



Isabelle Ansoerge, IUGG Fellow

**SOUTH
AFRICA**

Prof Isabelle Ansoerge is the Head of Oceanography at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Isabelle's research interests focus on the impact changes in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current have on Subantarctic Islands and impact their ecosystem functioning. In addition, Isabelle is responsible for the hands-on sea going training of postgraduate students and heads up the "SEAmester" Floating University programme. This programme allows 46 students and 30 lecturers from all over South Africa to join a research cruise of 10 days. The success of SEAmester is that students receive both theoretical class room lectures with daily hands-on deck work in operating all oceanographic instrumentation and data analysis. The projects in which Isabelle are involved in continue to examine the role the Southern Ocean, south of Africa, has on influencing the oceanographic, climatic and background biological dynamics between the Indian and Atlantic Ocean basins. She continues to be funded by the South African Antarctic programme (SANAP), as well as more recently by the highly prestigious European Horizon 2020 iAtlantic project and the privately funded Swiss Polar Institute's Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition (ACE). Her research continues to cross a number of disciplinary boundaries, collaborating with ocean modellers, marine microbiologists, ornithologists and meteorologists as shown by the many publications. Notably, these projects contribute to a better understanding of the influence the Southern Ocean has on global climate change and marine biodiversity.

Isabelle joined the IUGG Executive family in 2011.