

Annual Report 2015

www.thearcticinstitute.org

CREATIVITY. INDEPENDENCE. INNOVATION.



THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR CIRCUMPOLAR SECURITY STUDIES

Leadership

The Arctic Institute is led by President and Managing Director Victoria Herrmann and Founder and Strategic Director Malte Humpert. 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 Directors

Victoria Herrmann, *President*
Managing Director
The Arctic Institute

David Slayton, *Chairman*
Executive Director
Arctic Security Initiative, Hoover Institution

Heather Exner-Pirot, *Secretary*
Strategist for Outreach and Indigenous Engagement
College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Lill Hilde Kaldager
Managing Director
Arctic Business Secretariat

Trond Haukanes
Director
Northern Norway European Office

Dave Walsh
Senior Communications Adviser
Arctic and Southern Ocean Coalition

Kuupik Vanderee Kleist
Partner
Group Greenland Aps.

Ivetta Gerasimchuk
Senior Researcher
International Institute for Sustainable Development

Jong-Deog Kim
Director General for Strategy Research Division
Korea Maritime Institute

Malte Humpert (non-voting member)
Founder and Strategic Director
The Arctic Institute

Board of Advisers

Alyson Bailes
Adjunct Professor of Political Science
University of Iceland

John Crump
Senior Adviser - Climate Change
GRID-Arendal Polar Centre

Klaus Dodds
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
Ecologic Institute, Berlin

Kristine Offerdal
Research Coordinator
Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies (ISF)

Amb. Thordur Aegir Oskarsson
Ambassador
Embassy of Iceland in Canada

Rolf Tamnes
Professor
Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies (ISF)

Staff

Malte Humpert
Executive Director

Andreas Osthagen
Director Norway

Mike McCormack
Research Associate

Andreas Raspotnik
Analyst

Kathrin Kiel
Director Europe

Marc Jacobsen
Research Associate

Seth Myers
Fellow

Ryan Uljua
Research Associate

Victoria Herrmann
Director US

Ragnhild Groenning
Research Associate

Doris Friedrich
Fellow

Mieke Coopes
Research Associate

A Changing Arctic; An Institute at the Ready.

Today more than ever before, the circumpolar north is integrated into the international system. Although the Arctic has always been connected to the rest of the world through trade networks and migratory routes, globalization and climate change have created unprecedented connectivity through communication systems, global markets, and environmental cooperation.

But the Arctic is not just connected globally – it has quickly moved from the periphery to the world's center stage.

Over the past decade, globalization has been transforming the social and political milieus of the Arctic as much as climate change has changed its physical landscapes. The year 2015 has proven a pivotal time in this trend of circumpolar dynamism. The release of Northern strategies by non-Arctic countries like the European Union and Japan; President Obama's climate summit in Alaska this fall; and images of refugees cycling across the Arctic Circle all hold testament to the international reach of the Polar Vortex.

Global connectivity brings complex, multifaceted challenges to the region, its communities, and its governance structures. It also provides an opportunity to innovate new ways of researching Arctic actors, forces, and technologies that are reshaping the North as never before.

Over the past year, The Arctic Institute pioneered new frameworks of analysis to help public and policymaker alike better understand these changes at the top of the world. Guided by the power of new ideas, collaboration, and creativity our scholars moved beyond the conventional contours of Cold War relations to explore the interactions between economic internationalization, emerging regional actors, and human development. Through reports, articles, infographics, and podcasts, the Institute's research team brought timely, peer-reviewed analysis of pertinent issues to audiences worldwide.

Built upon the same connectivity that defines the circumpolar region today, The Arctic Institute has mobilized its global network of scholars to influence the Arctic discourse and pursue new partnerships, present original findings, and offer fresh events in North America, Europe, and Asia. Our team is not only international, but also interdisciplinary, using their unparalleled breadth and depth of expertise to work across disciplines in developing comprehensive solutions the most pressing challenges.

In 2015 we strengthened the foundations of our global research network through organizational growth, professional development, and academic rigor. That work earned us a ranking of 61 out of nearly 2,000 think tanks in America by the University of Pennsylvania. In 2016, we are poised to use that strong foundation to better share Arctic research with you and redefine Arctic policymaking for a secure, just, and sustainable future North.

In the year to come, we will strive to uphold our commitment to serving as a resource for policymakers, scholars, and the public through timely, authoritative, policy-relevant work. And, like the region we strive to understand, we will continue to evolve as needed to ensure our work stays of the highest value.



Victoria Herrmann
President and Managing Director

The Institute's Mission and Vision

The Arctic Institute is an independent international institute dedicated to addressing the many dimensions of Arctic security. Established in 2011, TAI provides data, analysis, and recommendations to policymakers, researchers, the media, and the interested public. Based in Washington, DC, TAI's network of research associates extends across North America, Scandinavia, and the European continent.

TAI envisions a world in which the diverse and complex issues facing Arctic security are identified, understood, and innovatively resolved. TAI's mission is to inform policy for a secure, just, and sustainable Arctic through objective, multidisciplinary research of the highest caliber. We achieve this through publishing high-quality research on a range of issues relating to security in the High North; providing innovative policy analysis and recommendations to policymakers at all levels of government; and facilitating dialogue, building capacities, and promoting accountability to mitigate circumpolar insecurities.

As the Arctic Institute grows and the issues facing the High North become more pressing, TAI intends to expand its ability to directly engage local, national, and international policymakers and stakeholders. In order to achieve this goal, TAI's US-based leadership envisions the Institute growing from a trusted source for published research to an organization that is able to convene stakeholders in Washington DC and the Alaskan Arctic and facilitate the development of policies for a secure, sustainable Arctic region.



Interpreting a Changing North

The Arctic Institute's research agenda is constantly evolving to reflect a rapidly changing Arctic. Our 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. The Institute's work helps governments, business, and civil society make decisions that are based on innovative, objective, and multidisciplinary analyses. Rigorous and comprehensive research, independent of political and commercial pressures, is our core for developing solutions to challenges and injustices in the High North.

2015 was no exception to a century of polar transformations. National elections, regional transitions, and global negotiations redefined the contours of Arctic policy. In a sweeping victory Canadians elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and ushered in a new Liberal era focused on social welfare issues in the North. The United States, a once reluctant Arctic power, took on the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council for the first time in nearly two decades. Under the direction of President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, climate change and international cooperation took center stage, leading to a successful negotiation at the United Nations Climate Change Summit in Paris this past December. COP21, and the binding climate agreement it created, now hold the power to reshape not only Arctic environmental affairs, but international relations at large.

From interpreting electoral rhetoric in Canada to questioning America's leadership style in the region, The Institute's scholars witnessed, analyzed, and shared the biggest stories of the year with our readers.

"The Arctic Institute's strength lies in its collection of young scholars from various nationalities with different academic and professional backgrounds."

Rolf Tamnes, professor and former director of the Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies

Through her conference summaries, Senior Fellow Kathrin Keil created new ways to make research accessible to wider audiences. Based in Berlin, Kathrin attended international events like *Arctic Frontiers* in Tromsø to provide candid and insightful analytical synopses for those who cannot attend.

Senior Fellow Andreas Ostagen investigated policy options through his writing on Coast Guard cooperation in the high North. As Russia built its Arctic presence in late 2015, Andreas offered a possible small solution through international collaboration in maritime challenges.

Founder and Strategic Director Malte Humpert led thought discussions on Arctic shipping and oil and gas developments as a keynote speaker at *The Economist's* Arctic Summit in Oslo and panelist at the *Arctic Business Forum* in Rovaniemi.

In the wake of a major drop in petroleum prices, Director Victoria Herrmann examined the systems that promote opportunity in *Arctic Melt*. By harnessing the power of urbanization and globalization, she argues that Alaska can turn resource extraction into human development.

Senior Fellow Andreas Raspotnik brought long-form writing into the digital age through podcasts. As part of the High North Dialogue, Andreas interviewed experts like Alexander Sergunin, a Professor at St. Petersburg University to help our audiences understand Russian military modernization.

Connecting people With Innovative Thinking

Through its invitation for contributions from emerging scholars, The Arctic Institute offers a forum for young researchers to explore new ideas and multidisciplinary topics. Through a rigorous peer review and revision process, we work with scholars to foster better methodical and writing skills for policy analysis.

As a virtual think tank, The Arctic Institute offers a unique platform for researchers from different countries and varied disciplines to work together on the many dimensions of Arctic security. The Institute disseminates its research findings as widely as possible free of charge to benefit the public good. The Institute serves an international audience through its website, in-person events, and social media networks subscribed to by thousands across the globe. Together, they offer to connect researchers, policymakers, and citizens across national borders and academic disciplines towards a more secure circumpolar region.

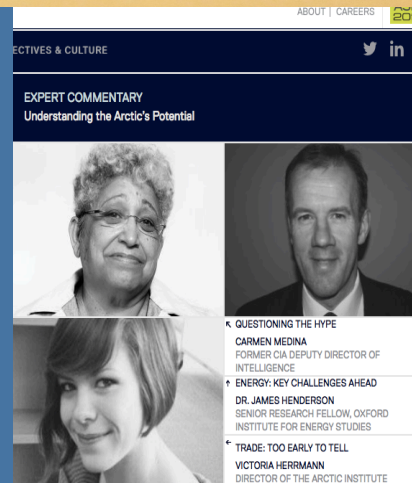


From Bodo to Reykjavik, The Arctic Institute brought audiences together for dialogue on important Arctic issues. In March together with the High North Center, the Institute created a forum for global learning and cooperation. Later in the year at Arctic Circle, we brought together scholars to discuss climate innovation and traditional knowledge.



"The Arctic Institute has established its reputation as a source of trustworthy and insightful commentaries. It is rare to have several reviewers for a piece published in an internet portal, with editors dedicating a lot of attention to each text. I know that my analysis had improved significantly thanks to such a diligent process."

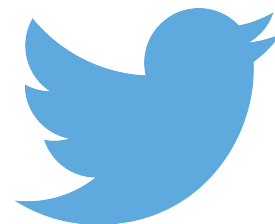
Adam Stepin, PhD Candidate University of Lapland



The Arctic Institute is building the future of Arctic research through partnerships with circumpolar organizations across the globe. In 2015, the Institute partnered with the Korean Maritime Institute in Seoul, the High North Center in Norway, the UK Innovations Network, and economists at the Copenhagen Business School.

Sharing the Arctic Across the Globe

Through social media, Research Associate Ragnhild Goring is defining new networks of communication for a new Arctic reality of connectivity. Based in Washington DC, Ragnhild bridged global gaps of communication by connecting researchers through interactive chats and polls on timely news to nearly 10,000 Twitter and 2,000 Facebook followers.



In over 40 issues of our weekly news brief, The Arctic This Week, the Institute's newsletter team – Seth Myers, Doris Friedrich, Ryan Uljua, Mieke Coppes, and Mike McCormack – delivered readers the latest Arctic news summarized, organized, and interpreted, with 7,000 links to interesting, inventive, and enjoyable stories. In 2015, The Arctic This Week was read in over 90 countries and includes local, regional, and international perspectives on recent events. It exceeded 2,000 subscribers in November and continues to grow each week.

THE ARCTIC **THIS WEEK**

"I like getting the bigger picture to understand what the current topics are. The newsletter provides me with the necessary background information that helps me to position my own research in a wider framework."

From our 2015 Reader Survey

"I just wish I had more time to read it thoroughly. There is so much going on and the newsletter is a lifeline in allowing us all to keep up."

From our 2015 Reader Survey

"Great overview. Good that you include local media when possible and the breadth of topic gives a better context than just targeted coverage of political, environmental, or military issues."

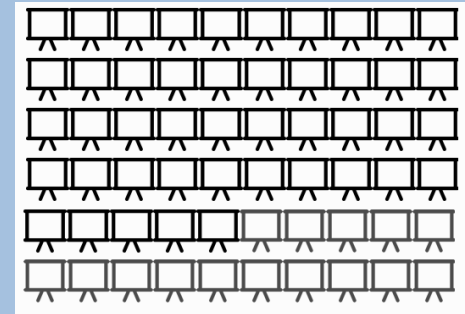
From our 2015 Reader Survey

Framing the Debate On Arctic Affairs



2015 was a lively year for circumpolar policy, governance, and business. And at each significant event, Arctic Institute experts were at the ready to influence the public debate and provide authoritative opinions to media outlets across North America and Europe. Founder and Strategic Director Malte Humpert gave expert opinions on Arctic economic development, petroleum extraction, and shipping routes on Bloomberg, Al Jazeera, New Scientist, and the Globe and Mail throughout 2015's news cycles. Research Associate Ryan Uljua provided Politico a preview of his over 210 icebreakers database detailing their history, states, specs, and descriptions for *The Icebreaker Gap*. Traveling to participate in President Obama's Glacier Conference in Anchorage Alaska, President and Managing Director Victoria Herrmann appeared on CNN, NPR, and CBC to discuss America's leadership in the region on climate change action.

Beyond our own events, the Institute's researchers presented at over 40 events in Asia, Europe, and North America in 2015. Research Associate Marc Jacobsen presented Greenland's path towards human development in at Nuuk's *Future Greenland* event, while across the globe Senior Fellow Andreas Østagen debated the optimism imbued in northern shipping routes in Singapore. In Fairbanks, Alaska, Senior Fellow Kathrin Keil shared her research and policy proposals on the geopolitics sustainable development at the 2015 Arctic Energy Summit. As panelists, presenters, and keynote speakers, our staff strove to bring Arctic analysis to new audiences and spark discussions across continents on how to achieve a more secure, just North.



Beyond writing for The Arctic Institute, our scholars publish across newspapers, online forum, and peer review journals to help set the global Arctic agenda by better informing academic and public audiences. Our scholars' opinions were featured in The Guardian, the LA Times, the Hill, the Huffington Post, and the Cipher Report among many other publications in 2015. Their research on the Arctic policy of the European Union, defense tactics of Norway, and Cold War rhetoric was featured in *Polar Geography*, *The Arctic Yearbook*, *Cooperation and Conflict*, *The Polar Law Yearbook*, and the Munk-Gordon Arctic Security Program this past year. Through our partnership with *High North News*, our scholars are providing analytically driven, objective English language news updates on Arctic affairs to readers across the region.

Annual Report 2015

www.thearcticinstitute.org

THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR CIRCUMPOLAR SECURITY STUDIES

