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Letter from the President

Dear IASSA Members!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and healthy, and with a new hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will soon recede. However, we are still facing formidable challenges as individuals, and as an association. The IASSA Council has been working to develop an ICASS X plan that would be most beneficial for the members and yet ensures safety and health of everyone. After a few agonizing months of consideration and discussions, we determined that the hybrid Congress with limited in-person participation and online science program is the most responsible way to go (see page 5) I know that for some members this format will be disappointing. It certainly is for me. In the end, ICASS is not just a science meeting, but a celebration of friendship and collegiality. Our personal bonds are as important as our professional relationships, and our meetings in the Arctic are intended to strengthen IASSA's connections with communities and produce a local economic impact. Still, we will be able to see each other online, and, if the pandemic relents, soon enough we will be all together yet again. IASSA will have a ceremonial opening and several plenaries in Arkhangelsk, with only specifically invited patri- cians attending (as we are limited to 200 people by the COVID-19 safety rules). The Organizing Committee will set up the panels and issue the invitations. All plenaries will be recorded and broadcasted online. The rest of the ICASS X program will take place virtually over several days. We will also hold a virtual General Assembly where we will elect a new President and Council (see nomination information on PAGE). The vote will also online. Please remember to renew your membership to be eligible to vote.

In this issue we have published updated IASSA Bylaws (see Page 8-11). Please read the new version (the current version can be found in the IASSA website). There will be an online vote on the bylaws prior to the General Assembly—please stay tuned.

I would like to use this opportunity to praise the 2017-2021 Council (see page 27). As the Council's term expires later this year, we can look with pride on what has been accomplished, especially given the circumstances. For one, the Council members terms have been extended an extra year and the extended ICASS X preparation has weighed heavily on the members. Yet, everyone has demonstrated unwavering support, unbreakable friendship and unshaken collegiality. The wisdom and advice of our longest-serving members, who will reach their term limit this year, Tatiana Vlasova and Alona Yefimenko, were particularly valuable. As President I can't wish a better and more supporting group of scholars and friends to be working with! I am sure that the IASSA membership shares my praise and gratitude!

Andrey N. Petrov, President



Features

Tracking COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccinations in the Arctic

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

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to ravage the Arctic. As of March 1, 2021 450,000 Arctic residents were diagnosed with COVID-19 and nearly 8,000 died. Many remote communities, for example, rural Alaska, have been affected particularly severely. Yet, the arrival of vaccines has given some hope that the pandemic will eventually weaken. Proper understanding of the infections and vaccination patterns, whether spatial social, economic or medical, is an important task for social scientists around the Arctic.

Tracking the COVID-19 pandemic is key to developing ways to mitigate the crisis now and in the future. In summer the ARCTICenter has released the [Arctic COVID-19 Tracker](#), a daily updated Arctic COVID-19 dashboard. In March

2021 ARCTICenter also published the [ArcticVAX](#), a vaccination process tracking dashboard. Other sources are also gathering COVID-19 related materials and news: *Arctic Today*, *High North News*, *The Barents Observer* and *Polar Research and Policy Initiative*, among others. The Arctic Council developed a briefing document about Arctic COVID-19 and its consequences. The COVID-19 crisis unveiled deep gaps in health and social science knowledge in the Arctic. More needs to be done to invest in health and social research in Arctic communities, especially in knowledge co-production, **one-health** initiatives and developing pandemic-ready healthcare system.

<https://arcticcovid.uni.edu/>

Arctic Science under and post-COVID-19: IASSA, IASC and UArctic leaders share their perspectives

A recent *Nature Communications* article provides a perspective on how the Arctic sciences could change after the pandemic:

Arctic research has faced an unprecedented disruption due to COVID-19. This 'pause', however, gives an opportunity to reflect on the current state and the future of Arctic science and move towards a more resilient, thus equitable, coordinated, safe and locally-embedded Arctic research enterprise. Arctic science has been greatly affected by COVID-19. This comment looks forward to how Arctic science could be conducted in the future.

The 'local turn'? The COVID-19 pandemic has re-emphasized that science needs permanent presence in the Arctic. Field stations, community observation systems, local colleges, and community experts reduce the need for outside specialists to conduct observations and maintain instruments. Thus, investing in Arctic infrastructure is an acute science priority. Refocusing Arctic science to localized operations is not a simple or inexpensive option, but now is the time to support a broader, localized science infrastructure network that is currently lagging. This investment though needs to be done hand-in-hand with the process of decolonizing Arctic science and embracing Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge systems. The need for this 'local turn' is very real and long overdue.

Although field seasons and travel to the Arctic will continue after the pandemic ends, to build a resilient knowledge-building system in the Arctic, science must rely on local partnerships that are based on equity, trust, and respect. This necessitates collaborating with Indigenous and local communities to coproduce knowledge. Under the leadership of Indigenous Peoples, co-production will lead to improved science because it will be enriched by diverse Indigenous knowledge systems and will give voice to youth and elders. Co-production will redesign, decolonize, and indigenize science-community relationships and develop better, more equitable engagement mechanisms, and, thus, make research a source of empowerment. Scientists should also work with policymakers to strengthen physical and virtual connectivity in the Arctic, while promoting Indigenous Peoples' control over its use in their communities. Finally, an immediate action must be to ensure that science projects provide emergency relief and long-term support for local contractors, logistics operators, and project participants.

Excerpt from Petrov et al., 2020. *Building resilient Arctic science amid the COVID-19 pandemic*. *Nature Communications*, 11(1), 1-4.

IASSA Priorities: Progress Report

Developing IASSA Working Groups

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

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

Pay/renew your membership at:

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

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

According to the new IASSA by-laws there will be an election of an IASSA president for the term 2021-2024. The candidates should include a presentation of the host university, financial and institutional commitments, experience and capacity in the proposal. Candidates will be presented in Northern Notes and on the IASSA website.

Candidates for President will indicate their intention regarding where the next ICASS will be held, and present the name of a Co-convenor as part of their bid for presidency. The Coconvenor will come from the institution that is proposed to host the next ICASS (if the candidate for President proposes her/his own institution as the site of the next ICASS, a Co-convenor will come from her/his institution.) ICASS will normally be held at academic institutions, and locations in Arctic states are preferred. Candidates for President are invited to prepare a short biographical sketch, qualifications and statement on their reasons for wanting to serve as IASSA President.

The statement should also provide the rationale for the proposed site of the next ICASS. The bid should include evidence of institutional support from the highest level. The statement should not exceed two pages of text (not counting supporting letters). These statements will be published in Northern Notes prior to the ICASS meeting.

Any candidate for President may also run as a candidate for Council. Her/his name will not automatically be entered as a candidate for council: s/he must indicate an interest in this position as well as in the presidency. Any person identified as Co-convenor may run for IASSA Council (but is not required to). Nominations for IASSA President must be received electronically by the IASSA President Andrey N. Petrov (andrey.petrov@uni.edu) with a copy to IASSA Secretary (ann.crawford@uni.edu) by **19 April 2021**.

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

IASSA is requesting applications from members to serve on the IASSA Council in 2021-2024.

Any IASSA member in good standing may declare themselves up until 17:00 (5PM) applicant's local time on May, 1 2021.

Applicants are required to submit a brief statement (less than 200 words) about yourself and a photo to IASSA President andrey.petrov@uni.edu. These materials will be included in the Spring/Summer issue of the Northern Notes (Issue 53). Indigenous applicants and northern residents are especially encouraged.

The IASSA Council will have 9 members; 8 members elected by majority vote during the 2021 General Assembly at ICASS X, plus the past president. Eligibility to Run as a Candidate for IASSA Council In order to qualify to run in the IASSA 2020 election, all candidates for IASSA council must: · be a member in good standing of IASSA; · submit a brief statement (less than 200 words) with a photo of themselves to the IASSA Secretariat, on or before May 1, 2020; must be present in person during the General Assembly at ICASS X and · must be ready to participate in IASSA Council meetings (face-to-face or via Skype or teleconference call), and commit a substantial amount of time for IASSA affairs, including extensive discussions via e-mail correspondence. The IASSA Secretariat will put out a call on the IASSA e-mail list to members of IASSA. Candidates for the IASSA Council will not be given an opportunity to address the General Assembly at ICASS X; rather we will depend on the short statements submitted by each candidate, which will be made available electronically to our members prior to the election.

Secretariat's Corner continued

ICASS X: Road to ICASS X Update

MESSAGE FROM ICASS X COMMITTEE

ICASS X Organizing Committee and IASSA Council are launching the "Road to ICASS X" Newsletter to inform you on new and developments pertaining to ICASS X. We are excited to have the Congress approaching, but we realize that there are a lot of uncertainties associated with what could happen given the COVID-19 pandemic. We feel that having a regular update may be helpful.

ICASS X Format

The IASSA Council and ICASS X Organizing Committee have considered various hybrid options for the Congress. These considerations included the inputs from the membership (the survey conducted at the time of abstract submission demonstrated that the ICASS attendees will be amenable to either in-person or online option), local hosts (NARFU and local health authorities), visa/travel experts and IASSA partners. Given the continuing uncertainties with the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and international travel restrictions, we determined that the following hybrid format will be the best option:

IN-PERSON PLENARIES AND ROUND TABLES: June 15-16 (limited to 150-200 attendees as per health authorities). All in-person plenaries will be recorded and broadcast online.

The in-person component will take place in Arkhangelsk and will be by special invitation only. The limited number of participants will ensure that we follow safety protocols. The ICASS X Organizing Committee will issue the invitations only to the participants of the plenary panels and round tables organized by the Committee. These panels will also include virtual participants. Preference will also be given to early career and Indigenous scholars (including those

receiving travel awards). We apologize in advance to those who cannot be invited due to the limited capacity under the public health rules.

Proposed panels:

Focus on Russia: Arctic Generations in Russia, *Chair-Organizer: Alexander Pelyasov (Russia)*

Indigenous Knowledge and Knowledge Co-Production in the Arctic, *Chairs-Organizers: and Tatiana Degai (USA) and Vyacheslav Shadrin (Russia)*

IASSA Generations: 30 Years Later: Panel by Past Presidents, *Chair-Organizer: Peter Skold, Umea University (Sweden)*

ONLINE SCIENCE PROGRAM: June 17-20 (all sessions, paper and poster presentations will take place online)

ONLINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: June 17

ONLINE ELECTIONS: IASSA Presidential and Council elections will be conducted online on June 17-19. Only active members will be able to participate. To renew your membership please go to <https://iassa.org/membership/become-a-member>

REGISTRATION FEE: Will be published by March 20, 2021. Early Bird deadline: by April 10th

Organized Sessions Update: More than 800 abstracts and 120 sessions have been accepted for ICASS X. This exceeds the number of proposed sessions and abstracts submitted last year!

Tenth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X)

Arctic Generations: Looking Back and Looking Forward

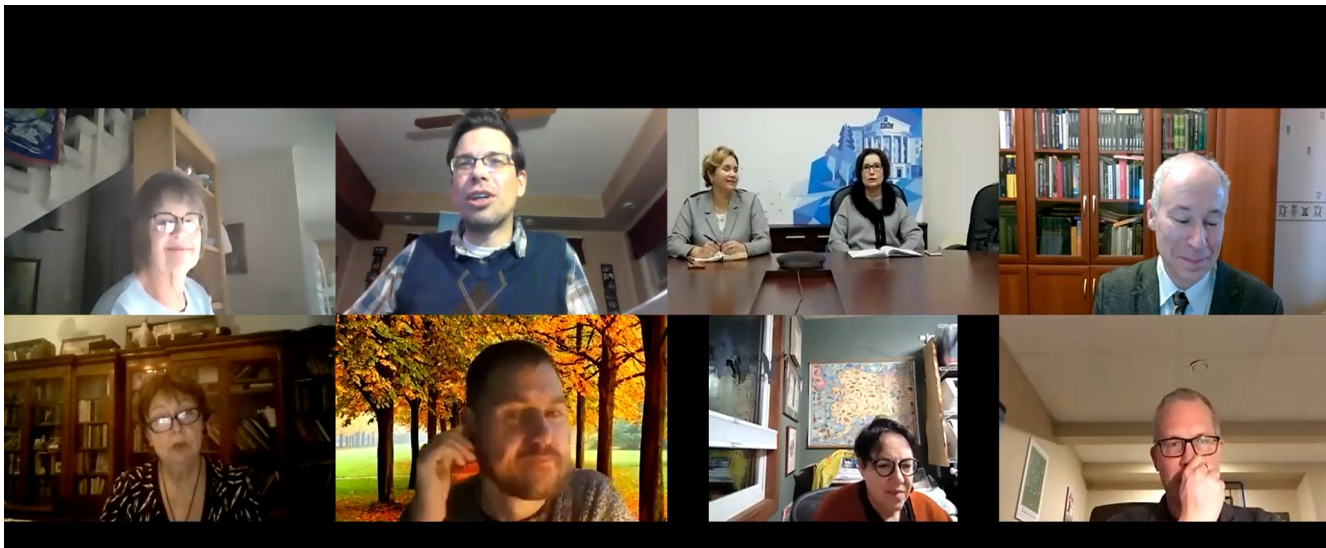
Арктические Поколения: Взгляд в Прошлое и Будущее

June 15-19, 2021 | Arkhangelsk, Russia and Online

Secretariat's Corner continued

ICASS X Organizing Committee

Dr. Andrey Petrov, IASSA President, USA [Co-Chair]
 Dr. Elena Koudryashova, Rector, Northern Arctic Federal University, Russia [Co-Chair]
 Dr. Alexander Pelyasov, Professor, Moscow State University, Russia [Co-Chair]
 Dr. Alexander Saburov, Arctic Research Center, Northern Arctic Federal University Russia
 Dr. Diane Hirshberg, Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA
 Dr. Gary Wilson, Professor, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada
 Dr. Konstantin Zaikov, Professor, Northern Arctic Federal University, Russia
 Dr. Marina Kalinina, Vice-President, University of the Arctic, Russia
 Dr. Michal Luszczuk, Senior Researcher, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
 Dr. Tatiana Degai, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Northern Iowa, USA and Council of Itelmens
 "Tskhanom," Russia
 Dr. Tatiana Vlasova, Lead Researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia
 Mr. Vyacheslav Shadrin, Vice-President, RAIPON-Sakha (Yakutia), Russia
 Coordinators (ex officio): Svetlana Pirogova (NARFU), Elena Golosova (UNI)



Attention: Conference & Workshop Participants

The editors of the *Northern Notes* are always wanting to hear from participants who have attended conferences and workshops relating to the international social sciences. If you've recently attended a workshop or conference and want to tell us about your experiences, please e-mail **Ann Crawford**, IASSA Secretary at ann.crawford@uni.edu

ICASS X: Theme Leaders

THEME	LEADER	Institution
1. Archaeology	Org. committee	IASSA
2. Art & Design	Jokela Timo	University of Lapland
3. Cultures	Peter Schweitzer	University of Vienna
4. Environment & Climate Change	Grete Hovelsrud	Nord University
5. Governance	Gary Wilson	University of Northern British Columbia
6. Health & Well-Being	Arja Rautio	University of Oulu
7. History	Peter Skold	Umea University
8. Indigenous societies	Vyacheslav Shadrin	Institute for Humanitarian and Indigenous Peoples Studies, Yakutsk
9. Law & Legal Regimes in the Arctic	Natalia Loukacheva	University of Northern British Columbia
10. Knowledge Systems +& Education	Diane Hirshberg	University of Alaska, Anchorage
11. Languages	Lenore Grenoble	University of Chicago
12. Literature	Org. Committee	IASSA
13. Migrations & Mobilities	Nafisa Yeasmin	University of Lapland
14. Sustainability	Tatiana Vlasova	Institute of Geography, RAS
15. Museums & Heritage	Medea Csoba DeHass	DMACC/ University of Northern Iowa
16. Arctic People & Places across Generations	Andrey Petrov	University of Northern Iowa
17. Religion & Spirituality	Piers Vitebsky	Scott Polar Centre, University of Cambridge
18. Research Methodologies	Dmitriy Funk	Institute of Ethnology RAS
19. Resource & Extractive Industries	Florian Stammer	University of Lapland
20. Settlements in the Arctic	Timothy Heleniak	Nordregio
21. Tourism	Doris Carson	Umeå University
22. Social work in the Arctic	Elena Golosova	University of Northern Iowa
23. Arctic Youth and Generational Relations	Jón Haukur Ingimundarson	Stefansson Arctic Institute
24. Arctic Infrastructure	Vera Kuklina	George Washington University
25. International Relations and Science Diplomacy in the Arctic	Paul Berkman	Harvard University
26. Indigenous Knowledge and Knowledge co-production	Tatiana Degai	University of Northern Iowa
	Alona Yefimenko	Arctic Council Secretariat
27. Economy, labor, and development in the Arctic	Aleksandr Pelyasov	Moscow State University
	Nadezhda Zamyatina	Moscow State University
28. Gender in the Arctic	J. Otto Habeck	Hamburg University
29. Arctic Futures, Scenarios, Prospects	Marya Rozanova	George Washington University
30. Technology and Innovation in the Arctic	Varvara Korkina	University of Northern Iowa

Revised IASSA Bylaws subject to approval

Original bylaws adopted by

IASSA Council, 27 October 1992, and at
IASSA General Assembly, 29 October 1992

Amended and adopted by

IASSA Council, 25 November 2013, and at
IASSA General Assembly, 25 May 2014

Amended by

IASSA Council, 25 February 2021

To be considered for approval by the IASSA General Assembly, 2021



Preamble

IASSA's understanding of the Arctic is inclusive and recognizes that the Arctic encompasses all northern circumpolar regions of the world. Arctic research is defined as all research relating to these regions. IASSA members work in a broad range of disciplines across the social sciences, health sciences, the arts, and humanities.

1. Objectives

The objectives of the IASSA are:

- To promote and stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international Arctic research.
- To promote communication and coordination with other related organizations and stake holders.
- To promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and Indigenous Peoples and all other residents of northern, circumpolar regions, while recognizing these are not mutually exclusive groups.
- To promote the active collection, co-production, exchange, dissemination, and archiving of knowledge and information relevant to the Arctic-
- To increase public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results.
- To promote the development of research and educational partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and all other residents of northern, circumpolar regions.
- To facilitate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate education in the North, including training in social sciences.
- To follow the IASSA Principles and Guidelines for Conducting Ethical Research in the Arctic.
- To follow the IASSA Declaration on Indigenous Knowledge.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Membership in IASSA is open to any individual who is involved or interested in Arctic social sciences and/or humanities research and issues, and who shares the objectives of IASSA.
- 2.2 A 'member in good standing' is defined as a member who has paid the membership dues for the current 3-year period. A member in good standing is entitled to hold office and to vote on the business of IASSA.
- 2.3 Membership categories and terms shall be determined, and dues fixed by the IASSA Council.

3. Administration

The IASSA is directed by the Council and the General Assembly.

4. The Council

- 4.1 The Council will consist of seven (7) members plus the President and Past-President. At least one member of the Council will be a member of an Indigenous Arctic people and at least five members will be from Arctic countries. Council Members serve a three-year period. The Past-President of IASSA will serve as an ex-officio member for the three-year period following her/his presidency. The Past-President will enjoy voting rights like other Council Members.



- 4.2 The Council meets at least four times during each calendar year. Quorum is required and will be met if no fewer than five (5) persons are in attendance. The meeting may be held in person or via audio and/or video conference.
- 4.3 Decisions by the Council are by a simple majority of affirmative or negative votes of those present and taking part in the vote. In the event of a tied vote, the motion fails; however, the Council will strive to find consensus among the members.
- 4.4 The Council serves as an executive group to facilitate the work of the IASSA between the meetings of the General Assembly, and to take appropriate actions in agreement with the policies and decisions of the General Assembly. The Council is responsible for recommending a dues schedule.
- 4.5 The Council is responsible for organizing the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences on behalf of IASSA and the General Assembly, in collaboration with the local organizing committee.
- 4.6 The Council will review and suggest changes to the IASSA Principles and Guidelines for Conducting Ethical Research in the Arctic on a triennial basis. Any changes must be approved by the General Assembly.
- 4.7 At the meetings of the General Assembly, the President presents a report on behalf of the Council of actions taken and recommendations for further activities.
- 4.8 The President of the Council serves as a representative of the IASSA in dealing with other bodies or may designate this responsibility to another Council Member.
- 4.9 If the President becomes unable to serve in the duties of the office, the Council will elect a temporary President from among its members until the next General Assembly.
- 4.10 The President will appoint a Secretary to keep general records, including minutes of the meetings of the Council and General Assembly and financial reports and budgets for approval by the General Assembly.
- 4.11 The Council appoints one member of the Council (excluding the President) and two IASSA members who are not on Council to review the financial statement and accounts on a triennial basis, in advance of the General Assembly. The Council may choose to initiate more frequent financial reviews and use the services of an external auditor.
- 4.12 The Council may establish committees comprised of Council members to assist with its work. The mandates and powers of these committees shall be established by the Council.
- 4.13 The President or the Council may appoint individuals to represent IASSA in professional organizations, international meetings, negotiations with agencies and other activities. The powers of such representatives shall be specifically conferred and delineated by the President and/or the Council. Any such representative shall serve for the term specified by the President and/or the Council.

5. The General Assembly

- 5.1 The General Assembly of IASSA meets every three years at the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences. The Assembly consists of all members of the IASSA attending the meeting. Each member of the Assembly has one vote. All decisions are by simple majority. The Council may decide to allow electronic voting by members not able to attend the General Assembly; intent to do so will be declared to members at least 90 days in advance of the General Assembly. The Council will be responsible for organizing the voting process and ensuring that the voting can be conducted in a secure and fair manner.
- 5.2 The General Assembly approves the Council's reports of the activities and the financial statement and budget recommendations, elects the President and Council, and considers other matters relevant to the Association.
- 5.3 Any decision to cancel or postpone ICASS and the General Assembly must be taken by the Council, in consultation with the local organization committee.

6. Elections of IASSA President and Council

- 6.1 The IASSA Secretariat is responsible for organizing the triennial Presidential and Council elections. The Secretariat publicizes the call for nominations and ensures a suitable list of candidates for the election.
- 6.2 If ICASS and the General Assembly are cancelled or postponed, the current President and Council will be allowed to extend their terms in office until the next General Assembly.
- 6.3 *Election of the President (and Co-Convenor for Upcoming ICASS)*
 - 6.3.1 A call for nomination for President shall be circulated among IASSA members by the nominating committee, via the IASSA listserv no less than 90 days in advance of the meeting of the General Assembly. Any nomination for President must be signed by five (5) members of IASSA in good standing (excluding the person nominated), who are not from the same institution as the candidate for President or the proposed Co-Convenor.
 - 6.3.2 Candidates for President will outline their proposal for location of the next ICASS and present the name of a Co-Convenor as part of their bid for the presidency. The Co-Convenor will come from the institution that is proposed to host the next ICASS. (If the candidate for President proposes her/his own institution as the site of the next ICASS, a Co-Convenor will come from her/his institution.) ICASS will normally be held at academic institutions, and locations in Arctic states are preferred.
 - 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. The bid should include evidence of institutional support from the highest level. The statement should not exceed two pages of text (not counting supporting letters). These statements will be published in *Northern Notes* prior to the ICASS meeting. Statements should be received at least 45 days in advance of the General Assembly. Nominations should be announced a minimum of 7 days before the General Assembly.
 - 6.3.4 Any candidate for President may also run as a candidate for Council. Any person identified as Co-Convenor may run for IASSA Council.
 - 6.3.5 Voting will take place at the General Assembly, by secret ballot.
 - 6.3.6 If the Co-Convenor is not elected as a member of Council s/he will be requested to attend IASSA Council meetings related to ICASS organization but will not enjoy voting rights.
- 6.4 *Election of Council Members*
 - 6.4.1 A call for nominations for Council Members shall be circulated among IASSA members by the IASSA Secretariat, via the IASSA listserv at least 90 days in advance of the meeting of the General Assembly. 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. Nominations should be received at least 45 days in advance of the General Assembly. Nominations should be announced a minimum of 7 days before the General Assembly.
 - 6.4.2 Current and previous Council Members can run. A Council Member may hold the position of Council Member for up to three (3) consecutive terms. Past-Presidents may run for position of Councillor, with the similar restriction of three (3) consecutive terms in total. A Council Member who steps down from the position after serving three consecutive term may run again in the following election (i.e., after having a 3-year period off the Council).
 - 6.4.3 Candidates will be invited to prepare a short biographical sketch and statement on their reasons for wanting to serve on IASSA Council (less than 200 words).



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

6.4.5 Council will submit a list of candidates to the General Assembly for election.

6.4.6 Voting will take place at the General Assembly, by secret ballot.

6.4.7 Council positions will go to those receiving the highest number of votes, except in cases where this does not include at least five members from Arctic countries (including the Past-President and President) and/or at least one Indigenous Council member.

6.4.8 A record will be kept of the election results by the IASSA Secretariat. If a Councillor must leave the Council during the three-year period of service, the person with the next highest number of votes will be approached to join the Council. If there is only one Indigenous Council member, and this person must leave the Council during the three-year period of service, the Indigenous candidate with the next highest number of votes will be approached to join the Council. If the person who must leave is from an Arctic country and there are only four remaining Council members from Arctic countries (including the Past President and President), the new Councillor should be from an Arctic country.

7. Secretariat

7.1 The location of the Secretariat of IASSA is normally at the home institution of the President of IASSA.

7.2 The IASSA Archive, including records, publications, reports, and other documents relating to the institutional memory of the organization, shall be kept at the Secretariat

8. Changes to the By-Laws

8.1 Council will review the bylaws on a triennial basis and suggest changes for ratification at the General Assembly. Any member in good standing may also propose a change to the by-laws, provided that s/he has the signatures of ten (10) other members in good standing. Any changes must be submitted 90 days in advance of the General Assembly.

8.2 The President will circulate the changes electronically to all members who have provided a current email.

8.3 Ratification of any change requires the approval of two-thirds of the members in good standing in attendance at the General Assembly.

Co-Creating Arctic Research together with Indigenous Rights Holders

When: 20-26 March 2021 | Where: Online

Contact: [Annette Scheepstra](mailto:a.j.m.scheepstra@rug.nl), [Elle Merete Omma](mailto:elle.merete@saamicouncil.net), [Gertrude Saxinger](mailto:Gertrude.Saxinger@polarresearch.at), [Nina Döring](mailto:Nina.Doering@iass-potsdam.de)
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The workshop will be held online during ASSW 2021, where experiences of the development of co-creating research projects are being discussed, with a special focus on the Indigenous perspectives. What are their experiences in the co-creation process of the development of research projects? How can this process be improved and who needs to be involved in this (Indigenous communities and organisations, research organisations, funding agencies etc.)? How can we achieve a paradigm shift, e.g., towards developing a new way how the science community together with funders could be partners with the Indigenous communities in order to support these communities in developing their own research needs?

LAUNCH OF THE UARCTIC LÆRA INSTITUTE

We are delighted to announce today the launch of the Læra Institute for Circumpolar Education (Læra Institute), a new institute within the international University of the Arctic (UArctic). Læra Institute lead partners Trent University and the University of Northern British Columbia are privileged to be joined in this initiative by the Arctic State Agrotechnological University in Russia, Nord University in Norway, and Lakehead University and Yukon University in Canada.

The word *læra* means *learn* or *study* in Icelandic, and the Læra Institute is dedicated to promoting best-practice teaching and learning about the Circumpolar North. Over the next two years, we will develop curriculum specifications, exemplar courses and pedagogical resources to support Circumpolar Studies teaching at UArctic member universities, whether in-person or online. We will also hold regular workshops for faculty, as well as educational symposia for students. We are enormously grateful to UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and the Norwegian Ministry for Education and Research, for the initial funding for this work.

As part of our mission, we will pay special attention to the varied perspectives on 'circumpolarity' that exist across the Circumpolar North, particularly Indigenous perspectives. In this way, we will honour the extraordinary diversity of the circumpolar world, whilst at the same time strengthening the UArctic as a borderless academic and educational community.

The UArctic was founded to create educational programmes relevant and accessible to students of the North. The UArctic Circumpolar Studies programme has long fulfilled this important purpose, serving thousands of students for 18 years. The Læra Institute will revitalise and refresh this programme, transforming it from a small suite of off-the-shelf courses into a broad and flexible curriculum that can be easily adapted to local educational contexts.

We regret that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be unable to introduce our new initiative to UArctic members this autumn as originally planned. Instead, we look forward to doing so at the Third UArctic Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland, 17th- 19th May 2021. Please join us there to learn about our work, and to express your institution's interest to get involved.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Dr Anthony Specá, Managing Director

anthonyspeca@trentu.ca



PRECC-РЕЛИЗ LÆRA INSTITUTE

ЗАПУСК ПРОЕКТА LÆRA INSTITUTE УНИВЕРСИТЕТА АРКТИКИ

Мы рады объявить сегодня об открытии Læra Institute по Циркумполярным Образованию, новом учебном заведении в рамках международного Университета Арктики (UArctic). Ведущие партнёры Laera Institute: Университет Трента, (Trent University) и Университет Северной Британской Колумбии (UNBC), имеют честь присоединиться к этой инициативе также Арктический государственный агротехнологический университет (Якутск, РФ), Северный Университет Норвегии (Nord University), а также Университеты Lakehead и Университет Юкона (Канада).

Слова «læra» означает «учиться», «обучать» — на исландском языке, поэтому Læra Institute будет заниматься продвижением передового опыта преподавания в изучении циркумполярного Севера. В течение следующих двух лет мы разработаем спецификации (стандарты) учебных программ, примерные курсы и педагогические ресурсы для поддержки преподавания циркумполярных исследований в университетах-партнерах Университета Арктики, как в очном так и в онлайн формате. Мы также будем проводить регулярные семинары для преподавателей, а также образовательные симпозиумы для студентов. Мы искренне благодарим Министерство образования Норвегии за финансирование (грант) начала этого проекта.

В рамках нашей миссии мы будем уделять особое внимание различным точкам зрения на «циркумполярность», существующим на циркумполярном Севере, особенно взглядам коренных народов. Таким образом, мы будем уважать необычайное разнообразие циркумполярного мира, одновременно укрепляя Университете Арктики как академическое и образовательное сообщество без границ.

Университет Арктики был основан для создания образовательных программ, актуальных и доступных для студентов Севера. Программа циркумполярных исследований Университета Арктики уже давно выполняет эту важную задачу, давая возможности тысячам студентов в течение 18 лет. Læra Institute оживит и обновит эту программу, превратив ее из небольшого набора готовых курсов в широкую и гибкую учебную программу, которую можно легко адаптировать к локальным (региональным) образовательным условиям.

Мы сожалеем о том, что из-за пандемии COVID-19 мы не сможем представить нашу новую инициативу этой осенью, как первоначально планировалось.

Вместо этого мы с нетерпением ждем Третий Конгрессе Университета Арктики в Рейкьявике (Исландия), 17-19 мая 2021 года. Присоединяйтесь к

UArctic Læra Institute по Циркумполярным Образованию

нам, чтобы узнать о нашей работе и выразить заинтересованность вашего учреждения в участии.

ДЛЯ ПОДРОБНОЙ И ИНФОРМАЦИИ, ПОЖАЛУЙСТА СВЯЖИТЕСЬ С: Д-р Энтони Спекса, упр anthonyspeca@trentu.ca



Arctic Resilience Forum 2020: Statement on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Knowledge Co-Production in the Arctic

This Statement was prepared by the participants of the Arctic Resilience Forum-2020 Sessions "*Working Together in the Arctic - Respecting Indigenous Engagement, Equity and Sustainability of Knowledge Systems to Support Resilience in the Arctic*" (December 16, 2020)

Session co-organizers: SDWG, Harvard University Arctic Initiative, Arctic Athabaskan Council and IASSA with the help of the ARCTICenter

Link: <https://www.belfercenter.org/event/arctic-resilience-forum-working-together-arctic-respecting-indigenous-engagement-equity-and>

Session introductory video link: <https://www.belfercenter.org/event/arctic-resilience-forum-working-together-arctic-respecting-indigenous-engagement-equity-and#resources->

Contributors: Evon Peter (GCI/UAF), Andrey Petrov (IASSA), Gunn-Britt Retter (Saami Council), Vyacheslav Shadrin (RAIPON-Yakutia), Norma Shorty (AAC), Colleen Strawhacker (NSF), and Tatiana Degai (ARCTICenter).

Arctic Indigenous Peoples have sustained their cultures and livelihoods for millennia, while being stewards of local social-ecological systems. Thus, resilience in the Arctic should be understood and accomplished in the context of Indigenous epistemologies and through collaboration between Indigenous knowledge systems and Western science. Indigenous knowledge has the potential to provide a foundation for individual and collective resilience of past, present, and future generations of Arctic Indigenous Peoples, and empower communities to make self-determined choices and define their own paths to sustainable development.

Indigenous knowledge represents stand-alone, comprehensive, holistic and self-sufficient systems of knowing rooted into the multigenerational wisdom of the Indigenous Peoples stemming from millennia-long experiences of living on the land, ice and sea. Indigenous knowledge systems have their own ontologies, epistemologies, and methodologies, and possess internal validation principles and processes. They embed within themselves the experiences of many generations of Indigenous communities and reflect the needs and aspirations of the Indigenous

Peoples in respect to their livelihoods and cultures. Importantly, the Indigenous languages present a worldview that's held within the Indigenous knowledge systems. The loss of the Indigenous languages leads to the loss of knowledge and thus of our shared ability to understand and address urgent challenges, such as climate change and health. Indigenous knowledge is tied to ownership, to the spirit, to seen and unseen, to known and unknown. Indigenous ways of learning and teaching are based on the holistic understanding of the universe. Contrary to the Western education system, spirituality and the belief that everything has a spirit- is an important component of individual and collective constructs and the Indigenous way of life.

A colonial past that included inequities perpetuated by science and scientists working in the Arctic, in particular the lack of respect and understanding of the Indigenous ways of knowing, disrupted thriving Indigenous knowledge systems and undermined their sustainability. In order to ensure the vitality of these systems, collaborative efforts by Western and Indigenous scholars under the guidance of the Indigenous knowledge holders must become a priority, and knowledge co-production must be seen as central for Arctic research. While working with Indigenous communities, one has to be mindful of the systemic discrimination against them and allow time and channel resources so that these communities can reconcile with their histories and languages, which were disrupted due to long spells of historic and ongoing colonization.

The lack of equitable engagement with Indigenous knowledge in the Arctic leads to distorted and unscientific understandings of the nature and social systems of the Arctic. Responses to the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation based exclusively on Western land policies and science, can exacerbate, not solve the emerging problems, such as massive land use changes driven by renewable energy production, which are impacting the traditional livelihoods of the Indigenous reindeer herders. Thus, academic research should be viewed as supporting, and not supplanting, the Indigenous knowledge and the institutions of learning need to do a better job at supporting these holders of knowledge

Recent Conferences & Workshops

Arctic Resilience Forum 2020: Statement on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Knowledge Co-Production in the Arctic

Indigenous communities and knowledge holders are critical to advance our shared understanding of sustainability and resilience in the Arctic region. Therefore, to foster resilience in Arctic social-ecological systems we must attain equity and sustainability of the Indigenous knowledge systems as they engage with Western science and policy. This could be achieved through a collaborative process based on mutual understanding, trust, respect and decolonization that can guide knowledge co-production. This journey starts with respecting Indigenous knowledge systems and holders, followed by equitable investment in these knowledge systems that would lead to true co-production and will result in co-produced policy solutions for resilience,

sustainability and thriving of Arctic social-ecological systems. This co-production needs to be mindful and respectful of the context of colonization and assimilation alongside Indigenization and self-determination. The Indigenous communities, in their turn, will also benefit from collaborating within themselves to help each other heal the traumas related to past colonization policies while sharing wisdom and further developing their knowledge systems. The process of healing includes time for all to reconcile with their own history of oppression and ignorance in order to continue the empowerment of Arctic Indigenous Peoples.

U.S. Arctic Research Plan 2022-2026: Open for Viewing and Comments



The U.S. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee is required to develop and implement an Arctic Research Plan every five years. The draft Arctic Research Plan 2022-2026 identifies priorities for U.S. inter-agency collaboration and partnerships that will increase the value of the federal research investment in the Arctic and for Arctic residents. It addresses the most pressing Arctic research needs that require a collaborative approach and that can advance understanding of the Arctic, inform policy and planning decisions, and promote the well-being of Arctic and global communities.

In March 2021, IARPC released a draft of the next Arctic Research Plan (2022-2026). We are asking for the public to comment on the plan by June 11, 2021. [Learn More...](#)



Attention: Conference & Workshop Participants

The editors of the *Northern Notes* are always wanting to hear from participants who have attended conferences and workshops relating to the international social sciences. If you've recently attended a workshop or conference and want to tell us about your experiences, please e-mail **Ann Crawford**, IASSA Secretary at ann.crawford@uni.edu

Towards the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial



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

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

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

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

“Stop Coronavirus!” Posters in Indigenous Languages

by Tatiana Degai, ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa

The ARCTICenter at the University of Northern Iowa (USA) in collaboration with Herten State University (Russia) and language experts from different Indigenous communities developed educational posters that introduce the “Stop Coronavirus” terminology in several Indigenous languages. Nine precautionary phrases such as Wash your hands, Cough in your elbow, Keep distance and other were translated by language speakers into Itelmen, two dialects of Koryak, Siberian Yupik, Even, Evenk, Yukagir, Chukchi and Nenets languages. Most of the languages that the posters are translated into are severely endangered, nonetheless this publication presents Indigenous languages of the Arctic as rather vital and living knowledge systems. While one might think why translating such information into the languages that are rarely spoken and not leave it in a dominant language, for others such projects are a rich source of inspiration, knowledge, and teaching and learning materials that provide ways to bond the ancestral languages and knowledge with the contemporary realities.

Total of nine posters for each language are now available on the website of the UNI ARCTICenter’s COVITA project - a project that focuses on the development and deployment of a real-time web-based COVID-19 data hub managed by an interdisciplinary team of experts in data science, geoinformatics, epidemiology and geography (<https://arcticcovid.uni.edu/learning-materials>). Each poster is trilingual and has a phrase translated into an Indigenous, Russian and English languages. The phrases are also presented through infographics that accumulate the features of the diverse Indigenous cultures of the Arctic. The next step of this project is to connect the posters with the voices and develop a short educational “Stop Coronavirus!” videos in Indigenous languages dubbed by language speakers. These are uploaded online for anyone to use and learn.



We are pleased to announce that the **Polish Polar Research (PPR)** - after a several-year break - opens its pages to the researchers representing polar social sciences and humanities.

The quarterly is an international journal publishing original research articles presenting the results of studies carried out in and about polar regions. All papers are peer-reviewed and published in English. Polish Polar Research is an open-access journal with all content available with no charge in full-text version. The journal content is available under the licence CC BY-NC-ND 3.0

Polish Polar Research is edited by the Committee on Polar Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences and is indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded, Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, Cold Regions Bibliography, Antarctic Literature, Geological Abstracts, Polish Scientific Journals Contents - Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Quarterly Review, and Zoological Record.

Please submit your manuscripts to Polish Polar Research using our [online submission system](#).

Kind regards,
Editors-in-Chief

Greenlandic Translation Now Available: Facilitating increased engagement between the research communities of Greenland and the U.S.

A two-day workshop was held 27-28 August 2018 at Pinngortitaleriffik (Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, GINR), in Nuuk, Greenland, where diverse participants from the U.S. (19) and Greenland (29) research communities explored possibilities for strengthening U.S.-Greenland collaborations. Participants set priorities for future work and funding related to:

Research & Co-Production of Research, Public Outreach, and Education & Student Training.

This workshop report captures many thoughtful, creative, and overwhelmingly enthusiastic ideas and recommendations for improving the way that the U.S. and Greenland researchers collaborate on important Arctic projects.

The Greenlandic translation of the report (pdf) can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/dartmouth.edu/nuukworkshop/home>



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020 Svalbard Social Science Initiative

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The Svalbard Social Science Initiative was launched in 2018 as a bottom-up initiative by several researchers studying the human dimensions of the dynamic changes currently underway in Svalbard. The aim of the network is to create linkages among social scientists working with issues related to Svalbard, establish a platform for coordinating research activities, and to facilitate the communication with local communities and other scientists. Additional social scientists, humanities and arts scholars with relevant research and interests are welcome to join the initiative.

MEMBERS: Mathias Albert, Dina Brode-Roger, Eva la Cour, Patrizia Duda, Laura Ferguson, Lisbeth Iversen, Jelmer Jeuring, Eva Kotašková, Annette Löf, Alexandra Meyer, Alexandra Middleton, Astrid E.J. Ogilvie, Julia Olsen, Cecilie Vindal Ødegaard, Samantha Saville, Ulrich Schildberg, Zdenka Sokolíčková, Andrian Vlahov, René van der Wal, Tarje Iversen Wanvik, Jasmine Zhang

This initiative was started in 2018 and incorporated in 2020 with Core Values of: Collaboration, Co-Creation, Community Involvement

2019 activities

SSSI made important links with the Scott Polar Research Institute

On May 9, Dina Brode-Roger and Samantha Saville were guest speakers at the Scott Polar Research Institute's (SPRI) Polar Humanities and Social Sciences (PHaSS) meeting in Cambridge, UK. After presenting their individual research projects, they introduced the newly created Svalbard Social Science Initiative (SSSI). They received a warm welcome and a range of questions indicating a high level of interest in how the project progresses. These kinds of exchanges are essential to developing a strong collaborative network amongst researchers in the polar regions because they create awareness of current research projects and research issues, facilitate communication, and pave the way for future collaboration. Indeed, Samantha is now stationed at SPRI and can actively maintain this link with a key polar research organization.

Presentation at Lokaltstyre

Members of the SSSI were invited to present their research at a meeting by Lokaltstyre (the political Local Board) in September. The four SSSI-members who were present in Longyearbyen at the time (Alexandra Meyer, Zdenka Sokolickova, Lisbeth Iversen, and Cecilie Vindal Ødegaard) accepted this opportunity to make the initiative known to the town's political representatives. The presentations addressed the SSSI's motivation to contribute with social science and humanities research to understand and address ongoing changes in Svalbard, including brief introductions to SSSI members' specific research projects. The presentations were met with interest and were followed up by an article in the local newspaper, Svalbardposten, on October 1, with the title Mange forsker på byen vår.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020 Svalbard Social Science Initiative



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Public consultation on the new management plan for central Spitsbergen

In September, SSSI members Laura Ferguson, Samantha Saville and Zdenka Sokolickova conducted a public consultation on views towards management of Central Spitsbergen. This area is popular for leisure purposes and frequently accessed by both residents and visitors. A survey was conducted to gather public views towards key aspects of the use and management of the landscape. Their findings indicated polarised views towards the New Management Plan for Central Spitsbergen, with opposition primarily driven by fear of strict controls, in particular access restrictions. Despite a significant minority opposed to any controls, there was recognition from the majority of respondents that there was a need for some form of management, with the strongest support for 'soft' management.

SSSI side-meeting and workshop on November 4, in connection with the Svalbard Science Conference 2019

Together with the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center (NERSC) the SSSI received funding from the Svalbard Science Forum (SSF) to host a side-meeting and workshop on November 4, in connection with the Svalbard Science Conference. This was initiated to bring together and stimulate increased scientific cooperation and coordination between researchers from the social sciences and humanities focusing on Svalbard, and between researchers and local communities and stakeholders. The side-meeting was led by Lisbeth Iversen (NERSC) and each workshop session was led by different members of the SSSI.

There were various presentations both by SSSI members and invited speakers, including the head of the planning unit of Longyearbyen Lokaltstyre, on the past, present and future of living on Svalbard, as well as presentations of current research projects. Through group discussions, we aimed to strengthen the ways in which social science and humanities research can work with and for the local community, as well as to consolidate the research network and plan future activities. The side-meeting addressed important emerging topics to be investigated to meet Svalbard's communities' challenges, identified research gaps, priorities, and recommendations for future work.

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The outcome of the side-meeting was summarised in a report that can be found on the SSSI website: <https://svalbardsocialscience.com/report-from-the-sssi-workshop-at-the-svalbard-science-conference-2019-in-oslo/>.

A poster exhibition by SSSI for the SSC 2019

For the Svalbard Science Conference in November, the SSSI proposed a jointly organized poster exhibition. In addition to posters communicating SSSI members' individual research projects, two common posters framed the composition within a social science and humanities research perspective. Moreover, all posters were designed in accordance with a color scheme that provided a visual coherence. The joint effort was important as the Svalbard Science Conference is predominantly a gathering of natural science presentations and poster exhibitions. The intention was to emphasize the importance of addressing the ongoing changes on Svalbard from a social science perspective and introduce SSSI in that regard.

Ethical guidelines for Social Science, Humanities & Arts Research in Svalbard

At the SSSI side-meeting to the SSC in Oslo in November, the network decided to start working on a set of Ethical Guidelines for Social Science, Humanities & Arts Research in Svalbard. The aim of this document, which is inspired by IASSA's Principles and Guidelines for Conducting Ethical Research in the Arctic, is to provide researchers with guidelines to consult before starting their projects in Svalbard communities. A draft version of the document, accompanied by an instructive complementary Practical Guide to Research in Svalbard, has been submitted to the SSF. A revised version will be submitted to other relevant stakeholders and institutions for their feedback.

2020 Activities

Presenting preliminary outcomes to the community

On February 6, the initiative organized a public presentation of ongoing social science projects. The event was held in English and hosted by the Public Library in Longyearbyen. The program consisted of the presentations by Dina Brode-Roger and Zdenka Sokolickova. About 60 people attended the event, confirming the substantial interest from people who live in Longyearbyen in taking part and learning about the results of research that focuses on humans.

Creation of the association

During the SSSI side-meeting at the Svalbard Science Conference in Oslo in November 2019 it was decided that the SSSI should become an association. Until then, the SSSI had been a rather loosely organized network. Creating an association (forening) would formalize the SSSI as a legal entity, and allow it to apply for funding and have its own bank account for collecting membership fees. The association was founded and its statutes were formulated on February 24, during a Skype meeting with eleven of the SSSI members present. On June 26, the SSSI was formally registered as an association in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities (Enhetsregisteret) in Norway.

SSSI presented to the Norwegian Research Council

On March 10, Zdenka Sokolickova presented the initiative and its activities, and argued for the importance of social science, humanities and arts research in the Arctic. The event, organized by the Svalbard Science Forum and hosted by UNIS in Longyearbyen, was attended by interested scientists, managers of science, and representatives of the Norwegian Research Council.

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Longyearbyen community dialogues

The SSSI initiative, in collaboration with LPO Arkitekter and Store Norske developed the idea of a series of community dialogues, held in Norwegian and English, where residents of Longyearbyen can discuss burning issues for the community. Each dialogue addresses a topic—such as housing, use of nature, or tourism—and is streamed live.

On May 27, the first dialogue, Longyearbyen: What Next Post Corona? focused on the Corona situation, its impacts on the community, and what the future might look like. The event aimed to create an arena where people could speak freely about the urgent problems they are facing and look together for constructive solutions. Due to the pandemic, the three hour long event had no physical audience, but was streamed live and was followed by about 60 people online.

On September 17, the SSSI, together with LPO Arkitekter, continued with the series. The second Community Dialogue was called Longyearbyen as a community, not (just) a destination: What kind of tourism do we want on Svalbard in the future, and how do we get there? The one and a half hour livestream was followed by about 45 viewers live with numerous comments and input. The video has been viewed by almost 300 Facebook users within 1 week.

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On December 9, the third dialogue, Use and Protection of Nature, presented the current protection and management plan process and engaged different members of the community in discussions about the meaning/value of nature as well as how to balance protection and use. In spite of technical difficulties with the sound, ca. 280 people have watched the video. These dialogues have proved to be of interest to the community and will continue in 2021 as a collaborative effort between SSSI and LPO Arkitekter.

Introducing SSSI to the new UNIS director

On June 26, Dina Brode-Roger, Alexandra Meyer, and Zdenka Sokolickova presented the initiative to the new director of UNIS, Jøran Moen. He expressed interest in our work and the mission of the initiative, and we hope for further development of the cooperation.

SSSI representative part of SSC scientific committee

Zdenka Sokolickova has become part of the scientific committee of the Svalbard Science Conference 2021. She will represent the initiative and make sure that social science, humanities, and arts have their place in the mosaic of disciplines helping us to better understand the changing Arctic archipelago.

Presentation about Chinese tourism

On September 2, Zdenka Sokolickova presented and discussed her results of a study conducted on the topic of Chinese tourism in Svalbard. Feedback was incorporated in the manuscript of a chapter submitted to the volume Asian Mobilities Consumption in a Changing Arctic, edited by Young-Sook Lee and to be published in 2021 by Routledge. The main points were also presented in a chronicle in Svalbardposten Turisme, Svalbard og Kina (September 6) and at a meeting for local tourism marketers organized by Visit Svalbard (September 30).

Presentation at the local office of Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

On September 9, Alexandra Meyer and Zdenka Sokolickova presented about Longyearbyen in change and how the changes are interpreted and framed in current SSSI research projects. The audience was the representatives of the newly established Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries local office.

Collaboration with SVALUR

The project SVALUR–Understanding Resilience and Long-Term Environmental Change in the High Arctic: Narrative-Based Analyses from Svalbard will combine environmental monitoring and people’s knowledge on environmental change on Svalbard. On September 22, the project team and SSSI members met online to get to know each other and to discuss future collaborations and knowledge-exchange between SVALUR and already ongoing research on people’s experiences of environmental change on Svalbard.

Collection of articles in Polar Record

As a response to the increasing interest of the social sciences and humanities in Svalbard which led to the foundation of the SSSI, Zdenka Sokolickova and Alexandra Meyer initiated and will be guest editors of a collection of articles in the peer-reviewed journal Polar Record entitled Changing Svalbard. The Svalbard social science community has been invited to submit articles in which they present and discuss their research findings. The collection of articles is expected to be published in 2021.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Sssi Workshop

A central activity planned for SSSI in 2020—and the first official event for SSSI after becoming an association—was a major workshop scheduled to take place in December 2020 in Longyearbyen. The workshop, funded by a grant from SSF, was to consist of a mix of plenary events and specific working group sessions for SSSI members, with a limited number of external participants. NERSC is the hosting organisation for the application, and Lisbeth Iversen, NERSC is the project leader for this application. Public events were planned for the local public and stakeholders during the event. Because of the Corona situation, the event was postponed to 2021. To avoid unnecessary travel from abroad, it is now provisionally scheduled either immediately before, or immediately after, the 2021 Svalbard Science Conference in Oslo. As part of the preparation process for the physical workshop, SSSI ran an online seminar December 10–11, 2020 for members to better understand each other's work and to begin to discuss potential future collaborations.

Panel at ICASS X

The International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) organized by the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), supposed to take place in Arkhangelsk in June 2020, has been postponed to June 2021. Andrian Vlahov, Zdenka Sokolickova, and Alexandra Meyer are organizing a panel entitled Social sciences, humanities and arts (in) changing Svalbard, and hope to foster a lively debate around the multilayered change that Svalbard—as part of the Arctic and the globalised world—is undergoing.

We will continue with our monthly online meetings, and are preparing a strategic online workshop for February 2021. Several collaborations that have sprung out of the SSSI are underway. We will continue with our monthly online meetings, and are preparing a strategic online workshop for February 2021.

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Arctic Tourism in Times of Change: Dimensions of Urban Tourism

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Tourism has grown in many Arctic peripheries of northern Europe and North America in recent years, particularly among international markets interested in northern winter experiences and unique Arctic nature and culture-based assets. This recent growth has been facilitated by a combination of factors tied to globalization, climate change, and an increasing “Arctification” of northern tourism that has generated particular imaginations and representations of the North among consumers as well as industry and political stakeholders. In this context urban places have remained relatively neglected in both academic and policy discourses connected to Arctic tourism, with much of the research and public attention focusing on remote destinations and exotic attractions that typically dominate the popular promotional tourism imagery of the Arctic.

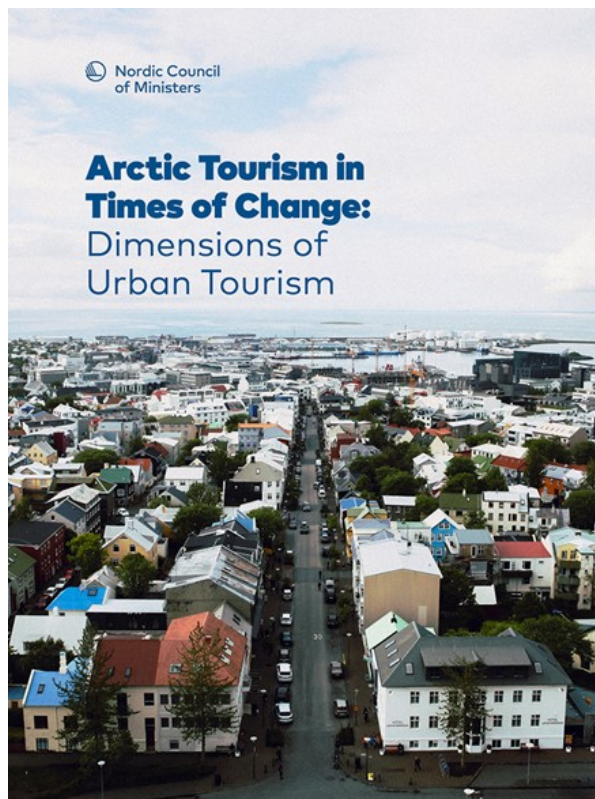
This report is the second one developed as part of the project Partnership for Sustainability: Arctic Tourism in Times of Change (funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers Arctic Co-operation Programme 2018–2020). It is based on a workshop of the UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Tourism and the Arctic Five initiative held in Umeå, Sweden, in October 2019. The report brings together expertise and case studies from several Arctic and northern peripheries in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Canada to illustrate the diversity of urban Arctic tourism dimensions and to identify important implications for sustainable local and/or regional tourism development across the North.

The case studies indicate that the dimensions of urban tourism in the Arctic are plentiful. As urban places in the Arctic are not primarily tourism resort towns, tourism happens in the context of other economic and societal activities. Hence, urban places in the Arctic serve a regional demand for urbanity and urban services within leisure and entertainment and they serve as destinations for domestic and international markets looking for more typical northern products such as winter experiences or northern lights. In this context, the Arctic dimensions of urban tourism in northern cities are not always self-evident and tourism has not always developed in relation to the northern culture of these places.

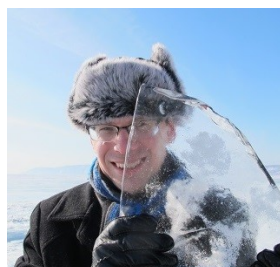
Arctic Tourism in Times of Change: Dimensions of Urban Tourism (cont)

Considering these insights, there is certainly not only one way forward for urban tourism in the Arctic – particularly bearing in mind that destinations in the Arctic world are facing a new dawn, forced forward by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, in a global competition for

capital, companies, and people, urban places seem to be increasingly using tourism as a way to boost local economies and reimagine their places in order to achieve individual, local, regional, and national development goals. In this context, the “Arctic” becomes a context to play with and an ingredient that on a global market is currently loaded with positive value.



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