



THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR CIRCUMPOLAR SECURITY STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

turning research into impact.

thearcticinstitute.org

THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

creativity. independence. innovation.



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.

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 WORK

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, Massachusetts
Columbus, Ohio
San Francisco, California
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, British Columbia
Washington, DC

Europe

Berlin, Germany
London, England
Tallinn, Estonia
Vienna, Austria

Scandinavia

Copenhagen, Denmark
Oslo, Norway



Looking back on 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 5 ❄️ A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT
- 6 ❄️ 2017 BY THE NUMBERS
- 7 ❄️ COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA
- 8 ❄️ RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
- 9 ❄️ PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS
- 10 ❄️ PEOPLE
- 12 ❄️ CONTACT US

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A TRANSATLANTIC TRANSITION, AN INTERCONNECTED INSTITUTE

This last year marked a significant transatlantic shift in Arctic leadership from North America to Europe — a shift which comes at a time of political volatility and uncertainty. Following four years of Canadian and then American leadership, the Arctic Council will be steered by Europe for the next twelve years, beginning with Finland. While many programs and initiatives will be carried on from one Chairmanship to the next, changes in geographic focus, rhetoric, and vision are inevitable.

At such times of transition, finding momentum to continue Arctic projects across both North America and Europe can be difficult. But change also provides an opportunity to take stock, evaluate, and plan for continued cooperation and regional successes. As a transatlantic team of researchers, The Arctic Institute is well poised to facilitate a continuity of collaborative Arctic engagement.

In 2017 our team of global scholars built bridges between communities, countries, and continents towards a secure, sustainable, and just circumpolar North.

As a think-and-do-tank, we believe that policy recommendations and capacity building programs must be rooted in strategic, field-based research. As a team of young scholars, we are steadfast advocates of freely and easily accessible Arctic research. That's why in 2017 we published 88 research commentaries, articles, reports, videos, and infographics — a 75 percent increase from our 2016 publication rate.

But publishing research is only the foundation upon which impact, action, and change take place. To reach beyond our readers, **The Arctic Institute held events, symposiums, and workshops in Norway, Finland, Iceland, Canada, and the United States.**

At one of our most successful events in Whitehorse, Yukon, The Arctic Institute brought together 60 Alaskan and Canadian community champions for a best practice exchange on the implementation of remote renewable energy systems in the north. Seven months later, the Institute expanded the dialogue at another convening event by connecting North American



participants with European low-carbon experts from England, Scotland, Norway, and Finland.

Building on our momentum, in 2018 **we will continue to push the boundaries of translating research into impact.**

In a time of transition and a tumultuous political climate in the United States, The Arctic Institute is committed to rethinking our framework for Arctic engagement to be more inclusive, collaborative, and empowering in our projects and proceedings. By maintaining our 2017 partnerships across the region

and building new ones in the year to come, The Arctic Institute is ready to lead the region in moving forward together.

Victoria Herrmann
President & Managing Director

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

500+

people attended
events across
North America & Europe



88

Article, report, &
multimedia publications



90

Countries represented
in our subscribers

50,000

Arctic stories
shared through
The Arctic This Week

60+

Presentations made by
TAI Team Members

3,000

Facebook followers

#63

Rank out of 2,000 in
University of Pennsylvania's 2017
Global Go To Think Tank Index

14,500

Twitter followers

2,000+

subscribers to TAI's
weekly newsletter



COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA

HIGH NORTH NEWS

We understand how competing interests and gaps in information can pose challenges to policymakers, scholars, and practitioners looking for up-to-date news from the Arctic. That's why **The Arctic Institute has partnered with High North News, an independent newspaper published by the High North Center at the Nord University**, to write timely news pieces on scientific, policy, and community developments across the region.

Through interviews with researchers, community members, and local politicians, the TAI team has written on a broad array of subjects. Research Associate Doris Friedrich has, for example, explored the societal challenges caused by the out-migration of women from Alaskan villages and how the inclusion of art can augment northern science and technology projects. Associate Ryan Uljua shed light on both US Coast Guard icebreaker developments and the Russian Navy's construction of its first Arctic patrol ship, while Associate Mieke Coppes investigated the school experiences of Nunavik's youth and the consequences of Canada's new report on Arctic leadership from Special Representative Mary Simon.

THE ARCTIC THIS WEEK

Taken over by an inspiring team of international research interns, our flagship newsletter continued to deliver the top news stories and over 150 links each Wednesday to our subscribers. Our analysis and news aggregation by topic offers an accessible weekly update to developments in the Arctic for thousands of readers in over 90 countries.

Led by Research Intern Val Muzik, The Arctic Institute published a weekly Take Five. Short in length but big on insight, from politics and culture to the environment and security, Take Five looked beneath the headlines to see what's really going on. Published each Friday, our quick and fun redux broke down the five biggest circumpolar stories with fresh editorial analysis so you can get caught up on the region in under five minutes.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

In 2017, **The Arctic Institute's team appeared as experts on the radio, in print media, and during television news broadcasts**, sharing our Arctic expertise with millions of readers across continents. Managing Director Victoria Herrmann made a splash in February with a Guardian opinion piece,

"I am an Arctic researcher. Donald Trump is deleting my citations." On BBC, CBC, ABC Australia, Le Monde, WNYC, and Vox, among others, Director Herrmann discussed the changing climate policies and support for Arctic communities under the Trump Administration.

As more commercial vessels traversed the Northern Sea Route in 2017 and China positioned itself as a near-Arctic state, **our team provided nuanced insights into the myths and realities of Arctic shipping**. Research Associate

Ryan Uljua discussed the 2017 challenges posed by the voyage of a Russian-owned tanker carrying liquefied natural gas from Norway to South Korea with the Global Journalist while Founder and Senior Fellow, Malte Humpert, appeared in Newsweek, the Wall Street Journal, and News Deeply to discuss how the Arctic

region is part of China's longer-term thinking with repercussions on the global balance of power.

With changing oil and gas markets in the north, Senior Fellow Dr. Kathrin Stephen appeared in El País to provide an update on regional developments. And as the European Union developed its Arctic policy further, Andreas Raspotnik offered expertise on European-Arctic relations in The Arctic Journal.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2017 Research Associate Ragnhild Groenning **grew our reach across new social media platforms and digital communications**. Her work has expanded our Twitter following by over 3,000 people this year, with more than 14,500 following our channel. Facebook also saw an additional 500 followers to reach 3,000. Continuing from our 2016 Instagram meme series highlighting what our team thought the U.S. priorities should have been in year two of their Arctic Council Chairmanship, in 2017 we launched a series on Arctic security. Featuring prominent security scholars like Dr. Ole Waever, Dr. Rasmus K. Rasmussen, and Dr. Henrik Merkelsen, we helped to communicate complex ideas to a wide audience.



RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

PUSHING BOUNDARIES IN PUBLISHING

The Arctic Institute's website serves as a platform for emerging scholars, established academics, policy practitioners, and career diplomats to engage in a lively virtual dialogue on new security ideas, policies, and news in the circumpolar north. **In 2017, we published 88 commentaries, reports, articles, and infographics, and videos.** Our research and publications have covered political, environmental, social, and economic developments across all eight Arctic states, Indigenous nations, and observer countries.

Our publications provided readers with fresh insights into policy developments in 2017. In a joint report by The Arctic Institute and the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, Senior Fellow Dr. Andreas Raspotnik and Adam Stępień analyzed the 2017 European Parliament's New Arctic resolution on an integrated European Union policy for the north. And, in May 2017, as US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson turned over the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council to Finland after two years of successful American leadership in the circumpolar north, Managing Director Victoria Herrmann published a report urging more effective engagement with subnational actors on important security, climate, and development issues in the years to come.

Beyond the analysis of current events, in a rapidly changing Arctic, **there is a need to engage in a comprehensive investigation into wider discussions of what Arctic security means in the 21st century.** In 2017, Senior Fellow Marc Jacobsen and Director Victoria Herrmann edited a Special Issue of the Danish journal POLITIK. By bringing together distinct experts in the broader field of security studies and international relations, The Arctic Institute aimed to widen the debate on Arctic security relations through a more comprehensive dialogue inclusive of the many different types of security, their interactions, and their challenges.



CONNECTING NORTH & SOUTH

Our projects provide data, analysis, and policy recommendations on circumpolar security challenges. **We use our research to empower northern communities** to be more secure through network building, workshops, summer schools, and knowledge exchange programs. Each project's credibility is founded on well-researched evidence. Based in Washington, DC, our network of researchers extends across the Arctic region. We believe in field-based research to understand local dynamics, engage Arctic stakeholders, and make connections across borders.

In 2017 Senior Fellows Marc Jacobsen, Dr. Kathrin Stephen, and Director Victoria Herrmann traveled to Greenland as part of a reach project on the postcolonial politics of sustainability in the Arctic. Their Nuuk-based discussions and presentations will be included in a forthcoming book exploring time, space, and identity in a transitioning north.

To engage non-Arctic country institutions, researchers, and diplomats in dialogue toward a more secure region, our team extends northern conversations south. In Brussels, Senior Fellows Dr. Andreas Raspotnik and Andreas Østhagen conducted interviews and presented work on Norway's relationship with the European Union in relation to the Arctic as part of the European Parliament's Directorate-General for External Policies Policy Hub.



PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

THE FUTURE OF ARCTIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Arctic residents pay on average twice as much as their southern counterparts for heating, electricity, and transport fuel. The need to support and foster the growth of small-scale, affordable renewable energy projects in the Arctic and beyond is integral to alleviating poverty in these communities, to augmenting public health in the face of black carbon, and to safeguarding a carbon-neutral future for larger concerns of climate change.

The Future of Arctic Entrepreneurship Symposium, held in Whitehorse in partnership with Yukon College and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region brought together 60 participants, 30 presenters, and a handful of emerging Arctic scholars to focus on the bilateral partnership between Canada and the United States towards the enhancement of clean energy projects. Led by Research Associates Mieke Coppes and Greg Sharp, the symposium between Canadian and American participants sought to facilitate a much-needed best practice sharing of how to move the Arctic towards a green, innovative economy. The conference served as an arena for dialogue on energy entrepreneurship, bilateral investment, and development based on an export of knowledge and intellectual property, replacing the conventional and currently depressed economy of natural resource exports that is currently impacting Arctic family budgets across the region.

Seven months later, The Arctic Institute brought select participants of the Symposium to Iceland to take part in a second transatlantic exchange. The event, **Sustainable Arctic Development in the Era of Low Carbon Transition**, focused on the role of Arctic communities in making the global transition to a low carbon economy for economic, environmental, and public health benefits. Partnered with the Scottish Government and the UK Government Science & Innovation Network, the Institute is working to disseminate our findings and connect local champions across Europe and North America.

MAKING SPACE FOR EMERGING SCHOLARS

Since our founding, The Arctic Institute has partnered with the High North Center at Nord University to organize the **High North Dialogue conference series**. Each year, we bring together Arctic leaders — present and future — in Bodø to discuss the dimensions of Arctic changes taking place in the Arctic. In 2017, Senior Fellows Dr. Andreas Raspotnik and Andreas Østhagen, Director Victoria Herrmann, and Research Associate Ragnhild Groenning helped to convene over two hundred graduate students and northern leaders from Russia, North America, Europe, and beyond to study, present, and collaborate on innovations in the Arctic.

Although the conference already has a strong student



Youth Panel at The Future of Arctic Entrepreneurship, Whitehorse, Yukon.

component, The Arctic Institute wanted to further engage young scholars who are living in and working on the circumpolar North. To that end, **we established the “High North’s Young Scholars Workshop,” where we invited young professionals to share** what types of transferable skills are needed in northern research, what barriers they face academically and professionally, and what we can, as an Institute, do to create spaces of inclusion and capacity building for a new generation of leaders. In 2018, we will be using those insights to establish more programming, events, and publishing platforms for young researchers, practitioners, and community leaders in the Arctic.



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.



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Photos of emerging scholars courtesy of our partners,
Students on Ice & Arctic Youth Ambassadors.

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