

## Letter from the President

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*Northern Notes* is published twice a year by the International Arctic Social Sciences Association Secretariat  
c/o ARCTICenter,  
1227 W 27th St.  
Cedar Falls 50614, USA  
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ISSN 1816-9767 (online)  
ISSN 1817-0404 (print)

Dear IASSA Members!

On August 23 we celebrate the 30th anniversary of IASSA! My most sincere congratulations to all current and past members! IASSA today is a prominent and well-respected science organization that brings together many hundreds of scholars from a variety of social sciences, humanities and Indigenous knowledge systems.

The wisdom of our leaders in 1988, when the idea of IASSA was born, and in 1990, when our association was established, paved the way for a rapid and continuing growth of social sciences in the Arctic. Needless to say that the volume of published scholarship in our disciplines quadrupled in the last 20 years! By the time of IPY, and especially in the post-IPY Arctic sciences family, we have taken a prominent role in shifting the focus of research and policy to understanding and addressing the challenges faced by Arctic communities. Engaging with Arctic communities and embracing Indigenous knowledge systems, supporting Indigenous scholars and residents has become and will remain the focus of IASSA. The voice of social sciences (written large) is now heard at global and regional fora, from the Arctic Council, where IASSA is an observer, to the International Science Council, where IASSA is one of only few region-based member associations.

Although our successes are plentiful, it is not the time to rest. The new challenges are emerging as we are grappling with climate change, economic instability, political headwinds and COVID-19 pandemic. As individuals and as an organization we are affected by these. COVID-19 postponed our 10th Congress, which will now take place on June 15-19, 2021 in Arkhangelsk, Russia. COVID-19 transformed the life in the Arctic communities and forever altered the ways we conduct research. At the same time, it has given us an opportunity to reflect on what, how and why we pursue science in the Arctic. More importantly, this 'pause' could provide an opening for Arctic communities to consider what kind of research they would like to 'welcome back' when the pandemic is over, and what must fundamentally change to make this partnership more equitable.

As we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of IASSA at the computer screens or in socially-distanced settings we all thank the many colleagues and friends who invested their passion in the growth of our association, thank our current membership for loyalty and support, and rejoice in hoping that the path we are on is not only the road to growth and prominence of our profession, but a path to make a real difference in the world working together across disciplines, knowledge systems, borders and generations!

Visit: <https://iassa.org/iassa-30>

Andrey N Petrov, President



## Celebrating IASSA History 1990-2020

IASSA Secretariat & IASSA Past Presidents Working Group

### IASSA History in Brief

IASSA was founded in 1990 in Fairbanks, Alaska, at a meeting held in conjunction with the 7th Inuit Studies Conference. The creation of IASSA follows the suggestion, made at the Conference on Coordination of Research in the Arctic held in Leningrad, USSR in 1988, to establish an international association to represent Arctic social scientists.

From its foundation in 1990 until 1992, IASSA's secretariat was housed at the Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. The following three years the secretariat was situated at the Arctic Center, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland. Then from 1995 to 1998, it was housed at the Department of Eskimology, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark. From 1998 to 2001, the secretariat was located at the GÉTIC (Groupe d'études inuit et circumpolaires) of Université Laval in Quebec City, Canada. From 2001 to 2004, it was at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Department of Anthropology. From 2004 to 2008 it was at Ilimatusarfik, the University of Greenland, Nuuk, Greenland. From 2008 to 2011 it was located at the Stefansson Arctic Institute in Akureyri, Iceland. The years 2011-2014 University of Northern British Columbia, in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada was housing the Secretairy. Currently, the Secretariat was housed at ARCUM at Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden between 2014 and 2017. Since 2017 the IASSA Secretariat is located at the [ARCTICCenter](https://arcticcenter.org/), University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, USA.

**IASSA History Special Issue** published in 2010 is available online at:

<https://iassa.org/images/newsletters/northern-notes33.pdf>

In this and following issues we will print **essays written by former IASSA Presidents** on the occasion of the 30th anniversary.

### IASSA Past Presidents



Ludger Müller-Wille  
(1990-1995)  
Montreal, Canada  
Rovaniemi, Finland



Jens Dahl  
(1995-1998)  
Copenhagen, Denmark



Gérard Duhaime  
(1998-2001)  
Quebec City, Canada



Peter Schweitzer  
(2001-2004)  
Fairbanks, USA



Yvon Csonka  
(2004-2008)  
Nuuk, Greenland



Joan Nymand Larsen  
(2008-2011)  
Akureyri, Iceland



Gail Fondahl  
(2011-2014)  
Prince George, Canada



Peter Sköld  
(2014-2017)  
Umea, Sweden

## Letter from Ludger Müller-Wille: IASSA at 30 - 1990-2020: Shaping Social Sciences and Humanities in the Arctic

*anthropologist/geographer, retired professor, active 1977-2008 in the Department of Geography, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada. With IASSA – 1990-1995: acting and first Chair (called President after 2001); 1990-2001: council member; 1992: convener, ICASS I in Québec ; 1995-1998: Past-Chair; 2008: first recipient of the IASSA Honorary Lifetime Membership Award at ICASS VI in Nuuk.*

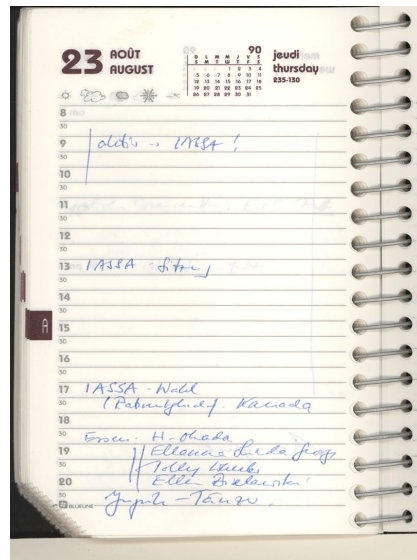
For the development of social sciences throughout the Circumpolar North August 23, 1990 would become a memorable and decisive day. On the last day of the 8th Inuit Studies Conference, held at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, participants met to discuss the future directions of their research and the foundation of an organization to accommodate and enhance their scientific efforts. Jointly it was decided to establish the *International Association of Arctic Social Sciences* (IASSA) with a simple, flexible, and independent institutional structure to support common interests and activities. This action also included the strategically ambitious step to call for the first encompassing international scientific gathering on Arctic social sciences including humanities in Québec in October 1992 (see ref.).

The *First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences* (ICASS I) brought together a large number of engaging and dedicated people from various disciplinary fields throughout the Circumpolar North. Following the basic assumption of free and open access to this venue, they met to further “knowledge/science” throughout the Arctic as an integral part of human-environmental relations globally. Since the first congress in Québec, ICASS has become the central driving element of IASSA’s existence and pursuits, in fact, one could say, redefining itself with each triennial congress. Over close to three decades now ICASS has taken, with the IASSA’s secretariat, its envisioned circumpolar tour to various locations and regions – with ICASS X now to be held in Arkhangelsk in June 2021.

Organizations such as IASSA have a pivotal place to provide a platform and a framework for connecting individual and communal endeavours and achievements in the interests of research grounded in common knowledge and science. The foci of studies

have been, and continue to be, the immense dynamics of intricate human-environmental relations. Here the emphases are, among others, on the universal human conditions linked to cultural, linguistic, socio-economic, political, and, not least, philosophical dimensions. In this wide realm IASSA has a role to shape visions by presenting propositions for the future based on sound research practices and clearly established objectives guided by encompassing ethical principles. It is worthwhile to refer to the very early statement of objectives and principles which IASSA published and distributed widely to more than 700 individuals and many institutions in October 1991. IASSA’s General Assembly adopted all of them at ICASS I in October 1992. Among them are these:

- to promote research and educational partnerships with the Peoples of the North,
- to adopt a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic regions,



*Ludger's calendar for August 23, 1990, the day IASSA was established*

## Letter from Ludger Müller-Wille (cont.)

regions,

– to promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and the Peoples of the North while recognizing these are not mutually exclusive groups.

These objectives, with others, continue to resonate even as they have been revised and expanded over time.

For an organization it is useful to reflect on its earlier development and practices. Its members, who, over the years, change constantly, have opportunities to introduce fresh thoughts, ideas, and approaches that will shape future positions, directions, and activities. Having been involved deeply in the early organizational and scientific phase of IASSA/ICASS, I could not foresee that I would write this note 30 years later, marking IASSA's continuing existence as a functioning organization enhancing and assuring comprehensive contributions to knowledge and science. Contemplating from my tranquil perch of distance, I still feel that founding IASSA at the time was quite an enterprising, useful, and rewarding step in the right direction – if not always easy

regarding lacking resources at the beginning. Generations come and go — it is to the present generation of members to shape the future of IASSA/ICASS and Arctic social sciences and humanities in the broadest sense and, at the same time, not lose sight of the original ideas and projected goals that put IASSA on its path.

Müller-Wille, Ludger 2010. Establishing the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) 1990-1993: Retrospections, Records and Reflections. in: The Beginnings of Arctic Social Sciences: Reconstructing the Genealogy of IASSA. Ed. by Igor Krupnik & Ludger Müller-Wille. Northern Notes, Special Anniversary Issue 33, 2010:20-45.

Personal note: My special thanks for supporting, sharing, and living these particular experiences go to Linna Weber Müller-Wille, wife and colleague, who, without compensation, acted as the first IASSA secretariat from her study in our home. She was organizer, correspondent, editor, translator, and the indispensable designer of customized data bases and other digital applications to assist in the establishment of IASSA/ICASS.



Ludger Müller-Wille & Linna Weber Müller-Wille  
In June 2019. Photo: Debbie Andrewsky



Ludger Müller-Wille at Work

## Letter from Gérard Duhaime: Changing the World As It Is

*By Gérard Duhaime, President, 1998-2001, sociologist and political scientist, professor, Canada Research Chair on Comparative Aboriginal Conditions, and Louis-Edmond-Hamelin Chair for Northern Social Research at Université Laval, Québec City, Canada.*

### The World Is What It Is...



"The World Is What It Is," wrote a few times V. S. Naipaul. The sentence, written as if it were a Law of the Universe, is so famous that his authorized biography bears this title. There was a time when e-mail, the Internet and the Arctic Council did not exist; they all emerged around 1995-96. But IASSA, founded in 1990, was already engaged in the task of creating a place where social scientists and humanities researchers could come together and build bridges between our developing community and the world as it is.

### A Full-fledged Working Group at IASC

Ludger Muller-Wille, founder and first president, and Jens Dahl, second president, had invited me to present my candidacy to succeed them, and to move the secretariat to Université Laval, where the first International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences was held in 1992. Following the election at ICASS III in Copenhagen in 1998, the Board reaffirmed three priorities for action to help achieve the goals of the association, and we divided the portfolios among the Board members. One priority was to ensure IASSA representation on the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). Founded in 1990, the same year as the IASSA, the IASC had its mandate from the national scientific organizations of the eight Arctic countries; the committee had a high profile with a strong emphasis on the natural sciences. From its inception, the IASC had been challenged from within to integrate the "social and medical sciences", but had difficulty grasping the importance of social issues, and the involvement of social sciences, indigenous researchers and communities. Jens Dahl, ex-officio member of the Board as past president, would explain and promote our perspective to IASC, where our association had permanent observer status. Indeed, he and Ludger Muller-Wille had started the work by proposing, as early as 1995 in Hanover (USA), then in 1996 in Bremerhaven (Germany) and in 1998 in St-Petersburg (RF), the creation within the IASC of a working group on the priority theme of "Rapid Cultural & Societal Change in the Circumpolar

North". The creation of the working group, of which Jens Dahl became the first president, and the mobilization of our community around this theme between 1998 and 2001 had the effect of formalizing the recognition of the social sciences, the relevance of which would soon be demonstrated by the abundance of work carried out upon the subject. The first social sciences working group, whose presence considerably changed the IASC's attitude towards social issues, has since been replaced by the Social & Human Working Group, which has become one of the five full-fledged pillars of the IASC.

### Permanent Observer Status at the Arctic Council

The second priority was to formalize IASSA's presence in the Arctic Council, and this responsibility fell to Noel Braodbent, Rick Caulfield and Oscar Kawagley. The Arctic Council was established in 1996. IASSA had applied for and received ad hoc observer status. In 1998, the Council had established the Sustainable Development Working Group, then the newest of the Arctic Council's working groups, which was to focus on the human dimensions of the Arctic. In October 2000, IASSA, along with the Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Gwich'in Council International and the Association of World Reindeer Herders, among others, was granted permanent observer status. The third priority was to foster the development and visibility of Arctic social sciences research. This responsibility was entrusted to Yvon Csonka, who was to become the fifth president of IASSA in 2004. In particular, he carried out an important inventory of the research planned or underway in our community, which made possible the implementation of the initiative "Rapid Cultural & Societal Change in the Circumpolar North".

### Human Dimensions Within the International Polar Year 2007-2008

Begun at the association's inception, these very real advances have created the possibility of a major turning point in the recognition of Arctic social sciences. At the end of my mandate, I represented the association at the Arctic Council, where major projects were being developed with our support: for example, the first Arctic Human

## Letter from Gérard Duhaime (cont.)



Development Report obliterated the relevance of our disciplines and the views of Indigenous Peoples on human and social realities. I was also asked to serve on the International Polar Year Planning Committee (IPY-PC) in 2003 and 2004. The objectives of the association were the guides for my action. The first version of the IPY programme I was given to review and comment on made no mention of the human dimensions. Even the initially proposed logo symbolically ignored these issues: if memory serves me right, it represented, in the middle of a globe suggested by some continental contours, parallels and meridians, the silhouette of a standing polar bear. However, as the only representative of our disciplines, it would have been impossible for me alone to change this situation. I found few allies inside the IPY-PC, but many on the outside. I had alerted Peter Schweitzer, our fourth president. What followed was a mobilization never before seen. Through the efforts of our community – thanks to the tireless contribution of people like Igor Krupnik and Michael Bravo to name but a few of those not yet mentioned – we rallied not only the IASC, but also the several national Polar Commissions, Permanent Participants and national delegations to the Arctic Council. This support resonated strongly at the following IPY-PC meetings. So that after the last one, an entire section of the IPY science programme was devoted exclusively to the human dimensions; moreover, each component of the so-called “hard” sciences (one could have said “inhuman” sciences instead to ironically balance the scale of institutional prestige) had to take into account these dimensions. And the polar bear was replaced by a human figure on what became the official logo the event.

**... As It Changed**

At ICASS IV in the spring of 2001, I had proposed to create IASSA Awards. I had met with fairly clear opposition: it was seen as elitist rather than an opportunity to raise the visibility of our work. For my part, I would have had a hard time choosing whom to give my Gold Medal to for the best keynote speech, among all the remarkable contributions of Julie Cruikshank, Jean L. Briggs and the other polar stars. There were no awards until a little later in our history, which suddenly unleashed the possibility to celebrate our successes with moving and memorable ceremonies. At the time, the IASSA Newsletter was printed and sent to all members by postal service and only later was it renamed Northern Notes and sent by email. Print had a virtue:

Murielle Nagy, who was secretary of the association during my term of office, was able to retrieve all issues from 1998 to 2001 inside her precious and countless archeological artefacts boxes. Recently, I scanned them and gave them to Andrey Petrov as a humble legacy from a former president, in order to enrich our shiny and performing 21<sup>st</sup> century website (nothing to do with the prehistoric site we created on my watch), and its still incomplete collection of NoNos. Surgery for the removal of appendicitis way was much more intrusive than it is today, as one of the participants who came from so far away to spend the congress in a room at the Hotel-Dieu no doubt recalls. At the Summit of the Americas 2001, at the very place where ICASS IV was to be held three weeks later, right under the hotel room window where George W. Bush was having trouble sleeping, 50,000 persons of the anti-globalization movement protested against neo-liberalism and globalization, and I understand that it did not succeed in overturning the world order even today. The IASSA president who occupied the same bed after George W. a few days later slept very little, too, but for other reasons such as a participant's appendicitis and other miscellaneous contingencies. Aside from the lack of sleep, all these facts relate to Naipaul's so well-coined Law. But, as social scientists and citizens, we are well placed to know that there is a corollary: the world is what it is because it has been socially fabricated, and therefore it can be changed. IASSA's collective achievements, to which I am proud to have contributed, show this well, when I look at our world as it is, now.

**References**

- IASSA Newsletter and Northern Notes, with special references to 1998 (Fall), 1999 (Summer & Fall), 2000 (Summer & Fall), 2001 (Spring).  
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 Nagy, M. 2002. *The Power of Traditions: Identities, Politics and Social Sciences. ICASS IV. Keynotes presented at the Fourth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences. May 16-20, 2001. Quebec City*. Quebec City, IASSA (Topics in Arctic Social Sciences 4).

## Letter from Peter Schweitzer

President, 2001-2004, anthropologist, Professor, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria, Professor-Emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA



It is wonderful to be given the opportunity to reminisce about my years as IASSA president. Still, such an occasion also serves as a reminder of the frailty of human memory, and, more specifically, of the human tendency to view the past through the prism of the present.

Thanks to my successors, IASSA is the voice of the Arctic Social Sciences today. Notwithstanding the enormous strides my predecessors had made, IASSA was still in the process of asserting its place in the Arctic science landscape, when I had the great honor of serving as IASSA's fourth president from 2001 to 2004. Permanent observer status at the Arctic Council (AC) had been achieved but our association was struggling – and, as far as I know, continues to struggle – to finance our participation in AC events. Likewise, we had a seat at the table of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), but that seat was not in the center but in the margins. It would take till the reorganization of IASC, which resulted in the creation of a Social and Human Working Group in 2011, to give us social scientists and humanities scholars the same visibility as our natural science colleagues.

In hindsight, this changing relationship between scholars from the so-called “hard sciences” and us, representatives of the supposedly “softer” sciences, was a defining element during most of my time at the helm of IASSA. Looking back at the source material our own *Northern Notes* provide, I found the following in the “From the president” column of the spring 2002 edition: “It seems to me that the question of what the particular role of social scientists within the “Arctic research triangle” (courtesy of Igor Krupnik)–northern residents, natural scientists, and social scientists– is or can be has been triggering the most debate.” My conclusion from these discussions was “that Arctic social scientists need to be more self-confident in developing a specific social science agenda in the Arctic.” Several processes and events that happened after my time in office but were shaped in the years before have been most significant in that respect.

Chronologically speaking, the first was the completion and publication of the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) in 2004, the first so-

cial science report sponsored by the Arctic Council. The AHDR process had started in 2001 and included IASSA participation all the way. In November 2005, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) took place in Copenhagen. Again, the planning for this decadal Arctic science exercise – entitled *Research Planning in the Context of Understanding the Arctic System in a Changing World* and consisting of 13 working groups, several of which addressed social science issues – started years before the 2005 event. Last but not least, the first ideas about social science involvement in the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 fell into my tenure. Igor Krupnik, Gerard Duhaime and several other IASSA members made the association early on aware of the potential significance of the upcoming IPY for the social sciences. At the Fifth International Congress of Social Sciences in Fairbanks, these early efforts became formalized in an IASSA IPY task group, chaired by Igor Krupnik. I still recall the frantic lobbying efforts during the summer of 2004, when Igor and I sent off several letters to Chris Rapley from the International Council for Science (ICSU) to ensure social science representation in the IPY committees and calls. I believe that readers of these lines are aware of the tremendous success of the IPY 2007-2008 for the Arctic social sciences and humanities. This success was not only expressed in the fact that this IPY was the first one with a significant contribution by social science projects and researchers but also by the increased recognition by the natural science dominated world of the IPY and Polar science, a legacy that we continue to build on.

As usual with IASSA presidents, the highlight of my tenure was the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences. In my case, it was the above mentioned Fifth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS V) that we held in Fairbanks, Alaska, in May 2004. ICASS V brought together some 400 researchers, students and indigenous people from around the world to share ideas about social science in the North. The following year, we produced a volume entitled *Connections: Local and Global Aspects of Arctic Social Systems* (Sudkamp 2005), which contains the keynotes from that event. The book begins with the opening remarks and blessing by Reverend David Salmon's, in recognition of

## Letter from Peter Schweitzer (cont.)

and respect for the conference taking place in Athabaskan country. In addition, the volume contains the conference's keynote speeches from Larisa Abryutina (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North), Fikret Berkes (Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba), Dalee Sambo Dorough (Inuit Circumpolar Conference Advisory Committee on United Nation Issues), Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen), and Georgianna Lincoln (Senator, Alaska State Senate). Anne Sudkamp not only edited the volume but served as the IASSA Executive Officer for all three years. She did an excellent job in that, and made mine a manageable one thereby.

When I was elected IASSA president during ICASS IV in Quebec City in 2001, my immediate predecessor – Gerard Duhaime – told me that I had two main tasks to fulfil over the next three years: to find my successor and to host ICASS V. In the Fall 2004 edition of Northern Notes, I was able to write, “I am glad to report that both tasks are completed: ICASS V had the biggest turn-out of our congresses so far and Nuuk, the

new IASSA location, will provide a president and vice-president.” While the final months of 2004 meant the transition of leadership into the able hands of Yvon Csonka, they did not mark the end of my involvement with IASSA. I stayed on as a council member for several more terms and am now an engaged member of the association, who is looking forward to our next ICASS. This brings me to my final thought: while looking back is important, looking ahead is what really counts. I hope that our collective reminiscences will help us with facing and mastering the challenges of the future. With that, I wish IASSA and all of us that the next 30 years will be as successful as the first three decades have been.

Sudkamp, Anne, ed. (2005) *Connections: Local and Global Aspects of Arctic Social Systems. Keynotes presented at the Fifth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences*. Fairbanks: International Arctic Social Sciences Association.



**IASSA 30th Anniversary Webpage**

<https://iassa.org/iassa-30>



IASSA  
INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC  
SCIENCES ASSOCIATION

Northern Notes

Issue 52 (Fall / Winter 2019)

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## Letter from Yvon Csonka: 2004-2008: In the shadow, and at the forefront, of the International Polar Year

President 2004-2008, anthropologist, Professor, Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland



As I participated in the founding meeting of IASSA in Fairbanks in August 1990, I of course would never have imagined that I would one day be elected as its fifth president—again in Fairbanks, at ICASS V in 2004. The secretariat moved smoothly to Ilisimatusarfik, The

University of Greenland in Nuuk, another Arctic location at about the same latitude, close to the Arctic circle.

Looking back at that term from a distance, it feels like one of its main aspects was: accompanying—and, most importantly, shaping—the preparation and execution of the *International Polar Year* (IPY) 2007-2008. Shortly before my term began, an important process had been launched by Igor Krupnik (councilor 1990-1995, 2004-2008): the IASSA-IPY task force, which spearheaded the introduction of the humanities and social sciences, and Indigenous concerns, in the planning process of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008. Igor and Grete Hovelsrud, both IASSA members, subsequently became members of the IPY Joint Committee. The IASSA Council then set up an IASSA-IPY liaison team made up of social scientists who were members of their national IPY Committee. IASSA worked in conjunction with Indigenous organizations and with many other partners such as the University of the Arctic. The surge of officially IPY endorsed research in the humanities and social sciences, many with Indigenous leadership or participation, and its acceptance by colleagues from the natural sciences, was a major achievement of the period.

But this breakthrough was not an isolated one: it came as part of an array of recognition of the humanities and social sciences, and of Indigenous knowledge, as equal players in the community of Arctic and polar researchers. IASSA was one of the co-sponsors of ICARP II (*International Conference on Arctic Research Planning*), which took place in Copenhagen in the fall of 2005, and it was an active participant in it. We were elated by the final conference statement, which concluded that :

*Since the first Conference on Arctic Research and Planning held in 1995 in New Hampshire, there*

*has been a paradigm shift to a holistic and multi-dimensional perspective in the Arctic. This holistic perspective integrally includes the human dimension, Indigenous insights and a more full integration of Arctic processes in the earth system.*

The strong involvement of IASSA in ICARP I and in ICARP II was linked with the development of closer ties with IASC, which were formalized in 2008 in a Letter of Agreement, signed by the presidents of both organizations (Kristján Kristjánsson and I). IASSA also fulfilled its role as observer organization at the Arctic Council by actively participating in its meetings (vice president Birger Poppel took on that task) and in the activities of its Sustainable Development Working Group.

Some large international projects with strong IASSA participation were initiated and carried out in those years. One of the major programmes was *BOREAS, Histories from the North : Environments, Movements, Narratives*, initiated by the European Science Foundation and joined by the US-National Science Foundation and the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Some of its components were endorsed as IPY projects, and presented at ICASS VI. The *Arctic Social Indicators* project, a follow up to the *Arctic Human Development Report* set up by the Arctic Council, also had strong IASSA representation. So had the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks.

We managed to convene a face to face Council meeting early in the term, back to back with ICARP II. There we decided to hold the sixth *International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences* (ICASS VI) in 2008, that is, four years instead of three after the previous one, in order to be able to host it, venue-wise, in the newly inaugurated Ilimmarfik, university campus in Nuuk, and timewise at the heart of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008. Birger Poppel, vice-president of IASSA, took on the heavy task of convenor of the congress. ICASS VI itself was an officially endorsed IPY project. The Ministry of Education and Research of the Home Rule Government of Greenland provided generous support, which made ICASS the major contribution of Greenland to the IPY, thus showcasing capacity building in education and research in the

## Letter from Yvon Csonka (cont.)

Arctic itself. Despite the logistical difficulties in accessing Nuuk in great numbers, ICASS VI had 375 participants, of whom some 300 travelled to Greenland from 22 different countries. The congress banquet was held on the day of the eighteenth anniversary (which in many European countries is the official age of reaching adulthood) of the founding of IASSA (August 23<sup>rd</sup>): at that occasion, we inaugurated the tradition of IASSA honorary lifetime membership awards, which were bestowed on the first chairman of the association, Ludger Müller-Wille, the late Ernest "Tiger" Burch, and Robert Petersen.

From those vibrant times, a few salient impressions stand out in my memory (in no particular order) :

That a change of paradigm was ongoing, towards a rapprochement of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and Indigenous knowledge and concerns (examples above)

That we were reaping the fruit of seeds planted by our predecessors, who founded IASSA and worked hard to achieve its purposes

That there was an awful lot going on simultaneously in terms of Arctic (social) science and science policy, reflecting changes in societies and the growing empower-

ment of Indigenous people

That we operated as a community and that the IASSA agenda was carried not only by each member of its council, but also by a wide network of its members

That as president it was such a relief to be able to count on council, and on a network of members, to delegate the many tasks on hand; still, I regretted that we didn't achieve the goal of revising the by-laws, but that was remedied by later IASSA councils

That the IPY preparation and carrying out was such a mammoth train contemporary with the term of office, and that it was such a success not only to get on board, but to actually be in the locomotive.

All through the term, I truly felt that the council and I were standing on the shoulders of previous IASSA councils and chairpersons (the term president was introduced with the fourth term), who had struggled under trying circumstances, and had been successful in bringing increasing recognition to Arctic social sciences and to the association representing this community. My regret here is not being able to cite by name all those who deserve it.

### **Tenth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X)**

Arctic Generations: Looking Back and Looking Forward  
Арктические Поколения: Взгляд в Прошлое и Будущее  
**June 15-19, 2021 | Arkhangelsk, Russia**

**See page 18**

## Letter from Gail Fondahl

President, 2011-2014, human geographer, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada



When I was encouraged to run for president of IASSA in 2011, the decision to do so was not terribly difficult. I already had a long 'love-affair' with IASSA. Early in my career, Ludger Müller-Wille had invited me to take part in the organizing committee for ICASSI I, an invitation for which I will be ever grateful. The Congresses were always my favorite academic conference – a group of colleagues from many different disciplines gathering to talk about the challenges of one (vast) region were much more stimulating than the disciplinary conferences I attended. And this well before 'multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinarity' became mantras of academia.

I stepped into the role of president of IASSA at a very exciting time (of course, any IASSA president could likely assert this!). Attention to climate change in general, and the Arctic's particular role as 'canary in the coalmine' were on a strong upswing. Yet the Arctic Council's recently signed Nuuk Declaration (May 2011) also strongly emphasized the need for greater focus on human development in the Arctic. My presidency coincided with serving as co-editor of the second *Arctic Human Development Report* (with previous IASSA president, Joan Nyman Larsen), with being assigned Canada's representative to IASC's Social and Human Sciences Working Group (founded in 2011), and with a year-long academic leave (2012-13), of which several months were spent in Europe. Together, these positions created the platform to lobby for more attention to issues confronting the Arctic beyond climate change — issues that cried for engagement with the social science and humanities. The Canadian International Centre for the Arctic Region (CICAR) arranged for me to present talks at several Canadian embassies, 'Arctic Futures: It's about Climate Change... but also much more!' (France, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Norway), to which other ambassadors, especially of the Arctic states, were invited. Many seemed very receptive to this message.

The highlight of all IASSA presidencies, I assume, is hosting ICASS. ICASS VIII, in 2014, brought the congress to Canada for the third time, but to the West for the first, and to Canada's northernmost research university. The

burgeoning interest in the North caused our attendance to swell – ICASS VIII had almost twice as many attendees as ICASS VII (and the trend continued – ICASS IX in 2017 would almost double in size again). Working on organizing with Gary Wilson (co-organizer) and Cher Mazo (ICASS Secretary) — two stellar colleagues — made the experience especially fulfilling. The experience was not without its aggravations: in what we assume may have been influenced by events in Syria and then the Russian annexation of Crimea, the Canadian Embassy refused to provide visas to over 20 of our Russian colleagues. Nonetheless, we still had good representation from Russia, and especially from Sakha Republic (Yakutia)). Indigenous participation was also notable, at over 10%. And the Congress presented an opportunity to celebrate key contributors to Arctic social sciences, Julie Cruikshank, Igor Krupnik and Oran Young, who received IASSA Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards, some of the scholars of the Arctic who I most venerate.

In what may have been the first academic book to result from an ICASS, Gary Wilson and I co-edited *Northern Sustainabilities: Understanding and Addressing Change in the Circumpolar World* (2017, Springer), from papers presented at ICASS VIII. Editing an academic tome is indeed 'like herding cats,' but the uptake was impressive — the book was among the top 25% most downloaded in its respective eBook collection in 2018. The interest in the social sciences and humanities perspectives on the Arctic continues to grow.

IASSA has continued to flourish, under the leadership of President Peter Sköld and Executive Secretary Gabriella Nordin, and then President Andrey Petrov and Executive Secretary Ann Crawford. Its profile at Arctic Council has increased. History to date also indicates that to chair IASC's Social and Human Working Group one may need to consider first serving as IASSA president (J). IASS has certainly helped to promote the critical importance of social sciences and humanities to addressing the challenges that face the North. Key is its role in bringing social scientists and humanities scholars together, along with northern residents, on a regular basis, to share research results and plot future collaborations. We all certainly miss the opportunity to do so this year, but look forward to ICASS X.

## Features LETTERS FROM PAST-PRESIDENTS

### Letter from Peter Sköld: Putting Arctic Social Sciences on the Map—And Having a Great ICASS IX Conference

*President, 2014-2017, demographer, Professor, Executive director, Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University, Sweden*



When Umeå University in December 2012 established the first Arctic research center in Sweden (ARCUM) we realized that the country had a rather low Arctic profile, being the last of the eight Arctic Council member states to hold the chairmanship and to present a national

Arctic strategy (both in 2011). We were also the only member state not to have an Arctic research center. The ambition was to engage and promote the researchers we already had at the university, to strengthen their Arctic identities, and to activate Swedish researchers at the international arena. At that moment it was hard to think that we less than a year and a half later should be elected for the presidency of IASSA.

In front of us were three absolutely marvelous but also very intensive years. We decided to prioritize the webpage, the Secretariat, international collaboration, and the ICASS IX conference. Thanks to heroic efforts by Gabriella Nordin-Sköld and Linus Lundström at the Secretariat, and the clever and dedicated work by IASSA Council this was made possible. IASSA Council members were Gail Fondahl (CAN, past President), Diane Hirshberg (USA), Grete Hovelsrud (NOR), Andrey Petrov (USA), Gertrude Saxinger (AUT), Florian Stammer (FIN), Tatiana Vlasova (RUS) and Alona Yefimenko (IPS). The Local Organization Committee was invaluable.

Initially the Secretariat improved the IASSA website in collaboration with Arctic Portal in Akureyri. The website was given a new design, new format and updated texts. The IASSA listserv developed with a new system linked to the webpage, and the Secretariat revised all texts before publication. Strong efforts were made to develop IASSA activities on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

The cooperation with the international Arctic science organizations was very good, and gave an opportunity to research to speak with a strong voice. During the Arctic Science Summit Week, on 2 April 2017 IASSA, IASC and UArctic signed a renewed and revised Letter of Agreement. It states that the three organizations share many common interests around growing, supporting and disseminating Arctic research.

In pursuit of these, we collaborate in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest, by encouraging the development of integrated plans for scientific research, by communicating to the public, by entering research partnerships with Arctic residents, by supporting the training and education of students and early career researchers, by providing advice to policy makers, and by addressing the Arctic Council together. There were also a good collaboration with other organizations such as IPS, APECS, SCAR and ISSC (later ISC).

IASSA enjoys Observer Status at the Arctic Council since being accredited at the Barrow Ministerial Meeting 2000. This means that we may attend meetings of the Senior Arctic Officials and of the AC's Working Groups. Most of IASSA's WG participation was at the meetings of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). With the IASSA President based in northern Sweden and the Arctic Council chairmanships in Canada and USA over the period 2014-2017, there was some extensive travelling crossing the Atlantic Ocean. It was, however, totally worth it since it provided invaluable experiences. We could also see social sciences and humanities becoming more integrated and visible, and during the last meetings observers were even allowed to take the word.

I cannot say how proud and honored I was to act as IASSA President. We are representing important values and our research is more important than ever. I presented our message at 34 international events in 11 different countries, and I hope that this contributed to putting social sciences on the Arctic research map.

Three years go by in no time, and 8 June 2017 it was time to open ICASS IX in Umeå. The overall theme was **People and Place**. The Arctic is home to approximately four million people, counting numerous ethnicities among its inhabitants. More than ten percent of the total population living in the Arctic is Indigenous peoples. In modern times, rapid and extensive changes have brought opportunities

## Letter from Peter Sköld (cont.)

but also challenges to peoples and places in the north, including climate change, industrial extraction, pollution, globalization, migration, food- and water security and widening socio-economic gaps. Social sciences and humanities have a great responsibility to address these challenges. By focusing on people and place ICASS IX high-lighted the many variances across the Arctic region in terms of sustainabilities, political systems, demography, infra-structures, histories, languages, legal systems, land and water resources, public health etc.

The opening ceremony of ICASS IX at Umeå University was inaugurated by the special Umeå University Sami joik performed by Krister Stoor followed by welcoming speeches by Umeå University Vice-Chancellor Hans Adolfsson, President of the Sami Council Åsa Larsson Blind, Senior Arctic Official of Sweden Andrés Jato and Senior Arctic Official of Finland René Söderman. The interest was huge, and the five-day conference offered 204 scientific sessions, and almost 900 presentations ran in 21 parallel session slots. The ICASS program was organized in 22 different themes: Literature, Resource Management & Extractive Industries, Archeology, Environment & Climate Change, History, and Research Methodologies to mention a few. Each theme had a great variety of sessions and in the theme Indigenous issues for instance, the participants were offered presentations on education, traditional knowledge, research ethics, health, and more.

Each conference day opened with a plenary session in Aula Nordica. The plenaries presented recent research and ongoing projects in five different areas: Extractive Resource Development and Sustainability in the Arctic, What is the Role of Education and Education Research in Advancing Understandings of the Arctic? Indigenous Perspectives on Knowledge, An Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Society and Climate Sensitive Infections: Current and Future Challenges, Arctic Science Through Metrics Lenses – Analyzing National & Global Trends

The ICASS conference is a triennial conference gathering researchers from a wide range of countries. Our aim was not only to present an impressive scientific program, but also to show Umeå, Northern Sweden and the Sami culture and give the participants a chance to mingle and meet up with old (and new) friends. On the opening day we arranged the welcoming reception at Gammlia. The Västerbotten Museum was

open to all participants with a number of stands showing Västerbottnian customs and traditions, Sami artist Jörgen Stenberg entertained at the scene and the Umeå Sami Association Sáhkie treated reindeer meat soup to all guests. In addition, three films were screened during the conference. One of them, the awarded film Sami Blood, was shown in Aula Nordica to a moved audience and the applause never seemed to end when the director Amanda Kernell entered the stage after the screening.

I will forever remember the evening of the Gala Dinner – it was hilarious. When I arrived in good time before dinner I was sent down to inspect the ballroom. Everything looked good so I turned around to walk the stairs back to the entrance area, but then the first guests had arrived and I stopped at the foot of the stairs to welcome them with a handshake. After them came more and more guests and it all ended with me personally shaking the hands of 600 dinner guests. Very nice, but not planned.

We were then served a three course dinner and danced to the fabulous Renhornen orchestra. At the Gala dinner the IASSA Awardees were presented and honored. **Ann Fienup-Riordan** is an anthropologist active in Alaska since 1973, where she conducts research and education. She has for instance developed methods for how researchers can collaborate with and support the local community in the research process. Ann Fienup-Riordan has written more than 20 books and has also received recognition for her work by the Alaska Federation of Natives. **Carl Christian Olsen (Puju)** is a linguist specializing in Inuit languages. Ever since 1968, he has studied Inuit languages and is presently director of the Greenland Language Secretariat as well as chair of the Greenland Place Names Authority, and chair of the Language Commission in the Inuit Circumpolar Council. He is director of the Greenland Language Secretariat and has studied Inuit languages since 1968. Carl Christian Olsen has studied and conducted research in Denmark, Norway and the US, and he was one of the founders of the University of Greenland. Approximately 800 visitors attended the five-day ICASS IX conference, and media interest was great. We counted 32 reportages in TV and radio over the five days. We produced two films, one with interviews of past presidents, and one capturing the marvelous spirit and good atmosphere. I will always be grateful to each and everyone that joined us at ICASS IX, and made this a great memory and milestone.

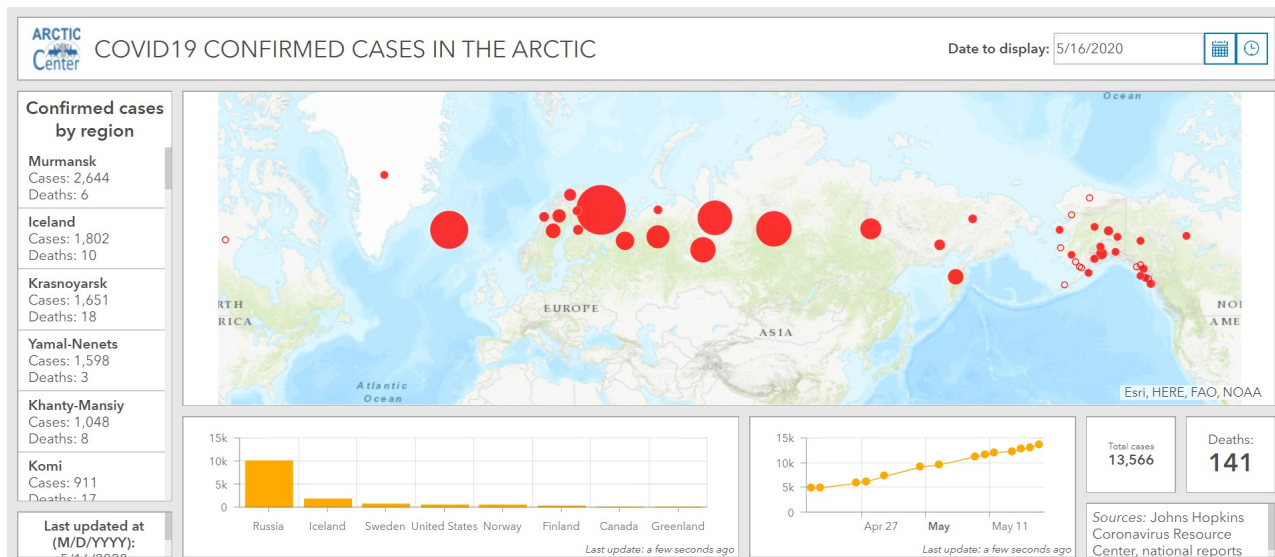
## Tracking COVID-19 in the Arctic

Andrey N. Petrov, Petr Grin and Nikolay Golosov, ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa



The COVID-19 pandemic has made its footprint in the Arctic. Although the impacts of this centennial event are yet to be assessed, the immediate consequences are devastating. Infected Arctic residents, locked up communities, substantial economic losses, interrupted lives and cancelled classes are common across Arctic communities from coast to coast to coast. Arctic regions face additional hurdles compared to more southern locales. Limited capacity of the healthcare system, truncated infrastructure, poor transportation and internet connectivity in many Arctic communities impede the implementation of preventive and mitigation measures against COVID-19. The crisis has exacerbated long-term issues associated with health, food security, housing conditions, access to services and resources. The future also looks uncertain with a looming economic crisis, disruptions in supplies and protracted vulnerability to subsequent waves of the pandemic. Many communities can potentially deal with even more devastating impact—the loss of elders, and thus the loss of traditional culture and heritage. This said, we know that northern societies have lived through the terrible pandemics before. The Spanish Flu was particularly damaging for Arctic

communities and Indigenous Peoples. Its memories are still reverberating. Still, in the past centuries, the Indigenous Peoples have used traditional knowledge and experience to avoid past diseases by staying on the land. Needless to say that now the best option to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in the Arctic is to rely on responses guided by a combination of western science and Indigenous knowledge. Tracking and understanding the COVID-19 pandemic is key to developing ways to mitigate the crisis now and in the future. ARCTICenter has released the Arctic COVID-19 Tracker, a daily updated Arctic COVID-19 dashboard (see below). Other sources are also gathering COVID-19 related materials and news: *Arctic Today*, *High North News*, *The Barents Observer* and *Polar Research and Policy Initiative*, among others. The Arctic Council is also developing a briefing document about Arctic COVID-19 and its consequences. Yet, the COVID-19 crisis unveiled deep gaps in health and social science knowledge in the Arctic. More needs to be done to invest in health and social research in Arctic communities, especially in knowledge co-production, one-health initiatives and developing pandemic-ready healthcare system.



<https://arctic.uni.edu/arctic-covid-19>

ARCTICenter monitors the current coronavirus situation in the Arctic region and compiles daily updates with cumulative numbers of reported cases and deaths. Data collected for 50 territorial units of eight Arctic countries. Supported by NSF #2034886

# IASSA Council Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic's Impacts and Responses

IASSA Council

TO: IASSA members  
Arctic researchers  
Arctic residents  
Funding agencies  
Academic institutions  
Governments and NGOs

*Dear Arctic community,*

The International Arctic Social Sciences Association Council (IASSA) expresses its support to researchers, students and Arctic community members as we all deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents of Arctic communities, where there are limited public health, financial and community resources, are particularly vulnerable in this crisis. This includes the Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge holders so many of us work with and count as our close friends and colleagues. At the time of the writing, more than 3,505 Arctic residents have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 33 have died (<https://arctic.uni.edu/arctic-covid-19>).

### **Impacts on social science research**

Arctic social and health scientists are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as we often travel to and stay in communities, engage in face-to-face communication and need access to local archives and data to conduct our research. Community-driven work is not possible without regular communications between community members and researchers, meetings and collaborative activities. Although some of the communication can and has moved online, the connectivity issues in the Arctic create formidable obstacles for advancing our collaborative work. Many, if not most projects in the social sciences, health and humanities, are experiencing postponements or delays and still face great uncertainties. The COVID-19 pandemic also has revealed considerable knowledge gaps in health and social domains around the issues of epidemiology, public health, social support networks, food security, housing availability, social infrastructure development and many others, all of which require immediate research efforts to be commenced and funded.

### **IASSA recommended COVID-19 pandemic response principles**

Under these unprecedented circumstances, the IASSA Council recommends the following principles to be used by the research community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

I. We call for a **coordinated, comprehensive and flexible response by researchers, institutions, and funders that is also balanced and equitable in respect to disciplines, areas of research, and Arctic communities.**

II. We emphasize the importance of adhering to the [IASSA Research Principles](#) by all scholars, institutions and funding agencies. In particular this means:

Avoiding travel to Arctic communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 until all risks are eliminated. In some cases this may constitute a travel delay of up to or exceeding 12 months.

Engaging local residents remotely to conduct research, including providing equipment, fair pay and funding for improved connectivity, whenever possible.

Investing in local capacity building and expanding local engagement in research, including co-producing research processes, training community members to conduct joint research locally and transferring funding directly to the community researchers and knowledge holders.

Prioritizing emergency relief and long-term support for local researchers, knowledge holders and project participants, including local/community logistics operators, collaborators and other partners. Research institutions and funding agencies could institute coordinated and flexible responses to delays and changes in research activities, assist in negotiating with and relieving the losses of community-based logistics and infrastructure providers.

If cuts or reallocations in funding are needed, prioritize community-based, student and early career funding.

### IASSA Council Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic's Impacts (continued)

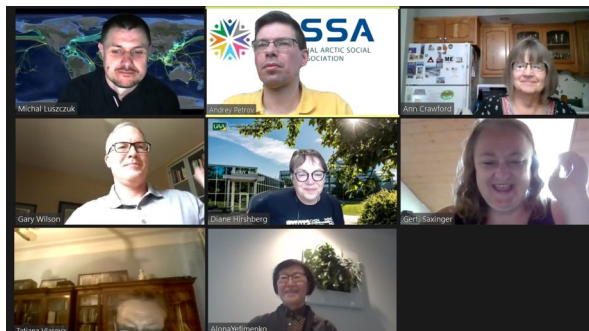
IASSA Council

III. Capitalizing on Western, Indigenous, and local **science and knowledge systems is key in knowledge co-production for understanding COVID-19 pandemic** and addressing its consequences. Thus, we call on funding agencies and institutions to encourage the rapid release of funding for social and health research targeting these.

IV. In the long term, to minimize the future loss of vital data and research infrastructure an action is needed to **rethink the role of Indigenous communities**, Indigenous Peoples, specifically youth, in research priorities and activities. A network of Arctic indigenous communities/project leaders and formal engagement mechanisms could be developed as the first steps.

V. Finally, we ask IASSA members **to make your and your community partners' COVID-19 needs and concerns known** to your institutions and funding agencies, propose solutions and cooperate with all parties to address possible issues.

Sincerely, *IASSA Council*



### Postponement of the ICASS X

March 17, 2020

Dear IASSA members and ICASS X participants,

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IASSA Council on March 17, 2020 voted unanimously to postpone ICASS X to June 2021.**

We feel that holding ICASS X in person is important for our Association as it is only held on a triennial basis and is a significant event for social scientists, humanities scholars and Indigenous knowledge holders in the Arctic. Postponing ICASS X to 15-19 June 2021 will provide the Association with an opportunity to host the meeting in a safe and productive environment. In this decision we are also following the recommendations of the Russia's health authorities to refrain from holding large conferences in the near term.

The postponement of ICASS X means that there will be no IASSA General Assembly and therefore, per our current bylaws, no elections until June 2021. Because of this, the terms of the current IASSA Council and President will be extended by one year, along with the deadlines for bids to run for IASSA President and Council in the next election. All applications received to date will be rolled over, unless amended or withdrawn by the applicants.

In addition, all memberships paid between June 12, 2017 and June 19, 2020 will be extended by one year (i.e. will be valid for 4 years).

Please continue to follow <https://icass.uni.edu/> for further information on upcoming Congress

## Secretariat's Corner continued

### ICASS X: Special Thanks and Plans Forward

#### IASSA Council

As ICASS X being postponed, IASSA would like to express its most heartfelt thanks to all who have been involved in the organization of the Congress in 2019-2020. First of all, we would like to thank more than 850 participants who submitted paper and posters to the Congress. We hope to see you all in Arkhangelsk in 2021.

Another round of thanks goes to the ICASS X Organizing Committee who has accomplished a titanic job, especially considering that some members had to attend the meetings at or near midnight to accommodate time zone between Alaska and Kamchatka.

Very importantly, our endless gratitude goes to the Theme Leaders who reviewed and assessed all incoming abstracts. Thank you very much for your head and timely work and hope to be able to engage you in the same capacity in for the upcoming ICASS in 2021!

Finally, many thanks to the IASSA Secretariat staff that included IASSA Secretary Ann Crawford, students: Elena Golosova, Siobhan McTiernan, Nikolai Golosov, Varvara Korkina and Natalia Khortseva, and webmaster Rachel Kleven.

### ICASS X Organizing Committee

Dr. Andrey Petrov, IASSA President, USA [Co-Chair]

Dr. Elena Koudryashova, Rector, Northern Arctic Federal University, Russia [Co-Chair]

Dr. Alexander Pelyasov, Professor, Moscow State University, Russia [Co-Chair]

Dr. Alexander Saburov, Arctic Research Center, Northern Arctic Federal University Russia

Dr. Diane Hirshberg, Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA

Dr. Gary Wilson, Professor, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada

Dr. Konstantin Zaikov, Professor, Northern Arctic Federal University, Russia

Dr. Marina Kalinina, Vice-President, University of the Arctic, Russia

Dr. Michal Luszczuk, Senior Researcher, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Dr. Tatiana Degai, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Northern Iowa, USA and Council of Itelmens "Tskhanom," Russia

Dr. Tatiana Vlasova, Lead Researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Mr. Vyacheslav Shadrin, Vice-President, RAIPON-Sakha (Yakutia), Russia

Coordinators (ex officio): Svetlana Pirogova (NARFU), Elena Golosova (UNI)

### **Tenth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X)**

Arctic Generations: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Арктические Поколения: Взгляд в Прошлое и Будущее

**June 15-19, 2021 | Arkhangelsk, Russia**

**SEE NEXT PAGE**

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**June 15-19, 2021 | Arkhangelsk, Russia**



**Call for Sessions (New and Re-submissions)**

**DEADLINE: September 30, 2020**

Submit at <https://icass.uni.edu/>

**Call for Abstracts (New and Re-Submissions) (Papers and Posters)**

**DEADLINE: November 30, 2020**

Submit at <https://icass.uni.edu/>

The International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) announces the 10th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X) to be held on the campus of Northern (Arctic) Federal University, in Arkhangelsk, Russia, 15-19 June 2021. June 20 will be reserved for additional excursions, such as the Solovetsky Islands.

ICASS X will mark the 30th anniversary of IASSA.

ICASS is held every three years, bringing together people from all over the world to share ideas about social science and humanities research in the Arctic. ICASS IX, held in June 2017 in Umea, Sweden, attracted 800 participants from 25 different countries.

IASSA is now seeking paper and poster abstracts. Please submit them **by 30 November 2020** to at [icass.uni.edu](https://icass.uni.edu/).

All submissions should be in English.

If you have any questions please contact Andrey Petrov ([andrey.petrov.iassa@gmail.com](mailto:andrey.petrov.iassa@gmail.com)) and CC to Elena Golosova ([golosove@uni.edu](mailto:golosove@uni.edu)).

If you need a visa, please check <https://icass.uni.edu/visa-support>

ICASS X's theme is Arctic Generations: Looking Back and Looking Forward. Research on social sciences and humanities have a great responsibility to address the challenges for sustainable development in the Arctic, with a specific focus on past, present and future generations of Arctic residents. The generational nature of changes and responses have lately become more recognized by many policy makers and researchers. A focus on generations highlights the long-term, fundamental nature and scope of changes, impacts and adaptation strategies. Another focus of ICASS X is Indigenous knowledge and inter- and transdisciplinary research in the Arctic.

ICASS will welcome sessions and papers on all facets of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic. And, as always, ICASS will also welcome contributions on all other subjects of relevance to IASSA members.

We encourage the participation of Indigenous peoples, northern residents, and decision-makers, as well as academics, so that ICASS X provides a rich environment in which to advance discussions on sustainabilities in the Arctic and the North and on other Northern matters.

Limited funds may be available to support travel by early career and Indigenous scholars.

### IASSA Announcements

#### Call for bids for IASSA President (Term 2021-2024)

According to the new IASSA by-laws there will be an election of an IASSA president for the term 2021-2024. The candidates should include a presentation of the host university, financial and institutional commitments, experience and capacity in the proposal. Candidates will be presented in Northern Notes and on the IASSA website. Candidates for President will indicate their intention regarding where the next ICASS will be held, and present the name of a Co-convenor as part of their bid for presidency. The Co-convenor will come from the institution that is proposed to host the next ICASS (if the candidate for President proposes her/his own institution as the site of the next ICASS, a Co-convenor will come from her/his institution.) ICASS will normally be held at academic institutions, and locations in Arctic states are preferred. Candidates for President are invited to prepare a short biographical sketch, qualifications and statement on their reasons for wanting to serve as IASSA President. The statement should also provide the rationale for the proposed site of the next ICASS. The bid should include evidence of institutional support from the highest level. The statement should not exceed two pages of text (not counting supporting letters). These statements will be published in Northern Notes prior to the ICASS meeting. Any candidate for President may also run as a candidate for Council. Her/his name will not automatically be entered as a candidate for council: s/he must indicate an interest in this position as well as in the presidency. Any person identified as Co-convenor may run for IASSA Council (but is not required to). Nominations for IASSA President must be received electronically by the IASSA President Peter Sköld ([peter.skold@umu.se](mailto:peter.skold@umu.se)) with a copy to IASSA Secretary ([gabriella.nordin@umu.se](mailto:gabriella.nordin@umu.se)) by **20 March 2021**.

#### Call for bids for IASSA Council (Term 2021-2024)

Any IASSA member in good standing may declare themselves up until **17:00 (5PM) applicant's local time on May, 1 2021**. Applicants are required to submit a brief statement (less than 200 words) about yourself and a photo to IASSA President [andrey.petrov@uni.edu](mailto:andrey.petrov@uni.edu). These materials will be included in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of the Northern Notes (Issue 55). Indigenous applicants and northern residents are especially encouraged.

The IASSA Council will have 9 members; 8 members elected by majority vote during the 2020 General Assembly at ICASS X, plus the past president.

#### Eligibility to Run as a Candidate for IASSA Council

In order to qualify to run in the IASSA 2021 election, all candidates for IASSA council must:

- be a member in good standing of IASSA;
- submit a brief statement (less than 200 words) with a photo of themselves to the IASSA Secretariat, on or before May 1, 2021;
- must be ready to participate in IASSA Council meetings (face-to-face or via Skype or teleconference call), and commit a substantial amount of time for IASSA affairs, including extensive discussions via e-mail correspondence.

**ICASS X attendance:** since the 2021 election will take place at the General Assembly at ICASS X, it is encouraged, but not required, for a candidate to be present in person.

The IASSA Secretariat will put out a call on the IASSA e-mail list to members of IASSA. Candidates for the IASSA Council will not be given an opportunity to address the General Assembly at ICASS X; rather we will depend on the short statements submitted by each candidate, which will be made available electronically to our members prior to the election.

## IASSA Priorities: Progress Report

### Developing IASSA Working Groups

IASSA Council supports an opportunity to create new Working Groups by IASSA members. IASSA members are encouraged to create "**IASSA members working groups**". These groups will be *informal thematic affinity groups* of IASSA members. These groups will not be established by IASSA, but by groups of interested IASSA members and governed by members using their own procedures. Although WG are not IASSA divisions or structures and are not recognized in by-laws, IASSA will facilitate their development by placing them in the list of IASSA members WGs, providing links to WG websites from the main IASSA web page and giving preference to WGs in creating side events and other activities at IASSA meetings. IASSA Council will also consider engaging WGs in association's activities, such as ICASS organization, as appropriate. IASSA Council may give WGs- organized events preference for formal endorsement and informational support. IASSA may periodically review WG activity.

To be placed on IASSA's website, WGs must meet the following *basic criteria*:

1. Have a contact person/lead who is an IASSA member
2. Working Group should be open to all IASSA members to join
3. Working Group members should be comprised of active IASSA members or should be encouraged to obtain IASSA membership upon joining the Working Group
4. Working Group must have a website containing the Working Group description and other relevant information (such as contact information) and clear acknowledgment of its relationship with IASSA
5. Upon creation, Working Groups should inform IASSA secretariat and provide information as specified in 1 and 3. IASSA Council retains the right to review such information in respect to its fit to the IASSA mission and established procedures.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

IASSA is a membership fee-based organization. Individual membership fees make the entire IASSA operating budget, so no activities can occur without incoming membership fees. The fees are used to pay for IASSA representation in the Arctic Council and other arenas where we want to be heard (International Science Council, IASC, Arctic Circle, United Nations, AGU, IGU, etc.) and for IASSA activities in between the meetings, including Council-approved small initiatives (e.g., workshops) and limited support for the Secretariat.

It is important to review your membership status and pay your membership fees ASAP if you have not done so recently. The fee is just \$33 per year (IASSA collects fees in 3-year installments, i.e. \$100 for three years). This is a modest amount to become an active member and support your professional organization in order to give a strong voice to Arctic social scientists!

**Pay/renew your membership at:**

**<https://iassa.org/membership/become-a-member>**

# Updated IASSA Principles and Guidelines for Conducting Ethical Research in the Arctic

## Preface

This statement of principles has been formulated in accordance with the Bylaws of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) adopted by the IASSA General Assembly on 29 October 1992 and amended by the IASSA Council on 16 March 2020. These Principles provide guidelines for all researchers working in the North in the social, natural and health sciences, and in the humanities. These principles are intended to promote mutual respect, communication and partnerships between researchers and northern residents. This statement is not intended to replace other international, national, professional, Indigenous or local guidelines. It is understood that there must be regular review of the principles.

## Principles

All scientific investigations in the North should be assessed in terms of their potential human impact and interest. Social science research, particularly studies involving human subjects, requires special consideration, as do studies of land and resources that have economic, cultural, social and spiritual value to Indigenous peoples. In all instances, it is the responsibility of the principal investigator on each project to implement the following:

1. The researcher should consult with the appropriate regional, local and/or Indigenous authorities regarding planned research within their territories. An ethics protocol should be approved by appropriate entities prior to the commencement of research. In seeking approval from the appropriate entities and informed consent from participants, researchers must include plain local language descriptions of the research, identify all sponsors and sources of support; the person in charge and all investigators involved in the research; the purposes, goals, and time frame of the research; data gathering techniques (including audio and video recording, photographs, individual traditional knowledge maps, etc.) and data management and data ownership access (during and after the research is completed), informant/respondent rights to confidentiality, and notice of support for the research by the

responsible communities, organizations and/or representatives.

2. The researcher should consult with and, where applicable, include local residents and Indigenous Peoples in project planning and implementation. Sufficient opportunity should be provided for them to express their interest in participating in the research and they should be fully informed of the practical benefits of participating. Researchers should organize their research with full knowledge of other research projects in the communities and with consideration of the total research burden over time.

3. Research results should be presented to local communities in plain language and where possible translated into local languages. Scientific and technical terms must be explained. Participants in the research should have the right to review all products before they are disseminated publicly, and researchers should inform community members about how the products are being used. All research products should be shared with individuals involved in the research.

4. Publications should always refer to the informed consent of participants and give credit to local and Indigenous expertise and knowledge shared with the research project in both the original use of data and in its deposition for future use. Co-authorship is an appropriate way to recognize the contributions of local and Indigenous knowledge-holders. Researchers must abide by any restrictions on publication (scientific or otherwise) negotiated during the community engagement phase. This may include embargoes on results or the non-publication of some or all results.

5. The researcher must respect local cultural traditions, languages, and values. Efforts should be made to incorporate local and Indigenous/traditional knowledge and experience and to acknowledge the principle of cultural property.

6. As part of the research process, efforts should be made to provide meaningful learning experiences, training, and economic opportunities for local communities and Indigenous peoples.

*(see next page)*

### Updated IASSA Principles and Guidelines for Conducting Ethical Research in the Arctic (continued)

7. Research on humans should be undertaken in a manner that respects their privacy and dignity. Subjects must remain anonymous unless they have agreed to be identified. If anonymity cannot be guaranteed, the subjects must be informed of the possible consequences of becoming involved in the research and offered the option to refrain from participating.

8. All research involving children must be fully justified and never undertaken without the consent of the children and their parents or legal guardians.

9. Sacred sites, cultural materials and human remains cannot be disturbed or removed without appropriate local consent and in accordance with international, national, local, Indigenous and tribal laws and regulations.

10. We encourage researchers to inform com-

munities and participants of these ethical principles that we follow.

11. Research should be beneficial for local communities and their political decision makers through appropriate knowledge sharing.

*Adopted by the IASSA General Assembly on 29 October 1992*

*Amended by the IASSA Council on 16 March 2020*



#### 1990 - 1991

INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION [IASSA]  
Ludger Möller-Wille  
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#### 1991 - 1992

International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)

First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS I)  
GÉTIC, Université Laval, Ste-Foy (Québec) Canada  
October 28 - 31, 1992

Ludger Möller-Wille  
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#### Newsletter after 1993

 **IASSA Newsletter**

Fall/Winter 1993

International Arctic Social Sciences Association

#### IASSA / ICASS Logo 1995 - 2009



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**IASSA**  
INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL  
SCIENCES ASSOCIATION

**IASSA logos used since 1991**

# Up Coming Conferences, Events & Workshops



## Aug 25-27 Academic North Summit

2020

Online

You are most welcome to participate the Academic North Summit from wherever you happen to be whenever it suits you best. Participating the event when is completely free and it requires only a computer, Internet connection and Zoom application. The entire program including the live-sessions will be collected into an online platform where it remains to be visible even after the project has ended, but we strongly recommend that you will participate in the seminar as it is ongoing because it gives you the opportunity to interact with experts and other viewers.

**Registration and more information will be published on:**

<https://www.oulu.fi/wgs/node/201137>

## Nov 18-23 7th IPTRN [postponed to November 2021] (International Polar Tourism Research Network)

2020

Ushuaia, Argentina

The International Polar Tourism Research Network (IPTRN) is a group with a shared interest in research that advances the understanding of tourism in and about the Polar Regions. The IPTRN strives to generate, share and disseminate knowledge, resources and perspectives on polar tourism; and strongly supports the development of international collaboration and cooperative relationships between members.

See opportunities section or the following link for more information:

<https://sites.google.com/view/polartourismresearch/>

## Nov 21-22 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial [postponed to 8-9 May 2021]

2020

Tokyo, Japan

[The 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial \(ASM3\)](#) will take stock of the progress made by the international community up to 2020. ASM3 will be held in Tokyo, Japan and will be co-hosted by Iceland.

The ASM3 organizers would like to hear directly from the research community about what matters most in international Arctic science collaboration. [Your opinion matters - so please give your feedback on this form!](#)

In addition, in order to engage with Arctic scientists and knowledge holders on multiple levels, the ASM3 organizers plan to engage researchers at the several science meetings throughout 2020. These meetings will give the research community an opportunity to shape and develop the science-to-policy process resulting in the Arctic Science Ministerial Joint Statement to be signed in Tokyo. These meetings include ISAR6, ASSW2020, and ICASSX.

More background and updated information available on the ASM3 website:

<http://asm3.org/>

# Up Coming Conferences, Events & Workshops



IASSA  
INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL  
SCIENCES ASSOCIATION

Northern Notes

Issue 52 (Fall / Winter 2019)

- page 24 -

**Jan 7-8**

## **Greenland-Denmark 1721 + 300 = 2021**

2021

Copenhagen, Denmark

As we approach the year 2021, Greenland and Denmark can look back at 300 years of colonization and resistance, continuous cultural encounters and relationship-building, cooperation and conflict. Whereas in Denmark the bicentennial year 1921 occasioned colonial self-congratulation, the tri-centennial anniversary arguably calls for reflection, assessment and re-evaluation of past and current relations – not least to enable both societies to better conceive of new ways of relating to each other in the years ahead.

Aiming to serve as a platform for a tri-centennial stocktaking, CIRCLA/AAU Arctic invites panel sessions and papers presenting and discussing analyses from across the human and social sciences for a conference on 'GREENLAND-DENMARK 1721+300=2021'. The conference offers itself as a platform for panels presenting and discussing thematic and disciplinary evaluations, as well as on-going projects within the overall theme.

### **Deadlines:**

- 15 August 2020  
Deadline for paper abstracts
- 15 September 2020  
Deadline of accept of papers

Please continue to the official [conference website](#) for further information or to stay updated about the event.

**Jun 15-21**

## **ICASS X**

2021

Arkhangelsk, Russia

The International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) announces the 10th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X) to be held on the campus of Northern (Arctic) Federal University, in Arkhangelsk, Russia, 15-19 June 2020.

ICASS X will mark the 30th anniversary of IASSA.

ICASS is held every three years, bringing together people from all over the world to share ideas about social science and humanities research in the Arctic.

[www.icass.uni.edu](http://www.icass.uni.edu)

### Highlights from IASC and IASSA Workshop on Gender in Polar Research

Authors: Dina Abdel Fattah (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Stephan Dudeck (European University in St. Petersburg), Doris Friedrich (University of Vienna and The Arctic Institute), J. Otto Habeck (University of Hamburg), Gertrude Saxinger (Austrian Polar Research Institute APRI), Lauren Thompson (University of Alberta), Petia Mankova (Arctic University of Norway), Morgan Seag (University of Cambridge), Carolyn Harris (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists), Gosia Smieszek (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland/Women of the Arctic), Sasha Leidmann (Rutgers University), Alexander E. Thornton (Pride in Polar Research)

On March 30 2020, IASC ([iasc.info](http://iasc.info)) and IASSA Working Group Gender in the Arctic ([gender-arctic.jimdo.free.com](http://gender-arctic.jimdo.free.com)) hosted an online workshop on Gender in Polar Research, as part of the 2020 Arctic Science Summit Week. Over 85 participants from around the world joined this cross-disciplinary workshop, which brought together representatives from the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities to discuss and reflect on the gendered nature of polar research.

The Gender in Polar Research Workshop provided a space to build community amongst polar researchers. Presenters shared research and experiences based on three broad themes: (1) conducting research in ways that depart from the ubiquitous image of heroic masculinity, (2) disadvantages to career prospects and field research activities for women and LGBTIQ+ people, and (3) how research is shaped by the composition of researcher genders and gendered spaces. The specific topics ranged from participation of Soviet women in 1930s Arctic research to current gender gaps in Icelandic ocean sciences today. The opportunity was provided to share stories and experiences that are often unspoken and dismissed in the polar research community as a whole. What emerged were both shortcomings of current practices and pathways to producing equitable and inclusive polar science.

#### *Summary of workshop main findings*

There is a need to not only address current and persistent problems related to gender in a polar context but also to reread the history of polar exploration and polar development from multiple gendered perspectives (Vladimirova and

Habeck, 2018; Williamson et al., 2004). A focus on the social history of polar research in both national and transnational contexts is also warranted. Several historical studies examined and showcased the presence of women in the Arctic and Antarctic, demonstrating that many women and non-binary scientists / workers have been marginalized, excluded, and/or forgotten over time in these regions. Their contributions are continually obscured by narratives of “male heroism” often celebrated in the polar regions. More research on the contributions of different genders in the polar regions and the implications of the “male heterosexual polar hero/discoverer” trope is desirable and can help to change the culture of discrimination that still exists in many places.

The situation of individuals who self-identify as LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, or asexual/ally) was discussed in the overall context of gender-specific biases in polar research. A noteworthy shortcoming to gender research in the polar science community is continued reporting of “male” versus “female” researchers, excluding the experiences of those with an identity outside of the pervasive gender binary. Some participants remarked how difficult they find the effects of “coming out” in their academic work environment, yet also in field research. Stereotypes about sexual and gender minorities still exert a strong influence when it comes to employing an openly lesbian, gay, queer, or gender non-conforming person for a PhD or a post-doc position in polar sciences in STEM disciplines but also in social sciences. Furthermore, the idea of field research as exceptional and “heroic”, but also critical stances towards colonial regimes and European gender norms have shaped social-scientific paradigms,

### Highlights from IASC and IASSA Workshop on Gender in Polar Research (Continued)

e.g. in anthropological research (Kubica, 2007). This was illustrated by the example of ethnographic approaches to non-heteronormative gender roles among Indigenous communities in the circumpolar North. However, from within Indigenous and First-Nation communities, a few scholars and activists have recently emerged who explore how two-spirited (non-heteronormative) lifeways articulate with Indigenous cosmologies, social relations, and the community's integrity (Bergman, 2014; Balestrery, 2012; Driskill, 2010) .

The statistics on gender in field research today show a clear and somewhat bleak picture, which can be extrapolated to polar field contexts. According to the influential 2014 Survey of Academic Field Experiences, 71% of women and 41% of men reported experiencing harassment during academic fieldwork. Among trainees, 86% of women and 75% of men reported experiencing assault (Clancy et al., 2014). Moreover, only 22% of respondents reported working at field sites with sexual harassment policies in place, pointing to an urgent need for more codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms for field research. These issues were quantified in a polar context by Nash and Nielsen, who presented the results of their study of women in Australian Antarctic fieldwork. 60% of women in their study had been sexually harassed in the field; however, most of those incidents of harassment went unreported, indicating weaknesses in institutional reporting structures (Nash et al., 2019). Discrimination is also rampant in other scientific institutions, even in countries recognized internationally for making progress toward equality. Open discrimination in polar science disproportionately impacts those with intersecting identities of minoritized gender, sexuality, and/or ethnicity (Seag et al., 2019). Widespread adoption of clear guidelines for fieldwork conduct could positively impact the experience of all in the polar research community. For this reason, the APECS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Project Group ([apecs.is/career-resources/diversity-equity-inclusion.html](https://apecs.is/career-resources/diversity-equity-inclusion.html)) is currently developing Inclusive Codes and guidelines for di-

versity, equity, and inclusion during fieldwork in polar regions.

Importantly, the culture enabling discrimination needs to be addressed in addition to formal processes for reporting discrimination. One supportive and potentially culture-changing measure could be to acknowledge and honor the use of non-binary pronouns (e.g., they/them) or honorifics (e.g., Mx) in the interest of gender equity (see [lgbt.uni.edu/pronouns](https://lgbt.uni.edu/pronouns) for more information on pronouns). Representation and visibility of marginalized identities as working professionals in polar science is also vital to feelings of inclusion, and may be addressed in part by wearing rainbow badges/pins at or hosting targeted social networking events during conferences. Beyond supporting, connecting, and raising the visibility of LGBTQIA+ members of our community through these initiatives, groups like Pride in Polar Research (PiPR) also produce resources intended to improve equity, diversity, and inclusion within polar research.

One such resource is to provide practical advice to individuals and groups organizing workshops, conferences, fieldwork, etc., on how to be as inclusive and welcoming as possible, given the many different, often intersectional barriers that members of the PiPR community face worldwide.

An inclusive culture benefits the scientific community by attracting the best minds regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, appearance, ethnicity or other aspects of personal background and identity (Hoogensen, 2017). Moreover, it is increasingly recognized that diversity at large within research organizations is vital to innovative research outcomes and finding sustainable solutions to the complexities of present societal challenges due to climate change (Natcher et al., 2020). It is essential not just to attract researchers with underrepresented identities, but to build a community where every researcher can thrive. An inclusive culture also improves the effectiveness of formal non-discrimination processes, which are often hampered by the legitimate fear of retribution and retaliation felt by those who experience

### Highlights from IASC and IASSA Workshop on Gender in Polar Research (Continued)

discrimination. Informal support networks and contact persons can contribute substantially to the safety and well-being of vulnerable persons. *Call to action - areas for improvement and further development*

The importance of broadening our knowledge and understanding of non-binary genders as well as intersectionality was implied, if not explicitly named, in a number of presentations in the workshop. There is an ongoing need to address intersecting categories of identity and overlapping barriers (gender intersecting with sexuality, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, language, nationality, disability, career stage, etc.) in polar research. By broadening our focus beyond gender, we can ensure we are holistically addressing issues as well as providing realistic solutions.

For the workplace, institutions should aim to introduce and bolster equity, inclusion, and bias training for all employees. Furthermore, implementing non-discrimination guidelines and providing access to independent complaint procedures/contact persons is critical to ensure that rules and consequences for breaking those rules are understood and that robust mechanisms are in place to support victims of discrimination, harassment, and assault.

From a research perspective, further emphasis and support needs to be placed on researching female and non-binary persons in the polar regions. In addition, supporting the comprehensive collection of statistical data on discrimina-

tion is critical to understand the systematic mechanisms of discrimination, as well as illuminating potential solutions. Further recognition and nomination of women and non-binary researchers for polar awards is also imperative, to help ensure the diverse group of individuals who represent polar research is acknowledged.

The following figure summarizes the joint statement that came out from the Gender in Polar Research workshop, which aims to create actionable plans to help support the advancement of gender dimensions in polar research.

#### *Next steps*

The Gender in Polar Research Workshop is slated to be a part of the 2021 Arctic Science Summit Week in Lisbon, Portugal ([assw2021.pt](https://assw2021.pt)).

Further contributions and insights are welcomed in the lead-up to the event next year. A call for papers will be launched in the near future. Furthermore, an online event (due to COVID-19) on Inclusive Collaborations in Arctic Research will be held later this year as part of the SCAR 2020 conference. More details (see session 45) can be found here:

[scarcomnap2020.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SCAR-OSC-Session-List-V-26-Feb.pdf](https://scarcomnap2020.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SCAR-OSC-Session-List-V-26-Feb.pdf)

To stay up-to-date on research and discussions related to Gender in Polar Research, feel free to register for the IASSA Working Group Gender in the Arctic ([gender-arctic.jimdofree.com](https://gender-arctic.jimdofree.com)) mailing list via: [lists.univie.ac.at/mailman/listinfo/gender-arctic](https://lists.univie.ac.at/mailman/listinfo/gender-arctic)

## Advancement of Gender Dimensions in Polar Research

- Broaden knowledge & understanding of non-binary gender among researchers and communities where research occurs
- Introduce and bolster equity, inclusion, and bias training for all employees in polar research institutions
- Implement non-discrimination guidelines and provide access to independent complete procedures & contact persons
- Support research on female and non-binary persons in polar regions
- Support comprehensive collection of statistical data on discrimination
- Address intersecting categories of identity & overlapping barriers (gender intersecting with sexuality, race, ethnicity, social-economic status, disability, career stage, etc.)
- Recognize and nominate women and non-binary scientists for polar awards

### Students participate in Fourth Model Arctic Council

#### **Brandon Boylan, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
Co-Director, Arctic & Northern Studies  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, Alaska

#### **Anna Shchenina**

Undergraduate major, Regional Studies of Russia  
Department of Regional Studies, International Relations, and Political Sciences  
Northern (Arctic) Federal University

Twenty-seven students from universities in the circumpolar north and beyond participated in the fourth UArctic Model Arctic Council. Although organizers had been planning for months to hold the program face-to-face in Akureyri, Iceland, they moved it online, owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Students and organizers videoconferenced through the Zoom platform. The program opened on Friday, March 20, and continued Monday, March 23 through Thursday, March 26, 2020.

Students represented a) delegates from the eight Member States and six Permanent Participants to the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group and b) Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) and Permanent Participants delegates at the SAO meetings. Two students role-played Observers at the PAME and SAO meetings. The Arctic Council Member States include Canada, Finland, Iceland, the Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States. The Permanent Participants represent various Indigenous communities throughout the circumpolar north and include the Aleut International Association (AIA), Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), Gwich'in Council International (GCI), Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), and Saami Council. Although Permanent Participants

cannot vote on proposals, they have full consultation rights. Rarely do Member States advance proposals without the approval of the Permanent Participants, and the Model Arctic Council reflected this practice. One of six Working Groups of the Arctic Council, PAME focuses on the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic's marine environment. Each student role-played at least one delegate to the Arctic Council; some doubled up on roles. Jonathan Wood, a graduate student in the Polar Law Department at the University of Akureyri, chaired the PAME meetings, and Sophie Goliber, a Geological Sciences Ph.D. student at the University of Texas at Austin, chaired the SAO meetings.

Participants in the PAME meetings discussed and developed plans to address Arctic marine problems, specifically plastic pollution and endangerment to protected marine areas, before moving their recommendations to the SAOs and Permanent Participants at the SAO meetings for their feedback and guidance. Everyone endeavored to ensure that Indigenous representatives had an equal voice in meetings and proposals. Ultimately, the students produced a final report, with the Arctic Council Ministers – the foreign ministers of the eight Arctic Council Member States – as their intended audience. During the program, students learned about various Arctic challenges, biodiversity and conservation in the Arctic, the

### Students participate in Fourth Model Arctic Council (Continued)

Arctic, the functioning of the Arctic Council, the importance of Indigenous voices in Arctic governance, and how to navigate online diplomacy. Jonathan Wood reported on the program to a virtual audience at the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW).

Participants used Google Documents to produce and edit progress reports and the final proposal and, in addition to talking, the chat function in Zoom to discuss issues collectively and privately with one another in real time. One example of good collaboration was Canada, Norway, AIA, and the Saami Council's proposal to reduce marine litter through the adoption of new technologies in fishing and the management of ballast and grey water in relation to shipping.

During the program, the students also heard from high-profile guest speakers. Gunnar Rekvig, Nansen Professor in Arctic Studies at the University of Akureyri, lectured on the history of diplomacy between Sweden and Finland concerning the Åland Islands. Friðrik Jónsson, Iceland's SAO, discussed the necessity of online diplomacy and social networking during emergencies, like the current coronavirus pandemic. In the debriefing session, Robert Gerber, Chief of the Economy, Energy, and Environmental Unit, and Oscar Avila, Public Affairs Office, at the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, discussed the importance

of the Arctic and congratulated the students on their work.

The Model Arctic Council was organized jointly by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and the University of Akureyri. Dr. Brandon Boylan, Associate Professor of Political Science and Co-Director of Arctic & Northern Studies at UAF; Dr. Mary Ehrlander, Professor of History and Co-Director of Arctic & Northern Studies at UAF; Mike Letzring, an Interdisciplinary Studies Ph.D. candidate, housed in Arctic & Northern Studies at UAF; Rachael Johnstone, Profes-

sor of Law at the University of Akureyri; and Gunnar Gunnarson, International Coordinator at the University of Akureyri planned the event since spring 2019.

The Model Arctic Council is a The-

matic Network of the University of the Arctic (UArctic), led by UAF professors Brandon Boylan and Mary Ehrlander. To date, the UArctic MAC program has taken place at UAF (spring 2016); Dartmouth College (summer 2017); the University of Lapland (Finland) (fall 2018); and online (spring 2020). The goal is to host a MAC in the country that is currently chairing the Arctic Council.

Please contact Brandon Boylan, [bmboylan@alaska.edu](mailto:bmboylan@alaska.edu), for further details.



### Call for Papers: GREENLAND-DENMARK 1721 + 300 = 2021

Aalborg University Copenhagen

7 - 8 January 2021

As we approach the year 2021, Greenland and Denmark can look back at 300 years of colonization and resistance, continuous cultural encounters and relationship-building, cooperation and conflict. Whereas in Denmark the bicentennial year 1921 occasioned colonial self-congratulation, the tri-centennial anniversary arguably calls for reflection, assessment and re-evaluation of past and current relations – not least to enable both societies to better conceive of new ways of relating to each other in the years ahead.

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#### Deadlines:

- 15 August 2020  
Deadline for paper abstracts
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Deadline of accept of papers

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### Seeking Input: 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial



[The 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial \(ASM3\)](#) will take stock of the progress made by the international community up to 2020. ASM3 will be held in Tokyo, Japan and will be co-hosted by Iceland.

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More background and updated information available on the ASM3 website: <http://asm3.org/>

# ADD

### Academic North Summit 25–27 August 2020

Academic North -project has been a joint endeavor of Luleå University of Technology, University of Tromsø and University of Oulu. Objectives of the project were to promote the proficiency, competitiveness and well-being of the northern parts of the Nordic countries by furthering academic mobility and employment in a socially sustainable way.



The project is coming to its end in September 2020 and therefore it is time to gather for the final seminar to hear about the project's results and recommendations for the future. Only this time the gathering will happen entirely virtually. This decision was made because ICT sector has been one of the project's main target groups and during the two year period project team has thought of new innovative ways of working abroad. Maybe in future it is no longer necessary to move to another location even though one's job is located there, but work can be done from home through on-line connections. Furthermore, on-line events are right now more topical than ever before because of the COVID19 -situation which forced nearly every organization to re-think and re-organize their ways of working swiftly.

#### Arctic past, present and future

The program of Academic North seminar is divided into three parts. First day consists of videos that give insight among other topics on the Nordic history of migration and introduce audience to Arctic Five Universities, cities and some large employers in the area. Audience can watch the videos in their own pace and send comments or questions which will be read on the second day.

Second day focuses on the present situation and challenges that cross-border labor-based mobility possesses. The program includes videos of people who have their own mobility experiences, information from tax administration and social security authorities and news from Arctic Five Universities cooperation in the field of human resources. In the second and third seminar days, videos will be presented by a moderator at live-studio. After each video, moderator will engage in a discussion with couple of experts on the issue and audience can participate in the dialogue through chat function.

Third day will try to look into a crystal ball and predict the future. In the Academic North Summit we will get to hear ideas and visions from some of the top decision-makers in Finland, Sweden and Norway. The third day will climax at the approval of Academic North Call for Action that lists tasks and actions to be taken for advancing cross-border labour-based mobility of academically educated and equal recruitment practices in the Arctic North.

### Academic North Summit 25–27 August 2020 (Continued)

#### Welcome!

You are most welcome to participate the Academic North Summit from wherever you happen to be whenever it suits you best. Participating the event when is completely free and it requires only a computer, Internet connection and Zoom application. The entire program including the live-sessions will be collected into an online platform where it remains to be visible even after the project has ended, but we strongly recommend that you will participate in the seminar as it is ongoing because it gives you the opportunity to interact with experts and other viewers.

#### Contact:

Rasmus Gjeddsø Bertelsen (rasmus.bertelsen(at)uit.no)  
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Katariina Huikari (katariina.huikari(at)oulu.fi)  
Saila Piippola (saila.piippola(at)ltu.se).

#### Registration and more information will be published on:

<https://www.oulu.fi/wgs/node/201137>



LAPIN LIITTO



UNIVERSITY OF OULU



### Two Sessions about “Changing Cryospheres” at the Vienna Anthropology Days 2020

*by Peter Schweitzer, Olga Povoroznyuk, Susanna Gartler and Alexandra Meyer*

Dear colleagues!

We are excited to announce the call for papers for two sessions about Changing Cryospheres during the Vienna Anthropology Days 2020, and cordially invite you to submit your abstracts. Please find the description of both sessions below.

The Vienna Anthropology Days will take place at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna, from September 28th to October 1st 2020 (<https://vanda.univie.ac.at/home/>). The call for papers (<https://vanda.univie.ac.at/call-for-papers/>) is open until June 1<sup>st</sup>.



We are looking forward to your contributions. Stay safe!

#### Changing Cryospheres I: Global Warming in Polar and Alpine Settings

**Organizers:** Alexandra Meyer (University of Vienna), Olga Povoroznyuk (University of Vienna)

**Abstract:** One of the most striking symptoms of climate change today is the disappearance of the world's frozen landscapes. Glaciers, permafrost and polar ice caps are part of the fragile socio-ecological systems of the polar and alpine regions whose populations are directly affected by the great melt-down. These environmental changes have distinctive impacts, generate various forms of adaptations, and are perceived very differently, depending on diverse social, economic and cultural contexts. We analytically diverge the notions of climate change as a physical phenomenon, on the one hand, and a cultural and political idea, and a discursive practice, on the other hand. What material impacts do climate and cryosphere changes have on infrastructures, mobility, economic activities, urban development and planning? What do people who live and work in polar and high-altitude settings observe, and how do they make sense of these observations? How do affected local communities perceive related risks and adapt to them? What role, if any, do local and indigenous observations and knowledge play in research on climate change? We welcome contributions from anthropology and related disciplines, and case studies in rural and urbanized settings from indigenous, mixed and migrant communities in sub-arctic, arctic, antarctic, alpine and other high-altitude regions.

### Two Sessions about “Changing Cryospheres” at the Vienna Anthropology Days 2020 (Continued)

#### Changing Cryospheres II: How to Communicate the Challenges of Climate Change?

**Organizers:** Peter Schweitzer (University of Vienna), Susanna Gartler (University of Vienna)

**Abstract:** Decreasing (and, in rare cases, increasing) ice and snow cover, permafrost thaw, as well as other climate change impacts have profound consequences for the global environment and local livelihoods. While they have been generating global concern on a large scale, “climate skepticism” occurs even in the most seemingly unlikely places, such as the Arctic, where climate change impacts are highly visible and affect daily life. Research has demonstrated that the communication of science-based knowledge has limited influence on how people perceive environmental risks and choose to deal with them: Perceptions and adaptations are rather influenced by social, cultural and psychological factors. This situation begs the question of how climate science is communicated and how different responses – from political protests, to concern, to indifference or skepticism – are created and emerge. We are interested in the role of popular education and communication between academia, local communities and other actors, as well as in the dissemination and impact of scientific research on climate change.

- How to best popularize results of climate change research and is this even the role of science?
- In which settings does knowledge about climate change generate concern?
- When and where does concern lead to actual action and change on (supra-) national and local levels?

If you are working on one of these (or closely related) topics, we would like to invite you to submit an abstract to join us on an expert panel. The discussion of the expert panel will be followed by a group discussion with the audience in a world café format.

### Questionnaire: How do poor data connections affect your life?



The Arctic 5G Test Network project collects examples and experiences of what poor connectivity means for daily life, schoolwork, using e-services, using e-payments, business opportunities and where the problems occur in the arctic area. Poorly working connectivity can mean for example that you can see that your mobile phone or modem is connected but the quality is so poor that voice and especially data connection fails to allow using digital services. This study is led by the Centre for Wireless Communications (CWC) research unit at the University of Oulu and the Luleå Technical University (LTU). You can participate by answering to the survey in the web-address: <https://link.webpolsurveys.com/S/C57555ED25F8BE69>. The questions can be found at least in English, Finnish, Swedish, and Russian. The questionnaire can be filled anonymously and results are published so that a person cannot be identified.

The purpose of this study is to report the findings to policymakers and other stakeholders as well as publish in scientific articles. The outcomes will be used to show what kind of problems occur in a world that should be digitally equal.

Arctic 5G Test Network is an Interreg Nord project that aims to link the 5G test networks in Oulu, Finland and Luleå, Sweden. Project engages collaboration between universities, large ICT companies and SMEs to strengthen companies' commercialization capacity for innovations. More information of the project can be found from the web-site: <http://www.arctic5g.eu>.

### **NVP International Summer school 2020 - Global Arctic**

#### **An interdisciplinary PhD and Post-Doc summer school in Longyearbyen, Svalbard**

Hosted by the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP), in cooperation with the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) and the Nansen Scientific Society.

- Venue: UNIS – The University Centre in Svalbard, Longyearbyen, Svalbard.
- Time: June 20th – 28th 2020.

The Arctic region is rapidly increasing in global significance. Climate change transforms the environmental conditions in previously unseen ways with new challenges and opportunities for logistics, resource exploitation and commercial development, but also exerting pressures on indigenous and local populations and vulnerable ecosystems. Geopolitical and strategic issues are brought to the forefront of the international political agendas.

The challenges encountered in the Arctic are mirrored in the Second Pole – the Antarctic, and particularly within the region of the Third Pole, the Himalayan Region. NVP has therefore decided to apply the concept of “Three Poles” to be the framework that links the Arctic, the Antarctic and the Himalayan regions as an umbrella framework for the Svalbard Summer Schools 2020 -2021 – 2022, to be held in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. For more information, see <http://polar-academy.com/summer-schools/summer-schools-2020-2022/> and <http://polar-academy.com/summer-schools/global-arctic-2020/>

The main target group for the NVP Summer School 2020 - Global Arctic, is PhD students and Post-docs. In some cases, students with a MSc degree or equivalent and with special professional qualifications may also participate. The relevance of current studies, including personal motivation and relevant experiences are important selection criteria.

Applications for the NVP Summer School 2020 – Global Arctic shall include a CV and a letter which describes a rationale and justification for the application. A tentative title of a poster to present current studies / projects should be included.

Applications are sent to the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP), att. Office Manager Jorge Kristiansen e-mail [post@polar-academy.com](mailto:post@polar-academy.com) with the subject: “Application summer school 2020”.

Application deadline is 15th March 2020. The selected candidates will be notified by the end of March 2020.

## Arctic Policies and Strategies/Analyses, Synthesis, and Trends

by Lassi Heininen, Karen Everett, Barbora Padrtova and Anni Reissell



The research is done by Professor Lassi Heininen, Dr. Karen Everett, Dr. Barbora Padrtova and Dr. Anni Reissell

**Publisher:** International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis  
[http://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/16175/1/ArcticReport\\_WEB\\_new.pdf](http://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/16175/1/ArcticReport_WEB_new.pdf)

The scientific report “Arctic Policies and Strategies – Analysis, Synthesis and Trends”, with new and emerging trends of Arctic governance and geopolitics at the early-21<sup>st</sup> century was published in November 2019.

By using quantitative and qualitative methods the study delivers a systematic and holistic analysis and synthesis of existing policies and strategies of the Arctic states (Member States), Arctic Indigenous peoples organizations (Permanent Participants) and non-Arctic countries (Observer States), as well as pertinent Arctic

Council chairmanship programs and declarations. The analysis, based on coding the text of more than 56 policy documents, includes description and understanding how perceptions and mapping of the Arctic have changed over time. As well as, how different states and Indigenous peoples’ organizations define and address issues around human dimension, governance, international cooperation, environmental protection, pollution, climate change, security and safety, economy and tourism, infrastructure, science and education. The findings in each category of the above-mentioned stakeholders are first, compared within the category, and then discussed with each other (category), and finally based on all the analyses new and emerging trends are recognized and formulated, as final synthesis, to describe and define the state of the Arctic in the 2020s.

The scientific report is a research activity of the Arctic Futures Initiative at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). It is supported by the Arctic Circle Assembly and the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR) at University of Helsinki as the major partners, and co-funded by the Finnish

## New Book on Arctic Sustainability

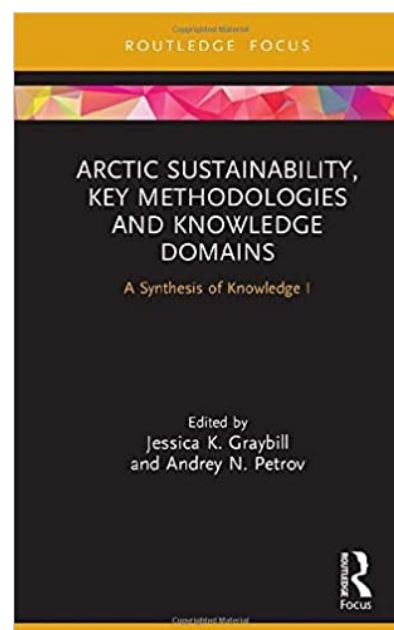
*Editors: Jessica K. Graybill and Andrey N. Petrov*

This book edited by Jessica K. Graybill and Andrey N. Petrov provides a first-ever synthesis of sustainability and sustainable development experiences in the Arctic.

Volume 1 aims to create a comprehensive, integrative knowledge base for the assessment of Arctic sustainability for countries such as the United States, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia, alongside emerging ideas about sustainable development in the Arctic. These ideas relate to understanding how a community’s geography matters in determining the required sustainability efforts, decolonial thinking for building sustainability that is crafted by and for local and Indigenous communities, and the idea of polycentrism (i.e., that the paths toward sustainability differ among places and communities). This volume also highlights the recent thinking about sustainability and resilience over the past decade for the rapidly changing Arctic region.

With patterns of thinking drawn from economic, social, environmental, community, and other components of sustainability; observations and monitoring; engagement of Indigenous knowledge; and integration with policy and decision making, the book helps us understand the complexity and interconnectedness of current Arctic transformations in a more comprehensive way.

Volume II is expected to be released later in 2020.



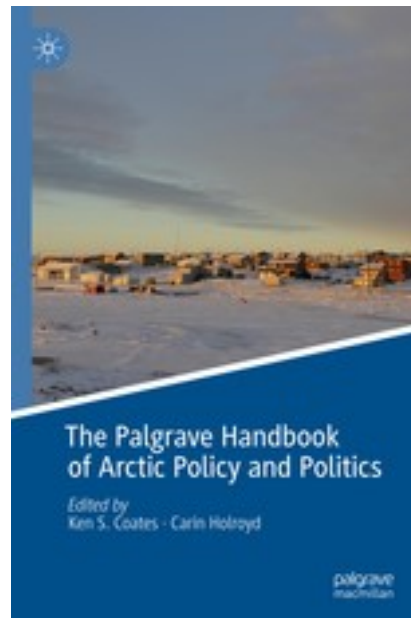
### The Palgrave Handbook on Arctic Policy and Politics

*Editors: Ken Coates and Carin Holroyd*

The Arctic has, for some forty years, been among the most innovative policy environments in the world. The region has developed impressive systems for intra-regional cooperation, responded to the challenges of the rapid environmental change, empowered and engaged with Indigenous peoples, and dealt with the multiple challenges of natural resource development.

**The Palgrave Handbook on Arctic Policy and Politics** has drawn on scholars from many countries and academic disciplines to focus on the central theme of Arctic policy innovation. The portrait that emerges from these chapters is of a complex, fluid policy environment, shaped by internal, national and global dynamics and by a wide range of political, legal, economic, and social transitions. The Arctic is a complex place from a political perspective and is on the verge of becoming even more so. Effective, proactive and forward-looking policy innovation will be required if the Far North is to be able to address its challenges and capitalize on its opportunities.

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030205560>



*"The Palgrave Handbook on Arctic Policy provides a valuable addition to the fields of Arctic social science and international policy."*

**Lee Huskey**, Professor Emeritus of Economics,  
University of Alaska Anchorage, USA

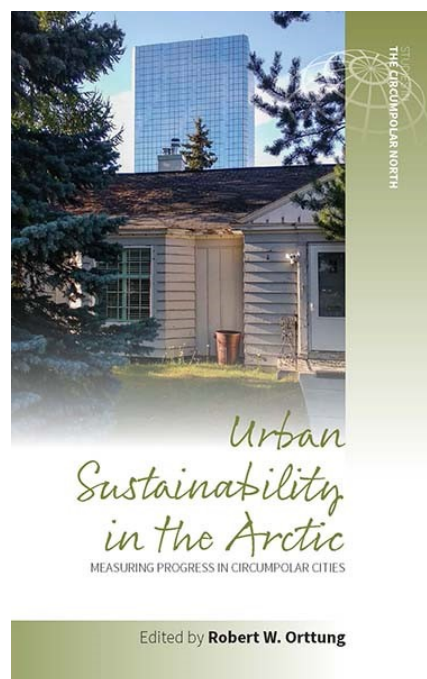
### Urban Sustainability in the Arctic

*Editor: Robert Orttung*

**Urban Sustainability in the Arctic** advances our understanding of cities in the far north by applying elements of the international standard for urban sustainability (ISO 37120) to numerous Arctic cities. In delivering rich material about northern cities in Alaska, Canada, and Russia, the book examines how well the ISO 37120 measures sustainability and how well it applies in northern conditions. In doing so, it links the Arctic cities into a broader conversation about urban sustainability more generally.

<https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/OrttungUrban>

*"I think that [the book] will be an excellent contribution to the study of urban sustainability in the Arctic which is increasingly becoming an important topic, both in the region and globally. I think that the book does an excellent job of placing the issue of Arctic urban sustainability into a wider context."* **Timothy Heleniak**, Nordregio



### **Describing Aajiiqatigiingniq as an Inuit Consensus Methodology in Health Research**

Priscilla Ferrazzia, Shirley Tagalikb, Peter Christiec, Joe Karetakd, Kukik Bakere, and Louis Angalikf

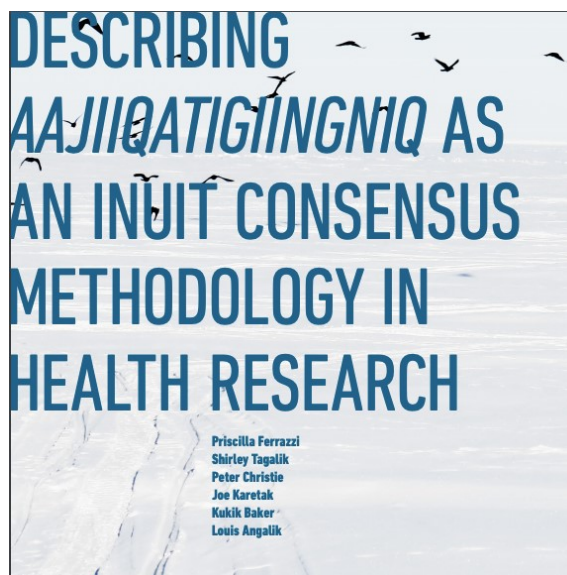
Indigenous knowledge has for decades been marginalized by Western scientific research. Decolonization in health research requires recognition of Indigenous methodologies. Health research that seeks to establish agreement about a subject often relies on consensus methods. Researchers have previously used Western consensus methods to embed Indigenous knowledge, and more specifically, Inuit knowledge. This lay report concerns a study that aims to go one-step further.

Instead of embedding Inuit knowledge in a Western consensus method, we characterize Inuit knowledge as a consensus methodology. The purpose is to use Inuit ways of knowing to wholly direct research.

We use group meetings and individual interviews with Elders and other senior community members in Arviat, Nunavut to describe the Inuit knowledge principle of aajiiqatigiingniq as a consensus methodology in health research. Findings reveal an informal and unhurried meeting approach

focused on sustained individual and community wellbeing in a variety of contexts. Consensus is achieved through the addition of group members, respectful and open communication, and personal engagement. This study brings Inuit time-tested knowledge to the forefront of Arctic health research.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sevu7xkbthb0qxa/consensus-report-2019-03>



### **Benefit Sharing in the Arctic: Extractive Industries and Arctic People**

*Editors: Maria Tysiachniouk, Andrey N. Petrov and Violetta Gassiy*

A book version of the special issue of *Resources* this volume focuses on the relationships between Arctic communities and extractive companies in the form of benefit sharing regimes. Benefit sharing is an important process by which revenues from extractive activities could be shared with local residents and communities, including the Indigenous Peoples. The book presents case studies of such arrangements from the different parts of the Arctic and provides a systematic analysis of benefit sharing frameworks.



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*Northern Notes* is published twice a year by the International Arctic Social Sciences Association Secretariat  
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ISSN 1816-9767 (online)

ISSN 1817-0404 (print)