



**MEDIA ADVISORY: Google Hangout On Air**

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Google Event Page: <http://bit.ly/1FLDwXk>

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World's leading Southern Ocean experts discuss a new breakthrough in gathering critical climate data from one of the most remote, but important regions of the planet. Discover the role that the Southern Ocean plays in 2014 — likely the hottest year on record.

**WHO**

**Jorge Sarmiento** (SOCCOM Director, Princeton)

**Ken Johnson** (SOCCOM Associate Director, MBARI)

**Lynne Talley** (Observations Lead, SIO/UCSD)

**Steve Riser** (Observations Co-Lead, UW)

**Joellen Russell** (Modeling Lead, UA)

**Heidi Cullen** (Broader Impacts Lead, Climate Central)

**WHAT**

The Southern Ocean that encircles Antarctica lends a considerable hand in keeping Earth's temperature livable by soaking up half of the human-made carbon in the atmosphere and a majority of the planet's excess heat. Yet, the inner workings — and global importance — of this ocean that accounts for 30 percent of the world's ocean area remains relatively unknown to scientists, as observations remain hindered by dangerous seas.

Princeton University and 10 partner institutions now seek to make the Southern Ocean better known scientifically and publicly through a \$21 million initiative, the Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations and Modeling (SOCCOM) program. It will create a biogeochemical and physical portrait of the ocean using hundreds of robotic floats deployed around Antarctica and an expanded computational capacity. The POLARSTERN — a German research ship — will set sail this week from Cape Town, South Africa en route to the Southern Ocean to deploy the first 12 autonomous floats that will collect critical climate data from the region.