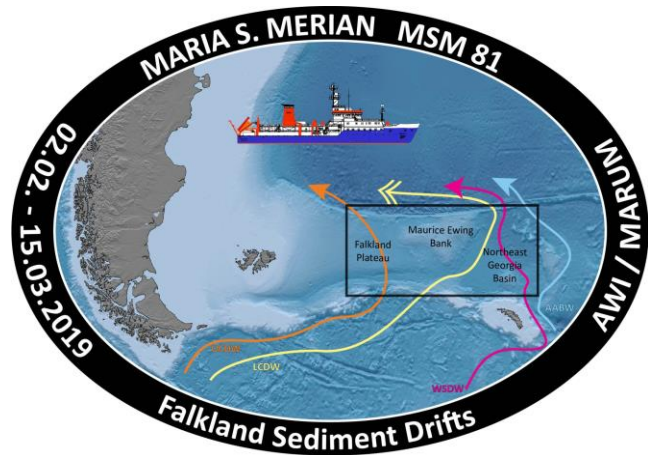


**Expedition MSM 81
Valparaiso - Montevideo**

**Weekly report No 1
2. February – 10. March 2019**



Our science party started its journey to Valparaiso, Chile on January 31 to go on board RV *Maria S Merian*. While the weather at home was pretty miserable, snow drizzle and low temperatures, Chile welcomed us with sunshine and 30°C. The evening of February 1 was used for walks through the city. The next morning we embarked on RV *Maria S Merian*. We moved into our cabins before starting to unload containers and setting up the equipment. There was not much time because we wanted to leave harbour on Sunday evening. The whole crew worked very hard and enduring to prepare the set up of the seismic gear. Sunday evening at about 18:40 we left Valparaiso.



Our working area is on the Falkland Plateau east of South America. That is why we have had a few days of transit. We have started our voyage in the upwelling region of Chile, where cold deep waters surfaces. This leads to mist in the morning, sometimes followed by sun in the afternoon. We have been met by a long swell, which resulted in a few pale faces. But everyone is well again.

After three days we entered the Patagonian Fjords and, a day later, Magellan Strait. The ship



moved through partly quite narrow passages and we had a wonderful view on the beautiful landscape. Mountains and green, partly wooded hills could be seen. Small lighthouses could be detected on a few islands. Unfortunately, it rained the whole time.

On Friday late afternoon we arrived in Punta Arenas, where we spent the night to take some fuel. This provided a chance for all participants to stroll around the city.

We also met FS *Polarstern*, which changed its crew and science party in between two cruises to the Weddell Sea. 9 am next morning we left Punta Arenas to continue our passage through Magellan Strait. We entered the western Atlantic Ocean on Saturday evening. Here, we immediately encountered strong wind and waves.

Why have we set sail for the Falkland Plateau? What are our objectives, what do we hope to discover? More about this in the next weekly letter.

All participants are cheerful and send home greetings.

Southwestern Atlantic, 10. Februar 2019, 52° 47.726' S / 63° 44.564' W

Gabriele Uenzelmann-Neben

<https://www.awi.de/en/science/geosciences/geophysics/research-focus/gateways-of-the-southern-ocean.html> under *Effect of opening of Drake Passage on circulation in the South Atlantic*, scroll to *Variations in pathways and intensities of deep and bottom water*

<https://www.awi.de/forschung/geowissenschaften/geophysik/expeditionen.html>