

Northern Notes



Issue 60

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Coming together in Bodø

**The 11th International Congress of
Arctic Social Sciences**

Part of:

**ARCTIC
CONGRESS 2024**

Báddádjo
Buvvda
Bodø

Letter from the president

From the editor

As this second-to-last Northern Notes from the Bodø secretariat is published, we take the opportunity to invite member and friends of IASSA to send us pictures, stories, impressions and reflections from the upcoming conference, to be published in NN 61 in the early fall of this year. We also welcome to the next issue contributions reflecting on developments over the past four years; the way global events has influenced not only Arctic geopolitics, societal developments and the effects of climate change on Arctic environs, but also stories from communities from all over the Arctic.

As we here in Bodø wrap up our tenure as secretariat for IASSA, we extend our gratitude to all members, and wish the incoming presidency the best of luck.

See you in Bodø!

Dear members;

As I write this the Arctic Congress / ICASS XI is just around the corner. We are ready to greet about 1100 participants from very different backgrounds and expertise. As you know this is not our regular ICASS, but also includes participants from High North Dialogue and UArctic. And we have high hopes for long lasting cross-fertilization of ideas, knowledge, and collaboration.

I have high expectations that our IASSA members will be visible and bring new knowledge and ideas to the table at our upcoming congress here in Bodø. We have an opportunity to reach a broader audience this time, and perhaps we can move the research frontier to another level and ask new questions. Many of us work with co-production of knowledge and transdisciplinarity where we engage with other forms of knowledge than science to better understand global challenges. The Arctic Congress is an arena for disseminating our work in social sciences and humanities to the business sector, politicians, policy makers, natural sciences and not the least a large contingent of youth. Through pushing Arctic issues up on the agenda, we seek to stimulate interest in the Arctic amongst young researchers, and thereby recruit the next generation of Arctic scientists. The Indigenous Peoples participation is prominent on all arenas, and many representatives have been deeply involved in developing the congress program and multiple side events. Social scientists, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, have an important role to play in discussions about indigenizing research, about art, land use rights, language, involvement in research and politics, and about finding ways to address the multiple Arctic and global challenges. I hope that IASSA will continue to foster discussion and insight on these matters.

I am proud to be the President of IASSA, one of very few membership-driven organizations that has lasted this long - 34 years. This takes commitment from our members, the secretariats, and the presidents. It has been a challenge to maintain our regular activities over the past four years. Firstly, the COVID-19 pandemic stopped us completely from meeting at ICASS X in Arkhangelsk in 2020 and led to a hybrid solution in 2021. This is therefore the first time we all can meet in person since 2017! Secondly, the war in Ukraine has had the effect that about half of the Arctic is left out of the conversation about Arctic futures. It has also halted our participation in Arctic Council activities, which is our main arena for contributing knowledge, insights, and expertise. We will miss our many Russian colleagues here in Bodø, and I am confident that there will be many discussions on how we can pick up the pieces once the war is over. Let us hope this situation swiftly and justly comes to an end.

Ludger Müller-Wille, IASSA's first president and convener of ICASS I in 1992, extends his greetings and congratulations to all participants of ICASS XI with its excellent program. He says, "It is gratifying and encouraging to see that, throughout challenging times, IASSA steadfastly has maintained its spirit and pursued the goals set out in the opening address at ICASS I, almost 32 years ago, '*... to foster and create a broad forum and collegial atmosphere for interdisciplinary research and intercultural communication among the social scientists concerned with human conditions in the circumpolar regions.*' He will continue to follow IASSA with great interest, and to regard the progress and impact toward those lofty goals."

The congress ends on 1 June 2024, but I am delighted to welcome you to IASSA's the General Assembly on 2 June. The election of the new president and council starts on 27 May and all members in good standing (remember to pay your membership fee for the next three years), whether they are attending the congress or not, will receive an e-mail with a link to an online election. In this issue of Northern Notes and on our website, you will find a description of all the fine candidates who have been nominated to run for president and council. Please vote as soon as you can.

The Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 / ICASS XI takes place on Sámi homeland. We welcome you to Bodø in Lule Sámi, Pite Sámi, Norwegian and English.

Buorisboahthem Bådåddjuj ja Vuodnaj!

Burist báhthem Buwdaj Vuonan!

Velkommen til Bodø, Norge!

Welcome to Bodø, Norway!

Important: IASSA Membership

Only active members can vote for IASSA President and Council members.

IASSA is a membership-based organization and the 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 and for IASSA activities in between the meetings, including Council approved small initiatives (e.g., workshops) and limited support for the IASSA Secretariat.

To become a member of IASSA or to renew your membership go to:

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

Elections at ICASS XI: IASSA President and Council

A total of one nomination for IASSA President and seven nominations for IASSA Council members have been received by the IASSA Secretariat. Below we present the nominees.

Nominated for IASSA President 2024-2027:

Maria Ackrén

Professor in Political Science Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland



Maria is originally from the Åland Islands in Finland, where she grew up. Her BA-degree is in European Studies at Mid-Sweden University in Sundsvall, with an exchange stay at the University of Bremen in Germany. After her bachelor exam, Maria moved back to Finland for her MA-studies in Political Science at Åbo Akademi University, where she also pursued her PhD in Political Science. Her research has focused on territorial autonomy in the world with special focus on the Nordic autonomous regions, i.e. Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Åland Islands.

In 2011, Maria moved to Greenland to become an Associate Professor in Political Science at Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland, and ever since, she has been actively involved in Arctic relations and taken part in many Arctic conferences and workshop (including ICASS; Arctic Circle). Her research has taken a turn towards

Arctic relations with special focus on Greenlandic matters, both domestically but also within international relations. She has twice served as the Head of Department of Arctic Social Science and Economics. In 2020, Maria was a co-founder, together with Rasmus L. Nielsen, to establish Nasiffik – Center for Foreign- and Security Policy in Greenland, where she is the Head of Research.

Maria is committed to follow in the footsteps of previous presidents in continuing to develop IASSA as a relevant and visible organization for other international Arctic organizations and for policy makers. She finds the ICASS congresses to be central to this visibility work and as a place for IASSA-members to meet, discuss and connect. She is also committed to make ICASS a place for young researchers, students, and representatives from Arctic communities, and will seek to secure funding for their attendance at future congresses. Additionally, Maria points to the critical importance of communicating IASSA activities beyond our own circles and recruitment of new scientists for IASSA to continue its important work, and she is committed to expand IASSA's profile and membership. She therefore asks the members to elect her as the next IASSA president.

Nominations for IASSA Council 2024-2027

The IASSA Council will have 9 members; 7 members elected by majority vote during the 2024 General Assembly at ICASS XI, plus the president and past president. In order to qualify to run in the IASSA 2024 election, all candidates for IASSA Council must be a member in good standing of IASSA and be ready to participate in IASSA Council meetings and commit a substantial amount of time for IASSA affairs, including extensive discussions via e-mail correspondence.

Voting will take place after the General Assembly during the ICASS XI, part of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024, in Bodø 29 May to 2 June 2024 by secret online ballot. Only active IASSA members are eligible to vote.

Below is the list and brief statements of candidates who have been nominated or have nominated themselves to be members of the IASSA Council 2024-2027.



Aaron John Spitzer
Associate Professor of Arctic Governance, University of
Bergen (Norway)

Nominated by Gary N. Wilson

Dr. Spitzer is an excellent example of a circumpolar scholar and citizen – he has lived and worked in both academia and the media in United States (Alaska), Canada (Yukon and Northwest Territories) and Norway where he is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Politics at the University of Bergen. Dr. Spitzer received a PhD in Comparative Politics from the University of Bergen and a Master's degree in Arctic and Northern Studies from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He specializes in issues relating to Arctic governance and politics and Indigenous-state relations and has published in a wide range of academic journals, including the Canadian Journal of Political Science, Scandinavian Political Studies and the Nordic Journal of Human Rights. I firmly believe that, if elected, Dr. Spitzer will make a strong and positive contribution to the work of the IASSA Council. The Council will benefit from his wide-ranging circumpolar experience and perspective, as well as his enthusiasm for and knowledge about Arctic social sciences. I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination without reservation.



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

Negha dáꞓꞓndíh [Hello], my name is Anita Lafferty, I am a member of Liidlii Kue First Nation with deep-rooted connections to my home community and other Indigenous communities across what is now called Canada. It is with great honour that I put forth my name for the IASSA Council 2024-2027. I hold a PhD in Education from the University of Alberta (2022) focused on Indigenous Curriculum Perspectives. I am the recipient of the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the University of Alberta CRTED for 2024. Throughout my life and professional career, I have been fortunate to work closely with Elders, wisdom keepers, and community leaders who continue to guide me. My extensive experience in education and Indigenous organizations has given me valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities that Indigenous communities encounter throughout Canada. In this role, I bring a deep understanding of the cultural, social, and economic factors that impact many Indigenous Peoples. Over the course of my career, I have advocated for collaboration, sustainable educational models, and community wellness. With my experience as an educator and an advocate for change, I plan to utilize my

knowledge and skills gained from my wisdom keepers for this important role.
mahsi cho, Anita



Helena Gonzales Lindberg Senior researcher, Nordland Research Institute (Norway)

It is important to continue our work to strengthen the position of Arctic social science - also from more critical perspectives that raise questions about taken-for-granted knowledges and perspectives. My contribution is the focus on discourses about the Arctic and in particular our common-sensical use of maps to both frame and understand the region. Through my research I have visited several places in the Arctic, presented at several Arctic conferences, and gotten a wide network among early career Arctic social scientists. I have been part of IASSA's secretariat in Bodø and wish to contribute to the continuity in the organization. I have an interdisciplinary background in political science, human geography, and environmental studies, having studied at the universities of Oslo, Reykjavik, and Lund. My track-record in organizational work is long, and I have often served as a board member or chairperson in various organizations.



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

Nominated by Maria Akrén

Joan Nymand Larsen is Professor of Economics and Arctic Studies at the University of Akureyri in Iceland and affiliated at the Stefansson Arctic Institute as Senior Scientist and Research Director. She is furthermore Adjunct Professor at the Department of Arctic Social Science and Economics at Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland. She specializes in processes of economic, sustainable, and human development in the Arctic; and the human dimension of climate change risks, impacts and adaptation. She has led work on Arctic human development and the study of living conditions (AHDR I and II); and the construction of Arctic social indicators (ASI I and II). I am nominating Joan to be part of the next IASSA Council from 2024-2027. I have known Joan for many years, and she is an active Arctic researcher with a broad field of interest, and she has been part of IASSA both as former President and been a member of IASSA Council before. As an economist she will be valuable in giving the Council advice and support.



Karen (Kat) Hodgson

Postdoctoral Researcher, Dep.of Government, University of Bergen (Norway)

This may sound cheesy, but when I first discovered the existence of an organization solely focused on the social science side of the Arctic, I got really excited. Granted, I was researching Arctic politics and governance outside the Arctic region, but I was used to operating solo in my Arctic academic endeavours, so it was a joy to finally “find my people”. Since then, I have been an eager promoter of IASSA to whomever I thought might be interested. Now, I am seeking a seat on the Council because I want to officially promote IASSA while helping the Association realize its objective. I am a firm believer in the power of building bridges across boundaries, both within and beyond academia. This includes collaborating with natural scientists, Indigenous groups, policymakers, and students. Furthermore, I feel that, as a postdoctoral researcher, I can bring greater representation of early career scholars, such as PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers, to the Council. My CV will attest to my qualifications as well as my experience with administrative and leadership positions. It would be an honor to serve the IASSA Council and I thank you for your consideration.



Kamrul Hossain

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

Nominated by Maria Akrén

Kamrul Hossain is an international lawyer by training and Research Professor as well as the Director of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM) at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland. He is the Chair of the University of the Arctic’s Legal Research and Education and leads the Thematic Network on Arctic Law. Hossain holds the Adjunct Professorship of International Law at the University of Lapland. His research, which has a global impact, broadly covers international environmental law, ocean governance, and human rights laws, particularly as they apply to the Arctic. He focuses on Arctic environmental governance, specifically climate change, climate justice, and human rights applicable to Arctic Indigenous peoples. I am nominating Kamrul to be part of the next IASSA Council from 2024-2027. I am sure he will contribute to the IASSA Council in a positive way. As a lawyer

he will be responsible for going through the IASSA by-laws together with the new president and the other members of the IASSA Council.



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

Incumbent—running for 2nd term

I would like to nominate myself for the second term in the IASSA Council. My scholarly and creative work is led by Indigenous epistemologies and ways of being and is informed by the beautiful land of Kamchatka, the waters of the Pacific Ocean, the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk, and salmon. As early career scholar I found the first term in IASSA Council to be an amazing experience where I had an opportunity to grow professionally, learn from the more experienced colleagues, and develop collaborations with the leading Arctic scholars. As an IASSA council member I want to continue ensuring that Indigenous voices have welcoming spaces in the discussions of social sciences, and I will continue working on advancing the recognition of Indigenous sciences for the present and the future of the Arctic communities. I believe that my extensive experience of working in and with my community in Kamchatka and beyond will help guide the work of IASSA towards reducing existing barriers in Arctic sciences. As a current IASSA Council member I am deeply committed to bringing social sciences and Indigenous knowledge forward in the ICARP IV planning and I would want to continue this commitment in the future.



Tanguy Sandré was born in south-west France and currently lives in Normandy, France. He has been working and studying the Arctic for seven years.

The Interview: A Sceptical Optimist

Your background: Who are you?

I have a degree in Sociology and Heterodox Economics, and a double Masters in Climate Change Adaptation and Arctic Studies. My past experiences have led me to work on indigenous knowledge issues, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Center for Indigenous Knowledge Systems (South Africa). I then spent two years coordinating the transdisciplinary international Arctic conference called "Arctic Week" in Paris, which aimed to bridge indigenous and scientific knowledge. I also worked on Arctic diplomacy during a mission at the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs which lasted almost one year. Since 2020, I am a PhD Research Fellow in Social Sciences at the research laboratory CEARC, UVSQ-University Paris Saclay (France) and a visiting researcher at SVT, University of Bergen (Norway).

Current research: What are you working on related to Arctic issues?

My research aims at understanding local manifestations and experiences of environmental and climate change. I am part of two international and transdisciplinary research projects where I work with and for the community of Ittoqqortoormiit (Kalaallit Nunaat). Within the SeMPER-Arctic project (Belmont Forum, PI: Jeanne Gherardi), I am focusing on people's stories and experiences of change, how they frame and how they cope with such changes. In this project, we also intend to decolonize the concept of resilience and try to imagine what would the local meaning of such concept be. Within the PREFER project (ERC, Jean-Paul Vanderlinden), I became interested in how narratives from communities - often marginalized - express forms of resilience and ethical considerations in the face of these upheavals, framing them beyond a purely environmental or climate-based understanding. My approach is rooted in critical ethnographic work, which involves collecting the narratives of these communities during long and/or iterative stays.

In your opinion, what is important for sustainable development in the Arctic?

I think sustainable development is a highly polysemic concept, for which many critics have been expressed. I prefer to focus on what is unsustainable. The continuation of Western centrism in Arctic research and beyond is unsustainable. The power (of narrative) is still captured by mid-latitude interests and stakeholders. In my research, I see how indigenous and community-based knowledge is subalternised in Arctic policy-making and knowledge recognition. In Ittoqqortoormiit, for example, environmental controversies over narwhals make scientific knowledge and Western values matter, while local knowledge and values are subordinated and often overlooked. Beyond these epistemic injustices, any kind of injustice is unsustainable.

To return to the original question: I do not feel entitled to define what is important for the Arctic regions as I am convinced that only Arctic residents and indigenous peoples know what their needs and desires are. Addressing sustainability requires

humility: how can a social group who has traditionally embodied and reinforced unsustainable ways of being/existing set the boundaries of sustainability for other social groups that have been historically oppressed?

And what part can the social sciences play in this development?

In my opinion, Arctic research is still not sufficiently aware of historical power dynamics and how science plays a key role in actively perpetuating them. For example, it is widely documented in Kalaallit Nunaat (and beyond) that ethnography has been a strong pillar of colonialism. In my opinion, our responsibility - as representatives of a kind of epistemic power -, is to actively ask to ourselves how our work can contribute to emancipation, and for whom. This means embracing doubts and actively rejecting the ideology of neutrality in science. Affirming our values and our position, rather than hiding them, is the condition for situated knowledge, and their robustness. As a scientist, I try to shed light on invisibilized stories and to diversify the discourse on global change. It creates space for alternatives that can permanently decentralize the gaze in order to explore new ontological and epistemological resources for understanding the ongoing upheavals.

How do you envision the Arctic 30 years from now?

I am a skeptical optimist; although there exists the potential for things to be better, I am unsure whether that will actually happen (or not). Drastic changes are underway in the Arctic regions, climate-induced changes are a crucial opportunity to dismantle an exsanguinated reason - a positivist universalism, that is, a leitmotif in which reason is deprived of reflexivity and blind to its own practices of domination. In Kalaallit Nunaat, with the revelation of the spiralkampagnen, the colonial policy to sterilize kalaallit (Greenlandic) women in the 1960-70s, women have taken their space to reject Danish exceptionalism and shed light on the violence of colonization. In Sápmi, indigenous people (sometimes in coalition with radical environmentalists) are also actively fighting against colonial remnants and neo-colonialism, which sometimes comes disguised as green colonialism. These struggles hold the potential to destabilize historical dominations and to promote the well-being and sense of belonging of Arctic peoples.

What can an organization like IASSA contribute in the years to come?

I think that for an organization like IASSA, since it brings together a large number of researchers working in Arctic regions, it is crucial to create spaces for radical thinking to deconstruct/dismantle injustices and to create space for indigenous scholars. I also see the potential for IASSA to support ethical and epistemological dialogues and the dissemination of Arctic Indigenous voices. In Ittoqqortoormiit, when we made a short film with the community about the narwhal controversy, several people responded by saying: "We've been saying this for so long, now get it out there!". So to speak: An organization like IASSA can and should promote a fair dialogue with local communities.

Connect with IASSA on Twitter

IASSA has its own Twitter account [@IASSA_SocSci](#) and will reach out to anyone interested in Arctic social sciences. Follow us for news and job announcements within the field of arctic social science.

Use the following hashtags:

#IASSA for news within and about the association

#ICASSI for news about ICASS in Bodø during the Arctic Congress

#ArcticCongressBodø2024 for news and tweets about the congress

Also on Twitter:

IASSA president

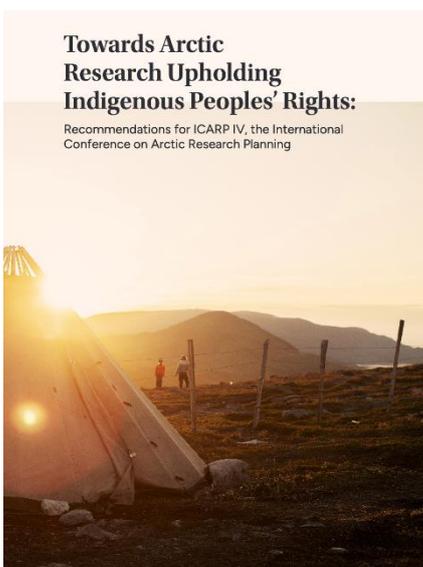
[@GreteKaare](#)

IASSA Twitter admin

[@helenagonz](#)

New publications: Towards Arctic Research Upholding Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Recommendations for ICARP IV, International Conference on Arctic Research Planning



This document is a follow up of the *Roadmap to Decolonial Arctic Research: Policy Brief for the European Commission* (Herrmann et al., 2023). The goal of the document is to provide the ICARP IV process with concrete recommendations for actions that can advance the parity and complementarity of Traditional Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, and academic scientific knowledge in order to inform the process and lead to better research outcomes for all. However, this document cannot be used as a universally applicable one-size-fits-all approach or as rigid, prescriptive guidelines. The situations of Arctic Indigenous Peoples vary significantly across the Circumpolar North due to diverse geographical, environmental, and cultural factors, which influence their distinct challenges, priorities, lifestyles, and interactions with the changing Arctic environment. Dialogues and relationship-building are key to ensure ethical and effective research practices that genuinely serve to uplift the status, rights, and roles of Arctic Indigenous Peoples.

The recommendations of this document are not only relevant for the ICARP IV process, but gives interesting insights and recommendations for all that conduct research in the Arctic.

The document consists of the following 5 chapters:

1. Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination as a prerequisite for high-quality Arctic research
2. Ethics, methods, and methodology as key for decolonial research
3. Indigenous-led research in design and practice
4. Indigenous Peoples' co-equal participation in Arctic research funding structures and decision-making for securing decolonial Arctic research in practice
5. Funding for co-creative and Indigenous-led Arctic research

Each chapter consists of a key message, concrete recommendations for action and one or more good examples.

You will find this document via this link:

<https://services.phaidra.univie.ac.at/api/object/o:2054351/preview>

Blog stories from the Arctic Research Group at Nord University



The members and associated members of the research group **Arctic Research: Context, Theories and Methodologies** have established a blog where they share their research stories from fieldwork and ongoing research projects. In particular, there are stories from active PhD students in the research group. The blog is updated approximately every 4th week.

Everyone interested in Arctic matters are more than welcome to visit the blog at:

<https://site.nord.no/arctic-research-at-nord/>

Suggest new publications within the field of Arctic social science for Northern Notes!

We are always eager to disseminate interesting reads and publications within our research field to our members. Give us a hint about your latest reading interests at IASSASecretariat@nord.no or on Twitter ([@IASSA_SocSci](https://twitter.com/IASSA_SocSci)).