

THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE



THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR CIRCUMPOLAR SECURITY STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT



2020

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ABOUT THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

Leading the way forward to a more secure, just, & sustainable Arctic.

Established in 2011, The Arctic Institute is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. with a team of researchers across the world. As the region's preeminent think-and-do-tank, we are committed to promoting diverse voices, knowledge, and new ideas on Arctic policy.

OUR MISSION

Inform Arctic policy through inclusive research collaborations

The Arctic Institute's mission is to help inform Arctic policy in the context of the climate crisis. We believe that Arctic decision-making must be based upon interdisciplinary, inclusive research that addresses the most pertinent issues facing the circumpolar region. That's why our team leads research projects, supports scholarly publications, and organizes events that elevate diverse perspectives, including from young scholars and those from communities that have been historically marginalized. The Arctic Institute is building the future of Arctic research through partnerships across the globe. We welcome ideas for collaboration in our mission to promote the Arctic as a secure, just, and sustainable region

OUR VISION

PEACE, JUSTICE, AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE ARCTIC

We envision a world in which the complex security issues facing the Arctic are identified, understood, and inclusively resolved. To accomplish this, our work spans the many dimensions of Arctic security.

Economic security

Military security

Food security

Health security

Environmental security

Cultural security

Political security

Energy security



OUR VALUES

COLLABORATION

No challenges can be resolved or opportunities identified without collaboration. In order to achieve our mission, we partner with organizations who share our commitment to building a more just, sustainable, and secure Arctic. We focus on building collaborations with diverse Arctic and non-Arctic organizations, with a particular interest in supporting early career work, to learn from, listen to, and work with partners towards a common goal.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our aim is to make transdisciplinary knowledge accessible to all. We emphasize and collaborate with early career scholars and marginalized groups, and perspectives based on Indigenous and Traditional knowledge. We disseminate informative and varied content about the Arctic which is readily available and comprehensible for all readers. All The Arctic Institute resources go through a comprehensive review process by our team members, and we aim to keep our content free so it is within reach for anyone who is interested in our work and the topics we cover. We take complex issues and contextualize them for a broad audience.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is at the heart of all that we do. We uphold academic honesty and excellence, seeking a range of voices to make fundamental inquiries about the most pressing issues in the Arctic and beyond. We affirm our integrity to each other at The Arctic Institute, and to our readers, ensuring that we will be honest, transparent, and accountable.

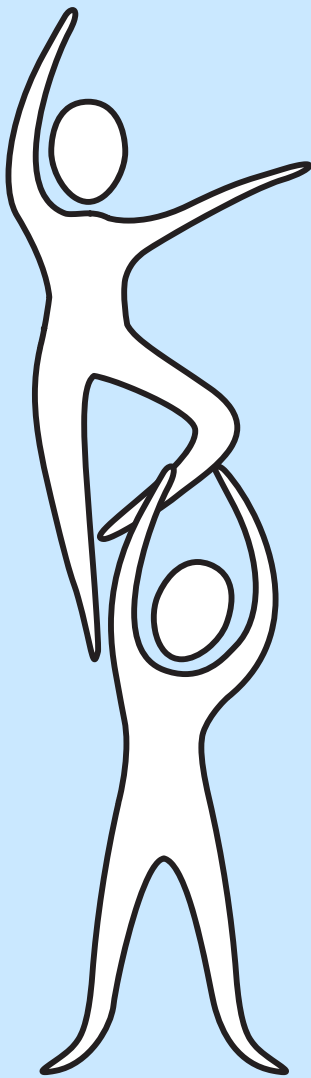
DEEP INCLUSION

We believe in the importance of diversity: not only because representation matters, but also because it's essential to making sure the best ideas are heard. We are active in promoting the wealth of knowledge held by the Arctic's diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous linguistic and cultural communities, especially those that are historically marginalized. We also believe in the importance of making Arctic research of all types as accessible as possible: whether that means creating a space for early career work to shine, or bringing together traditional scholarship with more boundary-pushing or less-conventional approaches, we're committed to expanding the field of Arctic scholarship to everyone.

OUR COMMITMENT

WE COMMIT TO:

“At its core, The Arctic Institute is about bringing people together. We strive to uplift new voices, facilitate open communication, and build new collaborations in pursuit of more equitable, inclusive Arctic research and policy.”



- Contributing to the intellectual decolonization of Arctic research by amplifying underrepresented voices, including Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge Holders.
- Upholding equitable organizational policies that advocate for anti-racism.
- Engage in diverse collaboration partnerships across Arctic research and public engagement.

BY THE NUMBERS 2020



THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE
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50

TAKE FIVES

our weekly redux on Arctic news

80

PRESENTATIONS BY OUR EXPERTS

keynotes | seminars | conferences | lectures

100 +

PUBLICATIONS

commentaries | reports | articles | infographics

210

READERS FROM 210 COUNTRIES

americas | africa | asia | europe | oceania

1100+

ATTENDEES AT VIRTUAL EVENTS

webinars | workshops | seminars | dialogues

6000+

NEWS STORIES SHARE IN THE ARCTIC THIS WEEK

weekly newsletter | app



17.9



2426



4579



1396

"HISTORICALLY, PANDEMICS HAVE FORCED HUMANS TO BREAK WITH THE PAST AND IMAGINE THEIR WORLD ANEW. THIS ONE IS NO DIFFERENT. IT IS A PORTAL, A GATEWAY BETWEEN ONE WORLD AND THE NEXT. WE CAN CHOOSE TO WALK THROUGH IT, DRAGGING THE CARCASSES OF OUR PREJUDICE AND HATRED, OUR AVARICE, OUR DATA BANKS AND DEAD IDEAS, OUR DEAD RIVERS AND SMOKY SKIES BEHIND US. OR WE CAN WALK THROUGH LIGHTLY, WITH LITTLE LUGGAGE, READY TO IMAGINE ANOTHER WORLD. AND READY TO FIGHT FOR IT."

Arundhati Roy

During the COVID-19 pandemic, global news cycles have been awash with 'tipping points.' Headlines broadcast how the shipping container imbalance of supply and demand is at a 'tipping point;' how COVID-19 presents a 'tipping point' for telemedicine; and how the pandemic threatens to be a 'tipping point' for untold suffering in least developed countries. Although derived from the science of ecology, 'tipping point' has become a malleable expression, kneaded by journalists, politicians, and the public to describe an intense vault away from the status quo to something new.

2020 was too a tipping point for our team, and the world in which we all live. It was a year that pushed each of us into an unfamiliar, dangerous reality beyond what we thought possible. And while there is no silver lining to the grief and devastation of this global crisis, there is so much to be proud of when reflecting on our team's compassion, commitment, and courage to expand, innovate, and support one another in the face of fear and isolation.

This past year The Arctic Institute hosted more than 1100 attendees live, and some 750 more who watched our webinar recordings. Together we've learned about sustainable fisheries management in northern Norway, and how to build successful coalitions in Bristol Bay. We've advanced our understanding on the impacts of permafrost degradation and ticks moving further north as our climate warms. And we've explored how virtual reality and partnering with educators can lead to better, more impactful science.

Our team continued to publish each week, bringing over 80 free commentaries, news round-ups, and reports to our readers across the world. Led by team members Romain Chuffart and Liubov Timonia, we launched The Arctic Institute's Bookshelf, a new podcast to showcase interesting articles and authors from across the north. Our editorial team expanded into new series on China and permafrost, and we launched our first-ever Visiting Fellows program to invite eight early career leaders into our work.

I'm so proud of what each of our team members, together and collectively, have accomplished over the past twelve months. At the end of the day, The Arctic Institute is powered by our incredible scholars - from interns to senior fellows. Our reach has grown in size and impact because of their commitment to our Institute. In a year of personal grief, the success of The Arctic Institute has truly been my bright spot. And for that, I'm so grateful.

As society began lockdowns and social distancing to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, Indian author Arundhati Roy penned a piece for the Financial Times titled, "The pandemic is a portal." On the eve of our Institute's 10-year anniversary, we stand on the doorframe of such a portal, armed with paints and a fresh canvas to sketch what the next ten years will hold. And as I look beyond the threshold, I cannot wait to see what new ideas and collaborations we sketch into existence together.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



OUR PUBLICATIONS

Despite the uncertainty of 2020, our committed editorial team, led by Editor-in-Chief Alina Bykova continued to publish groundbreaking commentaries, articles, and reports by our team and emerging scholars each week. Senior Fellow Nima Khorrami presented an up-to-date picture of Sweden's national defense and security policy and Arctic policy as part of a larger series considering Sweden's role in the Arctic. And Kimberly Aiken, an emerging polar leader, penned an important commentary to commemorate Ms. Barbara Hillary, the first African American to reach both poles.

Expanding our partnerships to uplift more Arctic voices, The Arctic Institute collaborated with the Gordon Foundation to publish a series of papers on Canadian Arctic policy critiques and solutions written by Jane Glassco Northern Fellows, a cohort of early career northern Canadians who are passionate about addressing emerging policy challenges and building a strong North. And by partnering with the Arctic Youth Network, we brought our readers youth commentaries on Arctic economic policy and national climate change commitments.

Focusing our research and writing on the most critical issues of the Arctic, our team curated fresh perspectives on China's polar activities and permafrost degradation through seminal series publications.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALINA BYKOVA



SENIOR FELLOW DR. SANNA KOPRA

China's Arctic engagement has increased considerably during the past decade, which has not only offered plentiful economic opportunities but also created new risks and concerns among the eight Arctic states, non-state actors, and peoples. To increase understanding of dimensions of Beijing's Arctic activities, The Arctic Institute's 2020 China series, led and edited by Senior Fellow Dr. Sanna Kopra, probed into China's evolving Arctic interests, policies, and strategies, and analyses their ramifications for the region and beyond. The series offered a comprehensive account of China's policies and interests in the Arctic

Permafrost thaw is one of the world's most pressing climate problems, already disrupting lifestyles, livelihoods, economies, and ecosystems in the north, and threatening to spill beyond the boundaries of the Arctic as our planet continues to warm. To examine the effects of permafrost degradation, and increase our understanding of what this phenomenon means for the future of the region (and the world), The Arctic Institute's two-part permafrost series, edited by Editor-in-Chief Alina Bykova, aimed to analyze the topic from scientific, security, legal, and personal perspectives.

CHINA SERIES 2020

|2020|

EDITED BY SANNA KOPRA



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COVID-19 IN THE ARCTIC

SUCCESSSES AND LESSONS FROM THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world found itself in a global health emergency, causing a dramatic loss of human life and brought normal life around the world to a halt for more than a year. In 12 commentaries, infographics, and reports, The Arctic Institute's COVID-19 series offered an original compilation of best practices, challenges, and diverse approaches to the pandemic applied by various Arctic states, regions, and communities. Led by Senior Fellow Dr. Sanna Kopra, the Institute aimed to contribute to the Arctic research community's shared understanding of how the region has coped with this unprecedented crisis as well as provide food for thought about possibilities and potential of development of regional cooperation.

COVID-19 Infection Rate Map

- Data updated until Oct 10, 2020



90% of international Arctic projects funded by the **United States' National Science Foundation Section for Arctic Sciences** have cancelled their 2020 spring and summer field research expeditions.



Losing the 2020 season would cost **Greenlandic** tourism businesses **\$ 67,000,000** (450 million Danish Kroner)
- Jun 2, 2020

Lower Infection Rate Higher Infection Rate



The infection rate in some Arctic regions is higher than in the United States, the country with the highest number of cases.

Jul 31: Iceland's restrictions of two-meter distancing and 100-person limit to gatherings re-imposed after two new infection clusters discovered

COVID-19 Weekly New Cases in the Arctic Area



Jan 30 | WHO

WHO declared COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern"

About **2000** athletes from around the world change plans to attend the **Arctic Winter Games** in Yukon, Canada, which were canceled due to the pandemic.

Mar 11 | WHO

WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic

Mar 16: Finland declares state of emergency

Mar 22: Some remote villages in Alaska attempt to isolate themselves

Mar 31 | Russia

Record case rise forces tough lockdown sanctions

2/3 companies in the **Norwegian Hospitality Association** are on the brink of bankruptcy - Mar 30, 2020

Apr 22 | Finland

Finland adopts hybrid strategy to contain coronavirus: containing outbreak while moving towards normal life

May 5 | Russia

Over 20,000 new cases in 48 hours

48% of tourism companies in **Lapland, Finland** fear they cannot survive more than 5 months, and a quarter up to 10 months. - May 8, 2020

Canada's restrictions on shipping and cruises will cost communities in eastern Arctic territory of **Nunavut** almost **\$ 1,000,000**
- Jun 1, 2020

June 15: Finland opens border to Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Estonia

Jun 18 | WHO

WHO releases Global Allocation Framework for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines, identifying priority populations

1. COVID spread reaches its peak by June in the Arctic region.
2. On June 24th, a total of 1727 cases were reported from the Arctic region.

Aug 11 | Russia

President Putin announces approval for a COVID vaccine, named **Sputnik-V**. Russia becomes the first country in the world to do so, but international experts raise concern that the approval process was rushed.

Jan 26 Feb 2 Feb 9 Feb 16 Feb 23 Mar 1 Mar 8 Mar 15 Mar 22 Mar 29 Apr 5 Apr 12 Apr 19 Apr 26 May 3 May 10 May 17 May 24 May 31 Jun 7 Jun 14 Jun 21 Jun 28 Jul 5 Jul 12 Jul 19 Jul 26 Aug 2 Aug 9 Aug 16 Aug 23 Aug 30

THE ARCTIC THIS WEEK

THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE PROVIDES ITS AUDIENCES WITH THE LATEST NEWS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK THROUGH OUR APP, NEWSLETTER, AND NEWS ROUNDUP.

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of 2020, The Arctic Institute's team delivers the latest news and current events analysis to readers in more than 90 countries.

Karen Marie Oseland lead stellar writers Isabelle Lao and Hannah Moench as the managing editor of Take Five, while Lee Williamson provided the Arctic Institute's audiences with his analysis on our app. And leading our flagship newsletter, the arctic this week, editors Caroline Humphreys and Apostolos Tsiouvalas managed dedicated writers Trym Eiterjord, Mariel Kieval, Rylin McGee, Fanny-Tsilla Koninckx, Kate Ng, and Kerika Virtal in sharing 6,000 news stories with our readers.



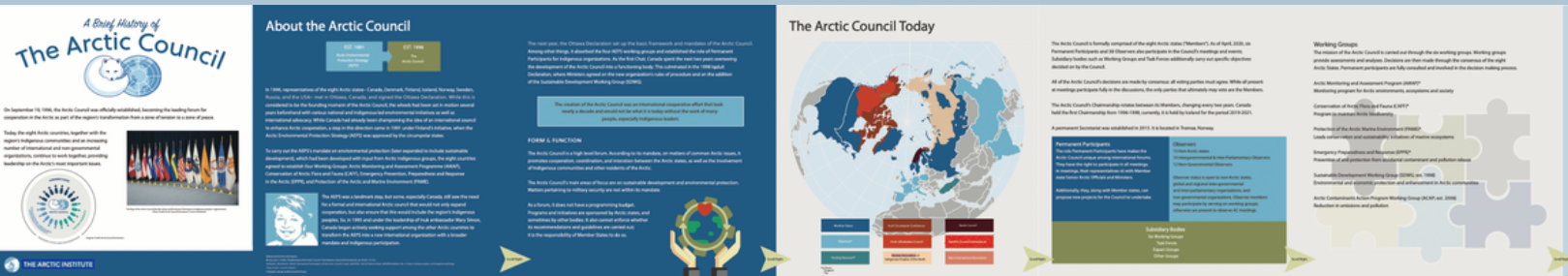
TAKE FIVE IS THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE'S NEWS ROUNDUP THAT GIVES YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE ARCTIC THIS WEEK.

TAKE FIVE

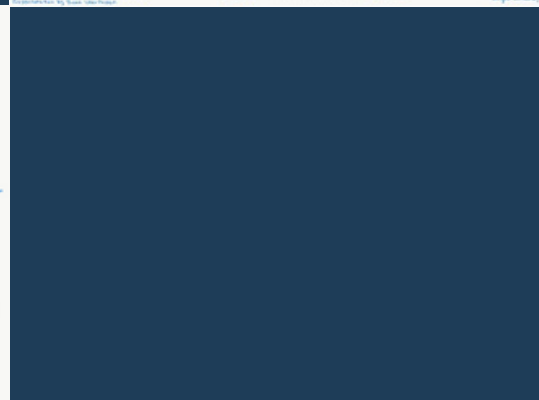
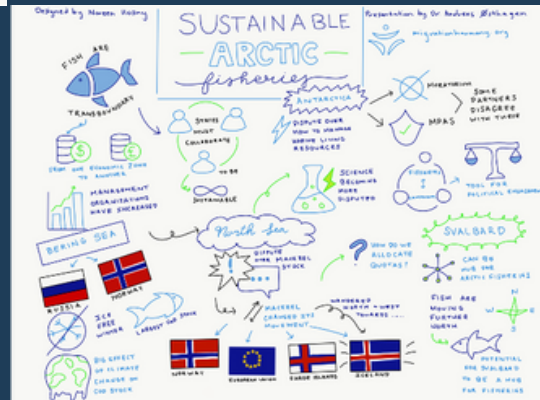
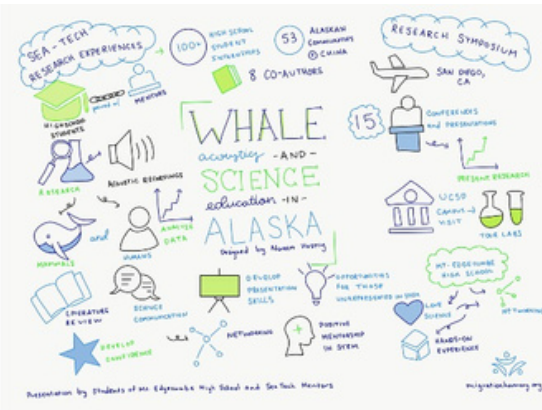
BREAKING THE FRAME WITH MULTIMEDIA



Senior Fellow Doris Friedrich, Dr. Nina Joffe, and Research Associate Val Muzik broke the frame this year with research-based infographics, maps, and videos that help illustrate our work. The team published a visual history of the Arctic Council, telling a story of its achievements and its relationship with the rest of the world.



In 2020, The Arctic Institute began a new multimedia initiative of creating visual notes for webinars. Visual notes of a talk or lecture help to synthesize information and highlight the most important points by using images to convey the message simply and effectively. Graphic Design Intern of the NSF Research Coordination Network Arctic Migrations Noreen Hosny created over 10 visual notes, including those on whale science in Alaska, sustainable Arctic fisheries, and building advocacy coalitions.





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The Arctic Institute is launching a new series of podcasts! In this series, TAI Research Associates Liubov Timonina and Romain Chuffart talk to scholars and experts about different ways to understand and know the Arctic to make the region easy and accessible to everybody.

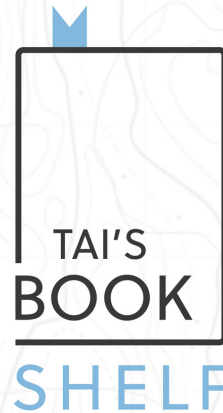
The Arctic Institute Bookshelf Podcast brings you at the heart of Arctic research with a broad range of guests. Tune in every two weeks on Wednesday and join our in-depth conversations that take you beyond the headlines and right into the latest ideas, challenges, and the nitty gritty of Arctic research.

TAI Senior Fellow and Leadership Group Member Dr. Andreas Østhagen spoke about his newly published book on Coast Guards and Ocean Politics in the Arctic (Palgrave, 2020) on our podcast.

TAI Research Associate and Social Media manager Lillian Hussong discussed her recently published book chapter “No UNCLOS, No Icebreakers, No Clue? U.S. Arctic Policy Through the Eyes of Congress”

AI Senior Fellow and Leadership Group member Andreas Raspotnik spoke about Arctic geopolitics, the role of the European Union as an Arctic actor, and some of his more recent publications. TAI's Book Shelf also discussed the ins and outs of engaging with policy-makers and pushing for change as an academic researcher. Andreas shared his experience about the publishing process and what it is like to get your research out in the world as well as how to promote your work as an early-career researcher.

With Managing Director Victoria Herrmann, TAI's podcast hosts had a meaningful conversation about climate change research and teaching in the US, the science-policy interface as well as on Victoria's work connecting people from different backgrounds and career stages through creating and maintaining inclusive platforms for discussion.



At The Arctic Institute, our team puts 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. That's why we're committed to providing practical projects backed by rigorous research.

Doing More, Together

In 2020, we adopted a three-pronged methodology to make change happen.

- Research and conduct multidisciplinary analysis on pressing Arctic issues. Each project's credibility is founded on well-researched evidence. Based in Washington, DC, our network of researchers extends across the Arctic region. Our scholars are dedicated to research of and engagement in the many dimensions of Arctic security to gain a full understanding of complicated and interconnected military, economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental challenges.
- Co-create with partner organizations, communities, scholars, and knowledge holders. No challenges can be resolved or opportunities identified without collaboration. In order to achieve our mission, we partner 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.
- Share our work through public events, capacity-building workshops, and meetings with decision makers. Research and publications only go so far. We're dedicated to creating virtual and in-person meeting places for Arctic youth to learn about contemporary polar issues.



2020 TAI PROJECTS

AlaskaNor

Alaska and North Norway share an economic dependence on maritime industries and the potential for sustainable blue economy development. AlaskaNor explores opportunities for both regions to mutually tackle the challenges of developing a regional blue economy.

Climate Action

The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the global average. With methane releases causing a stir and persistent organic pollutants churning up, it's time to look beyond the melting ice.

Arctic Migrations

Urbanization, globalization, and climate change are activating migrations of species, settlements, and cultures across Arctic coastlines in new and unpredictable ways. Our research coordination network brings hundreds of scientists together to examine these changing mobilities.

Smart Cities

Drones and fiber optic cables are making their way to the North Pole. But what do these new technologies mean for local opportunity, regional growth, and international connectivity?

Ocean Governance

As the Arctic Ocean becomes more accessible, new challenges to ocean governance begin to emerge. Understanding how regional disputes can create global consequences requires an exploration into what creates conflicts related to ocean space and marine resources.

Youth Empowerment

The future of the North will be determined by the choices, aspirations, and priorities of its youth. As leaders of tomorrow, Arctic youth face challenges of health, food security, education, and climate change – but they are also presented with opportunities.

Early Career Development

Early career researchers bring creativity and inclusion to Arctic decision-making tables across the region. Through visiting fellowships, virtual colleges, and conferences, our programs support a lasting, policy-oriented network of early career Arctic professionals.

SvalFish

Svalbard's economy holds the potential to transition from coal mining to sustainable fisheries management. To succeed, we must examine under what conditions new activity in this part of the Arctic might expand and work to enhance knowledge in businesses and among decision-makers.

GeoSeas

With the UN predicting ice-free summers by 2050, there is an expectation that the patterns of world trade are poised to go polar. But shipping is only one way that the Arctic is integrated into the international geopolitical system.



PROJECTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE



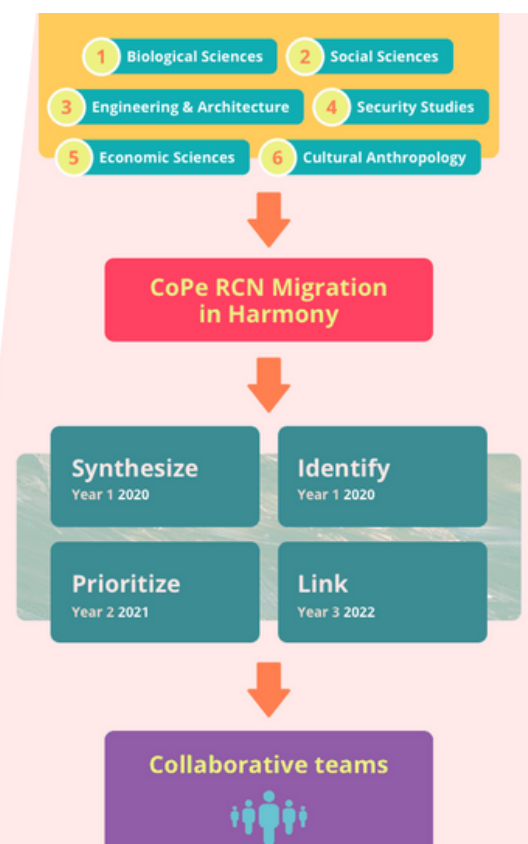
Alaska and North Norway share similar characteristics, particularly regarding the regions' economic dependence on maritime industries and their potential for blue economy development. However, no knowledge has been shared or even attained yet concerning the opportunities for both regions to mutually tackle the manifold challenges of regionally developing their blue economy. AlaskaNor aims to connect these two geographies through its programming. is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Arktis 2030 and Nordland's Country innovasjon og næringsutvikling grant schemes.

In 2020, AlaskaNor Project Manager Andreas Raspotnik traveled to Japan as part of a small group of an International Seminar on Arctic Commons, held in Kobe, Japan.

Urbanization, globalization, and changing climate are activating the simultaneous migrations of species, ecosystems, and settlements across Arctic coastlines in new and unpredictable ways. Arctic port cities are witnessing increased maritime traffic and inflow of labor; rural villages are facing displacement from slow and sudden-onset disasters; sea ice melt and ocean warming are shifting marine species ranges; and terrestrial ecosystems in transition are upending Arctic food webs and introducing southern disease vectors. Each of these intersecting mobilities challenge Arctic quality of life, sustainable development, and environmental health.

In 2020, the National Science Foundation-funded Migration in Harmony Research Coordination Network, led by Managing Director Victoria Hermann, crated a network of researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders to jointly identify and prioritize research topics on the contemporary migration of peoples, economies, cultures, and ecosystems catalyzed by coastal environmental variability and natural hazards in the Arctic.

Network activities engaged local leaders, practitioners, and researchers to bridge research divides and synthesize existing data; linked ongoing major research initiatives to fill this research gap; and implemented creative participatory methods to broaden participation in migration research.



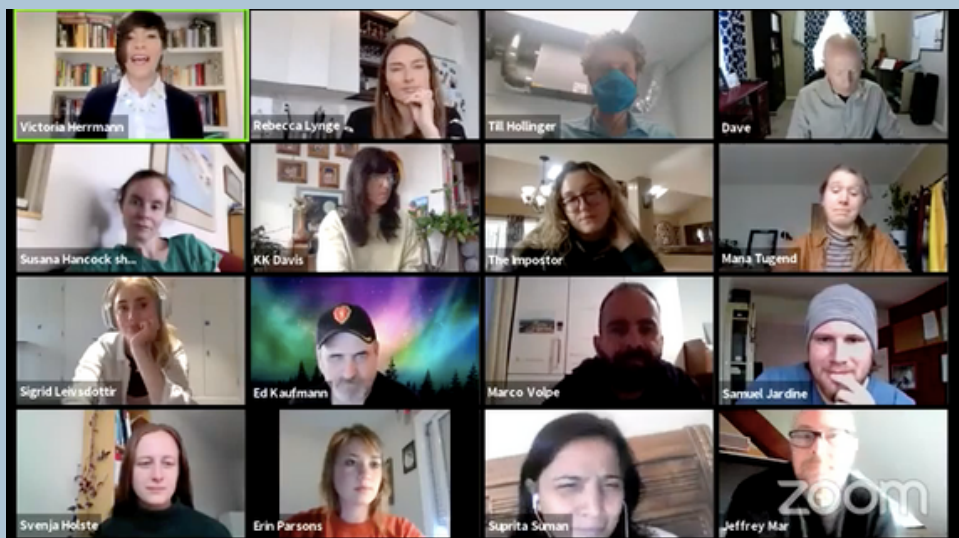
A NEW WAY OF CONNECTING FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS

As the world shut down to in person events to protect one another from COVID-19, The Arctic Institute innovated with hosting webinars for hundreds of online attendees. In 2020, TAI hosted virtual events that taught attendees how to become better storytellers in Arctic science with guest Michael Snyder and how to build coalitions for impact on Arctic Conservation with former TAI Research Associate Brett Veerhusen.



With Dr. Chat Briggs, TAI webinar attendees learned how to understand disaster risk and response from Arctic tsunamis, and with Wes Della Volla, participants of an online workshop explored how virtual reality can be used to build empathy for impact in the Arctic. With a guest appearance by Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski, high school students from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka presented their findings from using long-term acoustic recordings to monitor marine mammals and anthropogenic activities in the Alaskan and Canadian Arctic.

Though difficult to reach further while alone in our homes, The Arctic Institute fostered new connections, learning, and experiences for new audiences across the world through our webinars.





THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE TAKES THE MEDIA STAGE

BBC
WORLD
SERVICE



RSI



**The
Guardian**

TAI team members shared their Arctic expertise on geopolitics, climate change, military news, and natural resources on major news networks in North America, Europe, and Asia in 2020. Team members' extensive experience in print, online, and broadcast journalism was on full display in English, Russian, Spanish, and French.

Senior Fellow Malte Humpert appeared on the BBC World Service to discuss the new Cold War of the Arctic, while Research Associate Pavel Devyatkin spoke about Russia's environmental security on IISS. Research Assistant Lillian Hussong's commentary appeared in The Guardian on military movements as Arctic ice retreats, and Senior Fellow Andreas Raspotnik shared his thoughts on new EU Arctic policy with EURANET. In the U.S., Managing Director Victoria Herrmann shared her expertise on ABC and NPR on the impacts of climate change.

THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE TEAM



Dr. Victoria Herrmann
President & Managing Director



Malte Humpert
Founder & Senior Fellow



Dr. Andreas Raspotnik
Senior Fellow, Leadership Group



Lee Williamson
Research Assistant



Trym Aleksander Eiterjord
Research Intern



Andreas Østhagen, PhD
Senior Fellow, Leadership Group



Doris Friedrich
Senior Fellow



Ragnhild Groenning
Senior Fellow



Mariel Kieval
Research Intern



Hannah Moench
Research Intern



Sanna Kopra
Senior Fellow



Greg Sharp
Senior Fellow



Romain Chuffart
Research Associate



Kate Ng
Research Intern



Apostolos Tsiouvalas
Research Intern



Mieke Coppes
Research Associate



Pavel Devyatkin
Research Associate



Nima Khorrami
Research Associate



Jacquelyn Chorush
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Isabelle Lao
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Val Muzik
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Karen Marie Oseland
Research Associate



Liubov Timonina
Research Associate



Fanny-Tsilla Koninckx
Research Intern



Rylin McGee
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Erika Vartdal
Research Associate



Alina Bykova
Research Assistant



Lillian Hussong
Research Assistant



Gergana Stoeva
Research Intern



Nina Joffe
Visiting Fellow

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