



Issue 61

Autumn 2024



Features

Letter from the president.....	2
New IASSA President & Council	4
ICASS XI concluded in Bodø.....	6
IASSA Award Laureates 2024.....	8
Victoria Petrasheva Award	8
Gabriella Nordin-Sköld IASSA Service Award.....	9
Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards.....	10

Leaving Bodø Coming to Nuuk

Letter from the president

Dear members and friends,

The Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 and ICASS XI is now history, and I am left with fantastic memories of great talks, exciting conversations, new ideas and partnerships, meeting old and new friends, and sunny warm days above the Arctic Circle. The Arctic Congress with ICASS XI was a great success and this we have heard from far and wide. The participants contributed to a very exciting program that spanned multiple scientific disciplines, arts, business and education, all needed to address and find solutions for the grand challenges we are facing on this magnificent Earth. Not surprisingly, IASSA members made a mark and were involved across the board, including organizing a “pubinar” – a seminar in a pub – discussing the difficult issue of how we maintain our connections with Russian colleagues in the face of the war against Ukraine. The large lobby bar at the Ramsalt Hotell was packed, standing room only, and you could hear a pin drop during the discussion. The panellists were honest, brave and provocative, and we must ensure the conversation continues. Other IASSA members organized art exhibits, high level social science and interdisciplinary panels and screened documentaries. This is what IASSA is about, addressing complex and sensitive societal issues in-depth and creatively and caring about our colleagues.

It was reported that people living or running businesses in Bodø found it inspiring to see the city filled with excited congress participants bearing their badges on their way through the city between sessions. On a personal note, I must confess that I was worried that a joint congress would weaken IASSA, but this has not been the case. IASSA’s partnership with the University of the Arctic and High North Center for Business at Nord University, Bodø, in organizing the congress worked.

My time as IASSA president has been shaped by both a pandemic and a war. These are both difficult world events, with deep repercussions. For IASSA this has meant that we have not been able to engage with the Arctic Council and its Working Groups as much as I had hoped for. The Arctic Congress with ICASS XI here in Bodø illustrated well that we were ready to meet again after the pandemic stopped a physical meeting at ICASS X in Arkhangelsk in 2020. Still, our relations with our partners and members are strong and IASSA is well placed as an observer to the Arctic Council and in the planning of the next IPY 2032-2033. Ahead of us are exciting times.

During our General Assembly on 2 June, we elected our new IASSA president and council, all presented in this issue of Northern Notes. I am thrilled that Maria

Ackrén, Professor at Ilisimatusarfik/ University of Greenland, will take over and bring IASSA back to Nuuk! The new council is very strong, and I look forward to working with the team in the capacity of IASSA Past-President.

Grete K. Hovelsrud, 12 September 2024



The main organizers of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 were given their well-deserved thank-you's at the closing ceremony, from the left: Marta Anna Løvberg (Nordland Research Institute), Kirsi Latola (UArctic), Benedikte Kosmo Underland (High North Center), and Grete K. Hovelsrud (IASSA). To the right is Lars Kullerud (UArctic).

New IASSA President & Council

At the General Assembly during the ICASS XI, part of the Arctic Congress in Bodø, Norway, a new president for IASSA and seven new members of the IASSA Council were elected via an anonymous online ballot:

President 2024-2027:

Maria Ackrén

Professor in Political Science Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland

IASSA Council 2024-2027:

Aaron John Spitzer

Associate Professor of Arctic Governance, University of Bergen (Norway)

Anita Lafferty

PhD in Education and Member of Liidlii Kue First Nation (Canada)

Helena Gonzales Lindberg

PhD in Political Science, Senior Researcher, Nordland Research Institute (Norway)

Joan Nymand Larsen

Professor of Economics and Arctic Studies, University of Akureyri (Iceland)

Karen (Kat) Hodgson

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Government, University of Bergen (Norway)

Kamrul Hossain

Research Professor and Director, Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM), Arctic Centre, University of Lapland (Finland)

Tatiana Degai

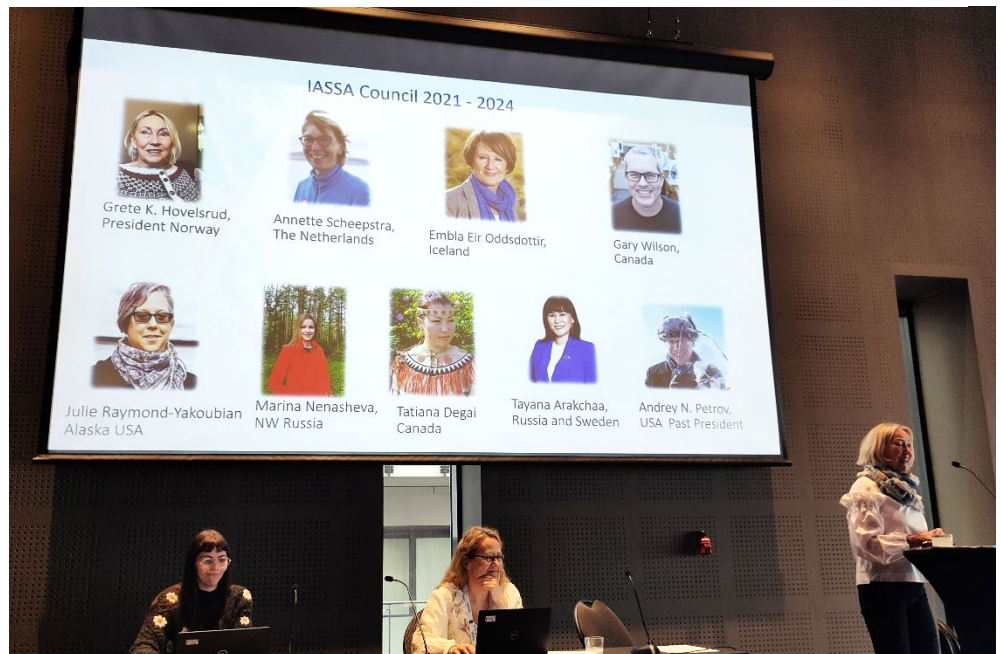
Assistant Professor, Dep. of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Canada)

Grete K. Hovelsrud

Past-President of IASSA, Professor in Environmental Sociology, Nord University, and Research Professor, Nordland Research Institute (Norway)



The newly elected IASSA Council Members 2024-2027 who were present at the IASSA General Assembly in Bodø. From the left: Grete K. Hovelsrud, Tatiana Degai, Anita Lafferty, Kamrul Hossain, Joan Nymand Larsen, and Helena Gonzales Lindberg

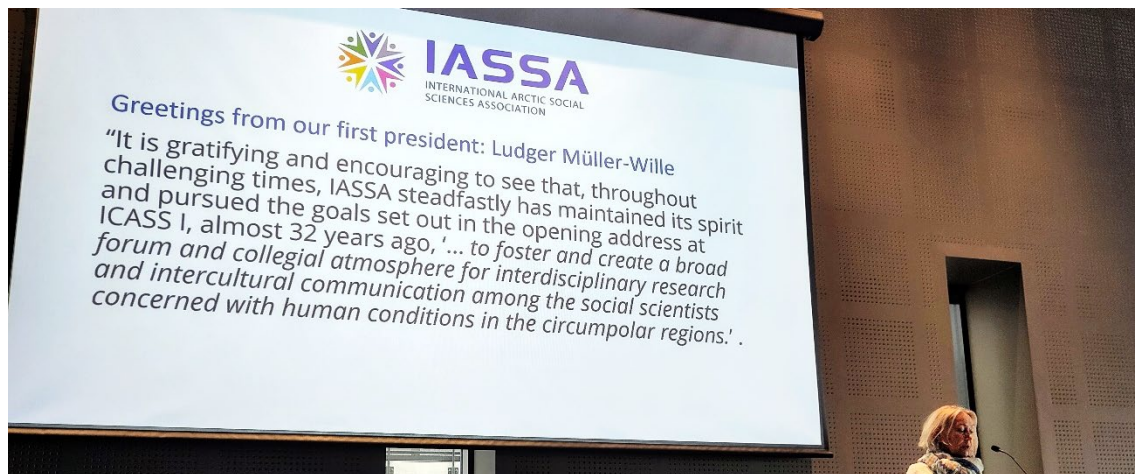


President Grete Hovelsrud thanking the IASSA Council Members 2021-2024 for their work and commitment to the Council and IASSA during the turbulent period with the Covid19-pandemic and the war in Ukraine. From the top-right: Gary Wilson, Embla Eir Oddsdottir, Annette Scheepstra, and Grete Hovelsrud. From the bottom-right: Andrey N. Petrov, Tayana Arakchaa, Tatiana Degai, Marina Nenasheva, and Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. At the table from the right is the IASSA Secretary, Tina Bringslimark and Elin-Marita Balseth Kristiansen, both from Nord University.

ICASS XI concluded in Bodø

The 11th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, ICASS XI, took place as part of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024, 29 May – 3 June 2024 in Bodø, Norway. The Congress was hosted by Nordland Research Institute and Nord University, and organised in collaboration between IASSA, UArctic and the High North Center.

On the 2nd of June, IASSA held its General Assembly. Here are some photos from the meeting:



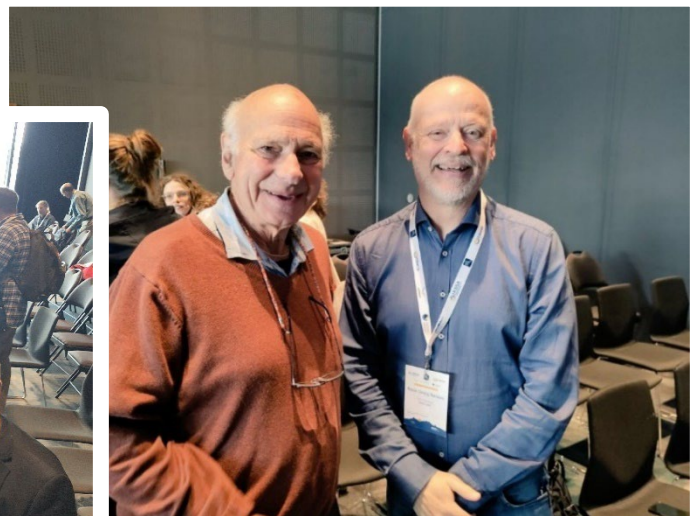
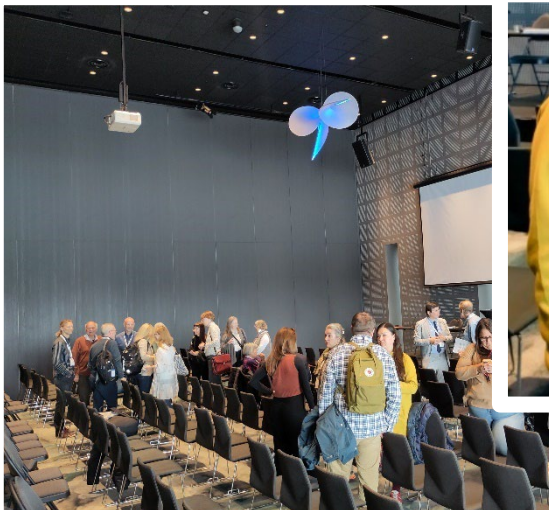
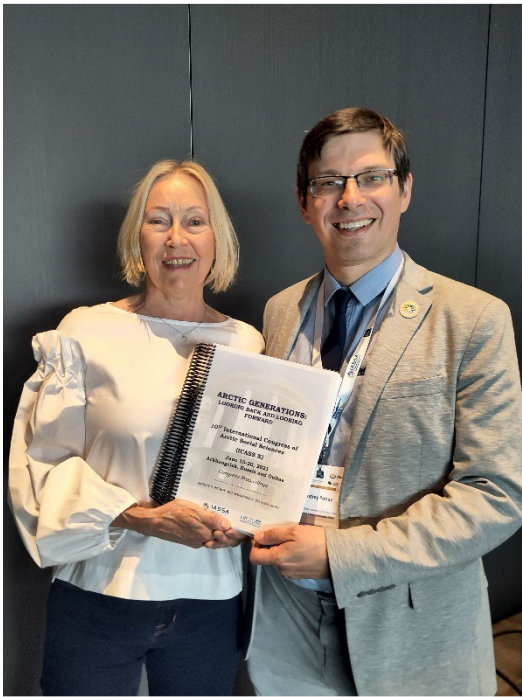
Grete Hovelsrud presents the greetings from past president Ludger Müller-Wille



Igor Krupnik sharing a historical perspective on IASSA.



Newly elected IASSA President, Maria Ackrén greets the IASSA General Assembly, live from Nuuk.



Good attendance and many happy faces at the conclusion of the IASSA General Assembly 2024

IASSA Award Laureates 2024

Victoria Petrasheva Award

Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin

The Nmitq̄n Award to an outstanding early career Indigenous scholar in honour of Victoria Petrasheva celebrates emerging Indigenous scholars who strengthen the well-being of their communities through research led by Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The award was given to Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin.

Haliehana is an Unangaġ scholar from the village of Akutan in Unangam Tanangin [the Aleutian Islands of Alaska]. Her scholarly research theorizes Unangaġ subsistence cosmologies rooted and routed from her upbringing immersed in sustainable processes and protocols that govern life in her Unangam Tanangin homelands. Haliehana's work intersects fields of Native American and Indigenous studies building from participation in transmissions of oral histories and cultural knowledges while braiding together interdisciplinary research experiences in critical race theory, Native literature, and performance. Upholding kinship accountabilities, she seeks to foster sustainable futures that center reciprocity and stewardship from the subsistence cosmology she was raised within. Haliehana is currently an Assistant Professor at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies in Anchorage, Alaska.



Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin received the Award presented by the Nmitq̄n Award Committee Chair, Tatiana S. Degai at the closing ceremony of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024

Gabriella Nordin-Sköld IASSA Service Award

Birger Poppel

Gabriella Nordin-Sköld served as IASSA Secretary in 2014-2017 and the award in her name was granted in recognition of outstanding contribution and service to IASSA at the closing ceremony of Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 to Birger Poppel.



Birger Poppel receives the award at the Congress closing ceremony, presented by Grete K. Hovelsrud © H. G. Lindberg

Birger Poppel receives the award for his extensive contribution to IASSA. He served on the IASSA Council for 13 consecutive years between 2001-and 2014, thus making a lasting impact on our organization. In 2008, Birger convened the 6th ICASS, with over 350 participants attending, making it the largest ICASS and the largest science conference event in Greenland at the time of occurrence. Birger was also active in IASSA at the time of International Polar Year-4 planning, promoting social sciences within IPY working. He thus contributed to reshaping and strengthen the standing of the Arctic social sciences within the Arctic research enterprise. Birger also served as the head of delegation for IASSA at the Arctic Council and working group meetings at the time when IASSA was a newly-approved observer. His work was critical in establishing the prominent role of our organization at the Council and promoted international recognition of IASSA. Birger is an Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Learning at Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland).

Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards



Peter Schweitzer receives the award at the Congress closing ceremony, presented by Grete K. Hovelsrud © H. G. Lindberg

Three Honorary Lifetime Awards were granted in recognition of sustained and significant contribution to Arctic Social Sciences and Humanities to Uliana A. Vinokurova, Grete K. Hovelsrud, and Peter Schweitzer.

Uliana A. Vinokurova



Born and raised in an Arctic village, Uliana Vinokurova is a leading Sakha scholar and Indigenous leader. She is the first Indigenous Scholar from the Russian Arctic to receive this award. She holds a PhD in Psychology and Doctor of Science in Sociology and has authored numerous books on Indigenous Peoples of the North with the focus on political and economic rights of ethnic minorities and Indigenous peoples. She also founded the scientific interdisciplinary field “Arctic Circumpolar Civilization” that emphasises the unity of all peoples of the north in their adaptation to extreme climate and environmental conditions based on spirituality, innovation and technologies. Her research contribution and leadership have been widely acknowledged in Russia and internationally. Uliana has been a Sakha activist and defender of the Indigenous Peoples rights. She also participated in developing the Constitution of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), co-authoring 38 regional laws and advocating for many social, cultural, and educational programs in the Sakha Republic. Currently, Uliana is a Professor and Director of the Circumpolar Civilization Research Center at the Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts in Yakutsk, Russia.



Grete K. Hovelsrud

Grete K. Hovelsrud has been a dedicated IASSA member since the establishment of the association in 1990, serving in the Council (2008-2011 and 2014-2017), and as attended nearly all the ICASS congresses. She is an internationally recognized researcher on topics related to climate change adaptation in the Arctic and transformation to a low emission society. Grete was the first female president of the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research, and she was a member of the International Joint Committee of the International Polar Year 2007-2008. She has also served as Lead Author of the Fifth Assessment Report on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Through these commitments, Grete has been building a stronger collaboration for a more inclusive Arctic research community, bringing researchers and community members together, fostering transdisciplinary dialogue. She is also a treasured mentor, supporting and inspiring young Arctic and polar researchers. Currently, Grete is a Professor of Environmental Sociology, Nord University, Norway, and Research Professor at Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway.



Peter Schweitzer

Peter Schweitzer receives the IASSA Honorary Award for his many contributions via his academic research, mentoring of the next generation(s) of Arctic social scientists, and his distinguished service to many institutions and bodies that support and promote Arctic social sciences, including IASSA. Peter's research has enriched the understanding of human-environmental interactions, especially among hunting societies and including adaptation to climate change in Northern regions. As one of the first foreigners to pursue fieldwork in Siberia after the end of the Cold War, his early work was critical to the world's burgeoning knowledge of Northern peoples and challenges in Russia. Peter Schweitzer's work in Indigenous and creole communities in Russia's North expanded to also include Alaska, where he cultivated rich collaborative relationships with local communities and across academic disciplines. He pursued a long, productive career at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, then relocated to the University of Vienna, Austria, in 2012, where he has expanded the foci of the polar research community to embrace social sciences and humanities.

Read more reflections from the outgoing IASSA President here:

[Navigating IASSA's Presidency Through Turbulent Times | Nordlandsforskning \(nordlandsforskning.no\)](#)

Watch the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 summarizing video here:

[ARCTIC CONGRESS BODØ 2024 \(29 May - 3 June\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

For updated news from IASSA follow us on X/Twitter: [@IASSA_SocSci](#)

Takk for oss!

Goodbye from us in Bodø!

See you in Nuuk for ICASS XII!