

THE ARCTIC  
INSTITUTE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2021

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# WHO WE ARE

Established in 2011, The Arctic Institute is an independent non-profit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization headquartered in Washington, DC with a network of researchers around the world.



## Mission

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.



## Vision: Peace, Justice, and Sustainability

We envision a world in which the complex security issues facing the Arctic are identified, understood, and inclusively resolved.

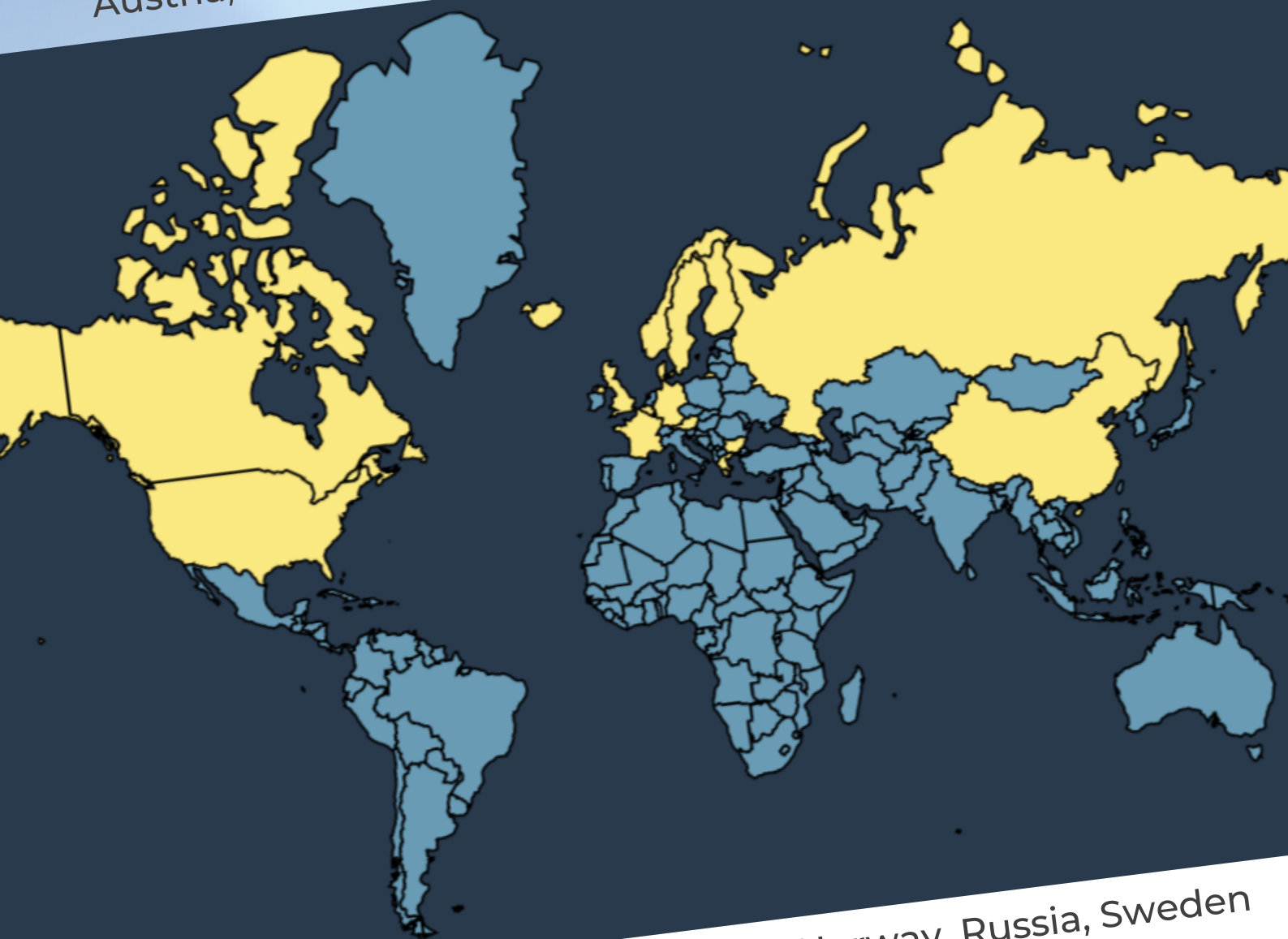


## Values: Integrity, Accessibility, Deep Inclusion, Collaboration

Four core values inform and sustain our work, shaping who we are as an organization and what we stand for as researchers.

# A GLOBAL STAFF

Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France



Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden



# THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

CENTER FOR CIRCUMPOLAR SECURITY STUDIES

2011 – 2021

## A Letter from our President

The Arctic Institute stands at a pivotal moment. We proudly celebrated our tenth anniversary in 2021, and are planning major new initiatives for the decade to come. This annual report serves as a special edition that celebrates a decade of achievement and the staff that have made our research trusted around the world.

What began as a small, passionate group of bloggers, transformed into a top-ranked think tank in the United States. Our work is possible because of our dedicated team members whose research seeks to fundamentally explore the most pressing challenges in our rapidly changing Arctic. As we have grown, we have revisited what it means to be a community dedicated to early career scholarship and professional development.

We hope you will join us in reading about the trailblazing work of our staff and the ways in which we are evolving our Institute for another decade of

circumpolar security analysis. From updated missions, visions, and values, to new forms of research dissemination, we have much to celebrate, reflect

on,

and prepare for as we welcome the next ten years.

**LILLIAN HUSSONG, PH.D.**

*Interim President  
& Managing Director*





# TEN YEARS OF GROWTH

As an all-volunteer organization, The Arctic Institute's commitment to research, editing, and publishing between 2011 and 2021 is impressive.

263

Analyses

125

Commentaries

17

Emerging  
Scholars

99

Multimedia

20

Press  
Releases

11

Reports

194

Take Five

183

News  
Mentions

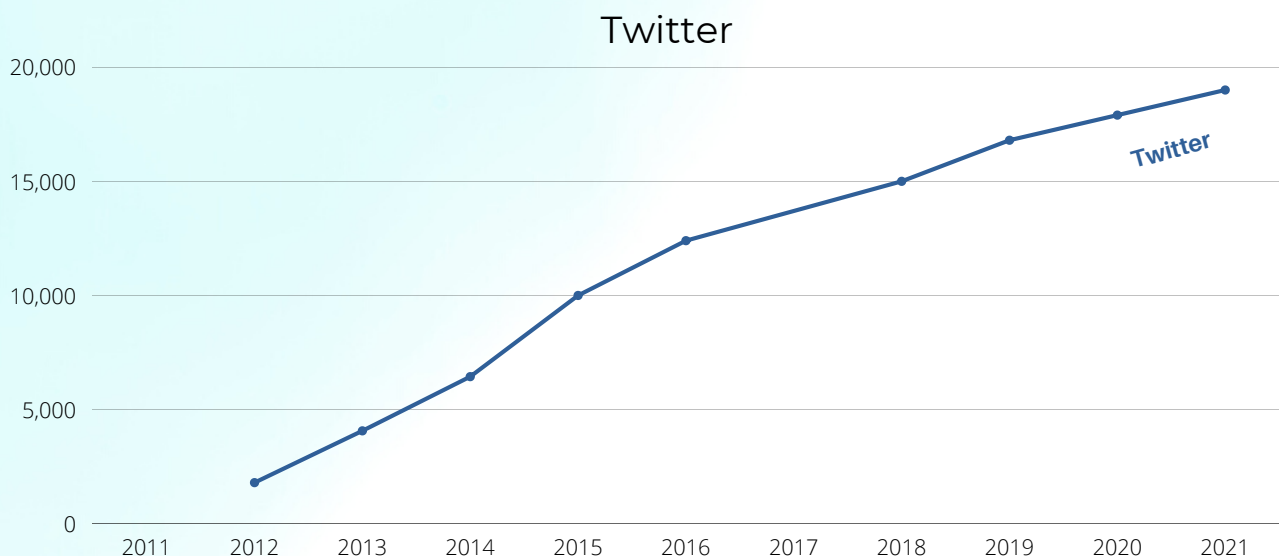
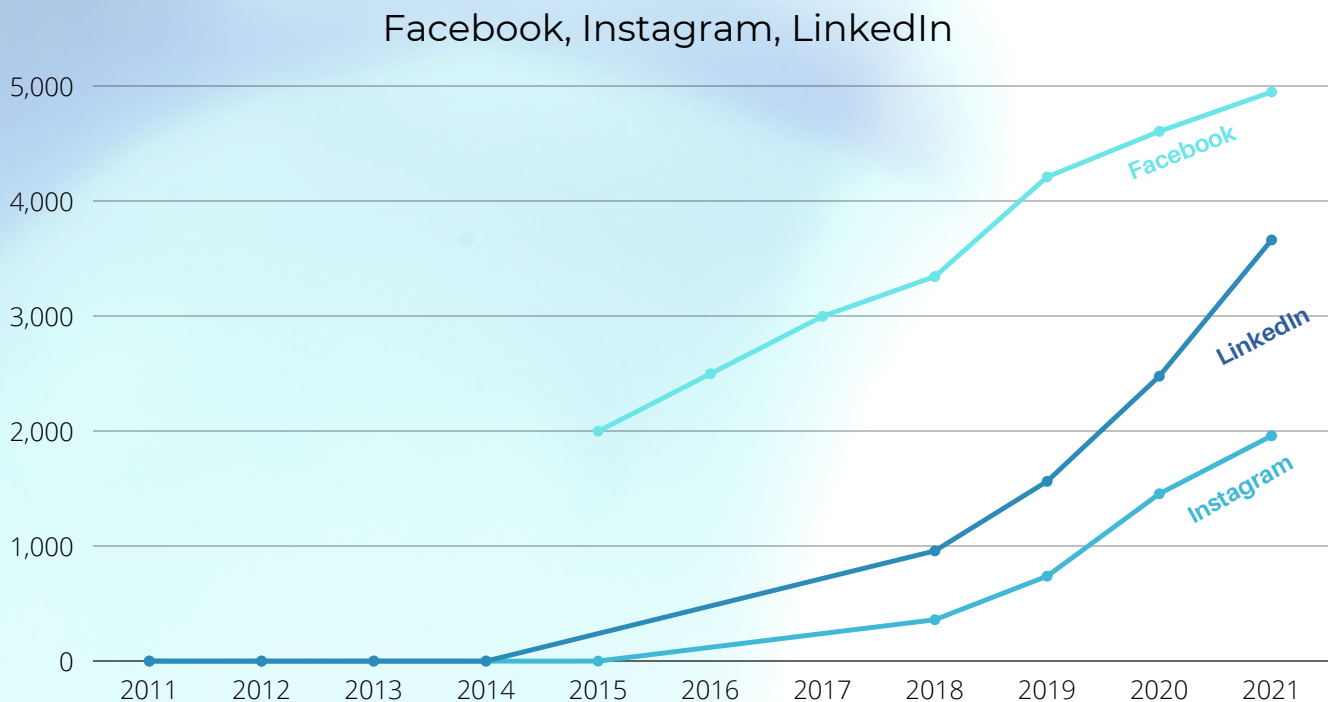


800

App  
Stories

# TEN YEARS OF GROWTH

If you're wondering how far The Arctic Institute has come over the past ten years, look no further than social media. From a single like, our following has grown to over 20,000 followers in ten years.



*All social media data has been recorded since 2018. Data before 2018 was identified through previous annual reports and social media analytics.*

# RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Our team members have delivered over 46 presentations and authored 64 publications

## CONFLICT SERIES

Much recent discussion has focused on the contemporary militarization of Arctic and subarctic regions. Journalism and scholarship alike question if military conflict might occur, how peace can be maintained, and what war would look like in the Arctic. To provide insight on such queries, The Arctic Institute's 2021 Conflict Series provides analysis on past Arctic militarization and military activities—seeking both historic context and lessons learned for modern Arctic politics.

Contributors to this series identify the Arctic as a zone of primary conflict and as a secondary theatre in broad international wars, as a fundamental driver for global peacebuilding and as a critical playing field of international regimes and military competition. The Conflict Series has, overall, illustrated the importance of looking to past militarization and military activities as we endeavor to move forward in Arctic diplomacy—not because historic Arctic politics will be reproduced exactly in the present or future, but because history provides a glimpse into the true breadth of risks and opportunities facing Arctic stakeholders today.



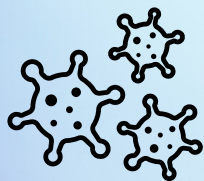
## PERMAFROST SERIES

In fall and winter 2020-2021, The Arctic Institute's two-part permafrost series featured over a dozen articles on permafrost degradation and its various impacts, including scientific approaches to studying thaw, personal encounters with permafrost, community challenges, and security issues that a warming Arctic presents. We hope that the series has been informative and effectively captured the complexity of climate change in the Arctic, so we may better understand the impact of warming in the North.

Our articles on permafrost thaw have covered a wide variety of topics. As multiple authors pointed out, permafrost degradation affects every aspect of life in the Arctic, from ecosystems to sustenance to infrastructure in the North, and the impact of thaw on the climate's positive feedback loop has global implications that will affect us all in coming decades.



# RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

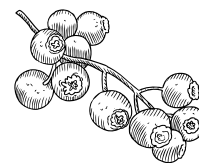


## COVID-19 IN THE ARCTIC

With the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the world found itself in a **global health emergency**, which has caused a **dramatic loss of human life** worldwide and brought normal life around the world to a halt for the better part of a year. In addition to health risks and human suffering, the pandemic has led to devastating social, economic and cultural impacts around the world – and will likely continue to do so.

Not even the remote areas of the Arctic region have been spared from being hit by the virus and its negative societal consequences – a fact that tragically illustrates that the Arctic has indeed become **the Global Arctic**. To increase our understanding of the various ways in which the coronavirus outbreak has impacted life, politics and economy in the Arctic, The Arctic Institute launched a COVID-19 series in winter 2021.

As the articles of the series demonstrate, there is no cohesive Arctic response to the coronavirus pandemic but many alternative efforts to mitigate the social and economic harms caused by the prolonged pandemic. National policies vary significantly amongst the eight Arctic states: while the Nordic countries have adopted quite similar approaches to the pandemic, Russia has not issued a strong federal coronavirus policy. It is hardly surprising that there is no coordinated governance model for the Arctic communities to cope with the pandemic either.



## JANE GLASSCO NORTHERN FELLOWSHIP SERIES

Through a partnership with the Gordon Foundation, The Arctic Institute is publishing a series of papers on Canadian Arctic policy critiques and solutions written by Jane Glassco Northern Fellows. The **Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship Program** recognizes the leadership potential of northern Canadians aged 25-35 who are passionate about addressing emerging policy challenges and building a strong North. During the 18-month program, Fellows deepen their understanding of important northern issues, and develop the skills to articulate and advance their ideas and policy research. Fellows publish individual and group policy research papers.

From publications on Turning to Traditional Processes for Supporting Mental Health to Deregulate and Empower Indigenous Language Teachers, this publication series provides unparalleled stories and research that connect the Canadian Arctic to the Arctic Institute's readership.

# IN THE PRESS & ON THE AIRWAVES

Our team of early career scholars have been featured in over 189 news articles, video interviews, and magazine publications since our inception, including 37 features in 2021. News outlets include:

- Reuters
- NPR
- The Telegraph
- Glamour
- The Wall Street Journal
- Fortune
- TASS
- The Washington Post
- Fox News
- The New York Times
- The Economist
- ABC News
- Aftenposten
- The Atlantic
- Deutsche Welle
- BBC
- Der Spiegel
- Wired
- El Pais
- The Globe and Mail
- The Guardian
- Le Monde
- Kristeligt Dagblad
- Al Jazeera
- CBC
- Nunatsiaq News
- Politico
- NyTeknik
- CNN
- Jewish Standard

"Climate change... is opening up Arctic shipping routes. It's also advancing extreme weather and unpredictable waves."—**Pavel Devyatkin, quoted in Public Radio International's "The World,"** "Amid Suez debacle, Russia makes case for Arctic Sea passage," March 29, 2021

"La administración Trump debería preocuparse más por la amenaza inminente a la que expone a los estadounidenses con su inacción climática, en lugar de por las ambiciones chinas y rusas."—**Dr. Victoria Herrmann, quoted in Swiss Info's "El escepticismo de EEUU entorpece la cooperación regional en el Ártico,"** May 7, 2019

"På den måde er den her sag også et godt bevis på, at Grønland er enormt vigtig for Danmark, da rigsfællesskabets rolle i Arktis gør, at vi kan sidde til bords med verdens mægtigste statsledere." —**Dr. Marc Jacobsen, quoted in Kristeligt Dagblad's "Grønlændere siger nej tak til Donald Trump,"** August 16, 2019

"Everybody talks about sustainable development in the region but nobody puts forward concrete ideas – it doesn't have to be the case of just creating heavy-industry jobs. You can create hi-tech jobs, but you need the connections, the infrastructure in place. Companies won't come unless countries put schools, healthcare, broadband in place first. If you plan enough, you attract the right kind of labour. It's up to us; the Arctic is an opportunity if we invest now." —**Nima Khorrami, quoted in Geographical's "Dossier: Mining in the Arctic,"** August 6, 2021

"Many local companies, municipalities, and decision-makers [will] probably continue to welcome Chinese investments as they would bring much needed jobs, business opportunities and finance to the remote areas... At the same time, potential investments in critical infrastructure can be expected to increasingly be scrutinised at national level, as security implications of China's Arctic activities will no doubt be increasingly discussed and analysed in all the Arctic countries." —**Dr. Sanna Copra, quoted in The Dispatch's "Why the U.S. Should Worry About Russian and Chinese Ambition in the Arctic,"** May 6, 2021

# IN THE PRESS & ON THE AIRWAVES

In 2020 Research Associates Romain Chuffart and Liubov Timonina launched "The Arctic Institute Bookshelf Podcast." Later joined by Saga Helgason, our podcast released 16 episodes between 2020 and 2021, with a total of over 4500 plays on Soundcloud and Spotify.

"The underwater cultural heritage in the Arctic region is quite rich and it really documents how long humans have interacted with Arctic waters since time immemorial." –**Emily Tsui, 2021 Visiting Fellow**, "TAI Bookshelf Podcast - Underwater Cultural Heritage in the Arctic with Emily Tsui," March 31, 2021

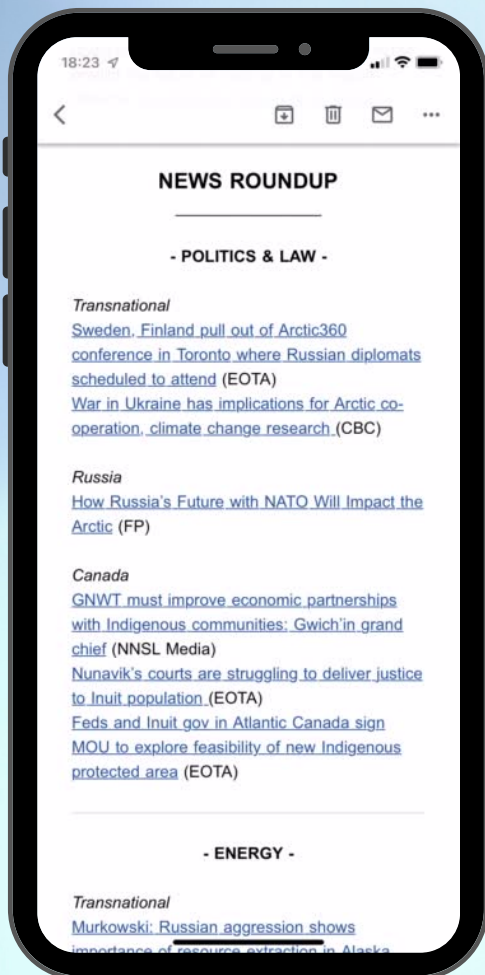
"To frame the Arctic as this mysterious northern frontier battleground... is a truly impressive exercise in willed ignorance... it's far more sexy to have this frontier at the top of the world where anything goes... but framing the Arctic in this way... justifies certain actions... military conquest, pushing the limits of international law... [But] that narrative doesn't necessarily correspond to what is happening in the Arctic." –**Dr. Gregor Sharp, Senior Fellow**, "TAI Bookshelf Podcast – Debunking Arctic Exploration Narratives with Greg Sharp and Christian Drury," April 28, 2021



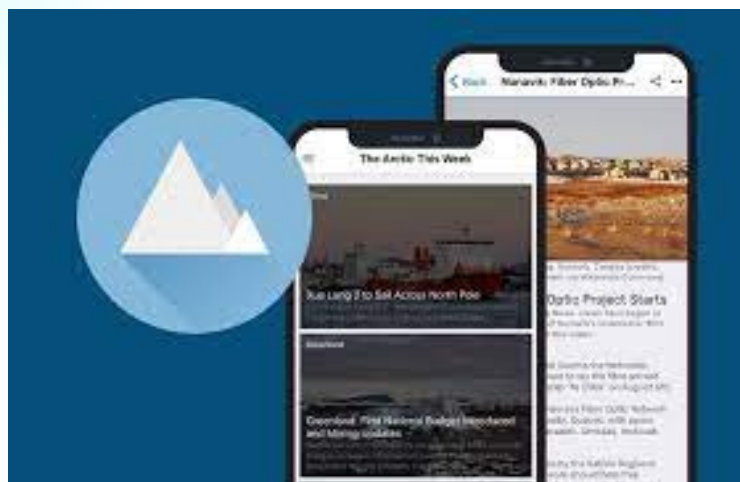


# NEWSLETTER

Each *The Arctic This Week* newsletter contains approximately 30 articles. 47 newsletters were published in 2021. About 1410 articles are distributed annually.



On *The Arctic This Week* App, delivers the latest news and analysis in Arctic security, environment, politics, and culture directly to subscriber's phone each week.



# PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

The Arctic Institute has engaged in cooperative projects with over a dozen institutions. Ranging from academic organizations to non-governmental organizations, non-profits and businesses, TAI has raised the profile of Arctic scholarship through a number of means.

- Arctic Adaptation Exchange (Arctic Council)
- BlanX
- Copenhagen Business School
- Ecologic Institute
- Global Landscapes Forum
- High North Center
- J. Lindeberg (1% for the Planet)
- Korea Maritime Institute
- Migration in Harmony (National Science Foundation, Georgetown University)
- Students on Ice
- UK-Nordic Innovations
- U.S. Arctic Research Commission
- Gordon Foundation

## BLANX SAVE THE WHITE, WE SUPPORT RESEARCH BY THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE AND POLARQUEST

In order to actively safeguard the arctic world, we joined forces with a team of researchers and scientists - Polarquest - and a group of analysts and communicators - The Arctic Institute.

BlanX wants to protect the territories it comes from and does so by supporting two non-profit organisations in the analysis of the environment and of pollution from residual microplastics.

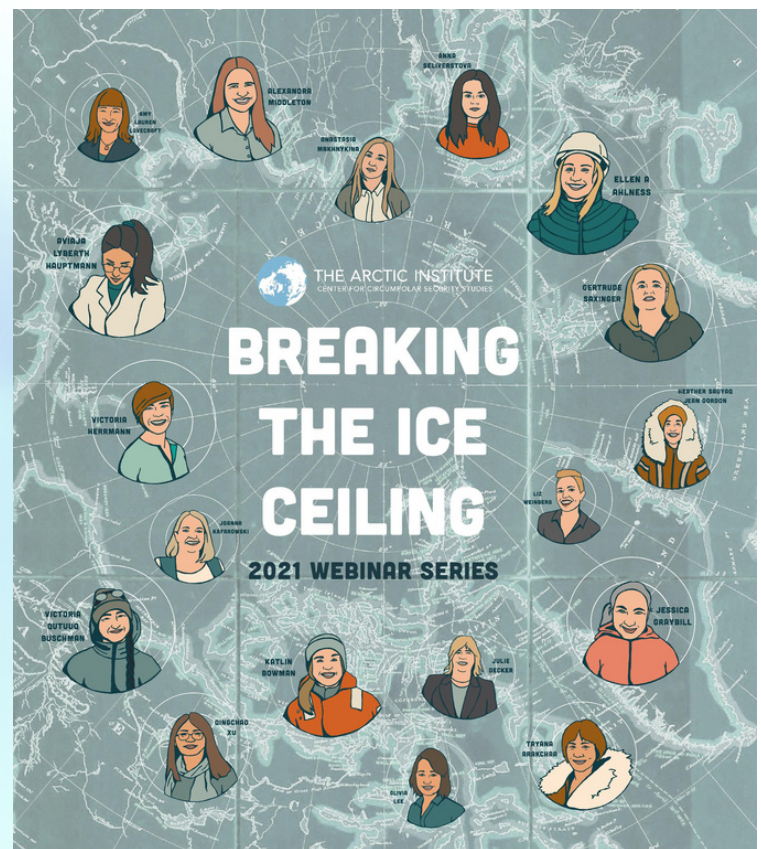
The aim is to create content and research regarding the safeguard of the Arctic region, the issue of microplastics and to take part in the Arctic Circle Assembly that will be held in Reykjavik in October 2021.





# PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

In recent years, women researchers, scientists, and local champions have elevated their visibility and empowered their voices across the world. The Arctic is no exception. With powerful organizations like **500 Women Scientists** and local movements like **Women in Polar Science** and **Plan A** growing their reach and impact, women are sharing their personal narratives, highlighting their contributions, and supporting each other like never before. **The Arctic Institute's Breaking the Arctic's Ice Ceiling 2019 Series** was our team's contribution to this movement. In a webinar series, The Arctic hosted over 20 women working and living in the Arctic to share their stories.



In 2021, The Arctic Institute, in partnership with the Ecologic Institute and Migration in Harmony, organized a 10-week program for early career scholars to learn about the Arctic. Watch this playlist to learn from 20 incredible Arctic researchers, scientists, Traditional Knowledge Holders, and experts.

The winter program aimed to build a lasting, policy-oriented network of Arctic professionals to strengthen communication between peoples and nations, scientific disciplines, policy areas, and across the science-policy interface to improve collaborations, research, and decision-making in the Arctic.

Weekly webinars, featuring diverse experts and hosted by MiH-RCN Principle Investigator Dr. Victoria Herrmann, will focus on the theme "Arctic on the Move."

# TEAM *in 2021*

## Leadership Group

Lillian Hussong  
Malte Humpert  
Pavel Devyatkin  
Romain Chuffart  
Karen Marie Oseland  
Andreas Rasptonik  
Victoria Herrmann [sabbatical]

## Senior Fellows

Doris Friedrich  
Nina Joffe  
Amanda Koltz  
Sanna Kopra  
Andreas Osthagen  
Gregor Sharp  
Ekaterina Uryupova

## Research Associates

Alina Bykova  
Trym Aleksander Eiterjord  
Caroline Humphreys  
Jen Evans  
Mariel Kieval  
Nima Khorrami  
Val Muzik  
Liubov Timonina  
Apostolos Tsiouvalas  
Fanny-Tsilla Koninckx  
Estelle Lorang  
Elise Nyborg  
Gergana Stoeva

## Research Interns

Luke Compopiano  
Yu Cao  
Saga Helgason  
Monica Oliveira  
Anastasiia Posnova  
Thomas Sorensen  
Elinor Tessin

# BOARD MEMBERS *in 2021*

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Dr. Lassi Heininen

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Mr. Jim Gamble

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Ms. Lill Hilde Kaldager



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