



Northern Notes 56

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# A new tenure

The first Northern Notes under the new presidency

## Statement on Ukraine

*Issued by the president and secretariat*

The field of arctic social science is dependent on peaceful and safe cooperation between institutions and countries across the Arctic, in order to flourish and bring about fruitful scientific research. Military conflicts do not allow for this basic condition to be fulfilled. IASSA must therefore condemn the current war in Ukraine due to the Russian invasion.

IASSA believes that social science in the Arctic must be brought forward by partnerships not only between scientists across the field, but also through collaborations on a higher level between the countries in which the scientists reside.

IASSA aligns with the International Science Council in expressing concern regarding the current war in Ukraine, and stands behind the **ISC statements** that

".... the current conflict in Ukraine and its consequences will hamper the power of science to solve problems when we should be harnessing it.... the severe outcomes that conflict will have on the research and academic community..." and "Ultimately the isolation and exclusion of important scientific communities is detrimental to all."

We also support the **joint statement on Arctic Council Cooperation** following Russia's Invasion of Ukraine issued by Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the United States

# A letter from the president

Prof. Grete Hovelsrud

## The Norwegian Presidency slogan: From prominence to leadership.

Since I started writing this first greeting as President of IASSA our world has changed. We have a war on our hands, and it is affecting us all. We are confronted with difficult if not impossible decisions on how to reach out to our Russian friends and colleagues. Many of the arenas where IASSA is active have changed, the Arctic Council has halted all activities, and nations are discussing how to deal with scientific collaboration with Russian colleagues and institutions. This also changes how IASSA effectively can take a leadership role in developing Arctic social sciences.

Nevertheless, my initial thoughts of what I wanted to talk about ring even more true now. The strength of IASSA lies in its membership and the network of social scientists. We have a job to do to ensure continued international research cooperation and to position us well in the planning of the next International Polar Year (2032-2033). We will continue our work in the hope that we soon can pick up again where we left, and make sure our joint efforts benefit all Arctic citizens.

In August 1990, as a fresh graduate student in Social Anthropology, I found myself in a meeting room in Fairbanks, Alaska, together with a group of dedicated, passionate, and inspiring Arctic social scientists. At this meeting IASSA was established and I had found my flock. I have since served two periods on the IASSA Council (2008-2011 and 2014-2017) and have attended nearly all ICASS congresses. I have witnessed the steadfast growth of an equally dedicated membership and a recognition of IASSA in international fora. IASSA is a force to be reckoned with and I sincerely hope that this will continue.

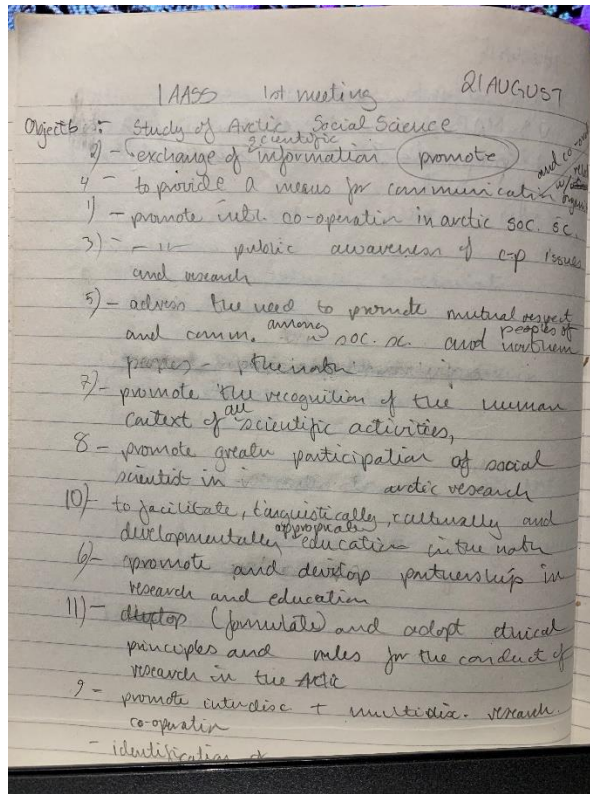


Photo: My notes from the first inaugural meeting 21 August 1990 at the Seventh Inuit Studies Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, and before we had settled on the name IASSA.

Since Fairbanks I have been an active Arctic social scientist, working mostly in Greenland, Northern Norway and Svalbard, engaged in research on the societal perspectives of marine mammal management, adaptation and vulnerability to changing climatic and societal conditions and adaptive capacity, and transformation to a low emission society. All with a focus on the perspectives of local and Indigenous communities, not overlooking national and international processes and with a focus, of course, on interdisciplinarity. Co-production of knowledge has always been at the heart of my work, long before the approach was labelled as such.

As a Professor at Nordland Research Institute and Nord University, in Bodø, Norway I spend my privileged days at work with research projects funded by the European Union, Research Council of Norway, local and regional funding sources and occasionally the Arctic Council.

Through my work in IASSA I will continue to carry the torch for Arctic social sciences and will draw on my long-term experiences from international research efforts among them Arctic Council projects (e.g., ACIA, AHDR, SWIPA, AACA), my membership in the International Joint Committee of the IPY 2007-2008, as Lead Author of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which gave me an opportunity to further develop a focus on Arctic peoples and social sciences. In addition, as the first female President of the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research I have expanded the social

science membership. I will utilize what I can from previous experiences to ensure continued collaboration with the Arctic Council, the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), University of the Arctic, Indigenous groups in the Arctic countries, Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the International Science Council (ISC). International collaboration has never been more important than now.

I will follow in the footsteps of previous presidents in continuing to develop IASSA as a relevant and visible organization for science, policy and education. Increasingly we collaborate with social scientists working in Antarctica, which may bode for a reorientation of IASSA.

I invite you all to share your thoughts and research in our bi-annual Northern Notes.

Grete Hovelsrud

## Connect with IASSA on Twitter

IASSA has its own Twitter account [@IASSA\\_SocSci](#) and will reach out to anyone interested in Arctic social sciences. Follow us for news and job announcements within the field of arctic social science.

Use the following hashtags:

**#IASSA** for news within and about the association

**#ICASSXI** for news about the next Congress in Bodø 2024



Also on Twitter:

IASSA president  
[@GreteKaare](#)

IASSA Twitter admin  
[@Olsenjulia](#)

# The IASSA Secretariat

The IASSA secretariat at Nordlandsforskning and Nord University, 2021 to 2024

## President



**Grete K. Hovelsrud (PhD Social Anthropology)** has more than 40 years of travelling, living and working in the Arctic. She is Professor in Environmental Sociology, Nord University and at Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway. An arctic anthropologist focusing on interdisciplinary studies of adaptation to changing climatic and societal conditions, adaptive capacity of coupled social-ecological systems, and on the societal transformation to a low-emission society in the context of climatic and societal change. She has extensive fieldwork experience from local communities, from primary sectors, such as fisheries and hunting, agriculture, reindeer herding, aquaculture, and municipalities in the Arctic and sub-Arctic. She has led numerous major long-term research projects and published extensively in scientific peer reviewed journals and books. The emphasis on the local context is a critical starting point for understanding impacts, risks, adaptation, adaptive capacity, and transformative change. While this research is critical for understanding the particularities of the local context, the processes and insights are highly relevant for other local communities and for national and international policy for governing climate risk and societal transformation.

## Secretary

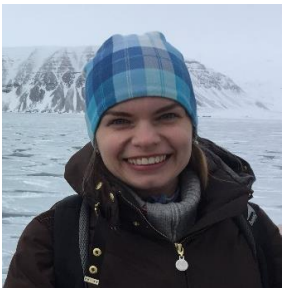


**Tina Bringslimark (PhD Environmental Psychology)** is the Head of Division of Research and Development at Nord University. In addition to strengthen and develop research at the university, she coordinates two working groups that are a collaboration between Nord University and Nordland Research Institute, namely 1) working group for establishing a centre for Saami and Indigenous people focusing on Lule and South Saami languages and culture, and 2) working group for establishing a hub or centre dedicated to multidisciplinary research to promote social, economic and environmental sustainable development in the High North.

## Secretariat members



**Brigt Dale (PhD Political Science, MD Visual Anthropology)** is Research Director at Nordland Research Institute, Norway. His work focusses on societal transformation, (ontological) security theory, governmentality, biopolitics and cultural theory and on the relation between politics, security, power, and resource management, in addition to processes that influence the development of local communities. Dale's empirical research includes the consequences of (and adaptation to) climate change and societal transformation, petroleum politics/ petrocultures and extractive industries impact on local lives, tourism, aquaculture, and cultural heritage. He has done fieldwork in Tobago (2001), the Lofoten Islands (2008-2010 and ongoing), in Finnmark (2014, 2015) and in Greenland (2014, 2019). Dale is a member of the advisory board for the Norwegian Climate Foundation, the scientific coordinator of the upcoming international Petrocultures 2022 conference, and an honorary professor at IBES Institute for Environment and Society at Brown University, USA.



**Julia Olsen (PhD Environmental Sociology)** is a Senior Researcher at Nordland Research Institute, Bodø Norway. She is originally from Komi Republic in Russia and have background in economics of oil and gas industry and sustainable development. In her PdD, Julia examined impacts of increased shipping activities in the Barents Sea on local communities in Northern Russia and on Svalbard. In addition to Arctic shipping, she conducts research on communities' viability, tourism development, marine litter, and circular economy. Research communication is a part of her work and she communicates the results to different generations through public meetings and mass media. One of her working tasks in the secretariat is to establish and maintain social media channels.



**Tarjei Antonsen (PhD in Space Physics)** is a senior advisor in the Research and Development Division at Nord University. Until 2020 he conducted research at his alma mater, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, on rocket studies of the polar upper atmosphere and the effect of nanoparticles in that environment. At Nord University he manages the doctoral programmes of the institution, and coordinates doctoral supervision and research leadership development. Antonsen also works with the public dissemination of science, with emphasis on communication of science relating to issues and developments in the High North.

# The Svalbard Social Science Initiative

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Edited by **Alexandra Meyer** <sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Dept. of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna

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The Svalbard Social Science Initiative (SSSI) was launched in 2018 as a bottom-up initiative by several researchers studying the human dimensions of the dynamic changes currently underway in Svalbard. The aim of the network is to create linkages among researchers from the social sciences and humanities working with issues related to Svalbard, establish a platform for coordinating research activities, and to facilitate the communication with local communities and other scientists. During the last two years, the SSSI has developed from a small network of researchers into a formal association with more than 30 active members, and the initiative has led to various collaborations both among its members, and between members and local stakeholders and institutions. A full overview over our various activities during 2019-2020 can be found in our Annual Report<sup>1</sup>.

A key aim of the SSSI is to make research about Svalbard accessible both to Svalbard communities and the scientific community. The SSSI has organized various presentations about ongoing research projects, physical and online, on Svalbard and elsewhere.

Apart from monthly online meetings, the SSSI organizes workshops for sharing research and enhancing collaboration. In 2019, the SSSI was funded by the Svalbard Science Forum to host a side-meeting and workshop in connection with the Svalbard Science Conference. A summary of the side-meeting can be found on the SSSI

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<sup>1</sup> <https://svalbardsocialscience.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SSSI-Annual-Report-2019-2020.pdf>

website<sup>2</sup>. After postponing several activities in 2020, in 2021, several SSSI members organized and participated in the panel *Social sciences, humanities and arts (in) changing Svalbard* at the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X). In November, the SSSI held a workshop in Longyearbyen, funded by the Svalbard Science Forum, including a community outreach event at the public library. The SSSI held a presentation at the Svalbard Science Forum in Oslo, and several members presented their posters. In collaboration with NERSC, the SSSI also organized a side-meeting to the Svalbard Science Conference, again funded by the Svalbard Science Forum.

Collaboration with local stakeholders is a core value of the SSSI. SSSI members currently living in Longyearbyen are working together with the architectural office LPO Svalbard on a focus group project investigating how inhabitants are perceiving and using the town, and what needs and dreams they have for the place<sup>3</sup>. Also together with LPO, the SSSI is organizing *Longyearbyen Community Dialogues*, a series of public discussions where residents of Longyearbyen can discuss burning issues for the community.

The SSSI has furthermore led to fruitful collaborations among its members, and various collaborative projects, publications, and research proposals are currently underway. In 2021/2022, a collection of articles entitled "Changing Svalbard" in *Polar Record* will be published.



Get in touch with SSSI  
and join the initiative:



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<sup>2</sup> <https://svalbardsocialscience.com/report-from-the-sssi-workshop-at-the-svalbard-science-conference-2019-in-oslo>

<sup>3</sup> <https://svalbardsocialscience.com/focus-groups-on-urban-development-in-longyearbyen/>



Portrait interview



## Indigenous investigator: Astri Dankertsen

By **Thoralf Fagertun**<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway

Astri Dankertsen is an associate professor in Sociology at Faculty of Social Sciences, Nord University. She is the leader of the Division for Environment, International Relations, the Arctic and Security at Faculty for Social Sciences at Nord University, and a member of the Research Group for Gender, Ethnicity and Equality (KEL). Her research is primarily focused on Sami and Indigenous issues, especially identity, youth, urbanization, decolonization and perspectives of Indigenous people. Her research group has recently started up the project "Indigenous homemaking as survivance: Homemaking as cultural resilience to the effects of colonization and assimilation (INDHOME)", financed by The Research Council of Norway.

– *What do you think is important for securing sustainable development in the Arctic?*

– It is important to have a general focus on sustainability, which take into consideration both climate, nature and people living in the Arctic, including Indigenous people. Far too often, we see sustainability used as an argument for drastic encroachments on nature, with severe consequences for people and animals

## Portrait interview

already living there. Here in Norway, a very relevant example is the conflicts between the Sami population and the development of wind power industry. These days the strong forces of business frequently defeat the needs of both local inhabitants and nature.

– *What would the role of social science be in this development?*

– It is important that we as social scientists contribute to solutions for how to achieve a sustainable development that doesn't compromise societies and cultures already existing here in the north. We must contribute both to theoretical and empirical knowledge about the processes guiding sustainability, and at the same time bring practical solutions to the table. It is also important to highlight how sustainable development doesn't happen independent of existing power structures both in Norway and the rest of the world. Who benefits from the development and who must make sacrifices?

– *How do you envision the Arctic in 30 years?*

– Hopefully we have created a society more conscious of the cultural diversity that characterizes the Arctic and are aware of how indigenous people living in the north must be a part of decision-making processes about issues concerning them. We must to a larger degree recognize that the high north consists of places where people live their lives, and where important heritages of language and culture exist and must be conserved.

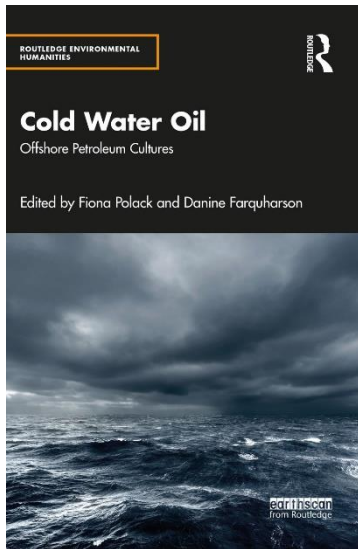
– *What role, in this picture, should the IASSA undertake in the years to come?*

– IASSA is an important platform for bringing attention to social scientific knowledge in and about the high north. I am looking forward to seeing how Nord University and Nordland Research Institute can contribute to the further development of IASSA, and how this work can impact us as research institutions.



# New Publications

Fresh reads from arctic social science and related fields



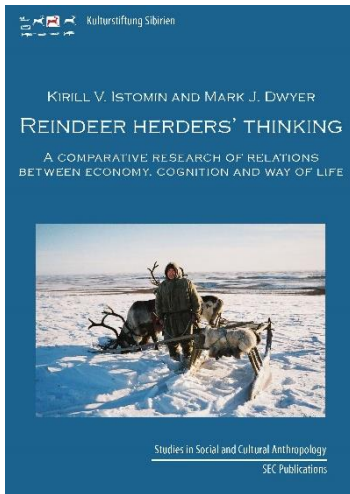
## Cold Water Oil – Offshore Petroleum Cultures

*Cold Water Oils* multi-disciplinary contributors focus on the cultural, social, and ecological implications of oil and gas extraction in a time of profound global uncertainty. Northern cold water oceans contain both well-established petroleum operations (e.g., in the Beaufort Sea and on the Grand Banks) as well as fledgling and aspirational ones (such as around Svalbard and the Lofoten/Vesterålen/Senja Archipelago). The continuing pursuit of oil and gas in what we call the *cold water offshore*, constitutes an extreme yet highly revealing example of the lengths to which corporations and governments have been prepared to go in order to maintain the centrality of fossil fuels. The book pays special attention to industrial operations in the Arctic and the North Atlantic, operations that are often entangled with nations such as Norway and Russia, with already well-established petroleum industries in the North Atlantic, seek to expand their operations in Arctic seas. The offshore petroleum industry is a crucial point of origin for global carbon emissions and other environmental harms. Notwithstanding this significance, humanities and social science scholars have made only sporadic efforts to comprehend the economic, political, and socio-cultural discourses attending oil and gas exploration and extraction in northern oceans and seas. *Cold Water Oil: Offshore Petroleum Cultures* redresses this oversight by illuminating ignored histories, influential contemporary narratives, and emerging energy and environmental futures. The volume focuses particularly closely on Arctic and North Atlantic regions: the oceanic territories of Norway, Canada, the UK, Russia, and the Iñupiat of Alaska. The continuing, but often strongly contested pursuit of oil and gas in these frigid, tumultuous, and environmentally sensitive seas enforces the lengths to which corporations and governments will go to maintain the centrality of fossil fuels.

### Cold Water Oil: Offshore Petroleum Cultures.

Edited by Fiona Polack and Danine Farquharson. London: Routledge, 2022, 292 pp., 14 B/W illustrations.

Available in paperback, hardcover, eBook.  
ISBN 9780367903923



## Reindeer Herders' Thinking

This book is focused on herding techniques and the way of life of Komi and Nenets nomadic reindeer herders of North-eastern Europe and North-western Siberia. This book acknowledges and reviews current theories and models of human cognition developed in cognitive science. Two central cognitive abilities are explored: the ability to “find their way” in expansive and homogenous arctic tundra terrain, often in extreme weather conditions and navigating with neither maps nor navigation equipment, and the ability to “decipher and predict” reindeer behaviour.

The book exemplifies the contribution of anthropology to building greater understanding of human cognition. However, this can only be achieved through embracing advancements made in other disciplines rather than ignoring their existence.

### Reindeer Herders' Thinking

*Kirill V. Istomin and Mark J.*

*Dwyer*

Kulturstiftung Sibirien,

Fürstenberg/Havel, 2021, 217

pp.

Available in pocket version.

## Suggest new publications within the field of Arctic social science for Northern Notes!

We are always eager to disseminate interesting reads and publications within our research field to our members. Give us a hint about your latest reading interests at [IASSASecretariat@nord.no](mailto:IASSASecretariat@nord.no) or on Twitter ([@IASSA\\_SocSci](https://twitter.com/IASSA_SocSci)).

# Announcements

## Ann Fienup-Riordan receives Honorary Doctorate from UAA

Ann Fienup-Riordan, PhD, recipient of the IASSA Honorary Lifetime Membership in 2017, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by the University of Alaska Anchorage on December 1, 2021.



Photo: Diane Hirshberg

More information on the award and on Dr. Fienup-Riordan can be found at [UAA's website](#).

## 2022 IASC Fellowship Program recipients announced

The [International Arctic Science Committee \(IASC\)](#), the [Sustainable Development Working Group \(SDWG\)](#) of the Arctic Council, the [International Arctic Social Sciences Association \(IASSA\)](#), and the [Sustaining Arctic Observing Network \(SAON\)](#) in cooperation with the [Association of Polar Early Career Scientists \(APECS\)](#) are excited to announce the recipients of the 2022 IASC Fellowship Program.

Eight successful early career researchers were identified from 72 applicants for all available fellowships. APECS very kindly coordinated the application and review process; recommendations from APECS based on the review process were delivered for final selection to the IASC Working Group Chairs and Secretariat, the SDWG Secretariat, as well as the IASSA and SAON leaderships. The reviewers were impressed by the excellent quality of the applications.

[The 2022 IASC Fellows are:](#)

**Thomas Lloyd Webb**, Atmosphere WG (United Kingdom)  
Expertise: Coastal Climate, Boundary-Layer Meteorology, Climate Modelling

**Wai-Yin Cheung**, Cryosphere WG (Canada)  
Expertise: Glaciology, Photogrammetry, Cross-culture studies

**Henrieka Detlef**, Marine WG (Denmark)  
Expertise: Paleoceanography, Sea ice, Geochemistry

**Seira Duncan**, Social & Human WG (Finland)  
Expertise: Anthropology, Indigeneity, Eurasia

**Daria Burnasheva**, Social & Human WG / Indigenous Fellow (Russia)  
Expertise: Arctic, Indigeneity, Gender, Identity, Social and cultural dimensions of climate change, and

**Kabir Rasouli**, Terrestrial WG (Canada)  
Expertise: Cold Regions Hydrology, Landcover Change, Snow, Mountain Hydrometeorology

The 2022 SDWG-IASSA-IASC Fellow is:

**Silja Zimmermann** (Netherlands)  
Expertise: Arctic Indigenous food systems, Co-production of knowledge, Sustainability transformations

The 2022 SAON-IASC Fellow is:

**Christina Goethel** (United States)  
Expertise: Benthic ecology, Sediment oxygen respiration, Benthic-pelagic coupling

The IASC Fellowship Program provides the opportunity for early-career researchers to become involved in leading-edge scientific activities at a circumarctic and international level, to build an international network, and also to develop management skills.

More information about the IASC Fellowship Program can be found [here](#).

## Invitation to participate in Working Group: **Justice in the Arctic**



### About the initiator:

*Wood-Donnelly is an interdisciplinary researcher in social sciences situating her research at the intersection of international relations theory and political geography. She specialises on the Arctic circumpolar region.*

Corine Wood-Donnelly<sup>†</sup>, PhD

<sup>†</sup> Nord University and Uppsala University.

While issues of justice are not new to the Arctic, scholarship on justice and the Arctic is a growing area of interest. Particularly pertinent are applied study areas including those that consider questions of justice related to energy, environment, and climate.

Yet within this emerging scene, there is a danger that the conversation does not result in the righting of wrongs or the transformation of injustices. There is a danger that discussions of justice are merely symbolic, rather than critical and rigorous in their use of the forms, aspects, and realms of justice embedded within the broad scope of justice theory. There are many questions to consider on justice in and for the Arctic, with a landscape so vast it is beyond the capacity of any lone individual to answer.

How can scholars be thinking about the application of theories and grounded approaches of justice to studies of the Arctic? Amongst the broader theoretical approaches, we can question does the Arctic need its own theory of justice? Are existing theories of justice suited to explaining issues of Arctic justice or do these approaches need explication and elaboration? What does a theory of Arctic Indigenous justice include and is the structure of decision-making in the Arctic the source of injustice? There are also an infinite number of questions on applied justice, for example: Is climate justice different for the Arctic, can mobility justice be reconciled with environmental justice, and even, how does the green transition affect procedural justice for the Arctic?

A focus of this scope and magnitude requires more than a scattergun approach to issues of injustice in the Arctic. It requires a working group to develop an agenda-setting research platform to critically engage with theories of justice and conceptualise a justice scholarship agenda in a way that can provide meaningful impact on policy and decision-making that affects the society, economy, environment, and ecologies of the Arctic.

This important work can be started by bringing together the broader community of scholars researching 'Arctic' and 'Justice', where we can learn and build on the important foundations already begun. As such, I invite you to join me in a working group on justice in and for the Arctic. The first task(s) of the working group will be to draw up terms of reference for the group, to determine a research agenda and activities, and to being building a network of Arctic scholars working with justice. All career stages welcome!

Contact [Corine Wood-Donnelly](#) with expressions of interest.

# The 36<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Ust-Lensky Nature Reserve

By Elena Adasheva<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Dept. of Environmental Education of the Ust-Lensky Nature Reserve

The Ust-Lensky Nature Reserve is one of the largest nature reserves in the Arctic, located in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in Russia. The Reserve was founded in 1985 for protection and scientific research of the Lena Delta ecosystems. On December 18, 2021, the Reserve turns 36 years old.



*The Taba Bastaah Cliff, by I.A. Yakshina*

In 2021, the expedition Master of the Arctic, organized by the International Ecological Fund Clean Seas, was among major science projects on the Reserve territory. The expedition aimed to observe and document polar bear population by aerial survey. The Reserve's scientist M.Yu. Gladysheva participated in this project. During their time in Tiksi where the Reserve's office is located, expedition director D.M. Glazov together with cosmonaut and pilot V.I. Tokarev spoke with students from the Tiksi secondary school about their work. Another research project called The Complex Expedition had a goal to observe and document Arctic animals and birds, such as polar foxes, Siberian lemmings, polar owls, rose gulls and many others. Scientists from Yakutsk and Novosibirsk together with the Reserve's scientist M.Yu. Gladysheva carried out fieldwork on the Bykovsky Peninsula, Kotelny Island, and on the shores of Bulunkan and Tiksi Bays. Additionally, the Reserve's scientist



P.D. Koryakin took part in the joint ichthyological work with the Yakutsk branch of YakutskNIRO on monitoring the aquatic biological resources of the Reserve.

In 2021, the second edition of scientific monograph *Illustrated Flora Around the International Biological Station Lena-Nordensheld* by E.G. Nikolin, I.A. Yakshina, V.V. Petrovsky was published by Nauka Publishing House.

Every year the Reserve actively works with local population in environmental education and the popularization of science. The staff of the Reserve prepared and conducted dozens of lectures, film screenings and quizzes in secondary schools of Bulunsky Ulus. Multiple photo exhibitions in the Reserve's visitor center aimed to educate about the Arctic flora and fauna and inspire interest in scientific research among audiences of all ages.



*The Laptev Walrus, by S. N. Ryzhy*