



ORDEN POUR LE MÉRITE
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTEN UND KÜNSTE

Antje BOETIUS

Deep-sea and polar researcher

Born on March 5, 1967, in Frankfurt am Main

Antje Boetius is a polar and deep-sea researcher and, since May 2025, has served as president of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) in California, USA. She is also an adjunct professor in the Ocean Department at Stanford University's Doerr School of Sustainability and a foreign member of the Max Planck Society. Before moving to the United States, she served as director of the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research, and as a professor of geomicrobiology at the University of Bremen from 2017 to 2025.

Born in 1967 in Frankfurt am Main, Antje Boetius studied biological oceanography in Hamburg and San Diego from 1986 to 1992 and earned her Ph.D. in 1996 with a thesis on deep-sea microbiology. After working at various marine research institutes, she established a research group focused on microbial habitats in the ocean at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology from 2003 to 2008. Since late 2008, she has headed the Helmholtz-Max Planck Bridge Group for Deep-Sea Ecology and Technology. In 2009, Antje Boetius received the highly prestigious Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize from the German Research Foundation (DFG) for her geomicrobiological research on methane fluxes in the ocean and was elected a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. From 2010 to 2016, she was a member of the German Science Council, and has served as chair of its Scientific Commission since 2013. She is an elected member of numerous academies and professional societies in Germany and abroad, including as a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Antje Boetius has participated in 50 expeditions aboard international research vessels for her studies. She is currently focused primarily on questions regarding the effects of climate change on the biogeochemistry and biodiversity of the Arctic Ocean. For this work, she has received the ERC Advanced Grant from the European Research Council, as well as a number of prestigious awards both in Germany and abroad. In 2018, she was awarded the Communicator Prize by the Stifterverband and the DFG. She is active in policy advisory work and science communication on a wide range of topics, particularly the impacts of climate change, the conservation of biological diversity, and ocean health.

For her work, she has also been honored with the German Environmental Prize (2018) and the Federal Cross of Merit (2019), the Carl-Friedrich-von-Weizsäcker Prize from the Leopoldina and the Stifterverband (2022), the Order of Saint Charles of Monaco (2024), as well as numerous national and international science and media awards. In her performances, she collaborates with a diverse range of artists from the worlds of art, theater, television, film, literature, and music. She is particularly interested in the relationship between humans and nature, as well as the role of the web of life for planet Earth and human development.

Admission to the Order in 2025



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