chairmanship to proactively lead the Arctic member states to enact an Arctic MPA Network now to protect this increasingly vulnerable ecosystem and the people who inhabit it.

Nigel E. Hussey,^{1*} Robert G. Harcourt,² Marie Auger-Méthé³

¹Department of Biological Sciences, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON, N9B 3P4, Canada.

²Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia. ³Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, B3H 4R2, Canada.

*Corresponding author. Email: nehussey@uwindsor.ca

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3. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, "Proposed protected areas in the circumpolar Arctic 1996: CAFF habitat conservation report 2" (Directorate for Nature Management, 1996).
4. Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, "Framework for a pan-Arctic Network of marine protected areas" (2015); www.pame.is/images/03_Projects/MPA/MPA_Report.pdf.

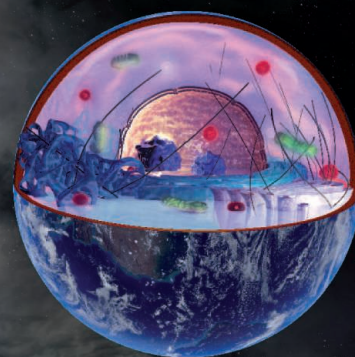
10.1126/science.aah6603

ERRATA

Erratum for the Editorial: "A comprehensive nuclear test ban" by E. J. Moniz, *Science* 354, 1081 (2016). Published online 9 December 2016; 10.1126/science.aam5318. In the print version, reference to the time frame of the effect of the international nuclear agreement with Iran was misstated. The online version of the Editorial contains the correct text.

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Respect for the ancients

Felicia Beardsley (December 8, 2016)

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Editor's Summary

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