Originally from central Germany, Dr. Martin’s early life had very few connections to the sea. On moving to northern England to complete a degree in Biology, his interests focused at first on Ecology and then on Biogeochemistry – the science of how organisms impact and interact with the chemistry of their environment, and how these interactions drive the vast global cycling of elements such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus. He then moved to the UK’s National Oceanography Centre to undertake his PhD research on carbon cycling in the open ocean. Upon completing his PhD in 2011, he first joined Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (USA) for an 18-month post-doctoral fellowship, and then moved to the Earth Observatory of Singapore for further post-doctoral work, after which he joined the faculty of the Asian School of the Environment in 2016. He is now building a research group to study carbon and nutrient biogeochemistry in South-East Asian coastal seas, which are still a poorly-understood but fascinating ecosystem.