



Issue 61

Autumn 2024



Features

Letter from the president.....	2
New IASSA President & Council	4
ICASS XI concluded in Bodø.....	6
IASSA Award Laureates 2024.....	8
Victoria Petrasheva Award	8
Gabriella Nordin-Sköld IASSA Service Award.....	9
Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards.....	10
Exhibition Arctic StoryWorlds: Frozen Matters.....	12

Leaving Bodø Coming to Nuuk

Letter from the president

Dear members and friends,

The Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 and ICASS XI is now history, and I am left with fantastic memories of great talks, exciting conversations, new ideas and partnerships, meeting old and new friends, and sunny warm days above the Arctic Circle. The Arctic Congress with ICASS XI was a great success and this we have heard from far and wide. The participants contributed to a very exciting program that spanned multiple scientific disciplines, arts, business and education, all needed to address and find solutions for the grand challenges we are facing on this magnificent Earth. Not surprisingly, IASSA members made a mark and were involved across the board, including organizing a “pubinar” – a seminar in a pub – discussing the difficult issue of how we maintain our connections with Russian colleagues in the face of the war against Ukraine. The large lobby bar at the Ramsalt Hotell was packed, standing room only, and you could hear a pin drop during the discussion. The panellists were honest, brave and provocative, and we must ensure the conversation continues. Other IASSA members organized art exhibits, high level social science and interdisciplinary panels and screened documentaries. This is what IASSA is about, addressing complex and sensitive societal issues in-depth and creatively and caring about our colleagues.

It was reported that people living or running businesses in Bodø found it inspiring to see the city filled with excited congress participants bearing their badges on their way through the city between sessions. On a personal note, I must confess that I was worried that a joint congress would weaken IASSA, but this has not been the case. IASSA’s partnership with the University of the Arctic and High North Center for Business at Nord University, Bodø, in organizing the congress worked.

My time as IASSA president has been shaped by both a pandemic and a war. These are both difficult world events, with deep repercussions. For IASSA this has meant that we have not been able to engage with the Arctic Council and its Working Groups as much as I had hoped for. The Arctic Congress with ICASS XI here in Bodø illustrated well that we were ready to meet again after the pandemic stopped a physical meeting at ICASS X in Arkhangelsk in 2020. Still, our relations with our partners and members are strong and IASSA is well placed as an observer to the Arctic Council and in the planning of the next IPY 2032-2033. Ahead of us are exciting times.

During our General Assembly on 2 June, we elected our new IASSA president and council, all presented in this issue of Northern Notes. I am thrilled that Maria Ackrén, Professor at Ilisimatusarfik/ University of Greenland, will take over and

bring IASSA back to Nuuk! The new council is very strong, and I look forward to working with the team in the capacity of IASSA Past-President.

Grete K. Hovelsrud, 12 September 2024



The main organizers of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 were given their well-deserved thank-you's at the closing ceremony, from the left: Marta Anna Løvberg (Nordland Research Institute), Kirsi Latola (UArctic), Benedikte Kosmo Underland (High North Center), and Grete K. Hovelsrud (IASSA). To the right is Lars Kullerud (UArctic).

New IASSA President & Council

At the General Assembly during the ICASS XI, part of the Arctic Congress in Bodø, Norway, a new president for IASSA and seven new members of the IASSA Council were elected via an anonymous online ballot:

President 2024-2027:

Maria Ackrén

Professor in Political Science Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland

IASSA Council 2024-2027:

Aaron John Spitzer

Associate Professor of Arctic Governance, University of Bergen (Norway)

Anita Lafferty

PhD in Education and Member of Liidlii Kue First Nation (Canada)

Helena Gonzales Lindberg

PhD in Political Science, Senior Researcher, Nordland Research Institute (Norway)

Joan Nymand Larsen

Professor of Economics and Arctic Studies, University of Akureyri (Iceland)

Karen (Kat) Hodgson

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Government, University of Bergen (Norway)

Kamrul Hossain

Research Professor and Director, Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM), Arctic Centre, University of Lapland (Finland)

Tatiana Degai

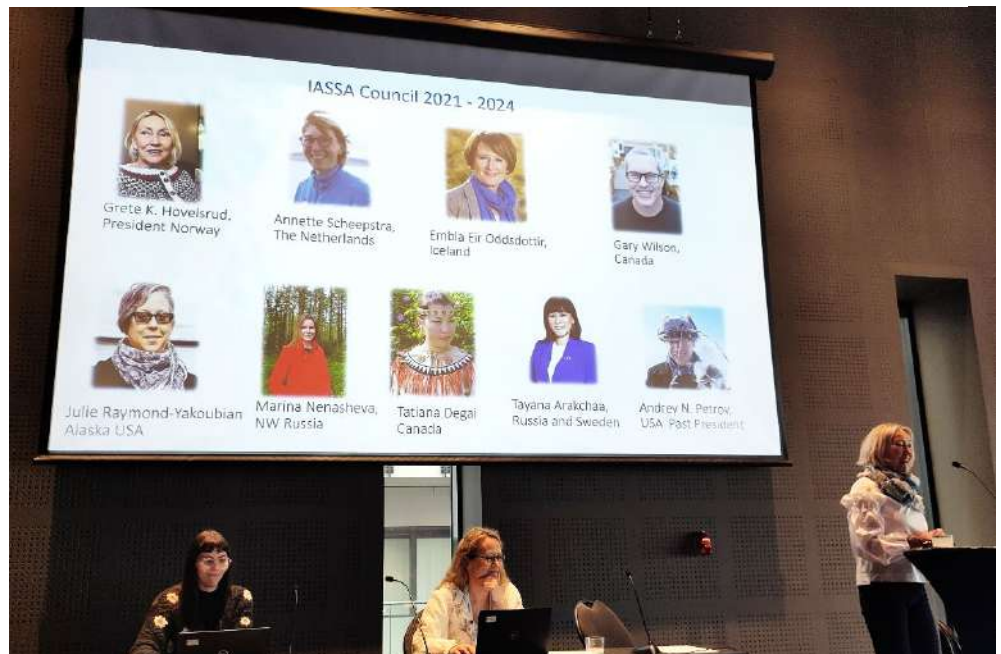
Assistant Professor, Dep. of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Canada)

Grete K. Hovelsrud

Past-President of IASSA, Professor in Environmental Sociology, Nord University, and Research Professor, Nordland Research Institute (Norway)



The newly elected IASSA Council Members 2024-2027 who were present at the IASSA General Assembly in Bodø. From the left: Grete K. Hovelsrud, Tatiana Degai, Anita Lafferty, Kamrul Hossain, Joan Nymand Larsen, and Helena Gonzales Lindberg



President Grete Hovelsrud thanking the IASSA Council Members 2021-2024 for their work and commitment to the Council and IASSA during the turbulent period with the Covid19-pandemic and the war in Ukraine. From the top-right: Gary Wilson, Embla Eir Oddsdottir, Annette Scheepstra, and Grete Hovelsrud. From the bottom-right: Andrey N. Petrov, Tayana Arakchaa, Tatiana Degai, Marina Nenasheva, and Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. At the table from the right is the IASSA Secretary, Tina Bringslimark and Elin-Marita Balseth Kristiansen, both from Nord University.

ICASS XI concluded in Bodø

The 11th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, ICASS XI, took place as part of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024, 29 May – 3 June 2024 in Bodø, Norway. The Congress was hosted by Nordland Research Institute and Nord University, and organised in collaboration between IASSA, UArctic and the High North Center.

On the 2nd of June, IASSA held its General Assembly. Here are some photos from the meeting:



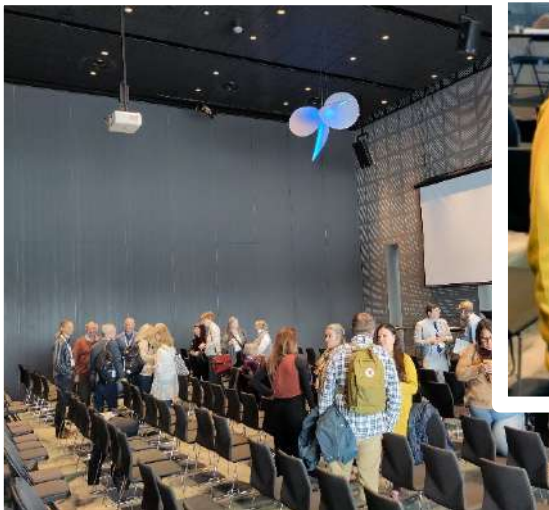
Grete Hovelsrud presents the greetings from past president Ludger Müller-Wille



Igor Krupnik sharing a historical perspective on IASSA.



Newly elected IASSA President, Maria Ackrén greets the IASSA General Assembly, live from Nuuk.



Good attendance and many happy faces at the conclusion of the IASSA General Assembly 2024

IASSA Award Laureates 2024

Victoria Petrasheva Award

Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin

The Nmitq̃en Award to an outstanding early career Indigenous scholar in honour of Victoria Petrasheva celebrates emerging Indigenous scholars who strengthen the well-being of their communities through research led by Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The award was given to Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin.

Haliehana is an Unangaŋ scholar from the village of Akutan in Unangam Tanangin [the Aleutian Islands of Alaska]. Her scholarly research theorizes Unangaŋ subsistence cosmologies rooted and routed from her upbringing immersed in sustainable processes and protocols that govern life in her Unangam Tanangin homelands. Haliehana's work intersects fields of Native American and Indigenous studies building from participation in transmissions of oral histories and cultural knowledges while braiding together interdisciplinary research experiences in critical race theory, Native literature, and performance. Upholding kinship accountabilities, she seeks to foster sustainable futures that center reciprocity and stewardship from the subsistence cosmology she was raised within. Haliehana is currently an Assistant Professor at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies in Anchorage, Alaska.

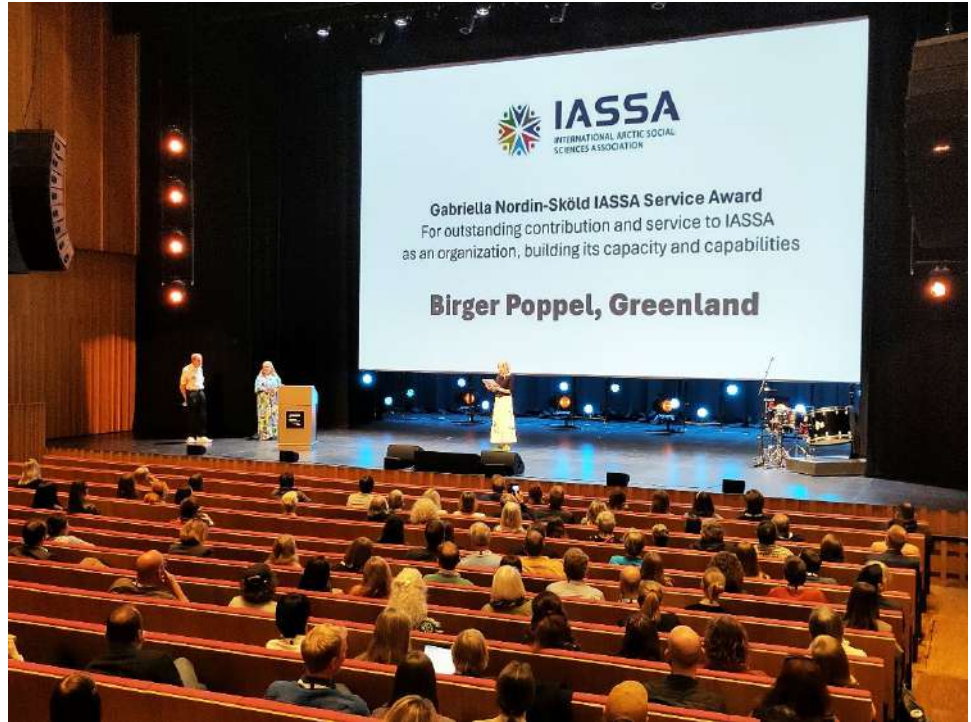


Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin received the Award presented by the Nmitq̃en Award Committee Chair, Tatiana S. Degai at the closing ceremony of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024

Gabriella Nordin-Sköld IASSA Service Award

Birger Poppel

Gabriella Nordin-Sköld served as IASSA Secretary in 2014-2017 and the award in her name was granted in recognition of outstanding contribution and service to IASSA at the closing ceremony of Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 to Birger Poppel.



Birger Poppel receives the award at the Congress closing ceremony, presented by Grete K. Hovelsrud © H. G. Lindberg

Birger Poppel receives the award for his extensive contribution to IASSA. He served on the IASSA Council for 13 consecutive years between 2001-and 2014, thus making a lasting impact on our organization. In 2008, Birger convened the 6th ICASS, with over 350 participants attending, making it the largest ICASS and the largest science conference event in Greenland at the time of occurrence. Birger was also active in IASSA at the time of International Polar Year-4 planning, promoting social sciences within IPY working. He thus contributed to reshaping and strengthen the standing of the Arctic social sciences within the Arctic research enterprise. Birger also served as the head of delegation for IASSA at the Arctic Council and working group meetings at the time when IASSA was a newly-approved observer. His work was critical in establishing the prominent role of our organization at the Council and promoted international recognition of IASSA. Birger is an Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Learning at Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland).

Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards



Peter Schweitzer receives the award at the Congress closing ceremony, presented by Grete K. Hovelsrud © H. G. Lindberg

Three Honorary Lifetime Awards were granted in recognition of sustained and significant contribution to Arctic Social Sciences and Humanities to Uliana A. Vinokurova, Grete K. Hovelsrud, and Peter Schweitzer.



Uliana A. Vinokurova

Born and raised in an Arctic village, Uliana Vinokurova is a leading Sakha scholar and Indigenous leader. She is the first Indigenous Scholar from the Russian Arctic to receive this award. She holds a PhD in Psychology and Doctor of Science in Sociology and has authored numerous books on Indigenous Peoples of the North with the She also founded the scientific interdisciplinary field “Arctic Circumpolar Civilization” that emphasises the unity of all peoples of the north in their adaptation to extreme climate and environmental conditions based on spirituality, innovation and technologies. Her research contribution and leadership have been widely acknowledged in Russia and internationally. Uliana has been a Sakha activist and defender of the Indigenous Peoples rights. She also participated in developing the Constitution of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), co-authoring 38 regional laws and advocating for many social, cultural, and educational programs in the Sakha Republic. Currently, Uliana is a Professor and Director of the Circumpolar Civilization Research Center at the Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts in Yakutsk, Russia.



Grete K. Hovelsrud

Grete K. Hovelsrud has been a dedicated IASSA member since the establishment of the association in 1990, serving in the Council (2008-2011 and 2014-2017), and as attended nearly all the ICASS congresses. She is an internationally recognized researcher on topics related to climate change adaptation in the Arctic and transformation to a low emission society. Grete was the first female president of the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research, and she was a member of the International Joint Committee of the International Polar Year 2007-2008. She has also served as Lead Author of the Fifth Assessment Report on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Through these commitments, Grete has been building a stronger collaboration for a more inclusive Arctic research community, bringing researchers and community members together, fostering transdisciplinary dialogue. She is also a treasured mentor, supporting and inspiring young Arctic and polar researchers. Currently, Grete is a Professor of Environmental Sociology, Nord University, Norway, and Research Professor at Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway.



Peter Schweitzer

Peter Schweitzer receives the IASSA Honorary Award for his many contributions via his academic research, mentoring of the next generation(s) of Arctic social scientists, and his distinguished service to many institutions and bodies that support and promote Arctic social sciences, including IASSA. Peter's research has enriched the understanding of human-environmental interactions, especially among hunting societies and including adaptation to climate change in Northern regions. As one of the first foreigners to pursue fieldwork in Siberia after the end of the Cold War, his early work was critical to the world's burgeoning knowledge of Northern peoples and challenges in Russia. Peter Schweitzer's work in Indigenous and creole communities in Russia's North expanded to also include Alaska, where he cultivated rich collaborative relationships with local communities and across academic disciplines. He pursued a long, productive career at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, then relocated to the University of Vienna, Austria, in 2012, where he has expanded the foci of the polar research community to embrace social sciences and humanities.

Exhibition Arctic StoryWorlds: Frozen Matters

By Olga Zaslavskaya, Tatiana Degai, and Vera Kuklina

Ice, snow, and permafrost are integral to Arctic human-landscape connections, providing shelter, water, and infrastructure, while also shaping identities and inspiring Arctic residents. Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods deeply intertwine with frozen landscapes. They have developed diverse ways of interacting with and keeping knowledge about them, including through language, art, and subsistence practices. Deterioration of Arctic frozen environments driven by climate change impacts not only local and Indigenous communities but has the potential of affecting the whole of humanity. Complexity of problems the Arctic is facing today requires a search for new ways of discussing, understanding, and envisioning our relationship with land and water for now and for the future.



Exhibition opening in Bodø. Photo by Mariia Kuklina

As part of the cultural program of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024, IASSA hosted a collaborative exhibition project that brought together diverse knowledge systems including scholarly expertise, artistic creativity, and Indigenous worldviews. The term "StoryWorlds" suggests multi-layered, interconnected narratives, illuminating various facets of Arctic life. "Frozen Matters" delves further than merely acknowledging the Arctic's cold conditions; it signifies a deep understanding of its foundational elements. Through co-production and co-creation of knowledge approaches, scientific exploration, and research findings are integrated into multimedia displays. Artistic expressions infuse creativity into the space, prompting reflection

on emotional and aesthetic responses to the changing Arctic landscapes. Indigenous cultures and worldviews are celebrated through the vibrant storytelling traditions transferred through generations of knowledge keepers and highlighted through Indigenous art forms.

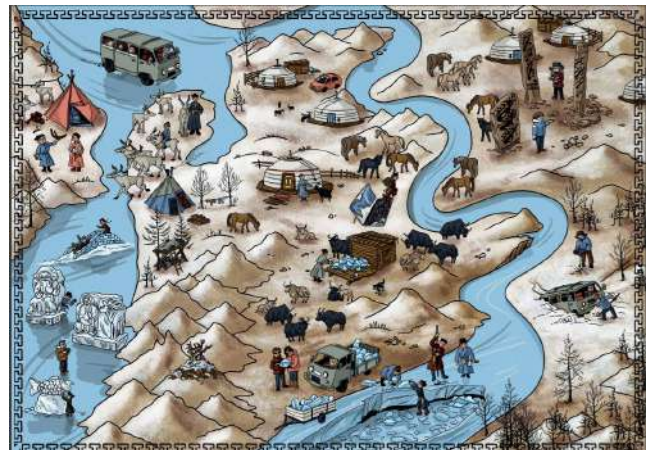
Curators Olga Zaslavskaya, Vera Kuklina, and Tatiana Degai worked together with Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and scholars from USA, Scandinavia, Europe, Siberia, and Mongolia to co-create installations through collaboration between three interdisciplinary initiatives. The NSF-funded interdisciplinary

collaborative project "Frozen Commons: Change, Resilience, and Sustainability in the Arctic" (2021–2026) investigates the sustainability of frozen commons amid shifting environmental conditions, aiming to evaluate Arctic community resilience. Arts, Science, Local, and Indigenous Knowledge (ArtSLInK) is a digital transmedia platform to support various projects aimed at the convergence of diverse knowledge systems. Arctic Indigenous Virtual Artists Network (AIVAN) is an informal platform that unites Indigenous artists throughout the Arctic and beyond to share Indigenous visions of sustainability and observations of life in the Arctic through creative arts.

Collaboration between diverse forms of knowledge and representation varied throughout the exhibition. An example of collaborative work between scholars and Sakha artists is the installation *Khaar kyyrpagha / Snowflake* by Mariana Marakhovskaia, Stanislav Saas Ksenofontov, and Andrey Petrov which represents scholarly exploration of Sakha terminology related to different manifestations of Frozen Commons conceptualized and shaped by the artist as a snowflake. Meanwhile, *Munkha* a short film produced by Tundra Animation Studio as a celebration of the Sakha winter tradition of collective ice fishing for crucian carp, was screened in the local cinema to stimulate a dialogue between an audience and Sakha scholars Liudmila Nikanorova, Ekaterina Sofroneeva, and Galina Belolyubskaya about relations between ice, fish and culture in the Arctic. Very different exploration of ice was offered by artist Ekaterina Shramko in her work *Atlas of Ice Forms*. She presents a catalogue and visual representation of the diverse array of natural ice formations by documenting the various shapes, structures, and textures that ice can take on across different environments and conditions and highlighting its importance in shaping landscapes, influencing climates, and supporting life.



Photos of frozen lands of Mongolia, Siberia, and Alaska.
Photo by Tatiana Degai



Olga Lo. "Mongol Zurag": Frozen Commons.
Printed digital artwork, 84,1×118,9 cm, 2024

Video narratives Arctic Fusion: Stories from the Frozen Lands and Waters unfold across the screens, transitioning between the perspectives of Indigenous storytellers, scientists, and artists, creating a rich and multi-layered tapestry of the Arctic's cultures and environment. A series of sound installations provides an auditory experience that complements the visual images from different parts of the world's cold places including artistic performance in Norway Arctic Mending/Snow Mandala by Beili Liu, dancing performance on Lake Baikal Reverence to the Feeling of Baikal by Kitrea Mai Pacifica Takata-Glushkoff, soundscape project in Alaska The Underground Sound Project: Arctic Portals by Nikki Lindt in collaboration with Arctic ecologists Jason Dobkowski and Friederike Gehrmann and video from travel to Northern Mongolia Blurry Roads: Journey on the Frozen Land and Water by Olga Lo. Another series is composed of stories made or told by Indigenous artists and knowledge holders, such as digital art LUSUUD by Buryat artist Aryuna Bulutova in collaboration with Timur Zolotoev exploring Buryat Shamanic Lusuud ceremony, honoring the water deity; the animated film Tuntu/ Caribou by Yulia Levykina and Amber Webb based on the story of a Yupiaq family witnessing the disappearance of caribou herds, symbolizing their ancestral ties to the land; and short animated film Kunjarapu / My childhood by Alyona Savelyeva and Anastasia Savelyeva based on the works and stories by Galina Koriakina from the Even People.



Artists Amber Webb, Olga Lo, and Haliehana Stepetin.
Photo by Tatiana Degai

A series of works of the exhibition are dedicated to Mongolia that is rarely associated with the Arctic. However, Mongolia ranks as the fifth country globally in terms of permafrost extent while experiencing climate warming 2.7% faster than the rest of the world. Similarities with the Arctic are especially evident in the Khövsgöl aimag, home for reindeer, yak and cattle herding communities with similar environmental and cultural forms as well as the common issues faced by communities. In the installations, the authors speculate and portray examples of daily practices and relationships with frozen matter that connect Indigenous and local communities with the Arctic. The works explore the various ways frozen commons are utilized in Mongolia. From providing access to drinking water and facilitating faster winter roads to enabling food storage and

enhancing tourism opportunities, snow and ice play a multifaceted role in the daily life of ordinary people in Mongolia. Photos made by scholars and artists during the expeditions connect the region with Siberia and Alaska. On the 2024 expedition to Mongolia, scientists invited artist Olga Lo who created live sketches, collected stones demonstrating the geological features of the landscapes. Olga's subsequent work in collaboration with researchers and local collaborators on "Mongol Zurag: Frozen Commons" inspired by the Mongolian painter Marzan Sharav depicts frozen commons' role in the lives of local people. From the humbling sight of the expedition's trusty off-road vehicle trapped in the snow, to the enchanting spectacle of a snow figure festival, each vignette captures the essence of real-life experiences and serves as a poignant reminder of the imminent threats posed by global warming.

Another large series of works represents Indigenous Art Forms as Reflections on Frozen Commons. Indigenous art form is a form of art that stems from the holistic understanding of human and non-human relationships through creative storytelling. It is meant to bring Indigenous voices forward to speak about socio-environmental challenges, community well-being, justice and equality, success and failure, and offer lessons, advice, and guidance. Indigenous art forms provide a glimpse into the knowledge base and experiences of Arctic communities building a bridge of understanding across diverse knowledge systems. Stories skilfully crafted by Indigenous women seamlessly come together to celebrate the vibrant Arctic life and at the same time grieve the lost generations of knowledge holders, interrupted relations, and the rapidly melting ecosystem. In this section, we draw attention to how Indigenous creative storytelling depicts delicate understanding of plentiful states of Arctic waters including diverse qualities of snow, variable conditions of ice, and rapidly changing permafrost grounds. These stories were diligently gathered by generations of Indigenous hunters, reindeer herders, fishermen, berry and herb pickers, mothers, fathers, grandparents, great-grandparents... Depicting the essence of what it means to be a respectful and responsible citizen of the Arctic ecosystem, these artworks praise the beautiful Arctic lands and waters that are viewed by Indigenous Peoples not as wilderness and a hostile environment, but as a deeply loved home.



Tatiana Degai giving a tour during the exhibition. Photo by Olga Lo

Polar Forget-me-Nots painting by Mariana Marakhovskaia presents construction of meanings and patterns of the cultural heritage of the Sakha people, whose traditions have been passed down through generations despite hardships. Buryat Yurts Under Snow by Ekaterina Osipova-Mandukhaeva in collaboration with Mariia Kuklina artwork not only captures a Buryat yurt during the winter season but also signifies cultural resurgence. Delicate works of Haliehana Alagum Ayagaa Stepetin *Isxatim Qitxuu ama Chngatum Qasii / Grass Basket Bottoms and Sea Otter Stitches* and *Qigam Agadaa / Grass Sun Medallion Necklace* present the unique Unanga grass basket weaving traditions and human-animal interconnected relationships along with Unanga relationality to place that informs survival and thriving in Unangam Tanangin, the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

Through the works titled *Kzos / Awaiting Balakitga and Zavina-Kugagt's Winter Headdress: A Symbol of Love and Nature's Bounty* Tatiana Degai along with her collaborators Viktor Ryzhkov, Jonathan Bobaljik, and Oleg Zaporotsky are telling an Itelmen creation story that highlights the beauty of Kamchatka land explaining the Itelmen relationships with snow. These stories invite viewers to immerse themselves in the timeless story of love, longing, and the enduring power of creation.



Artist Amber Webb in front of her three artworks.
Photo by Tatiana Degai

Four Generations of Ivoshyokh's Bags presented by Elena Rybina tells a story of the importance of intergenerational knowledge transfer among Khanty People and the crucial role women play in safeguarding and sharing knowledge. Four bags showcased at the exhibit were created with meticulous care to safeguard essential for sewing clothing and household items, reflecting the values and lifeways of nomadic reindeer herders of Khanty People.

Amber Webb is presenting three works that highlight the importance of tuntu, traditional Yupik dance, and spiritual practices for Yupik people. Tuntu (Caribou), Nasqurrun - headdress, and Naqugun /Women's Belt, celebrate spirit and the sacred relationship between the Yupik people and the animals that sustain them. It also symbolizes mourning for having less tuntu a in the Aleknagik area and for losing much of Indigenous knowledge.

Мучгын лгеуттуян'а / Our Home by Liudmila Gileva and Tatiana Khelol in collaboration with Tatiana Degai explores the dichotomy that comes in the diverse understanding behind the concepts of "home" that incorporate western and Indigenous ideas of what and how home is. Through presenting the Museum of Nadezhda Kaizevna Khelol the authors explain how the knowledge of the land can be brought back into place to Indigenize colonial environments and create a home space.

ArtSLInK (Maga)Zine: Where Creativity Connects for Scholarly Exploration is the last but not the least important part of the exhibition. Zines presented here are considered tools designed to serve scholars and artists in their research for creatively organizing their initial findings into thematic narratives and communicating them with a broad audience. The following zines compose this section: *Tur Imanna / Land of Snow*. *Subjective Map of Kamchatka Peninsula* by Ekaterina Lazareva in collaboration with Andrey Adukanov; *From overgrazed pasture to overbooked tourism?* by Mariia Kuklina, Andrey Petrov and Vera Kuklina; *Ice water* by Mariia Kuklina, Olga Lo, Vera Kuklina; and *ALASKALAND* by Diana Khaziakhmetova and Olga Lo, and a booklet *Халья, тошин, харз, etc - how many words your language has for describing icings?* by Vera Kuklina in collaboration with Mariia Kuklina, Olga Lo, Khadbaatar Sandag, Sandag Enkh-Amgalan, and Dmitrii Kobylkin.

Link to the online catalogue: <https://frozen-matters.com/>

Read more reflections from the outgoing IASSA President here:

[Navigating IASSA's Presidency Through Turbulent Times | Nordlandsforskning \(nordlandsforskning.no\)](#)

Watch the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 summarizing video here:

[ARCTIC CONGRESS BODØ 2024 \(29 May - 3 June\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

For updated news from IASSA follow us on X/Twitter: [@IASSA_SocSci](#)

Takk for oss!

Goodbye from us in Bodø!

See you in Nuuk for ICASS XII!