

Issue 65

**Spring/Summer
2026**

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International Arctic Social Sciences association

Northern Notes



ICASS XII Coming Up

Theme: "Our Arctic, Our Future – Coming Together"

Save the dates: 31st of May-4th of June 2027

Venue: Katuaq and Hotel Hans Egede in Nuuk



Photo from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Katuaq_Nuuk.jpg

Letter from the President

By Maria Ackrén

Dear IASSA members and Arctic friends,

We are now about to plan and organize the ICASS XII in more earnest. The President (me) has moved to Stefansson Arctic Institute at University of Akureyri in Iceland and taken up the new role as Director for the Institute. This means that from now on we will collaborate between Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland and Stefansson Arctic Institute at University of Akureyri to plan and organize this event. We have already pre-booked Katuaq, the main venue for the Congress on **31st of May to 4th of June 2027**. Save the dates in your calendars! This is also mentioned in the calendar inside the new issue of Northern Notes. We have also been in contact with the hotels and asked for blocking the rooms. The logistics in Nuuk have become better, but there will unfortunately be a limited number of participants that we can accommodate. In Katuaq's major hall, *Hans Lynge sal*, there can only be about 500 persons, but outside in the foyer there is room for about 700 persons. This is the main venue for conferences. This means that we will try to keep the number around 500 participants for the ICASS XII. We will also book conference rooms at Hotel Hans Egede for parallel breakout sessions, since there are only a few rooms in Katuaq that we can use. Hotel Hans Egede (HHE) is in walking distance from Katuaq. Side events can be held free of charge at Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland for workshops and meetings, however, to reach the University you will need to take a bus (nr. 2 or 3) or taxi. We are seeking out for sponsorships and funding for the event as well. We are especially trying to look for scholarships to early career students, since it is important to reach out to the new generation of Arctic researchers. We have a local company, DMC-Nordic, taking care of all the logistics in Nuuk and others will join. We will also have an academic local committee in place in the autumn.

As of August, we will have a new secretariat moving it to Stefansson Arctic Institute at the University of Akureyri with two excellent colleagues of mine: Helga Guðrún Númadóttir and Sveinbjörg Smárádóttir, so wish them welcome. They will continue the good work that Norja has done over the past years. Norja has graduated from Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland and will begin with a new position at Transparency International Greenland. We wish Norja good luck with the new position and hope to see her at ICASS XII as a participant.

IASSA Council members have also taken part in various conferences lately that you can read about in this new issue of Northern Notes. Nuuk hosted "Future Greenland" in Katuaq recently between 19th to 20th of May 2026 with over 500 participants from

various countries, so now we at least know that it is possible to organize these kinds of large events. “Future Greenland” is held every second year, so it will not coincide with the ICASS XII. Furthermore, Tatiana and Anita (IASSA Council members) are launching their “Aunties mentor program”, which you can read about in this fresh issue.



Photo: Private photo of University of Akureyri, Iceland

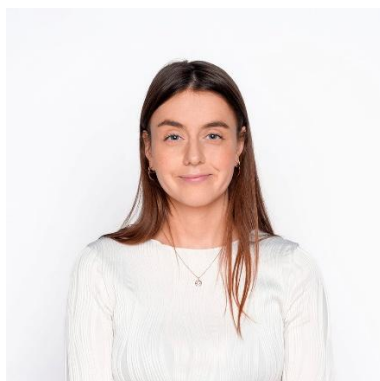
News from the IASSA Secretariat

The new secretariat is now moving to Stefansson Arctic Institute at the University of Akureyri in Iceland. Our new members of the IASSA Secretariat are presenting themselves below.



Sveinbjörg Smáradóttir holds an MA in Social Sciences from the University of Akureyri, where her studies focused on the Arctic. She works as a specialist at the Stefansson Arctic Institute at the University of Akureyri.

Her interests include sustainable development, adaptation, young people, diversity, and equality.



Helga Guðrún Númadóttir holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Iceland and an M.A. in Polar Law from the University of Akureyri. As part of her studies in Polar Law, she was a guest student at Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland and completed internships at Nasiffik - Centre for Foreign & Security Policy at Ilisimatusarfik and with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group of the Arctic Council in Akureyri. She currently works as a specialist at the Stefansson Arctic Institute, where her work focuses on Arctic affairs and related research activities.

Upcoming Events

Conference/Congress	Dates & Place	Webpage
Arctic Security Conference	16 September 2026, Oslo, Norway	https://www.fni.no/events/arctic-security-conference-2026?instance=0
Arctic Circle Assembly	8-10 October 2026, Reykjavik, Iceland	https://www.arcticcircle.org/assemblies/2026-arctic-circle-assembly
Symposium of Early Career Researchers Working with Indigenous Issues	27-28 October 2026, Staare and Östersund, Sweden	https://www.miun.se/Symposium-Indigenous-Issues2026
Arctic Investment Conference	5 November 2026, London, UK	https://arctic-investments.is/
Arctic Frontiers	1-4 February 2027, Tromsø, Norway	https://arcticfrontiers.com/arctic-frontiers-2026-summary-2/
Arctic Youth Conference	26–28 February 2027, Nuuk, Kalaallit Nunaat	https://arctic-council.org/about/kingdom-of-denmarks-chairship-2025-2027/arctic-youth-conference-2027/
Arctic Biodiversity Summit	16-18 March 2027, Nuuk, Kalaallit Nunaat	https://arctic-council.org/about/kingdom-of-denmarks-chairship-2025-2027/arctic-biodiversity-summit/
Arctic Spirit Conference	24-26 May 2027, Rovaniemi, Finland	https://arcticcentre.org/en/next-rovaniemi-arctic-spirit-conference-takes-place-24-26-may-2027/
ICASS XII Congress	31 May - 4 June 2027, Nuuk, Kalaallit Nunaat	For more upcoming information see: https://iassa.org/ and https://www.svs.is/en/



Connect with **IASSA** on **Social Media**

IASSA on X [@IASSA_SocSci](https://twitter.com/IASSA_SocSci)

And now also 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



ICASS XII: Introduction

ICASS XII, 2027 will have the theme: “Our Arctic – Our Future: Coming Together”, 31st of May – 4th of June 2027, in Nuuk, Greenland

The Arctic is rapidly changing because of climate change, but also because of constitutional and political change. The region has also become a hot spot within great geopolitical power rivalry in recent years. It is also 50 years since Indigenous Peoples' movements were included in international collaboration through the United Nations and other fora. Indigenous Peoples have their own stories to tell. ICASS XII bring scholars, academics, students, policymakers, politicians and others, who have an interest in Arctic issues together to discuss, elaborate and come up with solutions for future endeavours in and beyond the Arctic.

ICASS XII welcome papers, panels and sessions from a broad range of topical issues that affect the Arctic. Identified themes will come from various disciplines within social sciences. Issues about social affairs, geopolitical matters, economic development, environmental issues, indigenous rights and many other themes will connect researchers and practitioners at ICASS XII.

Preliminary timeline for the ICASS XII in Nuuk:

- Call for abstracts: September 2026
- Deadline for abstracts: December 2026
- Selection of panels and sessions: February 2027
- Preliminary programme: March 2027
- Opening registration: March 2027
- Deadline for registration: April 2027
- Final programme: May 2027

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://iassa.org/>

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 secretariat at icass@unak.is

Call for nominations to all IASSA members for: IASSA President, IASSA Council members & IASSA Awards

Elections will be held at the General Assembly 4 June 2027 in Nuuk, Greenland

ICASS XII: 31 May - 4 June 2027

<https://iassa.org/>

Deadline for submitting statements: 30 April 2027

Nominations will be announced at the latest: 21 May 2027

Statements and nominations should be submitted to the following e-mail:

ackren@unak.is

Nominations and election for IASSA President

6.3.1. Any nomination for President must be signed by minimum two members of IASSA in good standing, who are not from the same institution as the candidate (or the proposed co-convenor for the upcoming ICASS).

6.3.3. Candidates for President are invited to prepare a statement, including a short biography, their qualifications, and an overview of their reasons for wanting to serve as IASSA President. The statement should also provide the rationale for the proposed site of the next ICASS (see by-laws for details). Statements will be published in Northern Notes.

Deadline for submitting statements: 30 April 2027

Nominations will be announced at the latest: 21 May 2027

Nominations for IASSA Council

6.4.1. Any member in good standing is entitled to self-nominate as a candidate for the IASSA Council. If a member is nominated by another member (in good standing), then the nominator must confirm that the person nominated is willing to stand as a candidate.

6.4.2. Current and previous Council Members can run. A Council Member may hold the position of Councilor for up to three (3) consecutive terms. Past-Presidents may run for position of Councilor, with the similar restriction of three (3) consecutive terms in total.

6.4.3. Candidates are invited to prepare a short statement (less than 200 words). Statements will be published in Northern Notes.

6.4.4. Candidates who are Indigenous are encouraged to self-declare this identity for purposes of election.

Deadline for submitting statements: 30 April 2027

Nominations will be announced at the latest: 21 May 2027

IASSA Award nominations:

Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

The IASSA Award is granted in recognition of sustained and significant contribution to Arctic Social Sciences and Humanities and is presented at the International Congress of Social Scientists (ICASS XII).

Gabriella Nordin-Sköld IASSA Service Award

The Gabriella Nordin-Sköld Award is granted in recognition of outstanding contribution and service to IASSA as an organization, building its institutional capacities, membership, programming, and communication capabilities.

Nmitqan Award to the Outstanding Early Career Indigenous Scholar in honour of Victoria Petrasheva

This award was created to celebrate the emerging Indigenous scholars who strengthen the well-being of their communities through research led by Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

IASSA Award nomination process

o Nominations may be submitted to the IASSA Secretariat by IASSA members at any time prior to the deadline 30 April 2027.

o Nominators must be IASSA members (the person nominated for the Award does not necessarily have to be a member).

o Letter of nomination must provide a succinct rationale for the nomination and be accompanied by an electronic version of a current curriculum vitae.

o Nomination must be signed by three IASSA members.

o Letter of nomination (2 pages max), signature page and curriculum vitae of the nominee should be sent as an e-mail attachment (pdf) to the IASSA Secretariat:

ackren@unak.is

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 listserver](#) to receive updates and the *Northern Notes* newsletter via email

Announcements & Opportunities:

Arctic Youth Conference 2027

Location: Nuuk, Greenland – Katuaq, Greenland Cultural Centre

Dates: 26–28 February 2027

Call for Content Proposals

Submission portal: [Call for Session Proposals](#)

Submission period: 15 June - 15 August 2026.

Format: youth-led sessions, workshops, panel discussions, exhibitions, or other interactive activities that showcase ongoing work and engage young people on issues relevant to the Arctic

The Chairship Youth Committee (CYC) has identified the following overall themes of the Conference:

- Identity Connections to Land, Food, & Culture
- Empowering Youth in Arctic Decision-making
- Healing Together
- Beyond Borders & Generations: Arctic Youth Collaboration, Rights & Shared Future
- Building Skills in Youth for Arctic Futures & Retaining Youth in the North

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact: ayc@arctic-council.org

or visit the [conference website](#).

Arctic Biodiversity Summit 2027

Location: Nuuk, Greenland - Katuaq, Greenland Cultural Centre

Date: 16-18 March 2027

Call for Content Proposals

Submission portal: [Call for Content](#)

Submission period: The submission period opens on 15 June. Deadlines are as follows:

- Sessions: 13 September 2026
- Talks: 15 October 2026
- Posters: 1 November 2026

Format: sessions, talks, and posters. Alternative sessions such as storytelling, art-based contributions, and workshops are also possible.

The themes identified for the Arctic Biodiversity Summit are:

- Address individual stressors and cumulative effects of stressors and drivers of Arctic biodiversity loss, including the latest knowledge on the status and trends for Arctic Biodiversity
- Promote Sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity
- Advance enabling conditions to support implementation of actions

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact: abs@arctic-council.org

or visit the [conference website](#).

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 secretariat at icass@unak.is

Indigenous Aunties Mentorship Program

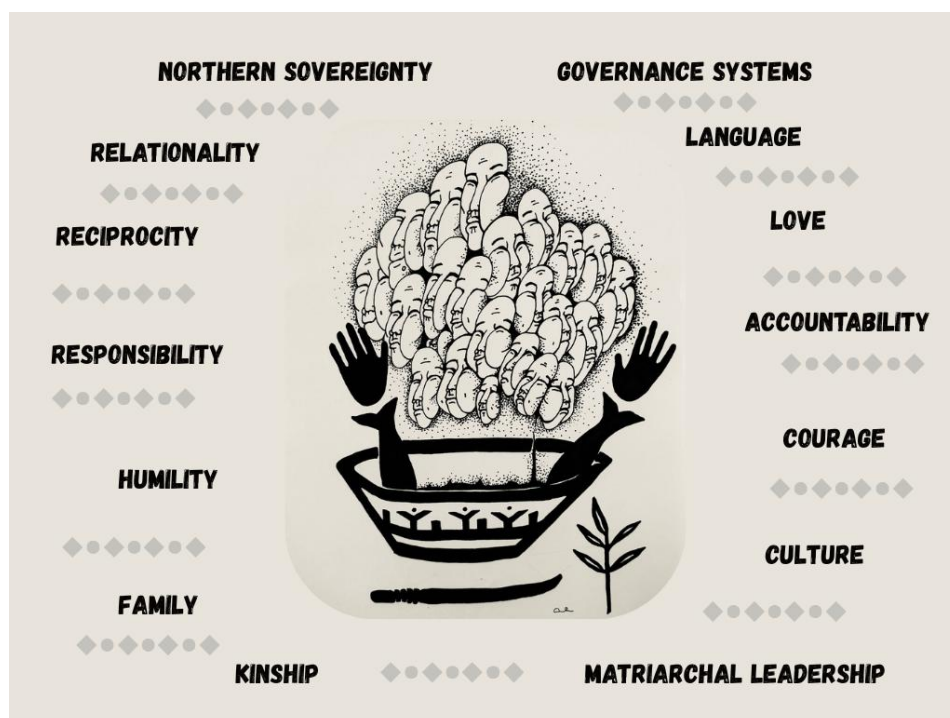
INVITATION TO JOIN THE ARCTIC INDIGENOUS AUNTIES MENTORSHIP CIRCLE

By Anita Lafferty and Tatiana Degai

Guidelines and Framework

"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 born and raised by the Arctic landscapes as outlined by the Arctic Indigenous Languages program of the Arctic Council (<https://www.arcticpeoples.com/arctic-languages#sagastallamin>). Through the creation of an inclusive space within IASSA, we bring forth distinct experiences and knowledge in a gathering space that centers our Northern 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.



The values of this program are rooted in Arctic Indigenous ways of being and are inspired by the artwork of Amber Webb, *Believe Our Ancestors*, 2024.

Aunties as Research Mentors

Aunties have special roles in our communities, including providing support, guidance, and advice. Indigenous Aunties represent a long-standing and vital tradition within Indigenous communities across the Arctic, serving as intergenerational guides who uphold and transmit knowledge. Their roles have been foundational in shaping and sustaining Indigenous research practices across multiple generations of knowledge holders. Auntie relationship is rooted in trust and is informed by community responsibilities. 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.

Elders and Knowledge Holders

Elders hold a guiding role within the Aunties Mentorship Program, grounding our work in teachings, relationships and accountability to Land and communities we belong to. In this space, we highly value Elders' advice and direction. We rely on their presence, upholding their lived experiences and listen carefully to their stories and teachings.

As knowledge holders and mentors, they model ways of being, allowing learning to emerge through listening and intergenerational connection. They provide insight into the program's direction, informing the guidebook and ensuring alignment with our cultural values. Their role is honoured through respect, reciprocity, and recognition of the depth of knowledge and responsibility they carry.

Core mission

Aunties as an institution are becoming more recognized in scholarly practice. For example, critical auntie studies explore the educational tradition of the aunties across Indigenous societies and the multiple capacities the aunty figure represents and carries while creating a unique niche for alternative intellectual engagements in scholarly spaces (Khubchandani, 2022). As an institution, Indigenous aunty practice continues to hold "a powerful role in educational pedagogies and knowledge

dissemination” where aunty voices are aimed to “protect, care, and support those who need them most” - students and early career researchers (Altamirano-Jimenez and Johnson 2025, p. 131).

Having this understanding of the Aunty mentorship program, the core mission is to ignite and support 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 other conferences;
- Create a welcoming space that centers care, meaning, and brings joy as a way forward in the academic journey.

Indigenous early-career researchers (ECRs) are the future change makers and leaders of community scholarship.

Scholars raised by and within communities have deep knowledge of the challenges and problems that need immediate and careful attention. They have a clearer understanding of how those could be addressed in meaningful and effective ways. They carry a deeper appreciation and knowledge of the research ethics and methodologies that are relevant for their communities. Therefore, Indigenous ECRs bring unique perspectives into the academy, contributing to defining the pathways to sustainable Arctic futures.

The world of the Arctic academy is a space where science, community well-being and policy-making converge in search to address the critical questions around socio-economic, environmental, and cultural pillars of sustainability. High-level academic events such as ASSW, ICASS, and IPY might feel intimidating and overwhelming to those who are at the start of their scholarly journey. It might feel even more intimidating for those who come into the academy from small, remote communities where the practices of conversation and knowledge sharing often differ from the general standards of academic knowledge dissemination. Such spaces have complex structures that are not always clear to new scholars.

The key question is: how do we navigate academic spaces that are unfamiliar and might be intimidating and overwhelming? While thinking through this question, we want to expand on our responsibility as Indigenous aunts to offer guidance and support to Indigenous ECRs in navigating complex, high-level scholarly events. By doing this, we hope to create spaces within the Arctic academy that welcome Indigenous ways of knowledge sharing and therefore open more opportunities to

diverse knowledges and experiences to contribute to the discussions and planning of the Arctic present and futures.

Invitation

If you are an Arctic early-career Indigenous scholar interested in joining our circle in preparation for ICASS, fill out a brief [form](#) of interest and we will contact you with further details.



Reports from Conferences:

Report from Polar Symposium 2026 in Monaco with the title: “From Arctic to Antarctic – Enabling the Legacy: Translating Polar Research into Action”, 25-27 February 2026

By Maria Ackrén

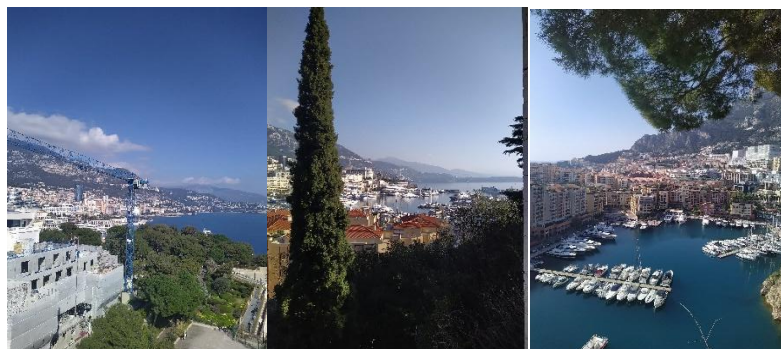
The Monaco Polar Symposium is held every second year and is a key moment for dialogue and collective reflection, bringing together the Arctic and Antarctic communities to address the major challenges facing the polar regions. Co-organised by Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Institut Océanographique bringing together Arctic and Antarctic communities to strengthen dialogue and transform polar science into action.

The Polar Symposium is only for invited participants and therefore it is a smaller gathering with researchers from different disciplines, institutions and key persons from various funding organizations and other organizations working with Arctic and/or Antarctic issues.

During this year's Polar Symposium sessions and panels were focused on three main pillars:

- 1) International collaboration in times of uncertainty
- 2) Funding innovation, equity and new models
- 3) Research to action: Flagship initiatives and implementation

President of IASSA and Anita Lafferty (IASSA Council member) took part in this event. Anita was participating in the panel under the theme of: “Research to action: Flagship initiatives and implementation”, while the President only participated and tried to network with relevant people as much as possible. The event was a mixture of panels and sessions with workshops, where the participants took active part in discussions around various themes. We discussed some topical issues related to the upcoming International Polar Year of 2032-33.



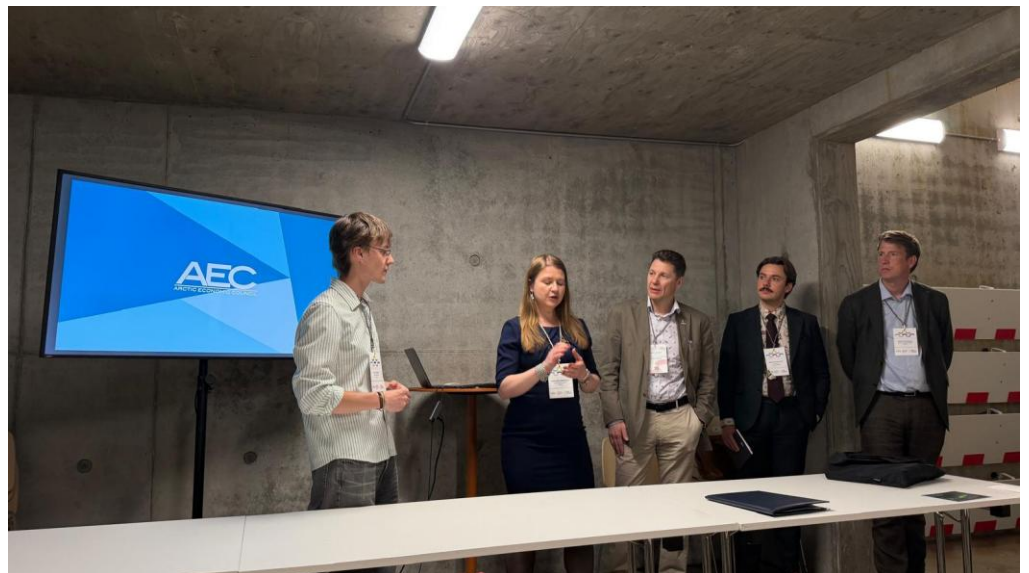
Report from UArctic Congress, 26-29 May 2026, Tórshavn, The Faroe Islands

By Andrey Kazakov

Young Arctic-project at the UArctic Congress 2026

In cooperation with the Social, Economic, and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG), the Young Arctic project organized the session “Arctic Challenge: Empowering Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the North.”

The session highlighted real-world experiences, research insights, and collaborative solutions for fostering a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem in Arctic regions. Participants discussed the status, challenges, and the role of youth entrepreneurship in shaping resilient Arctic communities. Another important question addressed during the discussion was what is required to support innovation and local entrepreneurial initiatives, thereby strengthening economic growth, creating opportunities, and inspiring young people to build their futures in the North.



Features

Ph.D.-thesis: Nicholas Parlato



Anthropogenic coastal change in the Arctic entails more than a threat to infrastructure and human security: it represents a fundamental unsettling of elemental and cognitive categories. The frameworks and metaphors through which society classifies and understands socio-environmental change shape what kind of responses its governance institutions can accommodate and mobilize. The persistence of colonial narratives of mastery, anthropocentric managerialism, and scientific positivism constitute major barriers to holistic, procedurally just, and Indigenous-led governance of Arctic coastal socionatures. [This thesis](#) interrogates the application of social-

environmental systems-based governance theories to Anthropocene conditions of uncertainty and “planetary multiplicity” by centering more-than-human relationality in its analysis of coastal management in Arctic Alaska.

This thesis’s argument is grounded in a critique of complex adaptive systems science, whose positivist utility is exhausted by the Anthropocene’s compromising of the nature-society dichotomy and proliferation of entropic novelty. The first chapter insists that Western scientific knowledge cannot be mobilized for decision-making without the deep material, historical, and semiotic contextualization afforded by assemblage-based approaches. It identifies complex systems science and models as historically and culturally situated within colonial modernity, productive of troubled political-economic instrumentalities and subjectivities that constitute the Anthropocene. An assemblage approach, in contrast, opens scientific analysis of socionatural multiplicity to epistemological contestation and supports non-instrumental practices of “becoming-with” planetary change. By centering multiple ways of knowing, diverse forms of nonhuman agency, emergent phenomena, and a relational ontology, this chapter asserts that assemblage approaches are better suited than complex systems for producing meaningful knowledge in the Anthropocene.

The subsequent chapters mobilize an assemblage approach to understand the more-than-human formation and deformation of a coastal commons under the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP), which ran from 1979 to 2011. Rather than treating coastal space as a natural commons, the chapters identify processes of relationship- and institution-building, scaffolded by evolving infrastructural practices, that established norms, trust, and communication for the consistent reproduction and elaboration of the coastal commons. They demonstrate that successful institution-building is a time- and resource-intensive process demanding transparent and respectful collaboration across multiple forms of difference, including between Indigenous and Western knowledge systems. In Alaska, this was represented by the ACMP’s networked movement from top-down development of rule sets to bottom-up fostering of shared strategies among coastal communities and state administrators, which at their peak effectiveness in 2003 were disrupted by top-down assertions of new rule sets. Sociolegal transformations among communities, governments, and nonhumans in Alaska’s Arctic were captured in an interactive network map [linked here](#). The chapters also show how both nonhuman animals and infrastructures co-constituted ACMP practices and knowledges by enacting multiple spatiotemporalities, such as territories and seasons. Overall, these latter chapters assemble Alaska’s coastal relationalities as legal normative practices to demonstrate the more-than-human basis of procedural justice in environmental governance settings.

The dissertation concludes with a gesture to the current institutional vacuum in Alaska’s coasts, the challenges faced by Alaska Native Tribes in asserting sovereignty

over coastal spaces and resources, and the emergent threats of cryospheric degradation. It proposes institutional solutions that uphold and enhance Tribal sovereignty, advance rights of nature, and secure commitments to procedural equity across state and federal decision-making arenas.

About me: Nicholas Parlato successfully defended his thesis on August 21, 2025 at University of Alaska Fairbanks. He has accepted a postdoc position at UiT's Center for Sami Studies that begins March 2026.

News from the Arctic Council

Dear Observer Heads of Delegation,

*The Kingdom of Denmark Chairship of the Arctic Council is pleased to invite Arctic Council Observers to the Arctic Emergency Preparedness Event **"Cold Seas – Critical Gaps"** to be held in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, 13-15 October 2026.*

The event is a part of the official Kingdom of Denmark Chairship program and highlights the importance of understanding and addressing the spectrum of prevention, preparedness and response challenges associated with marine incidents involving cruise ships and passenger ships operating in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

The event is organized by the Kingdom of Denmark EPPR Head of Delegation and the Kingdom of Denmark Chairship, with support by the ACS. Information on the event, registration, and hotel room reservations with a reduced rate is available on the [event website](#). More program details will be added shortly. Participants traveling to the Faroe Islands should plan to arrive on 12 October.

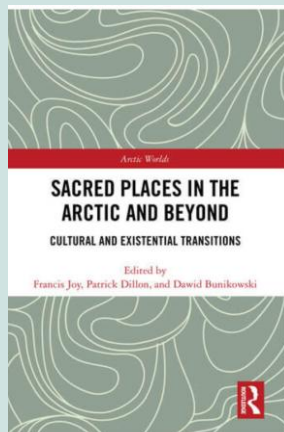
The event will be open for public participation. We particularly encourage participation of Arctic Council experts and other relevant stakeholders for comprehensive and informed discussions. Online participation requires registration but is free of charge. The streaming will be limited to the plenary sessions and does not cover breakout discussions.

We kindly ask that you share the invitation within your delegations and relevant networks.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tórshavn this October.

*Kind regards,
Kenneth Høegh, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials*

New Publications



ISBN 9781032973739

322 Pages

45 Color Illustrations

Published May 22, 2026 by

Routledge

More information:

<https://www.routledge.com/Sacred-Places-in-the-Arctic-and-Beyond-Cultural-and-Existential-Transitions/Joy-Dillon-Bunikowski/p/book/9781032973739>

Sacred Places in the Arctic and Beyond brings together indigenous and nonindigenous scholars, rightsholders, and practitioners to explore the status and management of sacred places, which are important as both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It acknowledges the critical functions and roles that sacred places play in connection with local people, traditions, beliefs, and practices, as identity markers, places of cultural transmission and memory, and locations that support ecosystems and biodiversity.

An introductory chapter presents an organising framework for this book based in cultural ecology and law. Four chapters present case studies from the Arctic, and four more widen the geographical coverage to North America, South America, Africa, and Europe, each describing the cultural contexts and Indigenous cosmologies of sacred places in their respective regions. The studies raise issues of access to sacred places, destruction and disruption caused by extractive industries and tourism, and implications of these challenges for their management. This book concludes with three chapters that call for policy reappraisals. They address the problem of how Western-orientated discourses and organisational structures frame legislation about, and management of, sacred places in ways which are seldom compatible with how Indigenous people understand these places and engage with them. Major themes from the case studies are integrated with ideas from cultural ecology and legal pluralism into a framework to inform future policy.

Bibliography of the editors:

Francis Joy is a postdoctoral researcher in the Arctic Anthropology Research Team at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland. His expertise is in cultural heritage.

Patrick Dillon is Emeritus Professor in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Exeter, UK, and for ten years was Professor in the Philosophical Faculty at the University of Eastern Finland. His expertise is in cultural ecology.

Dawid Bunikowski is Professor at the State University of Applied Sciences in Wloclawek, Poland, and Visiting Scholar at the University of Eastern Finland School of Theology. His expertise is in law.



Maria Ackrén, IASSA President, is director of Stefansson Arctic Institute at University of Akureyri in Iceland.

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