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SPOTLIGHT 14. Gender Balance in Scientific Ocean Drilling

Over the first five decades of scientific ocean drilling, participation of women has increased significantly throughout the program. During the Deep Sea Drilling Project, expedition leadership included only three female co-chief scientists (1.5%; 1968–1983). The number increased to 17 during the Ocean Drilling Program (7.7%; 1985–2003), dipped to 10 during the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (16.1%; 2003–2013), and again increased to 18 during the International Ocean Discovery Program (32.1%; 2014 to present). At the same time, gender and career level diversity within science parties changed. Today, on

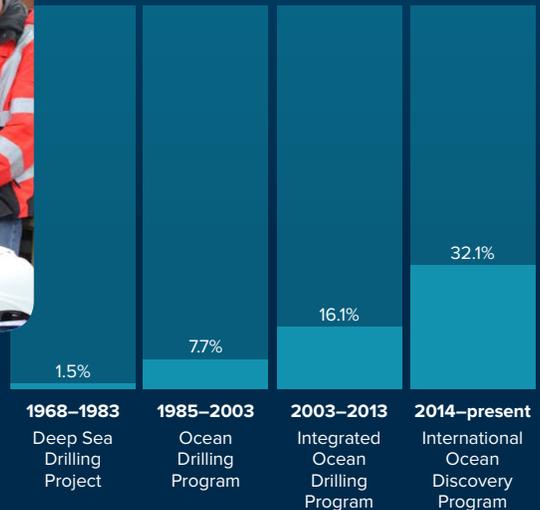
average, 34% of the science parties are women compared to 12% during DSDP. Graduate students comprise 22% of science parties, and 41% of that total are women. Finally, the current membership of the IODP Science Evaluation Panel is 24% women, and among the more than 1,000 active proponents of the current IODP drilling proposals, more than 20% are women. In the future, the program expects to continue to attract more women into its leadership ranks, many of whom are just now embarking on their first IODP voyages.

— Anthony A.P. Koppers, Adam Klaus, and Holly Given

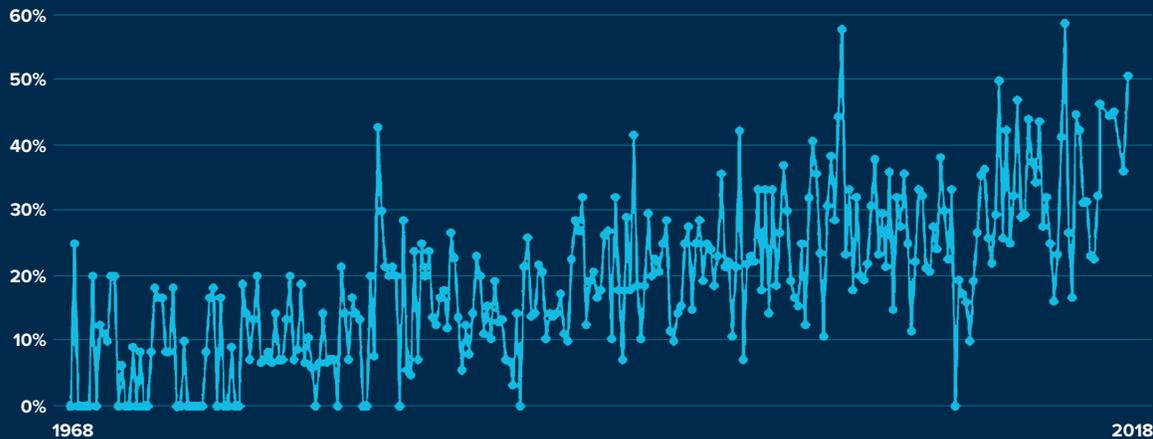


In 2015, IODP Expedition 357 set out to study serpentinization and microbial life in the Atlantis Massif. This expedition had the first-ever majority female scientific party (67%), with all-female leadership, including Co-chief Scientists Gretchen Früh-Green and Beth Orcutt, Expedition Project Managers Carol Cotterill and Sophie Green, and Petrophysics Staff Scientist Sally Morgan. *Photo credit: Yuki Morono*

% WOMEN CO-CHIEF SCIENTISTS



% OF WOMEN IN SHIPBOARD SCIENTIFIC PARTY



From: K. Lewandowski. 2018. Taboos, stowaways, and chief scientists: A brief history of women in oceanography. In *Geological Society of America Memoir*, vol. 214, [https://doi.org/10.1130/2018.1214\(03\)](https://doi.org/10.1130/2018.1214(03)).