



**Instytut Geofizyki
Polskiej Akademii Nauk**

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Publications

The 40-year climate measurement series resulted in an interesting paper by Tomasz Wawrzyniak and Marzena Osuch, published in the prestigious Earth System Science Data: an interdisciplinary journal publishing articles on original research data, promoting the re-use of high-quality data for the benefit of earth system sciences.

The High Arctic remains one of the largest regions with a lack of climate data on Earth, hence the observation time series described in the article are of exceptional value. The data reflect the rapid environmental changes that have been taking place in the Atlantic Arctic sector in recent decades; the authors also examined the variability of meteorological parameters on a monthly and annual scale, using, among others, a modified Mann-Kendall test for the trend.

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For example, you can participate sessions with our scientists:

[Geophysical and in-situ methods for snow and ice studies](#), (May 4th, 8:30-10:15), with Prof. Mariusz Majdański or 3 sessions with Prof. Michał Malinowski: [Crustal structure in the transition zone from the Precambrian to Palaeozoic platform in the southern Baltic Sea – inferences from newly acquired potential field and seismic data](#) (May 5th, 14:00–15:45); [New refraction/wide-angle reflection profile across the Teisseyre-Tornquist Zone offshore Poland](#) (May 5th, 14:00–15:45), [Modeling of seismic wave propagation around coal mine roadway with presence of excavation-damaged zone](#) (May 4th, 16:15–18:00)

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(non)Scientific op-ed

An attractive form of work or rather depressing isolation? Comfortable working conditions or organizational difficulties? We asked the Institute's employees about their impressions on work environment in recent weeks. What sort of communication solutions do they use, what bothers them and what turned out to be an opportunity?

I am one of those who suffer from a lack of personal contact, have difficulty concentrating on scientific work and wish to get out of this madness. This is not the effect of remote work, but rather of the unique circumstances that imprison me in my home isolation. In a normal situation, depending on the needs, with free choice between remote work and the workplace, I would belong to a group of enthusiasts.

Social or personal contacts via the Internet are always a substitute. We use various telecommunication tools - Webex, Zoom, Skype. There are different individual preferences, but nothing can replace personal contacts. What's more, telecommunication eliminates body language (e-mail, in particular), which usually allows you to better understand the intentions of the interlocutor, and this is leading to misunderstandings and misguided outcomes.

So not to be misunderstood: remote work is an attractive form of work, but not under the pressure of circumstances threatening life and health.

Marek Lewandowski, Department of Polar and Marine Research

Almost all the scientists from our Department praise remote work very much. Some are even enthusiastic, claiming that their effectiveness is much higher compared to working at the office. The results will show if it is just a personal impression or whether work is indeed more efficient. Some, however, have small children, and they're facing problems. Homeschooling absorbs parents, blocks computers at home and overloads the network. All this significantly reduces the work efficiency.

My personal impression are not that positive. Theoretically, I work in very good conditions and all the necessary ICT tools work flawlessly. However, the overall situation and the need for isolation negatively affect my ability to concentrate. If there is something specific and timely to do, then there is no problem. If the thing is not timely, then it is very easy to get excuses to postpone the work "for a while". And besides, I prefer personal contacts. Instead of a conference call, I prefer meeting with a cup of coffee. It is easier then to discuss and creatively work on new ideas. So: yes to remote work. It is a good and effective way of working, but when it is a conscious choice corresponding to current needs, instead of not necessity caused by administrative decisions.

Waldemar Józwiak, Department of Magnetism

I observe both the pros and cons of home office. Some days are better and some are worse, I suppose. As time goes by, the better ones prevail. I have already switched to remote work and I am satisfied with my work results.

I have used remote access to Institute computer resources for a long time and that's why I didn't have a problem with it. I miss everyday meetings and conversations, though. They were mobilizing and they were facilitating the organization of work.

Marzena Osuch, Department of Hydrology and Hydrodynamics

In principle, my remote work is no different from the normal one. It's even better because I don't waste time on commuting, not only to work but also to other institutions that I cooperate with. It seems to me that this situation will teach us to use such solutions for teleconferences and will enrich the range of tools used. I only miss the second monitor. I also hope that the computer at the Institute will not turn off for some reason.

I use Zoom for contacts, although my interlocutor is in the block next to me ... it is what it is.

Michał Posytniak, Atmospheric Physics Department

I took a liberty of asking my colleagues what are their opinion on working from home, and they are mostly satisfied, although there are also some extreme cases. One of the problems are of course children getting on their heads, always very interested in "what's there on the computer screen". In general, remote work is attractive to everyone and they would like to be able to use it in the future, although of course not in such a dimension and under such pressure.

The working conditions at the office are slightly better. We have two monitors there, there are no delays in transmission, and at home not everyone has good equipment (if it's a poor old laptop it's not that easy). But other than that everything works fine and without shortcomings. We communicate via Slack, mail or Skype as needed. Interpersonal contacts are there, too, to some extent, some people find it sufficient, and others long for live discussions with a cup of coffee. Some need meetings and others feel forced, which obviously does not result from the current situation, but from an individual approach in general.

As for efficiency, it varies, some sleep till late and work at night, others work from morning to night, others minimally. This probably correlates with how someone acted well before the current situation. Personally, one day I sit down and work late, the other day I feel distracted. And you can't even go out and enjoy the nature! After the first week I started to dress "for work" as my indoors outfit positioned me closer to the sofa than my desk :) Who knows, maybe in a while I will even start putting on make-up and shoes?

Marta Cyz, Department of Geophysical Imaging

“Home office” works well for people dealing with theoretical issues. In our Department, we use standard tools, such as e-mail or telephone. We focus on work that can be done without a problem at home, e.g. writing articles and making calculations. As one of the Professors mentioned: "Only when working with someone, personal contacts are more effective than through teleconferences or e-mails (although they do not have to be frequent)". I think the experience gained during a pandemic will help determine the rules of working from home at a later stage. "

Piotr Klejment, Department of Theoretical Geophysics

Acta Geophysica

The use of numerical models to reproduce the evolution of river systems and landscapes is part of the daily research activities of engineers and geomorphologists, and knowledge of the physical mechanisms of these phenomena and their modelling requires continuous development. We invite you to read the most-read article of the April issue by Michael Nones from the Hydrology and Hydrodynamics Department. The article focuses on 6 main elements of the landscape evolution model: the principle of mass conservation, slope processes, water flow, erosion and sediment transport, soil properties, vegetation dynamics.



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