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Conferences, Excursions and Other Activities in the Arctic



Letter from the President

By Maria Ackrén

Dear members,

After a long summer break, we are now heading towards a hectic and active autumn. There are several conferences that might be of interest to all the members. I am here just listing some of them. You can read more about these in the current issue, where links are provided for those that are topical. Some of us will probably see each other at various times during the autumn. I will participate in the Polar Law Symposium here in Nuuk during 22nd to 24th of October, since I am also one of the organizers together with my colleagues from University of Akureyri in Iceland. We have over 120 participants for this conference, so this is fantastic. Our secretary Norja will take part in the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik in Iceland the week before the Polar Law Symposium, 16-18 October, and then she will also join the Polar Law Symposium. Other conferences that take place in Greenland are for instance the NUNAMED Conference focused on the themes of Education and Future, 3-5 October 2025 also held in Nuuk every third year, Social Top Meeting III in Ilulissat, 8-9 October 2025, with a theme around Social relations and welfare work in the Arctic. This conference is held every second year. Furthermore, Greenland Science Week with the theme of "All Eyes on Greenland" is held 7-14 November 2025 in several places around Greenland. This conference is also held every two years. Other upcoming conferences to keep an eye on is Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø, 2-5 February 2026, Arctic Circle Rome Forum – Polar Dialogue, Italy, 3-4 March, 2026, and UArctic Congress, 26-29 May 2026 in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. We are in the process of also beginning to plan the ICASS XII Congress to be held in Nuuk in May 2027, which is of course the highlight of IASSA. On a positive note, new hotels are being built in Nuuk and hopefully we can therefore accommodate some more people for the ICASS XII Congress than we initially anticipated. There are clearly some logistical problems organizing this Congress and we will probably have to put a roof for how many participants we can have for that Congress, but more information will follow. Other events that are happening in the Arctic now are several NATO exercises under the

title of “Arctic Light”. Here in Greenland, we have experienced a lot of NATO troops coming into the country from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France and Germany. We have had visits from German and French military vessels and will have visits from NATO: s Centers of Excellence in relation to research. The Nordic Council is also visiting us with a seminar on ‘Misinformation and the future of democracy’.



Picture by Naja Lyng Møretro

Other events going on is the Nuuk International Film Festival with a lot of new films about the Arctic and indigenous peoples. A diverse program of films from various Arctic nations are at display in Katuaq in Nuuk. We can only hope that some of these films will travel around the Arctic.

From an IASSA point of view, several meetings have been held with the ISC (International Science Council) online and with the Arctic Council and its working groups online. We have also received new members, and you can read in this issue about one of them. We have been contacted by various organizations to share information about various issues which are included in this issue. Overall, we try to be active and participate in those activities that matter most for IASSA. We welcome readers and members to contact us if there is any important news that needs to be spread on the listserv or the website. Do not hesitate to contact us. The Arctic is clearly a focal point now for several reasons.

News from the IASSA Secretariat



Norja Walther is the current intern secretary of IASSA and Editor of this issue

She holds a BA in European Cultures and Society from Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany. During her studies, she moved to Greenland, where she is now pursuing a master's degree in Arctic Social Sciences at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland.

Her academic interests focus on the human, societal, and cultural dimensions of the Arctic, with an emphasis on critical perspectives addressing issues of gender, race, and colonialism. These themes are also reflected in her BA thesis, *Transcending the North-South Dichotomy: Global Perspectives on Green Colonialism*.

Looking ahead, she plans to dive deeper into decolonial research designs and pursue a PhD. Her main goal is to conduct research guided by the interests and needs of local communities, contributing to the tackling of real-life challenges in the Arctic.



Trine Gravgard Pedersen is the assistant editor of this issue and the current intern at Nasiffik – Centre for Foreign and Security Policy at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland. Here she supports day-to-day tasks, helps with the planning of both small and large events, contributes to a research project and helps run the research center's social media.

She holds a BA in Anthropology from Aarhus University and is currently in her second year of the MA in Human Security, also at Aarhus University.

Trines interests include citizen involvement, the intersections of geopolitics, environment, and social issues, and posthumanism/more-than-human perspectives. With a background in fieldwork and ethnography, she is motivated to strengthen inclusive and holistic approaches to security in the Arctic and beyond.

Connect with IASSA on Social Media

We are now on Bluesky [@iassa.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/iassa.bsky.social)

Follow us for news and announcements related to the field of Arctic Social Science

Use the following hashtag:

#IASSA for news within and about the association

Upcoming Events

Conference/Congress	Dates	Webpage
Naapinneq – Inuit Kalaallit Nunavummiullu/ Gathering – Inuit from Greenland and Nunavut	September 29th- October 9th 2025	https://iasc.info/our-work/working-groups/social-human/shwg-projects/1488-naapinneq-inuit-kalaallit-nunavummiullu-gathering-inuit-from-greenland-and-nunavut
Arctic Circle Assembly	October 16-18, 2025	https://www.arcticcircle.org/assemblies
The 18th Polar Law Symposium	October 22-24, 2025	https://uk.uni.gl/events/indigenous-rights-autonomy-empowerment-environment/
Svalbard Science Conference	October 28-29, 2025	https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/svalbard-science-forum/conference/
Greenland Science Week	November 10-16, 2025	https://www.scienceweek.gl/
Second Nordic Association for European Studies Conference	November 27-28, 2025	TBA, Roskilde University & Nordic Association for European Studies
Arctic Frontiers	February 2-5, 2025	https://arcticfrontiers.com/
Climate and Cryosphere – Open Science Conference	February, 9-12, 2025	https://clic2026.com/
Arctic Circle Rome Forum – Polar Dialogue	March 3-4, 2026	https://www.arcticcircle.org/forums
Arctic Science Summit Week	March 25 - April 1, 2025	https://assw.info/about
UArctic Congress and Assembly	May 25-31, 2026	https://www.uarctic.org/about-us/calendar/uarctic-congress-and-assembly-2026/
ICASS XII Congress	May 2027	TBA, Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland

Share Your Conference & Workshop Experiences!

Have you recently attended a conference or workshop relevant to Arctic social sciences? We'd love to hear about it! Share your insights and experiences with the IASSA community by reaching out to our secretary at ncwa@uni.gl.

Announcements & Opportunities

IASC Fellowship Program

The [International Arctic Science Committee \(IASC\)](#), in cooperation with the [Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation](#) and the [Association of Polar Early Career Scientists \(APECS\)](#), is launching its IASC Fellowships Program 2026. The IASC Fellowship Program is meant to engage early career researchers in the work of the IASC Working Groups (WGs):

- [Atmosphere](#) Working Group (AWG),
- [Cryosphere](#) Working Group (CWG),
- [Marine](#) Working Group (MWG),
- [Social & Human](#) Working Group (SHWG)
- [Terrestrial](#) Working Group (TWG)

Indigenous Fellows will also be invited to join the [IASC Standing Committee on Indigenous Involvement \(SCII\)](#) throughout their Fellowship period.

In total, 8 IASC Fellowships will be offered for 2026:

- Six IASC Fellowships:
 - five regular IASC Fellowships: one Fellow for each of the five IASC Working Groups.
 - one IASC Indigenous Fellowship: for an early career Arctic Indigenous Scholar or Knowledge Holder
- Two IASC-FPA2 Fellowships, generously funded by the [Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation](#) (PA2F) as part of the [Polar Initiative](#):
 - one IASC-FPA2 Indigenous Fellowship for an early career Arctic Indigenous Scholar or Knowledge Holder.

- one IASC-FPA2 Science Diplomacy Fellowship for an early career researcher with an interest / background in science diplomacy.

The deadline for applications for all fellowships is 20 October 2025 at 18:00 GMT. Find out more about the Fellowships and how to apply for them on the [IASC website](#) and [APECS website](#).

The IASC Fellowship Coordinator Armina Soleymani will hold an IASC Fellowships 2026 Information Session for those interested in applying to the Fellowships on 26 September 2026 from 16:00 - 17:00 GMT ([registration link](#)).

More information on the IASC Fellowship Program is available on the [IASC website](#).

IASSA Indigenous Aunties Mentorship Program

“As Aunties, we carry the stories, wisdom, and laughter of our ancestors. Through this program, we aim to pass these gifts to the next generations, knowing they will carry them in the most beautiful and meaningful ways”.

This mentorship program is aimed at providing support to early-career Indigenous scholars. Through the creation of an inclusive space within IASSA, we bring forth distinct experiences and knowledge in a gathering space that centers our Indigenous ways of knowing. As we gather, we understand that we are kin within the Arctic regions—aunties, uncles, cousins, Elders, Wisdom keepers—that are guided by this deep-rooted responsibility to guide and support future generations.

Rooted in the values of kinship and walking together, the IASSA Auntie Mentorship Program seeks to create a nurturing circle where emerging scholars, researchers, educators, storytellers, and community members are guided by auntie wisdom, experience, and heart knowledge. The goal is to foster a community of care that honours matriarchal leadership centering the spirit of reciprocity for future generations. In our home communities, as we come together

and gather in spaces, it is our Aunties who are often the ones that bring the spirit of laughter, enlightenment, and encouraging words, and with this intent we want to continue this notion of auntie wisdom as we gather. Aunties have special roles in our communities including providing support, guidance, and advice. This relationship is rooted in trust and carries on across generations. The notion of *'Auntie'* ties us together in relation as kin gathering in spaces of unfamiliarity where the presence of having aunties makes it feel familiar again. As Aunties, we want to carry this notion forward to early career researchers and community members who join us as a place to celebrate and honour our journeys together; with wisdom, fierceness, and joy.

Mission: the core mission of this program is to ignite, support and uplift early career researchers (ECRs), community members and the next generations through culturally grounded mentoring that will:

- Uplift and carry forward Indigenous ways of knowing, learning, and sharing.
- Strengthen personal growth and professional development rooted in Indigenous identity, values, and community.
- Assist in navigating the IASSA space and conferences.
- Create a welcoming space that centers care, meaning, and brings joy as a way forward in the academic journey.

Program Description:

The IASSA Aunties Mentoring Program is designed to support Indigenous ECRs, educators, storytellers, and community members to navigate their personal and professional journeys. Guided by aunties—alongside respected Elders, wisdom keepers, community leaders and matriarchs—participants will engage in a holistic learning and mentoring supports that are grounded in Indigenous teachings and experiences. We welcome Indigenous scholars—including Elders, wisdom keepers, aunties, uncles, cousins—to come alongside us as we learn and grow in community kinscapes¹ that centre our

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worldviews, kinship relations, place, stories and knowledge as Arctic relatives.

The program will emphasize holistic learning through relational gatherings and shared experiences. Through this initiative, we plan to create a strong, dynamic Indigenous network of scholars in social sciences. We will establish this through the following:

- Developing an *Indigenous Journey Alongside IASSA-Guidance Book* in 2025-2026
- Ask Aunty a question - Indigenous early-career scholars are invited to ask questions to aunts in relation to IASSA or ICASS processes and participation through contacting them via email.
- Fall 2026- aunts will host a virtual gathering circle that will aim to bring together early-career and more experienced Indigenous scholars, aunts, and knowledge keepers to build relationships and discuss the upcoming participation in ICASS XII.
- Spring/summer 2027 - In-person gathering during ICASS XII, Nuuk, Greenland. The goal of this gathering will be celebrating Indigenous knowledges and scholarship.

¹ Kinscapes. (Nathalie Kermao)

PECWS Synthesis Report released: explore early career perspectives on polar research priorities

We are thrilled to announce the release of the [Polar Early Career World Summit \(PECWS\) Synthesis Report](#), a comprehensive summary of conversations that happened before, during, and after PECWS. This document captures the collective voice of 238 early career polar researchers from around the world and their priorities for long-term research planning. In March 2025, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the Polar Science Early Career Community Office (PSECCO) co-hosted PECWS in Boulder, Colorado, USA, alongside the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW)

2025 and Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV). This gathering brought together polar early career individuals to identify shared priorities for research planning within the polar community, with a particular focus on contributions to the ICARP IV process in 2025-2026 and the Fifth International Polar Year (IPY-5) in 2032-2033. The report presents collated input from the summit and associated online engagement opportunities that reflect the diverse backgrounds, disciplines, and perspectives of the polar early career community.



To show broad community support for the priorities outlined in this report, PSECCO and APECS invite individuals to add their endorsement to the report through fall 2026. Interested individuals can add their endorsement through [this online form](#).

We encourage institutional partners and individual polar community members to review these findings and consider how they can be implemented to advance polar science and processes that enable us to tackle urgent research questions responsibly. The integration of this input into IPY-5 planning will require the intentional work of the broader community, not just the polar early career individuals who wrote it.

Recruiting of students and mentors: The Navigating the New Arctic Research Experience for Undergraduate Students (NNA REU)

The Navigating the New Arctic Community Office (NNA-CO) invites Alaska undergraduate students to apply for a [short intensive research experience program](#) focused on exploring Western and Indigenous science methods of studying how a changing climate

impacts Arctic communities. More information on the research experience can be found on our [program webpage](#).

Call for Students: Join us for a hybrid research experience for Alaska community college and university undergraduate students during **spring semester, 2026**. This year's program will be held virtually January 2 & 5, asynchronously ~5 hours/week throughout January, and in-person in Anchorage, in conjunction with the Alaska Forum conference. Students will receive graduate credit from the University of Colorado and a \$1,200 stipend to work with Arctic researchers and local community members to equitably generate knowledge about the natural and built environments, cultures, and communities of the Arctic. Applications are due by 11:59pm MT Wednesday, November 19, 2025. [Apply here](#) or [sign up](#) to receive updates and email reminders about the application deadline.

Call for Mentors: Are you attending the **Alaska Forum** this February, or would you like to? We're seeking mentors to guide 2–3 undergraduate students (as a group) as they engage in hands-on, community-connected Arctic research! Mentors can be community members involved in research, graduate students, postdocs, or research faculty. Mentors will develop a mini research experience for their mentees using existing datasets from their own work that integrate Indigenous ways of knowing and Western scientific approaches. They will meet with students online on January 2 or 5 for 1–2 hours, hold a few virtual check-ins throughout January, and work with them in person during the Alaska Forum to finalize their projects and presentations. Mentors will receive a **\$500 stipend and conference registration** (travel costs not included). If interested, please reach out to alicia.christensen@colorado.edu.

Opportunities to Engage: Arctic Research Plan 2027-2031 Development Process

The Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC), chaired by the National Science Foundation, is currently seeking public input on U.S. national research needs in the Arctic. This feedback will be

used to inform the development of the next five-year, U.S. National Arctic Research Plan for 2027-2031.

As part of this public input period, IARPC will be hosting a series of thematic Arctic Research Plan listening sessions to gather feedback connected to IARPC Collaboration Team activities. [To register for these virtual sessions, please see the full list of scheduled listening sessions and their event pages here.](#)

Each session will include an overview of the 2027-2031 Arctic Research Plan development process and a brief introduction to the hosting IARPC team(s) and their current work. The majority of the sessions will be discussion-based, and an opportunity to hear from you on research needs and priorities to be considered for the next plan. Anyone with an interest in Arctic research is welcome! **We highly encourage the international research community to submit input.**

Session discussion notes will be captured, summarized, and submitted as input. You may also submit your comments regarding the 2027-2031 Arctic Research Plan directly via the [Federal Register Notice](#) or by email to IARPCPlan@nsf.gov.

IASSA Membership Renewal - Stay connected with the Arctic social sciences community!

IASSA is a membership fee-based association. Your IASSA membership supports the **International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS)**, the **Northern Notes** newsletter, and IASSA's representation at the **Arctic Council** as well as other arenas where we want to be heard.

- ◇ **Full Membership:** €120 (3 years)
- ◇ **Associate Membership:** €60 (retired/unemployed, 3 years)
- ◇ **Student Membership:** €30 (3 years)

Click [Become a Member](#) to pay your membership and support the work of IASSA

[Subscribe to our listserv](#) to receive updates and the *Northern Notes* newsletter via email



Survey: Science under Pressure

We would like to invite you as a polar researcher to take part in the survey **Science under Pressure - Reflecting on conditions, practices and institutional structures for sustainable polar research**. It takes around 8-9 minutes.

In this survey, we would like to ask you a number of questions about the conditions you face as a polar researcher in your work environment. This questionnaire aims to initiate a discussion that will be continued in the next years at a variety of polar science fora discussing the directions and need for structural reforms of academia in the polar research context. While we recognize that there are external political pressures on polar researchers, this survey focuses on institutional structures and issues within the polar research community.

Click [here](#) to go to the **survey**, it is open until the end of October.

Read more about Science under Pressure and the context of this initiative at our [website](#).

Context Within both the ICARP IV process and the first IPY-5 document, ambitions are high, for instance regarding co-creation of (working with different) knowledge (systems), international cooperation, more holistic research approaches, contribution of science to address climate, environmental and societal problems and more communication and outreach activities. Furthermore,

there is an increasing awareness that research should be conducted in an environmentally sustainable as well as healthy way.

At the same time, rapid action and complex research requirements put scientists under pressure in terms of the existing mismatch of the conventional environment in academia with high-speed production and precarious working conditions for many.

We think it is important and timely to rethink how we want to organise the knowledge production process in the future. Can we reduce detrimental speed in science and take more time for high quality work? Currently little attention is given to reduce pressure on the research community, the individual researchers as well as on the Indigenous Peoples involved in science.

Our main goal is to develop evidence-based improvements to the status quo in polar research structures. In other words, the IPY-5 program should be drawing on best practices and IPY-5 objectives must be consistent with the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion and promote collaborative, co-productive, culturally sensitive and sustainable approaches to research. This also means that employment conditions and institutional structures in polar research must be improved to meet the mentioned ambitions.

Feel free to spread this invitation within your networks!

Thank you for your contribution!

The SuP core team,

Annette Scheepstra (Lead), Arctic Centre, University of Groningen, Netherland

Inga Beck, SCAR EDI AG, LMU Munich, Germany

Sophie Elixhauser, University of Vienna, Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI)

Alison Perrin, Yukon University, Canada

Gertrude Saxinger, University of Graz, Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI)

Emerging Scholars & Research

Sara Olsvig: Win the hearts and minds - Superpower influence on national self-determination – How relations between Greenland and the United States affect Greenland’s selfdetermination in times of increased international focus and tension in the Arctic
PhD, Institute of Social Science, Economics & Journalism at the Department of Arctic Social Science & Economics



Through the methodological approaches of case studies and process tracing analysis, the PhD thesis examines how relations between the United States (U.S.) (a superpower) and Greenland (portrayed in the analysis as a small State-like polity) affects Greenland’s self-determination in times of increased international focus and tension in the Arctic. Employing Putnam’s two-level game theory (1998), and action space theories (Mouritzen 2006, Petersen 2005), the three analytical articles of the thesis conclude that Greenland’s action

space is ambiguous: Greenland has widened its action space in relation to Denmark through deliberate, direct negotiations with the U.S., while the action space is delimited by the greater overall geopolitical conditions affecting the U.S. interests in Greenland, as they change due to the homeland security interests of the U.S. The thesis examines how and when Greenland’s action space is widened or limited by external and internal factors in the trilateral Greenland-Denmark-U.S. relationship. The analysis furthermore discusses how the three parties engage in a new form of interlocking, two-level game, where Greenland and the U.S. engages more directly as opposed to Greenland formerly engaging Denmark from a subnational position. In the interlocking two-level game, Greenland

is positioned equally to Denmark and the U.S., and by navigating well-known incentives for bargaining for win-sets, the three parties interlock each other in a new form of two-level game. This happens as each of their interests at level one (international negotiations) overlap, while each fulfils the interests of their constituents at level two (domestic level), making it possible to sign agreements.

The thesis analyzes the increasingly direct cooperation and relationship between Greenland and the U.S., carved out as Greenland has demanded a greater say towards Denmark on foreign policy, security and defense affairs. The thesis analysis is based on case studies of events taking place from 2014 to 2021, where all three actors are at play in different ways. The analysis employs a rationalist theoretic approach to negotiations between Greenland and the U.S., and in some cases between Greenland, the U.S. and Denmark. The thesis includes a constructivist backdrop in the form of two chapters laying out the historical relationships between Greenland and Denmark, and between Greenland and the U.S. The first background chapter establishes the norms, roles and legitimacy of Greenland as an independent actor, while the second background chapter analyzes the relationship seen through the lens of U.S. securitization acts towards Greenland during the past two centuries.

The empirical as well as theoretical findings of the thesis contribute to a better understanding of how Greenland has navigated its action space in times of increased geopolitical tension in the Arctic. It provides insight into the decision-making processes in Greenland's engagements with the U.S. and Denmark, including the thinking behind its decisions and political aspirations. The process tracing analysis leads to a causal graph displaying the steps needed for Greenland to engage more directly and bilaterally with the U.S., but the question of Denmark's involvement is a paradox in this new relationship because the need for Denmark's involvement is viewed differently by the parties involved from case to case. The thesis concludes that Greenland is balancing a thin line of self-determination by testing its action space, and that Denmark,

sometimes deliberately, sometimes not, supports Greenland's wider room for maneuverings.

The thesis includes a discussion of how this analysis contributes to a decolonial approach to International Relations (IR) studies by employing an understanding of Greenland acting as a State-like polity, engaging in negotiations analyzed with a rationalist approach that previously has been applied to sovereign States. It furthermore includes an outlook beyond the timeframe of the study, based on the expressions of U.S. geopolitical interests in Greenland taking place as the thesis was finalized in the spring of 2025. [Find the PhD Thesis here](#)

Ana Belén López Tárraga: The European policies for the Arctic Region: A multiscale perspective based on convention theory



This doctoral thesis,, presented as a compilation of publications, analyzes the European Union's Arctic policies in the 21st century using the theory of orders of justification (convention theory) by Boltanski and Thévenot. The study follows a multiscale approach: EU communications on the Arctic (2008, 2012, 2016, 2021), Spain's actions in the region, and three INTERREG projects in Finnish Lapland.

The research applies qualitative methods, including content analysis of policy documents, interviews with key informants, and questionnaires with project participants.

Theoretically, the results show that convention theory is a valuable tool for understanding international relations, since organizations and states act according to the seven orders of justification: industrial, market, domestic, public, civic, ecological, and inspirational.

Empirically, findings reveal that domestic, ecological, and civic conventions initially shaped EU Arctic policy, but geopolitical changes (China's rise, Ukraine war, Covid-19, U.S. stance) and climate impacts (trade routes, resource access) shifted emphasis toward industrial and market logics. Even ecological and inspirational actions, such as sustainability and research, are framed as compromises with economic interests.

The thesis concludes that the EU must update its Arctic strategy, Spain should better coordinate its scientific actions, and regional projects need less bureaucracy and greater continuity to maximize their impact.

Regarding the short report, what length should it have? We will work to send it to you within the deadline you indicated. We will also send you some images from the event, so that you can use them if you find them useful. [Find the PhD Thesis here](#)

Features

Interview with: Annapia Ferrara

Annapia Ferrara (she/her) is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment based at the University of Pisa (IT), Italy



Can you introduce us to your research background in social science and your main interest in the field?

My research background in the social sciences is transdisciplinary by nature, shaped by an academic path crosscutting tourism and food systems. Indeed, I first specialized in tourism studies, with a particular attention to destination planning and management. It is during my doctoral studies that I delved in the interconnections between tourism and agri-food systems, by examining how agri-food tourism practices driven by social entrepreneurship can generate social benefits for local

communities, particularly for vulnerable individuals in terms of social and work inclusion.

Building on this foundation, my broader research interest lies in exploring the role of social innovation in driving sustainable transition in rural, inner, and extremely peripheral areas which, at different levels, share intertwined environmental and social challenges that require context-sensitive co-created solutions. In doing this, I am particularly interested in conducting research for and with communities whose voices are often underrepresented in mainstream debates.

Concerning approaches and methods, my research draws on *Participatory Action-Research*, and engages closely with local multi-stakeholder perspectives to explore roots of specific issues and identify possible pathways towards solutions. I generally rely on case study methodology and qualitative research approach, which can support a rich understanding of complex phenomena, possibly complemented by *Social Network Analysis*, which I started to use to explore the structures and actors' interactions within local ecosystems.

What sparked your interest in the Arctic?

My research originates in, and is mostly focused on Mediterranean contexts. My interest in the Arctic began in 2021 when, during my doctoral studies, I undertook a research stay at the School of Business and Economics in Tromsø, Norway, which specializes in



Picture taken in Sami community in Ramfjordbotn, Norway

sustainable tourism. During that period, I gained deeper insights into the major sustainability challenges of the Arctic tourism, especially regarding the environmental impacts and social implications for local communities. It was also on this occasion that I was first introduced to the Sámi culture, an experience that further inspired my interest in the social and cultural dimensions of the Arctic. Since this game-changing

experience, I have continued to read about Arctic-related research of my interest, and to deepen my knowledge through dialogue with researchers working on similar topics. This also led to some collaborations. For instance, I took part to a dialogue initiated by the Nordland Research Institute on the need for further research concerning Indigenous people with disabilities in the Arctic, an important yet underrepresented topic, which resulted in a recent scientific publication (available [here](#)). Last year, I also engaged with the International Polar Tourism Research Network, following its activities, and keeping up to date with recent developments in the field. Around the same period, I decided to join the IASSA as a member, eager to engage with a vibrant community of social scientists to support the Arctic research.

How do you see your work connected to Arctic societies and regions? Are there any particular research questions or collaborations you are most eager to pursue in the future?

Building on my studies, the research line I would like to further develop within the Arctic regions is strongly connected to social inclusion in the context of tourism and agri-food systems. Particular collaboration would be with social scientists interested in related topics, but also with scholars from other disciplines, in order to foster an innovative approach to the exploration of this topic. *How does tourism influence agri-food systems in the Arctic? What opportunities does it bring for Arctic societies to strengthen resilience while preserving cultural and environmental integrity? What is the current state of international cooperation for socially inclusive tourism practices and agri-food systems in the Arctic regions? And what is the role in social entrepreneurship in the Arctic for social inclusion of vulnerable people?"* are some of the questions I am interested in.

How has shifting your research focus from non-Arctic regions to the Arctic influenced your perspectives or approaches?

This question opens up important reflections for me and my research journey. Approaching Arctic regions from geographically, and culturally different contexts has strengthened my conviction (and this is something I believe resonates widely), that sustainability

challenges cannot be addressed through single or universally applicable solutions.

At a personal level, working across such different contexts naturally prompts a self-reflective exercise about how I engage with knowledge. Indeed, shifting between regions invites me to revisit familiar questions, and rethink and refining the knowledge I have built over time. Questions such as *(more) sustainable for whom? What truly matters to this community? And what is the specific context in which the community is embedded?* become even more central. At the same time, the research experience in Mediterranean regions, which are shaped by distinct socio-economic systems, provides me with an “outsider” perspective when looking at Arctic territories, which I hope can contribute to the broader Arctic research.

Despite of this, my genuine curiosity for the Arctic regions is accompanied by a strong awareness to embark on a journey in which I have much to learn, first and foremost regarding specific ethical research practices for interacting with different stakeholders, which would contribute to the ongoing personal reflection and growth as a researcher within the environments in which I operate.

How do you hope to engage with the IASSA community as a new member?

For me, becoming a member of the IASSA represents a significant opportunity to engage with researchers exploring similar thematic areas. I particularly value the association’s Working Groups, which I consider essential platforms for the exchange of ideas and the advancement of ongoing academic debates.

I certainly am eager to contribute my knowledge and expertise to fellow researchers through collaborative studies and projects. I hope to participate in research visiting or attend summer and winter schools focused on tourism and agri-food systems in Arctic regions. These experiences provide meaningful opportunities to deepen knowledge through concrete case studies, while fostering enriching connections also with other early career researchers.

New NordForsk Project Started: Lost-to-Climate

The Lost-to-Climate project (LostToClimate) has recently started and is one of nine projects funded through NordForsk's joint call *Sustainable Development of the Arctic*. Its full title is *Addressing Unavoidable Non-Economic Losses to Climate-Induced Events for Communities in the Arctic*. You can follow the project on the website (<https://www.losttoclimate.org/>), newsletter, and social media channels.

The Arctic is warming at more than twice the global average, causing coastal erosion, permafrost thaw, wildfires, and sea-ice loss. These changes create both economic losses (such as damaged infrastructure) and non-economic losses—including cultural heritage, mental health, and community identity. While the former are often counted in policy debates, the latter are largely neglected, despite their profound impact on well-being and community resilience.

LostToClimate seeks to bridge this gap by exploring:

1. What types of non-economic losses and damages can be expected in Arctic communities?
2. What trade-offs between adaptation and unavoidable losses are acceptable to communities?
3. What evidence is needed to inform fair and just responses?
4. What types of responses do communities themselves prefer?

The project is led by Rico Kongsager (University College Copenhagen, Denmark), and brings together 11 partners across 9 Nordic and Arctic countries, including Finland, Sweden, Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Canada, and the United States. Several Indigenous communities are central partners.

Using ethnographic and art-based methods, the project emphasizes knowledge co-production—placing scientists and local communities on equal footing to generate insights that are both academically rigorous and socially meaningful.

By highlighting the overlooked dimensions of non-economic loss, LostToClimate aims to strengthen adaptation strategies and support Arctic communities in navigating an uncertain future.

This project has received funding from the [NordForsk](#) Sustainable Development of the Arctic Programme. Grant Agreement No. 213038, we acknowledge the support of the Government of Canada's ([TIPS-SPIIE](#)) New Frontiers in Research Fund ([Hashtag#NFRF](#)), [NFRF]-2024-00014]

Reflections on: Arctic Future Pathfinders

Reflections on: [UiT Arctic Future Pathfinders](#), Leg 1, One Ocean Expedition on Staatsraad Lehmkuhl from Nuuk to St. Johns, Canada, and parts of Leg 2, in Edmonton and Ikaluktutiaq Nunavut (Cambridge Bay), Canada, as an Indigenous youth educator and student by MA Indigenous Studies student Miyuki Qiajunnguaq Daorana

A sunny day on the 4th of August in Nuuk, Greenland, we loaded the ship Staatsraad Lehmkuhl with 60 students, around 40 researchers, and around 30 staff. The voyage is a course organized by UiT the Arctic University of Norway, called Arctic Future Pathfinders. Coming from different academic fields and countries, the goal of the course was interdisciplinary learning about the Arctic environment, culture, politics, and lives.

To introduce myself, I am Miyuki Qiajunnguaq Daorana, born and raised in Qaanaaq and Nuuk, the northernmost town and the capital

city of Kalaallit Nunaat, Greenland. My mother is Japanese, and my father is an Inuk from the Inughuit community, a subgroup of Inuit located in Northwest Kalaallit Nunaat.

Inuit Nunaat, the Inuit homelands are largely spread over Kalaallit Nunaat, Canada, Alaska and Russia of the Circumpolar North, across diverse ecosystem, and nations that differ in political, geographical, and economic terms.



Picture from ICC | ICC Alaska

I was nominated and invited by the Indigenous Secretariat of the Arctic Council and the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the only student and educator from Inuit Nunaat among students from 18 different countries. I initially accepted the nomination as I learned that prior to me, my family and ancestors have travelled through the Northwest Passage with other expeditionists. Although their journey on the same oceans and lands were different from mine.

Power Imbalances, Dark side of Expeditions



Picture from: One Ocean Expedition 2025-2026 - One Ocean Expedition

Back in time, expeditioners and explorers *exploited* Inuit and our home. An expedition is widely known as a journey for researchers and explorers to “discover” places and set foot on “untouched” areas. However, there is always a side of history that is hidden and unincluded, namely the Indigenous realities.

Sails, ropes, and masts look cool, but they can be triggering to many Indigenous communities. As an example, in 1900s in Kalaallit Nunaat, Alnyah’s body was tightly bound at her feet, legs and torso hanging from the foremast of the expedition ship, next to two white men smiling¹. Expeditioners from around the world, have stolen artefacts for museums and research, experimented on the people and put them in zoos².

Therefore, Research, Expeditions, Universities, and Sciences are not neutral concepts. They are connected to exploitation, violation of human rights, and colonisation. These perspectives and realities are often untaught and unacknowledged, in which I wanted to change by participating and educating on board and on land.

¹ Read Further on: Hulan, Renée. 2023. “Alnyah’s People: Archival Photographs from West Greenland, 1908-1909”. *Interventions*, 25(8), pp. 1088–1109. DOI: 10.1080/1369801X.2023.2169621

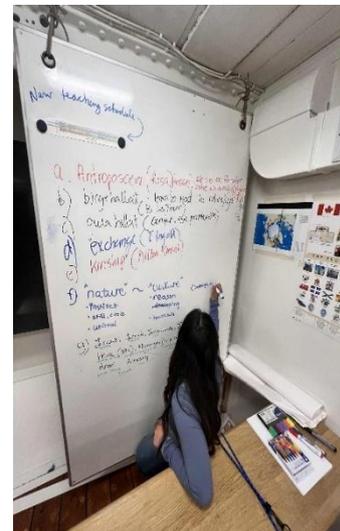
² Linda Thuwai Smith, 1950-. (1999). *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London; New York: Dunedin: New York :Zed Books; University of Otago Press; distributed in the USA exclusively by St Martin's Press. Pages, 21-26, 41-43 & 68-74.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems

In addition to this, the other focus in my teaching was on Inuit knowledge systems rooted in my hometowns in Kalaallit Nunaat.

The Inuit knowledge systems are created through our bodily interactions and lived experiences with the Arctic environments, beings, and societies. We have a close relationship with nature which shapes our way of life and worldview. I have often used my mother tongue, Inuktun (Northwest Greenlandic), to help people understand. As an example, we have *Hila/Sila*, meaning *climate, weather, world, and universe, but also consciousness and inner self*, all in one word. This word indicates how everything is interconnected, how our inner self is connected to the outer world. This can help us understand and view our agency in this world, like how we affect the climate crisis, and the climate crisis affects us.

Both the ship and the land-based learning were on Inuit oceans and lands. On both Leg's my goal and role were to connect these categorised fields from an Indigenous perspective, specifically giving perspectives on power-relations, human rights, and interconnectedness.



Pictures by Vincent Denariè and Norja Walther, teaching on board.

More Than Just Educating

As previously mentioned, I was the only Inuk educator and student on board, and in Nunavut we were two Inuk students and young knowledge-holders, together with around a handful of local Indigenous elders, and more during community events.

On board on the ship, I was quite busy teaching every third or second day three times a day together with Jan Erik Henriksen, a Saami elder educator. On top of that, I participated in the scheduled courses and eight hours of sailing daily. On land, I was no longer officially an educator, but I still gave inputs and teachings as I was spontaneously invited by other educators to add Inuit and Indigenous perspectives, in which I always accepted as I personally find it hard to miss opportunities to create awareness and educate. In Edmonton and Ikaluktutiaq, it was enriching to learn from Inuit elders like Pamioq George, Navalik Tologanak, and Sam about resiliency. There were tears of hardship, empathy, heaviness, hope and happiness, as the elders open heartedly talked about the atrocities that the Canadian government has done to them. In Ikaluktutiaq, we learned about different conditions of sea ice, biodiversity, residential schools, mental health, and post- and neo-colonialism. Very relevant and important topics. As one elder expressed it, we Indigenous peoples, we educate for survival, and I think the topics we have learned and taught are crucial. *Learning about the Arctic is not just a topic or an interest, it is about our home and our lives.*

Therefore, sensitivity training and awareness practices are crucial for all, not only to humanise learning but also to create meaningful and rich collaborations engraved in trust and responsibility. On top of the teachings and learnings, there was a high emotional labour. One day, I made a spontaneous sensitivity awareness on suicide issues: A legacy of colonialism maintained through continuous oppression³. It was highly emotionally demanding, as I have personally lost count of how many dear ones I have lost to suicide.

It is important to fairly include and enhance voices of local and Indigenous perspectives, to avoid minority and research fatigue. A voyage and course about the Arctic, need Arctic people on board, for rich and qualitative knowledge, a holistic overview, and for safety and security. There is significance in experiential and life-long intergenerational knowledge that is incomparable to the knowledge that you carry from books and lectures.

I wish there were more dedicated space and time for reflective and generative dialogues to bridge the different disciplines and backgrounds, and to actively bridge Indigenous and Western knowledges.

Through all of that, it was heartwarming to feel at home in Ikaluktutiaq, 2.000 kilometres away from Kalaallit Nunaat, it was warming to meet people who have a similar culture to you, a similar sense of humour, and amazing soul food! I was amazed every time we talked in our mother tongues, and we could understand each other. Learning about their fascinating techniques and methods of hunting and fishing.

All in all, I am genuinely thankful to have participated in Arctic Future Pathfinders, and I think it was utmost transformative and enriching to co-create time and space for human-to-human learning and interacting. That is the most important thing I want to take with me both from the ship and Nunavut.

³ Linda Thuwai Smith, 1950-. (1999). *Decolonizing Methodologies : Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London ; New York : Dunedin : New York : Zed Books ; University of Otago Press ; distributed in the USA exclusively by St Martin's Press. Pages, 109-113.

Review: Lisbon hosts the I Latin Polar Workshop

An event designed to connect, share, and, above all, highlight the work carried out by non-Arctic states in polar regions. With these objectives in mind, the First Latin Polar Workshop was held on October 1–2 at the Military University Institute (IUM) in Lisbon. Around 100 people attended, either in person or online, to hear from a diverse lineup of speakers. Attendees included students, professors, military personnel, and individuals with a strong interest in polar affairs. As a hybrid event, it allowed participation from people across the globe. Participants joined from countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Spain, United States, among others.

The two-day program was structured around six thematic panels, focusing on international cooperation, natural sciences, security, Arctic-Antarctic connections, science-policy dialogue, and the work

carried out by polar research centers. In addition, there were presentations on the work of the Atlantic Centre and the Portuguese Navy's experience in the Arctic. A poster exposition also offered space for researchers to present ongoing studies.



some participants in the workshop

Breaking down the program by day:

On Wednesday, October 1, the event was officially opened by Professor Isabel Nunes, Director of the National Defence Institute (IDN), Rear Admiral Nuno de Noronha Bragança, Director of the Atlantic Centre, and Céline Rodrigues, PhD candidate at NOVA FCSH-UNL and doctorate student at IPRI-NOVA. Following the opening remarks, Rear Admiral Nuno de Noronha Bragança gave the keynote speech "All Atlantic Community – From North to South," sharing the Atlantic Centre's vision and experience.

The first panel focused on International Cooperation in the Antarctic, moderated by Céline Rodrigues, with the participation of Daniela Sampaio (Marie Curie Post Doctoral Fellow – HIMBF, Brazil), Paula Matos (Researcher at IGOT, University of Lisbon), and Antonio Quesada (Executive Director of the Spanish Polar Committee). Each speaker offered insights on collaborative scientific and diplomatic efforts in Antarctica.

The second panel, titled "Being in the Field in the Arctic: Easy Task for Natural Sciences?", was moderated by Ana Belén (University of Salamanca) and explored the human and logistical challenges of conducting research in the Arctic. Professor Paulo Câmara,

Associated Professor of University of Brasilia shared the experience of being in the Arctic, expressing the difficulties and the importance of preparation for such expeditions, both in the Arctic and Antarctic.

After a short break, the focus shifted to security in the panel “Arctic and Atlantic: A Matter of Security in the North and South”, again moderated by Céline Rodrigues. This session featured Captain Leonardo Mattos (Brazilian Navy), Professor Ana Manero Salvador.

To close the first day, Captain (Navy) Baptista Pereira, shared and presented the Portuguese Navy’s mission in the Arctic that happened in 2024 under NATO’s umbrella.

On Thursday, October 2, the day began with the panel “Connecting Ocean, Poles and Space”, moderated by Colonel António Eugénio (IDN, Portugal), in which panel the glaciologist Jefferson Simões (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil) and Miguel Miranda, Executive Director of the Air Centre, Portugal, both explained the importance of the ocean and ice as well as their relevance in the Earth system.



The following session, “Communication Between Science and Decision Making Regarding the Poles”, addressed the gaps between scientific knowledge and political decision-making. This session was moderated by Minister Fausto López Crozet (DNPEA) from Argentina. The speakers Ana Flávia Barros-Plataiu, Professor Licinia Simão from University of Brasilia and Carlos Lopes Ortiz, Deputy Director-General for Multilateral

Economic Relations and Maritime, Air and Terrestrial Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, presented the difficulties in having science heard by policy decision-makers.

The final panel focused on the role of polar research centres, moderated by Carmen Fonseca (IPRI-NOVA, Portugal). Speakers

included Paulo Câmara from Núcleo de Estudos Polares da Escola Superior de Defesa (NEPESD) and Antonio Quesada from Spanish Polar Committee.

The closing remarks were presented by Céline Rodrigues (PhD candidate at NOVA FCSH-UNL and doctorate student at IPRI-NOVA) and professor Carmen Fonseca, Director of the Portuguese Institute of International Relations, IPRI-NOVA, Portugal. Both have shared the will of future events that project Latin science and specifically in the poles.

The workshop concluded with a poster session, where current research projects were available via QR Codes. The session provided a platform for early-career researchers to share their work and engage with colleagues from different disciplines. The posters are available at this [link](#).

Organizers

The workshop was organized by Latin Polar Science, in collaboration with the Portuguese National Defence Institute (IDN), the Atlantic Centre, the Military University Institute (IUM), and the Portuguese Institute of International Relations (IPRI-NOVA). It also received support from the Polar Studies Centre of the Brazilian Superior School of Defense (NEPESD), the Polar Research & Policy Initiative (UK), the Osservatorio Artico (Italy), the Institute of International Relations at the University of Brasilia, and the Territory, Innovation and Development (TEIDE) research group at the University of Salamanca.

About Latin Polar Science

Latin Polar Science is an academic and collaborative initiative aimed at strengthening the role of Latin American and Southern European countries in polar research, both in the Arctic and Antarctic. Born from a shared interest in connecting researchers, institutions, and decision-makers from the South of Europe and America, the platform promotes knowledge exchange, international cooperation, and the development of multidisciplinary networks focused on the challenges and opportunities in polar regions.

The initiative was founded by three researchers committed to polar science and international collaboration. Its co-founders are:



the three workshop organizers

- Céline Rodrigues (Portugal) has been researching the Arctic for nearly six years, working on topics such as human security of Indigenous communities, maritime security, NATO-Arctic relations, and EU Arctic policies. Since 2022, her research (PhD dissertation) focused on Portugal's role in the Arctic, particularly the connection between the North Atlantic and Arctic basins. She actively participates in international conferences (EISA, TSA, Arctic Circle Assembly, High North Dialogue, among others) and is a member of think tanks and research centres. Her publications include papers/articles (Cogitatio), policy-brief (UNU-CRIS), reflections (Janus Observare) and in the Portuguese newspaper Expresso. In 2024, she spent three months at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi as a Visiting Researcher. She is the co-leader of subtheme 5 of RPT 1 at IASC.
- Ana Flávia Barros-Platiau (Brazil) is a professor of International Relations at the University of Brasilia and the Brazilian Superior Defence School (ESD). A specialist in ocean governance and polar diplomacy, she has an extensive publication record in international law and geopolitics. She was director of the Brasilia Research Centre (2019–2024) and is a member of the Earth System Governance Network. Her recent work explores diplomacy in the Anthropocene.
- Ana Belén López Tárraga (Spain) holds a PhD in Social Sciences and a Master's in EU Studies from the University of Salamanca. Her research focuses on public policies for low-population territories, including the Arctic and the Spanish-Portuguese border. She has worked as an adjunct professor of geography, is a member of the TEIDE research group, and has participated in cross-border development projects through the Duero-

Douro EGTC. In 2022, she was a visiting researcher at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland.

Together, these three scholars have built a collaborative network to showcase Latin contributions to polar science and foster interdisciplinary, multinational engagement in this strategic field

New Publications

BOOK: Foreign Policy in Greenland – 20 Years of Development

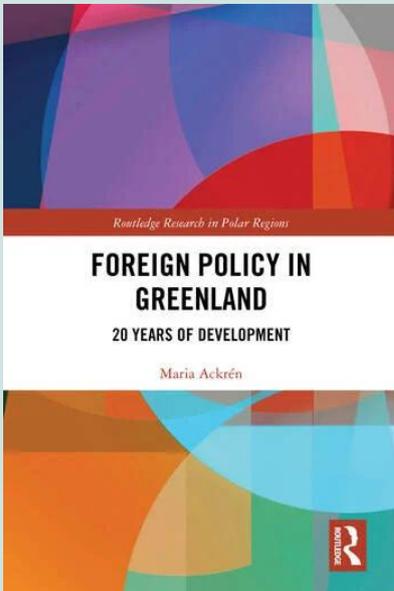
By Maria Ackrén

Foreign Policy in Greenland will shed light on what kind of competences Greenland has in IR and how Greenland undertakes foreign policy, while still being a self-governing territory underneath Danish jurisdiction. Even though Denmark has the ultimate power when it comes to foreign- and security policy, Greenland has received more autonomy in this field in recent years. Back in 1995 a permanent Danish/Greenlandic official group was established to discuss all foreign- and security matters that wererelated to Greenland. In 2003, Greenland and Denmark signed a joint declaration in Itilleq regarding the Greenlandic involvement in international affairs. Since then, the Government of Greenland has written a foreign policy report every year to outline the activities of Greenlandic international relations.

This book will undertake a systematic analysis of the foreign policy papers since 2003 (or earlier) and onwards. What kind of activities have Greenland undertaken in international affairs? What are the objectives? Can Greenland be an influential player in international relations? How far is the self-government stretched or limited in relation to international relations?

This book will be of interest for those with an interest in international affairs and law as well as those with an interest in international politics and foreign policy.

([Routledge](#))



Link to book:

[Routledge](#)

PODCAST – Launch of new ISC Podcast series

The ISC and the China Association for Science and Technology, in partnership with *Nature*, have launched a **six-part podcast** exploring the evolving landscape of research careers. Across the series, early- and mid-career researchers will be in conversation with senior scientists, sharing experiences of growth, collaboration and resilience in the face of rapid change.

In the first episode, science journalist Izzie Clarke speaks with Professor Robbert Dijkgraaf, ISC President-elect, and Professor Baojing Gu of Zhejiang University, discussing the accelerating pace of change in research and reflecting on how early-career scientists can turn these challenges into opportunities. Please feel free to share the podcast with your network. You can enjoy the first episode at: [ISC Podcast series](#).



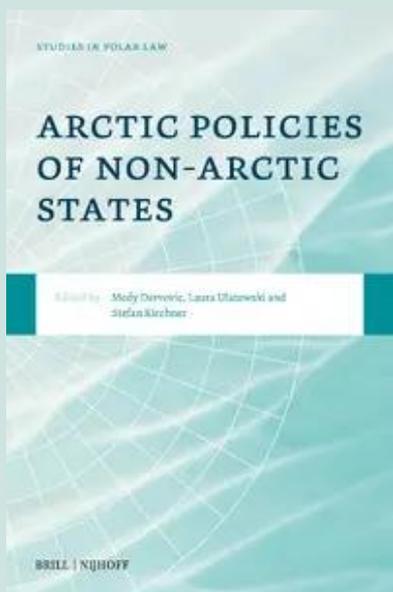
Link to Podcast:

[ISC Podcast series](#)

BOOK: Arctic Policies of Non-Arctic States

By Medy Dervovic, Laura Ulatowski and Stefan Kirchner

This edited book offers updated, novel, and multidisciplinary perspectives on the Arctic policies of non-Arctic States, including those less frequently addressed in academic literature. While most chapters delve into existing Arctic policies, some explore Arctic policies in the making. Each contribution provides a combination of historical accounts, explanations of selected non-Arctic States' interests in the Arctic, as well as discussions regarding their Arctic policies and role in Arctic law and governance. As such, *Arctic Policies of Non-Arctic States* covers, in alphabetical order, Belgium, China, Greece, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Spain, and includes one general perspective on Asian States.



Link to book:

[Brill](#)

([Brill](#))

ARTICLE: New COVID-19 and Tourism in Southeast Alaska

Arctic researcher Jim Powell and colleagues have co-authored the article "[Social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism-based communities in Southeast Alaska](#)". The article is published by the Routledge *Current Issues in Tourism* journal. The article follows the abrupt loss of cruise tourism and the economic and social challenges of COVID-19 in three Southeast Alaskan communities. Through data gathered in focus groups and convenience surveys, the article ascertained the strategies that sustained households, businesses, and cultures amid the health threat and economic uncertainty. The research concludes that residents, governmental and nongovernmental agencies, and tribes pursued a variety of social, cultural, and economic strategies to withstand changes associated with COVID-19, including increased reliance on subsistence resources. Results also suggest that established social networks and community institutions play an important role in maintaining community resilience.

Contribute to Northern Notes!

Do you have a publication or an interesting read to share? We welcome recommendations for new publications in Arctic social sciences to feature in **Northern Notes**. Help us keep our members informed and engaged by suggesting noteworthy research or your latest reading interests.

Send your suggestions to our secretary at ncwa@uni.gl

End Notes: IASSA Council 2024-2027



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