

# » 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE**  
CENTER FOR CIRCUMPOLAR SECURITY STUDIES

[thearticinstitute.org](http://thearticinstitute.org)

# » ABOUT THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

## Who We Are

Established in 2011 and incorporated in 2015, The Arctic Institute is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization headquartered in Washington, D.C with a network of researchers across the world. We envision a world in which the diverse and complex issues facing Arctic security are identified, understood, and innovatively resolved. Rigorous, qualitative, and comprehensive research is the Institute's core for developing solutions to challenges and injustices in the circumpolar north.

CREATIVITY.  
INDEPENDENCE.  
INNOVATION.

## What We Do

The Arctic Institute's mission is to help shape policy for a secure, just, and sustainable Arctic through objective, multidisciplinary research of the highest caliber. Our research agenda is constantly evolving to reflect a rapidly changing Arctic. Institute projects, publications, and events span the most pertinent security issues of the circumpolar region, developed by direct engagement and collaboration with young scholars, emerging regional actors, and northern communities. We provide data, analysis, and recommendations to policymakers, researchers, the media, and the interested public about circumpolar security challenges. Beyond our work, the Institute is building the future of Arctic research through partnerships with organizations across the globe.



## Where We Are

We are a think tank for the 21st Century. Our network of multidisciplinary scholars work in North America, Scandinavia, and continental Europe and represent expertise in many different disciplines. Together, we are dedicated to research of and engagement in the many dimensions of Arctic security.

### NORTH AMERICA

BOSTON  
WASHINGTON DC  
SAN FRANCISCO  
TORONTO  
VANCOUVER

### SCANDINAVIA

COPENHAGEN  
OSLO

### EUROPE

BERLIN  
LONDON  
VIENNA





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# » A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## A New Reality; A New Institute

In 2016's final months, the Arctic experienced extraordinary heat, stopping ice from forming and causing alarm from communities and scientists alike. With this unprecedented climatic volatility, a new Arctic is emerging. Maps that once recorded regular sea ice extent and expanses of permafrost now display anticipated ice retreats and large-scale thaws. Beyond changes to the physical landscape of the circumpolar north, global warming holds the power to redefine the economic, political, and human structures of a new North.

This new Arctic of the 21st Century requires research organizations that are forward thinking, collaborative, and flexible to the challenges and opportunities of a constantly evolving region.

Over the past year, The Arctic Institute has endeavored to meet that need.

In 2016 our team of global scholars put well-researched evidence into action. Both a think-and-do-tank, we believe that policy recommendations and capacity building programs must be rooted in strategic, field-based research. Our 2016 research projects resulted in the publication of over fifty articles, reports, and infographics and have supported workshops, webinars, and youth programming across North America and Europe for hundreds of participants.

But research is only as effective as its communication to policymakers, communities, and the public. To better serve our audiences, in 2016 the Institute launched a new website. It not only provides easier access to our research and publications; we've also added a pioneering platform to share multimedia projects from the Arctic's future leaders—its youth. The new site also includes 21 go-to guides on policy, people, economy, and environment for each state active in the North today.

For this work, The Arctic Institute was shortlisted by Prospect Magazine for Best US Energy & Environment Think Tank in 2016 and ranked 61 of nearly 2,000 think tanks in America by the University of Pennsylvania.

We are motivated by these successes to do more in 2017.

In the year to come, The Arctic Institute will uphold our commitment to creating a world in which the diverse and complex issues facing Arctic security are identified, understood, and innovatively resolved. With a new reality comes new uncertainties, and 2017 is poised to be just as record-breaking as 2016. As this new Arctic reality develops, so too will our Institute to meet its challenges with creativity, independence, and innovation.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Herrmann".

**Victoria Herrmann**

President & Managing Director

# » A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I am eager to write to you as our year comes to an end and a new one begins. 2016 was a tumultuous election year in the United States, and it is easy to lose sight of continuing to foster regional collaborations and to empower researchers of circumpolar security as part of a renewed commitment to the Arctic Institute's mission in the midst of such dynamic political transformations.

This year, our Board, myself, and the entire TAI team have reinforced our commitment to the Arctic Institute, and now would like to take the time to highlight our 2016 successes. We began our year by welcoming our first Board of Directors, followed by our successful application for 501(c)3 status in the summer of 2016. With these internal changes, TAI took the opportunity to update its public face. We debuted a new interactive website in May, a powerful update from our previous site, and shared 53 new publications – up 21 from our production in 2015. Beyond our own writing, TAI experts and their research were featured on the BBC, New York Times, The Guardian, and other global news outlets. TAI doubled the number of events it held, and expanded our geographical reach to the US, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, and Morocco.

As Chairman of the Arctic Institute Board, I've had the opportunity to watch as talented scholars and researchers have come to our doors, immerse themselves in a rich Arctic experience, and maintain their leadership roles throughout society and the world. These young men and women present exactly the kind of leadership Arctic countries, their allies, and the region at large desperately need, and it will be my pleasure to work closely with the Arctic Institute over the next year to help this program continue to produce the bountiful scholarly work and policy measure recommendations it has for more than five years.

For the past several decades, we've watched a concerned bipartisan movement in America work to provide leadership in government and have an impact on culture. Too frequently, the

results are underwhelming. Many of America's leaders lack character or depth of knowledge, and many US institutions do not possess the level of thoughtful coordination needed to truly engage and renew a focus on an ever-changing Arctic.

We at the Arctic Institute seek to fill this void by producing a network of informed, thoughtful, and committed men and women steeped in knowledge of the Arctic Region and related Issues and empowering them to work lasting transformative change in Arctic policy and efforts. With hundreds of experts, community champions, and emerging leaders already part of our network of inspiring research and events, we look forward to connecting even more Arctic scholars with much needed publications, research projects, and capacity building opportunities in 2017!



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DS'.

**David Slayton**  
Chairman

# » 2016 BY THE NUMBERS



53

Publications



2,500

Facebook Followers



2,000+

Subscribers to  
weekly Newsletter



90

Countries represented  
in our subscribers



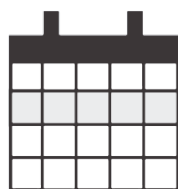
12,400

Twitter Followers



10

Events in Denmark, Norway,  
Iceland, & USA attended by  
500+ people



40,000

Arctic stories shared  
through The Arctic  
This Week

Shortlisted for  
**BEST US ENERGY  
& ENVIRONMENT  
THINK TANK**  
by Prospect Magazine

“With an intermittent climate change denier on his way to the White House, the American Energy and Environment award was particularly pertinent, too. The work done by the Arctic Institute—Center for Circumpolar Security Studies impressed [...]

Ranked #61 out of 2000

**UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S  
2016 GLOBAL GO TO  
THINK TANK INDEX**



# » COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA

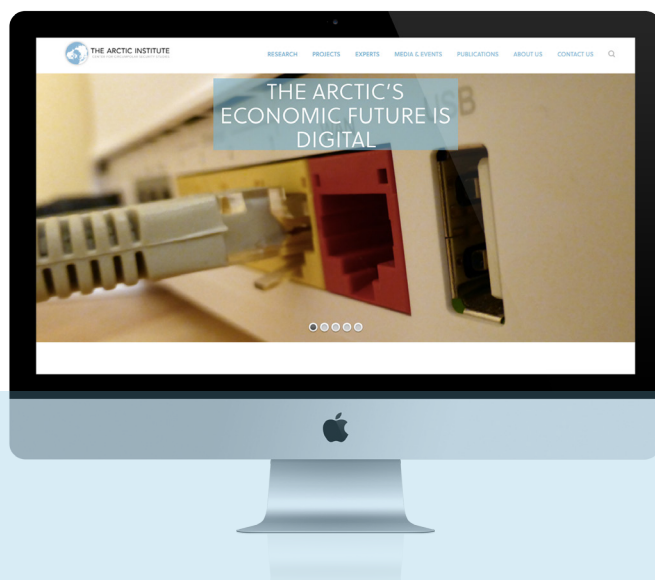
## Website

We understand how competing interests and gaps in key data can pose challenges to policymakers, scholars, and practitioners looking for independent, high-quality research. We founded The Arctic Institute in part to address this issue. Our team believes that security in the Arctic increasingly revolves around a growing list of actors and emerging fields like environmental and human security, economic and energy security, and civic and cultural security. The Arctic Institute is passionate about bringing these challenges to life through of-the-moment research, policy perspectives, and human stories. To better connect our audience to our research, in 2016 we relaunched the Institute's website experience for the first time since our founding in 2011.

**85 different countries  
have utilized its data**

of new country, topic, and analytical research resources about the region. Since its launch, policymakers, researchers, and journalists from 85 different countries have utilized its data and multimedia resources.

The Arctic Institute's new website is not just sleeker and easier to navigate; it comes with a wealth



*Our new website not only has a new sleek look, it now also contains a wealth of new data.*

*The Arctic This Week, our weekly newsletter, received a new look as well.*



## The Arctic This Week

After five years of continued weekly publication of our flagship newsletter, the Institute took 2016 to update how we communicate the latest news and analysis in the Arctic to our readers. The Arctic This Week still delivers over 150 links each Wednesday to our subscribers, but we've added a fresh face to its design and style.

In response to our 2015 Reader Survey, The Arctic Institute also introduced Take Five, a quick and fun news redux breaks down the five biggest circum-polar stories with fresh editorial analysis so you can get caught up on the region in under five minutes. In 2017 we have plans to combine The Arctic This Week and Take Five into an Arctic news App so readers will never miss a beat on what matters most.





*Victoria Hermann making an appearance on the Al Jazeera media network.*



## Media Appearances

2016 was a pivotal year for the circumpolar region. From the Arctic Council's 20th Anniversary to the Alaskan village of Shishmaref's vote to relocate from a changing climate, the north once again dominated news headlines. And, once again, The Arctic Institute was once again ready to help shape the public debate through independent, nuanced expertise. Managing Director Victoria Hermann's climate change research was cited by both the New York Times, The Guardian, and Washington Post in 2016, while Senior Fellow Kathrin Keil's insights helped leading Austrian newspaper Kleine Zeitung and German newspaper Handelsblatt understand developments in regional governance. In the economic sphere, Senior Fellow Malte Humpert appeared on NPR and Bloomberg to discuss Northern shipping opportunities and Senior Fellow Marc Jacobsen spoke to Discovery News about Greenland's future in mining.

Beyond appearances on the BBC, Al Jazeera, Reuters, and other media outlets, our scholars' writing was published in Scientific America, World Politics Review, Huffington Post, and the Los Angeles Times, sharing our Arctic expertise with thousands of readers across continents.

## Social Media

In 2016 Research Associate Ragnhild Goring defined new networks of communication to share the Arctic across the globe through the Institute's social media. Her work has expanded our Twitter following by over 2,400 people this year, with 12,400 following our channel. Facebook also saw an additional 500 followers to reach 2,500. In spring of 2016, The Arctic Institute launched a team-led Instagram account to let readers see where and how we do our work in the field. We kicked off the account with a meme series highlighting what our team thought the U.S. priorities should have been in year two of their Arctic Council Chairmanship.

# » RESEARCH THEMES & PUBLICATIONS

## Diversifying Publication Types

In 2016 The Arctic Institute published over 50 documents on important Arctic security ideas, policies, and news. Our short commentaries covered as far reaching current events as the refugee corridor at the Russian-Norwegian border, developments of the Beaufort Sea boundary dispute, President Donald Trump's election, and many more. In our more analytical peer-reviewed articles, Arctic Institute researchers explored Greenland's evolving relationship to the Kingdom of Denmark, the risks of persistent organic pollutants in a changing climate, and how Alaska's Pebble Mine could influence future Arctic mineral development. Together with the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, Senior Fellow Andreas Raspotnik and Adam Stepien published a major long-form report, *The EU's New Arctic Communication: Not-So-Integrated, Not-So-Disappointing?* The report was ground-breaking in its research into the many dimensions of EU Arctic policy's ability to be an integrated process.

While traditional publications continue to be important, a new Arctic reality calls for new and innovative ways to share our research. 2016 saw the debut of Arctic Institute infographic. Our graphic designs explaining the benefits of high speed internet in the North American Arctic, the challenges facing Arctic youth, and the risks of methane and black carbon pollution brought our research to life in new and exciting ways. And with the launch of our new website, we were able to make our illustrative maps highlighting the region's different issues easier to navigate and download for educational use.

## In Field Research

The Arctic Institute's research strives to move beyond common conceptions of the Arctic as a uniformed and remote region - that's why on-the-ground fieldwork across the many diverse Arctics is so important. From Shishmaref to Svalbard, Murmansk to Rovaniemi, our scholars traveled across the circumpolar region to better understand its fluid and rigid frameworks of local economies, international governance, indigenous cultures, and state borders. In 2016, Managing Director Victoria Herrmann traveled across five coastal Alaskan villages on the Chukchi Sea and Norton Sound to interview residents on climate change's cultural impacts, while Senior Fellow Andreas Østhagen traveled to European Union and Scandinavian capitals to better understand the landscape of search and rescue policy for the Arctic. It is through these travels that our work offers both critical regional analysis and global applications.

2016 SAW THE DEBUT OF ARCTIC INSTITUTE INFOGRAPHIC.





## » PARTNERSHIPS & PROJECTS

No challenge can be resolved or opportunity identified without collaboration. In order to achieve our mission, The Arctic Institute partners with organizations who share our commitment to building a more just, sustainable, and secure Arctic. We focus on building collaborations with Arctic and non-Arctic organizations to learn from, listen to, and work with partners towards a common goal.

**F**or four years, the Arctic Institute has been working with the High North Center to foster discussion and increase information sharing between stakeholders at the annual High North Dialogue in Bodø, Norway. Through the tandem Masters and PhD courses, the Dialogue helps to engage future leaders in constructing a meaningful debate about the Arctic's most pressing issues. We continued our partnership in the 2016 conference, The Blue Future.

Narratives of Northern landscapes, policy, people, and global connections are imbued with a vivacity that moves beyond static written analyses. Our team shares our exploration of Arctic discourses and stories through news articles, storytelling, and other dynamic productions. Partnered with Norway's High North News, our Fellows and Associates provide thorough and timely updates to Arctic current events. Together we've published over 100 articles on the region's latest developments across science, politics, and culture.



Right/Left

*The crowd leans in to listen to Victoria Hermann present at the High North Dialogue.*



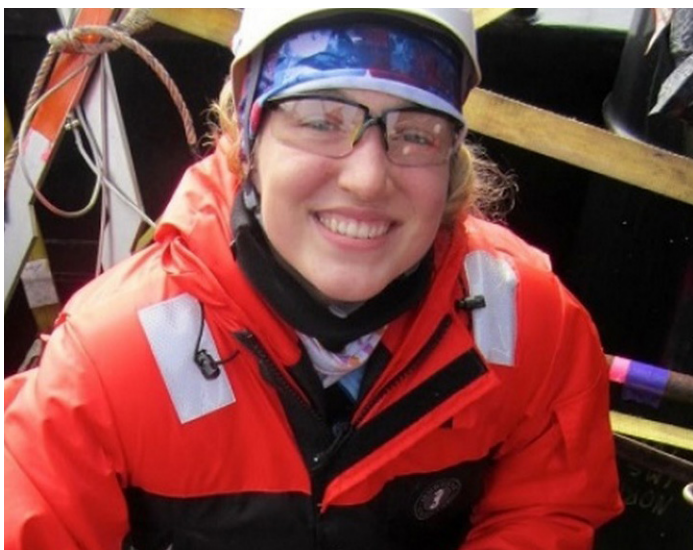
## TOGETHER WE'VE PUBLISHED OVER 100 ARTICLES ON THE REGION'S LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS SCIENCE, POLITICS, AND CULTURE.

This year we expanded our youth partnerships with organizations like the Arctic Youth Ambassadors in Alaska and Students on Ice in Canada to help us engage northern youth to write for our Perspectives forum. Through an edit-orial mentorship program with our scholars, students publish articles, videos, poems, and multimedia projects on the issues that matter to them most.

Partnered with the UK Science and Innovation Nordics Network based, The Arctic Institute held

workshops in Iceland and Denmark on the applications of traditional knowledge to climate change innovations. Our workshops are knowledge exchange and learning events aimed at facilitating the creation and dissemination of traditional knowledge, experience, and expertise. Through these events we've built a network of over one hundred experts, practitioners, and knowledge holders with a recognized expertise on climate innovation across the world.

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*Students on Ice and Arctic Youth  
Ambassadors Partnership*

# EVENTS

The Arctic Institute jumped from hosting just two events in 2015 to ten events in 2016 across five countries. We began our year by co-hosting an at-capacity webinar on the Paris Agreement's implications for the Arctic region with The Ecologic Institute, where we welcomed a panel of Senior Arctic Official Julia Gourley, Piper Roster Wilder of Renewable Energy Alaska Project, and Sebastien Duyk of the University of Lapland.

Throughout the year, The Arctic Institute held events in Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Morocco, and the United States. In Norway, our team helped to train the next generation of Arctic leaders at the High North Dialogue conference, focusing on the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly ice-free Arctic Ocean. To monitor the maritime and terrestrial changes in the circumpolar climate, the Institute held a Copenhagen-based workshop in partnership with the UK Nordic Innovations Network to foster a dialogue between business, traditional knowledge holders, and researchers around climate change observations and scientific reporting. Washington, DC saw a number of TAI events on Arctic military security, social corporate responsibility, and methane pollution.

At the annual Arctic Circle conference in Reykjavik, Iceland,

The Arctic Institute convened a dozen scholars in a roundtable to break down the national borders and academic disciplines that often silo Arctic research into compartmentalized working groups, projects, and databases through lessons from past scientific expeditions and current successful multidisciplinary, multinational circumpolar endeavors.

## THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE HELD EVENTS IN DENMARK, NORWAY, ICELAND, MOROCCO, AND THE UNITED STATES.



Top  
*Seth Myers speaking at joint event with American Security Project in Washington DC*



Bottom  
*Andreas Østhagen presenting on future Arctic leaders at the High North Dialogue in Bodo, Norway*

The Arctic Institute held an official side event at the UN Global Climate Summit in Marrakesh, Morocco, known as COP22, as the final event of 2016. Culture on the Move brought together Arctic and Pacific insights into how a changing climate is affecting the way communities have lived for thousands of years to an audience of country diplomats to the conference.

# » PEOPLE

The Arctic Institute is led by President and Managing Director Victoria Herrmann. To ensure transparency and organization-wide consensus, senior management collaborates with a four-person Leadership Team of Senior Fellows. Together with the Board of Directors and distinguished Board of Advisers, they guide the Institute's research agenda and foster an environment where innovation, diversity of thought, and multidisciplinary thrive.

## BOARD OF ADVISORS

### John Crump

Senior Adviser

Climate Change GRID  
Arendal Polar Centre

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Professor of Geopolitics

Royal Holloway,  
University of London

### Dr. John Farrell

Executive Director

U.S. Arctic Research Commission

### Udloriak Hanson

Special Adviser and  
Chief Negotiator

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

### Lassi Heininen

Professor of Arctic Politics

University of Lapland

### R. Andreas Kraemer

Founder and Director Emeritus

Ecological Institute, Berlin

### Kristine Offerdal

Research Coordinator

Norwegian Institute for  
Defense Studies

### Ambassador Thordur Aegir Oskarsson

Ambassador

Embassy of Iceland in Canada

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Arctic Security Initiative  
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The Arctic Institute

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Arctic Business Secretariat

### Trond Kaukanes

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### Kuupik Vanderee Kleist

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Group Greenland Aps.

### Ivetta Gerasimchuck

Senior Researcher

International Institute for  
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### Jong-Deog Kim

Director General for Strategy

Research Division

Korea Maritime Institute

### Malte Humpert

Founder, Non-voting Member

The Arctic Institute

## STAFF

### Victoria Herrmann

President & Managing Director

### Dr. Kathrin Keil

Senior Fellow,

Leadership Group

### Seth Andre Myers

Senior Fellow,

Leadership Group

### Dr. Andreas Raspotnik

Senior Fellow

Leadership Group



**Malte Humpert**  
Founder & Senior Fellow

**Andreas Østhagen**  
Senior Fellow, Leadership

**Doris Friedrich**  
Senior Fellow

**Marc Jacobsen**  
Senior Fellow

**Mieke Coppes**  
Research Associate

**Ragnhild Groenning**  
Research Associate

**Greg Sharp**  
Research Associate

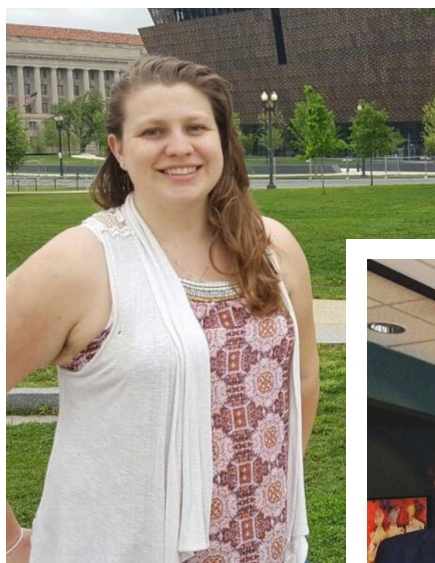
**Ryan Uljua**  
Research Associate

**Brett Veerhusen**  
Research Associate



## THE ARCTIC THIS WEEK INTERNS

**Ella Daly**  
**Pavel Devyatkin**  
**Helen Hallang**  
**Valerie Muzik**  
**Vincent-Gregor Schulze**  
**Yashwinie Shivanand**  
**Erika Vartdal**







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