

“School of Arctic Dialogue”



Intelligence

In Rovaniemi, Kiruna, Tromsø, Kautokeino, Hetta, Inari / Ivalo, and Sodankylä

June 8–14, 2026

TN on Geopolitics and Security (UArctic)

<https://arcticpolitics.com>

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<https://calotte-academy.com>

About the Idea of the Calotte Academy

The Calotte Academy is an annual traveling symposium and international forum in Europe's North Calotte region, designed to promote interdisciplinary discourse and implement the interplay between senior and young researchers to train and supervise early-career scientists in circumpolar Arctic studies. It is a "school of dialogue" and participatory by nature with an idea to share knowledge and experiences with communities, and foster academic and policy-oriented dialogue among members of the research community and a wide range of other northern stakeholders. It is also an interdisciplinary brainstorming meeting to bring researchers and other experts from different fields, regions and countries together to discover and implement new methods and applications.

The Calotte Academy is for established researchers and early-career scientists (ECS), particularly PhD candidates and post-docs, with different academic and/or knowledge backgrounds to participate and present their work in the 2026 Calotte Academy.

Procedures of the Calotte Academy

The Calotte Academy is structured so that there are academic sessions with scientific presentations and brainstorming discussions in each location, as well as a public session, based on invitations, in one or two of the locations. Since dialogue and application of science are the most important goals of the Calotte Academy, it is recommended to remember and apply the open-ended nature of dialogue and how to cross disciplines, sectors and other borders. A fundamental precondition for this is to have enough time for questions, comments and open discussion as well as enough patience for listening to others' argumentation.

Following from these principles, the sessions will be structured in such a way that each **presentation** will be allocated altogether 30–40 minutes out of which a **maximum of 15 minutes** will be reserved for the presentation and the rest for questions, comments, and open discussion.

The 2026 Academy is also an interdisciplinary brainstorming meeting for scholars and other experts from different fields and disciplines all over the circumpolar North to discover new methods and plan possible research project(s), as well as to know more about the aims and activities of the TN on Geopolitics and Security. In addition to academic sessions, there will be a devoted session for research plan/project design, fund-raising and other more practical issues of research; and second, a role-play game (simulation of international negotiation) on a state of Arctic governance and geopolitics, where each participant has their role.

Afterwards, a Final Report including the abstracts, main findings, highlights, and ideas for potential research questions and projects of the 2026 Academy's sessions will be produced (see Final Reports on previous Calotte Academies at the following address: <https://calotte-academy.com/final-reports>). The Report will be based on notes and reports on sessions written by rapporteurs chosen for each session during the Calotte Academy tour.

Calotte Academy's Two Methods

Embodiment and dialogue are the two core methods of the Calotte Academy. They are combined by the dualism of 'mobility', when traveling in several destinations, and having excursions locally, in the European Arctic and Sápmi, and a dialogue, when implementing an open discussion after each participant's presentation. This twofold approach is participatory by nature, and inspired by the principles of inclusivity, and freedom of expression.

Firstly, the 'mobility by a nature' idea leans on confidence on personal sensory experiences of the realities (of a region, its peoples and societies) as a learning principle. People are embodied beings, and therefore seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and sensing, in any way, enhance and localize thought and learning (e.g. Varela et al. 1993), as well as assisting to gain a sense of the reality of a region / community (e.g. Heininen 2023).

As a result, the participants overcome not only state boundaries and those between different areas (e.g. reindeer herding, mining, military), but also non-territorial borders / boundaries erected between disciplines (e.g. Östreng 2010), livelihoods, seasons, or mental maps (e.g., tourism, car & tire testing).

Secondly, while substance is most important, in practical terms structure and methods matter. Hence, an annual Calotte Academy is organized and structured in a way that ensures an open discussion that aims a real dialogue in which the participants "approach the dialogue with an open mind... [and realize] the potential of dialogues" (Gadamer 1992). Accordingly, dialogue is built on participatory approach and a sense of community, as well as a faith that, when gathering knowledgeable people are open-minded to listen and think, talk and share ideas, as well as rethink and build upon others' arguments.

As a result, a dialogue with an open-ended nature is achievable when "committed to inclusivity, ... engaged with each other's arguments, ... focused on issue domain, ... embraced the open-ended nature of the dialogue", as a cumulative process (Kornprobst 2009). This is implemented by structuring the sessions in such a way that the presentation of each participant (maximum 15 minutes), based on their research and expertise, will be followed by a lively discussion (including questions, comments, answers) twice of the time allocated for a presentation. This is a fundamental precondition to have "the potential of dialogues" being materialized.

Finally, all this is particularly important in turbulent times of world politics (of disorder) with great power rivalry, increased tension, lack of tolerance, and when facing the climate crisis. Whereas the traditional scientific world much leans on disciplinary and class-room methods in research, teaching and when reviewing grant applications, this kind of unorthodox, interdisciplinary method with a flexible format is increasingly favored and supported by, as well as supportive for, early-career researchers and young policymakers. Unsurprisingly, this approach has also potential to bring unexpected perspectives and results.

About the 2026 Calotte Academy

The 2026 Academy, with the theme "Intelligence", is taking place from 8 to 14 June 2026 in the European Arctic, including sessions in Rovaniemi, Kiruna, Tromsø, Enontekiö, Kautokeino, Inari, and Sodankylä—through Sápmi, the northernmost parts of Finland, Norway, and Sweden. The theme

“Intelligence” is inspired from the recent resurgence of the term in particular in the context of the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) or within debates on military intelligence amid increasing geopolitical tension. Yet, the term intelligence is associated with numerous meanings including information or knowledge, cognitive ability, military or espionage, computational intelligence and machine learning, or that of agencies that gather or process secret information. Furthermore, different fields of intelligence may intersect such as the use of AI in data processing within military intelligence.

The theme is also inspired by the observation that global multi-crises are not only geopolitical and ecological, but also crises of intelligence: crises of information, decision-making, sense-making, and knowledge production. The tension between militarization and environmentalization is also a tension between competing epistemologies—strategic intelligence, scientific intelligence, Indigenous knowledge, algorithmic prediction, and human cognitive limits. Similarly, the promise of increasing efficiency through AI to reduce human resource consumption for a more sustainable future led to the paradox of a de-facto constantly growing energy demand to power the world’s data centers, underlining the complex relationships between different fields or understandings of intelligence.

This year’s theme is intentionally broad, inviting contributions from a wide range of disciplines and approaches. The multiple meanings of the term as well as their complex relationships and potentially contradictory effects make it a particularly rich concept for interdisciplinary exploration in and about the Arctic. We therefore invite researchers, students, and young policymakers working on/from the Arctic in fields as varied as International Relations, International Law, Education, Political/Social Sciences, Psychology, Neuroscience, Philosophy, History, Geography, Anthropology, Indigenous Studies, Media Studies, Linguistics, Environmental Humanities, and Data Science.

In an era where information is the lifeblood of governance, science, warfare, and society, what does intelligence mean? How does it shift in times of global disorder, climate urgency, and the development of AI? At the same time, conceptions of intelligence are being transformed—expanded by posthumanist, decolonial, Indigenous, cognitive, and technological perspectives. What forms of knowledge and intelligence are recognized, devalued, weaponized, automated, or extracted in the Arctic and beyond? These are the kinds of questions the Calotte Academy 2026 aims to explore.

Co-organizers & Contacts

The Calotte Academy 2026 is co-organized by the UArctic TN on Geopolitics and Security and the Northern Policy Society (Finland), in cooperation with (in alphabetic order) Arctic Portal (Iceland); the Department of Media Studies at Stockholm University; the ETS Institute at Luleå Technical University (Sweden); the Faculty of Law at the University of Lapland (Finland); the International Center for Reindeer Herding Husbandry (EALÁT) (Norway); Trent University (Ontario, Canada); and the VERA Centre of Russian and Border Studies at the University of Eastern Finland (Finland).

For more information, feel free to contact Prof. Lassi Heininen (lassi.heininen@arcticpolitics.com), Prof. Laura Junka-Aikio (laura.junka-aikio@ulapland.fi), and the Calotte Academy’s coordinators, PhD Candidate Tom Gabriel Royer (troyer@ulapland.fi) and PhD Candidate Zhanna Anshukova (zanshuko@ulapland.fi) at University of Lapland, Eleni Kavvatha (eleni.kavvatha@uclouvain.be) at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Brussels, and M.A. Tatiana Anderson (tatiana.petrova.lpf@gmail.com) of the Northern Policy Society.

PROGRAM

Calotte Academy 2026

8–14 June 2026

Rovaniemi – Kiruna – Tromsø – Kautokeino – Hetta – Inari / Ivalo – Sodankylä

Polarsteps: <https://tinyurl.com/ca2026map>

Sunday, 7 June in Rovaniemi

18.00–22.00 *Come together & welcoming at DAS Kirstinkoto Clubroom (address: Ylikorvantie 21 b, 96300 Rovaniemi)*

Monday, 8 June in Rovaniemi

08.30–08.45 *Pick-up from Guesthouse Borealis at 08:30 (address: Asemieskatu 1, 96100 Rovaniemi) and Rovaniemi Bus Station at 08:45 (address: Lapinkävijäntie 2, 96100 Rovaniemi) to the University Campus. **Have your luggage ready!***

1st Opening Session: “Embodiment & Dialogue – The two Methods of Calotte Academy”

09.00–10.00 University of Lapland’s Campus, room A140

- Matti Nojonen, “The closing of the academic mind: Populism, securitization, and the erosion of university autonomy in Western democracies”
- Lassi Heininen, “Calotte Academy – Don’t copy the subordination to (geo)politics, apply the origin of Academia!”

2nd Session: “Narratives, Information & Media”

10.15–12.30 University of Lapland’s Campus, room A140

- Olaf Hajnoz, “Arctic narratives in global media from 2016 to 2026”
- Bipandeep Sharma, “‘Scientific information’: Is it losing sight in Arctic geopolitics?”
- Urban Wråkberg, “Interdisciplinary perspectives on regional and global Arctic intelligence”
- Jennifer Rea Fraser, “‘Touch Grass’ – experience, information and youth narratives in soft climate denial”

12.30–14.00 Lunch break at Cafeteria Petronella (University of Lapland’s Campus, Wing F)

1st Round of the Role Play Game:

14.00–15.45 University of Lapland’s Campus, room C154

16.00–17.30 City visit at the downtown of Rovaniemi

17.30–21.30 Driving from Rovaniemi to Kiruna

22:00–23:00 Optional hike to the Kiruna hill

Tuesday, 9 June in Kiruna

3rd Session (online): “Arctic Networks & Hubs for Intelligence”

09.00–11.30 Kiruna Folkhögskola

- Evgeny Zarov, “Mukhrino field station as an extra-geographical intelligence hub: Why West-Siberian peatlands are indispensable for global climate monitoring”
- João Bettencourt, “Sensing or seizing? Arctic observation, environmental intelligence and the scramble for influence”
- Yulia Zaika, “Shaping Arctic intelligence competences through expert and knowledge continuity and legacy at the edges of geopolitical transformations: FORAS project experience”
- Heather Nicol, “Circumpolar education and the challenges of new (geo)political paradigms”

2nd Round of the Role Play Game:

11.30–13.00 Kiruna Folkhögskola

13.00–14.30 Lunch at Kiruna Arctic Thai and Grill (Old Town Centre, address: Föraregatan 18, 98134 Kiruna)

Meeting at Kiruna Town Hall & City Walk at the Downtown of Kiruna:

15.00–17.30 Meeting with Vice-Mayor Sanna Inga Poromaa

17.30–22.30 Driving from Kiruna to Tromsø

Wednesday, 10 June in Tromsø

4th Session: “Arctic Geopolitics: Sovereignty, Great Powers & Collaboration”

09.00–12.00 Public Library of Tromsø

- Miyase Christensen, “Arctic today: geopolitics, economy and trade in precarious times”
- Ville Tiuraniemi, “From great power competition to subaltern geopolitics: A systematic literature review of agency in Arctic geopolitics”
- Kari Roberts, “Russia’s foreign policy priorities in the Arctic and the implications for Canada and NATO”
- Nicholas Glesby, “NORAD and NATO collaboration on the Northwestern flank”
- Hasan Akintug, “Greenlandic sovereignty and the United States: Rupture or continuation?”

12.00–14.30 Lunch & city visit at the downtown of Tromsø

3rd Round of the Role Play Game:

14.30–16.00 Sámi Library, Northern Norwegian Art Museum (address: Sjøgata 1, 9008 Tromsø)

16.00–17.00 Optional Museum Visit

17.00–22.30 Driving from Tromsø to Hetta

- Visiting Järämä Fortifications (outdoors) on the way

Thursday, 11 June in Kautokeino

09.00–09.30 Driving from Hetta to Kautokeino

5th Session: “Sámi Knowledge and Security as Parts of Arctic Intelligence”:

09.30–12.00 UArctic EALÁT Institute, Kautokeino

- Fleur Santenac, “Sámi communities in the European Arctic: Navigating tensions between state-dependent governance and Indigenous self-determination in resource management decisions”
- Elena Kavvatha, “Mapping Arctic intelligence: Sámi knowledge, EU governance, and participation in motion”
- Jukka Tarkiainen, “Security defined by the Sámi”
- Amanda Graham: “Northern intelligence: Post-secondary education, community capacity, and what Arctic security needs to learn”
- Sara Leandra Loosli, “Post-anthropocentric empathy – bodies resonating in permeability”

12.00–14.00 Lunch & “Excursion to Čoarvemátta (Sámi National Teather, Sámi High School, Reindeer Herding School, and NOMAD Indigenous Food Lab)”

6th Session: “Militaryization vs Environmentalization”

14.15–15.45 UArctic EALÁT Institute, Kautokeino

- Kristiane Width, “How is militarization as a ‘happy object’ among military families in Rovaniemi?”
- Antero Eerola, “Wild, wild North – risks of militarization and misinformation in the Arctic”
- Lassi Heininen, “Environmental destruction of warfare nullifies climate change mitigation objectives – the art of ‘strategy’”

4th Round of the Role Play Game:

15.45–17.00 UArctic EALÁT Institute, Kautokeino

17.00–18.30 Town visit and cultural walk in Kautokeino

19.00–21.30 Driving from Kautokeino to Hetta plus supermarket stop

Friday, 12 June in Hetta & Inari

7th Session: “Intelligence for Sustainability: AI vis-à-vis Law & Ethics”

09.00–12.00 Town Hall of Enontekiö, Hetta

- Tatyana Sarayeva, “Plural Arctic Intelligences: Ethical AI, Indigenous Knowledge, and Emerging Climate Governance Futures”
- Gerald Zojer, “Digital hegemony: The rise of techno-authoritarian neoliberalism as a challenge to human security in the European Arctic”
- Marta Koch, “Intelligence for sustainability? AI, data governance, and epistemic power in the Arctic region”
- Varvara Kut’yina, “Governing the invisible: Legal frameworks for AI-driven environmental monitoring in the Arctic”
- Tatiana Anderson, “AI health Nordic: Turning intelligence into value for Northern healthcare”

12.00–13.30 Visiting Enontekiö Arctic Airport

- Meeting with Jussi Suorsa, CEO

13.30–15.00 Lunch

15:00–19:00 Driving from Hetta to Inari

20:00–22:00 Laavu & open fire in Vasatokka

Saturday, 13 June in Inari & Ivalo

8th Session “Dialogues, Participation & Operational Intelligence”

09.00–11.00 Vasatokka

- Inela Agolli, “Track 2 Dialogues as intelligence spaces: Informal knowledge networks in times of geopolitical freeze – insights from the High North Talks”
- Maide Cebi, “The ultrastructures of intelligence: A multi-scale connectomic approach to the neural architecture of cognition”
- Jennifer Lynn Rheman, “Operational intelligence in the polar regions: Bridging policy, risk, and cooperation across the Arctic, Antarctic, and wider cryosphere”
- Jia Wang, “Employee participation as an internal participation system: An inclusive service design perspective on hybrid workplaces”

5th Round of the Role Play Game:

11.00–11.45 Vasatokka

12.00–13.30 Lunch

13:30–14.00 Driving from Inari to Ivalo

9th Session “Energy, Mining & Space” and Meeting with Mayor Tommi Kasurinen

14.00–16.00 Town Hall of Inari

- Rehan Tahir Sabbih, “Competing forms of intelligence in Arctic resource governance: Indigenous rights and state policy rationalities”
- Andrei Diaconescu, “Global mineral securitisation and the EU’s regulatory approach to energy security in the Arctic”
- Tom Gabriel Royer, “Extracting the emptiness: EU space law and Earth-space extractivism at the ‘polar gateway to space’?”

16.30–18.30 Visiting UTAC:

- Meeting with Teemu Hartikainen, Quality and Development Manager
- and Janne Seurujärvi, Vice-President Finland

19.00–20.00 Visiting PaPaNa pub

21.00–24.00 Traditional sauna & swimming in Vasatokka

Sunday, 14 June in Sodankylä

09.00–11.45 Driving from Inari to Sodankylä

Final Round of the Role Play Game:

12.00–13.30 Sodankylä Local Heritage Museum (Sodankylän Kotiseutumuseo)

13.30–15.30 Lunch & Town Visit in Sodankylä

15.45–18.00 Driving from Sodankylä to Rovaniemi

- *Arrival at the airport by 17.30 and railway station by 17.45*

ABSTRACTS

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Track 2 Dialogues as Intelligence Spaces: Informal Knowledge Networks in Times of Geopolitical Freeze – Insights from the High North Talks

Periods of geopolitical tension increasingly restrict formal diplomatic channels, particularly in regions like the Arctic where scientific cooperation, environmental governance, and security dialogue rely on delicate multilateral frameworks. In such contexts, Track 2 dialogues- informal, trust based exchanges among experts, scientists, mediators, Indigenous representatives, and policy practitioners- become critical platforms for sustaining communication. This paper argues that these arenas function as intelligence spaces: ecosystems that generate, validate, and circulate nuanced forms of knowledge when official avenues are stalled or suspended.

Using the High North Talks (HNT) as a central case study, the paper examines how Track 2 mechanisms cultivate a blend of relational, cognitive, and anticipatory intelligence. HNT's flexible, participant driven architecture enables the sharing of observations, weak signals, and grounded assessments that may not surface in formal diplomatic structures. Through the integration of diverse epistemologies (scientific expertise, geopolitical analysis, Indigenous knowledge, mediation practice, etc.) HNT enhances collective sense making during periods of geopolitical freeze. Participants draw on personal and professional networks to maintain situational awareness, cross check narratives, and identify emerging risks or opportunities for deescalation.

The paper introduces the concept of Track 2 intelligence to describe this hybrid knowledge production process. It highlights how informal dialogues can preserve continuity between communities, support early warning, and maintain the conditions for future cooperation even as state level relations deteriorate. By framing Track-2 arenas as vital components of Arctic epistemic infrastructure, the paper contributes to broader debates on intelligence, governance, and resilience in the face of global multi crises.

Ultimately, it shows that in moments of political stasis, informal knowledge networks such as the High North Talks constitute indispensable instruments for understanding, navigating, and potentially transforming complex geopolitical realities.

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Greenlandic Sovereignty and the United States: Rupture or Continuation?

In an era of heightened geopolitical tensions, the question of the relevance of sub-state foreign policy agency (i.e. paradiplomacy) remains somewhat understudied. The Greenland crisis since 2025 exemplifies the continuing relevance of parallel diplomacy and hence external sovereignties of non-state polities. The 47th US President consistently discusses Greenland as property or territory to be acquired, with no regard to the existing governance structures in Greenland. When pushed back on its demands to acquire Greenland, the US administration then agreed to the establishment of a “high level working group” between Greenland, Denmark and the US for further discussions in January 2026. This brings the question of how these new aggressions from the US will have an impact on an ever-assertive Greenland’s paradiplomacy and its engagement with the US. The current structures of US-Danish-Greenlandic cooperation take place in the Joint Committee and Permanent Committee which already have a trilateral nature and the new “high level working group” seems to continue this tradition. This is a recognition of Greenland’s sovereign legitimacy despite the otherwise hostile imperialist rhetoric. The long-standing trend in Greenland has been near unanimous support for independence from Denmark, even if the exact process of realizing this remains ambiguous. The implications of increased independence has meant that as opposed to dependency to Denmark, increased relations with the North American Arctic would be preferable for Greenland. This paper will analyze the treaties governing the US military presence on Greenland, Danish policy documents regarding Greenland and the Arctic, and recent documents produced by Greenlandic authorities through a constructivist lens. This will be done in order to put forward and compare the understandings regarding the core political concept of sovereignty from three polities (Greenland, Denmark, the US) that are active on the territory of Greenland. By analyzing how sovereignty is constructed by the three polities in Greenland, this paper aims to discuss potential future scenarios for sovereignty in Greenland.

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AI Health Nordic: Turning Intelligence into Value for Northern Healthcare

Artificial intelligence creates value only when it responds to real needs. This presentation introduces AI Health Nordic, a recently started Interreg Aurora project that applies the AIKA Ecosystem’s practical piloting model to health and wellbeing services across the Nordic.

Rural and Arctic regions face growing challenges, including ageing populations, long distances, limited healthcare resources, and the need to maintain quality of life in sparsely populated communities. Led by Kajaani University of Applied Sciences, with Nord University and Luleå University of Technology as partners, AI Health Nordic brings together universities, municipalities, healthcare providers, and SMEs in Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

The newly launched project examines how AI can be translated into practical solutions through real-life pilots, competence building, and SME-driven innovation. It frames intelligence not only as technology, but as a shared regional capacity to understand local needs, test solutions responsibly, and create value for northern communities.

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Sensing or Seizing? Arctic Observation, Environmental Intelligence and the Scramble for Influence

The Arctic is changing faster than we can adapt. Accelerated warming, declining sea ice, shifting ocean conditions, expanding maritime activity, and infrastructure vulnerability are increasing the demand for reliable environmental knowledge. At the same time, renewed geopolitical rivalry is redefining, restricting and even dismantling long-established knowledge-sharing networks. This tension makes the Arctic a key region for rethinking “intelligence” as the capacity to sense, interpret, share, and collectively act upon environmental change.

This talk uses environmental intelligence as a lens to examine how Arctic environmental signals are sensed, processed, interpreted, shared, contested, and converted into operational, political, and strategic knowledge. Satellites, autonomous sensors, ocean and seabed monitoring systems, research stations, digital data platforms, and Indigenous and community-based observing networks can strengthen forecasting, navigation safety, emergency preparedness, climate risk assessment, environmental stewardship, and scientific cooperation. Yet these systems are not politically neutral. They shape what becomes knowable, contested, shared, and converted into authoritative forms of knowledge. Ultimately, as these systems expand, they can determine who gains long-term strategic influence in the contested Arctic.

Drawing on work in marine systems, environmental monitoring, ocean data infrastructures, and ocean governance, the talk examines whether expanding national and international Arctic observation infrastructure can support collective intelligence, resilience, and cooperation, or whether it is being drawn into a wider struggle over strategic presence, data control, technological dependency, epistemic autonomy, and legitimacy. It argues that the central challenge is not how to sense the Arctic environment more effectively, but how to govern the conversion of environmental data into shared

intelligence. Responsible Arctic observation requires trusted data-sharing, inclusive governance, institutional accountability, and recognition of plural knowledge systems, so that environmental intelligence strengthens cooperation and resilience rather than enabling strategic dominance.

Maide Cebi

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The Ultrastructures of Intelligence: A Multi-Scale Connectomic Approach to the Neural Architecture of Cognition

Co-authors: Dr. Anna Stępień-Czarniecka and Dr. Angeliki Vavladeli, ETH Zürich

The Arctic is a system defined by connectivity across scales. microscopic exchanges, species interaction webs, permafrost dynamics, and large-scale climate teleconnections give rise to adaptive behaviour. Intelligence, too, is not a property of any single scale but an emergent consequence of connectivity: from nanometre-scale synaptic architectures to brain-wide projection networks. Understanding it demands tools capable of traversing those scales without sacrificing resolution.

The prefrontal cortex (PFC) is central for cognition, orchestrating working memory, decision-making, and emotional regulation through its extensive interactions with distributed brain regions. However, a fundamental methodological gap persists: the circuits implementing these computations span centimetres of tissue while depending on nanometre-scale synaptic organisation. Existing approaches either achieve the resolution necessary to resolve synapses or the scalability to survey brain-wide connectivity, rarely both.

Presented here is a project establishing a multi-scale imaging workflow to bridge that gap. Light-sheet microscopy combined with whole-brain tissue clearing first provides mesoscale mapping of PFC projection circuits in mice. Regions of interest are subsequently selected and processed using the LICONN (Tavakoli et al.) framework — iterative hydrogel expansion achieving up to 16-fold physical enlargement — enabling synaptic-resolution imaging on a confocal microscope, with simultaneous molecular labelling of structural and synaptic markers. This approach makes it possible to move continuously from brain-wide connectivity to the ultrastructural detail of individual synapses within the same sample.

The mouse PFC shares evolutionary and architectural homology with its human counterpart, with conserved circuit motifs underlying cognitive capacities central to intelligence. By resolving the structural logic of these circuits in a tractable model organism, this work contributes to a broader and transferable understanding of the neural substrates of intelligence.

Miyase Christensen

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Arctic Today: Geopolitics, Economy and Trade in Precarious Times

This talk elaborates on the evolving geopolitics, trade dynamics, and economic prospects of the Arctic amid intensifying global competition. It analyzes how climate change, new shipping routes, and resource access are reshaping strategic interests among Arctic and non-Arctic states, highlighting tensions between cooperation and rivalry in governance frameworks. It also touches upon how infrastructure development, energy markets, and emerging trade corridors are influencing regional economies and global supply chains. Finally, it also considers how media narratives and news shape public understanding of Arctic issues, often amplifying security frames while underrepresenting local perspectives and environmental risks, thereby influencing policy debates and international perceptions of the region.

Andrei Diaconescu

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Global Mineral Securitisation and the EU's Regulatory Approach to Energy Security in the Arctic

In the contemporary global landscape characterised by paradigm shifts and reactivity caused by geopolitical and market shocks, states are racing to strengthen domestic resilience against supply disruptions. Global leaders view the Arctic as a new field for competition based on the thawing of the permafrost, sparking interest through potential access to resources such as oil and gas, minerals, as well as new trade and access routes. Arctic is envisaged as an important component of long-term energy security, due to potential access to resources, or lack thereof compared to competitors. While competitors such as Russia, China, and the U.S. are advancing steps to secure access to the Arctic resources and routes, the EU will want to protect its position. The evaluation of EU's direction regarding the Arctic is imperative, as part of the status quo of future energy security. Notably, EU's access to the Arctic is significant compared to previous resource-intensive regions such as the Gulf. To the context may be added the effects of the third Gulf war, including the need for an evaluation of the extent to which recent developments labelled as the greatest energy crisis might be used as an argument to claim further access to the Arctic. Security is a response to threats, but also a speech act designed to justify extraordinary measures. Militarisation contributes to enhancing minerals demand as a basis to increase the production of mineral output. The research examines securitisation narratives based on the need to secure mineral supply chains, in relation to the Arctic region, including

Greenland, and the deep seabed. It addresses the European Union's legislative and policy initiatives designed to protect interests in the Arctic region, particularly with respect to energy security and critical raw materials. The research includes in the analysis the extent to which energy- and mineral security is prioritised against decarbonisation.

Antero Eerola

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Wild, wild North – risks of militarization and misinformation in the Arctic

Intelligence – as services provided by the security and intelligence organizations – is one of the key factors in security political decision making. It is also a key element in defense politics and military planning.

In my presentation I try to analyze how rapid militarization of Arctic region has increased the interest of especially Western intelligence services to the region.

Classic security dilemma between states, who consider themselves as adversaries to each other, is obvious in the Calotte region. NATO membership of Finland and Sweden and the DCA between Finland and the US and Sweden and the US will lead to increasing US military presence in the Arctic.

This in turn has led – and most probably according to statements by Russian leadership will lead – to increased countermeasures by Russia. NATO considers this as a threat and increases its deterrence, which again is considered as a threat by Russia.

In strategic defense planning of NATO, the US and Finland Arctic region and Baltic Sea are considered as one entirety. In NATO countries Baltic Sea has been a scene of misunderstandings – or even misinformation – in security and intelligence operations. NATO countries consider Russia to be active in various hybrid operations in the Baltic Sea.

Although political and media attention around cable disruptions – or suspected sabotage – could be described as alarmist, Finnish security and intelligence officials (including Security and Intelligence Service Supo or National Bureau of Investigation KRP) have not found any evidence – even in pretrial investigations – of foreign hybrid operations.

Could these misunderstandings lead to escalation in Calotte region as well?

Jennifer Rea Fraser

President

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“Touch Grass” - Experience, Information and Youth Narratives in Soft Climate Denial

“Touch grass,” an internet slang phrase urging reconnection with the physical world to counter absorption by algorithmic driven media, captures a growing tension between digitally mediated knowledge and lived experience. This presentation, from the perspective of a civil society practitioner, examines how “intelligence” is being reshaped within contemporary forms of soft climate denial and anti-establishment discourse. It draws on practice-based insights from working directly with youth in environmental contexts, offering a perspective that complements and challenges academic approaches to knowledge production.

While overt climate denial has declined, it is increasingly replaced by diffuse skepticism expressed through disengagement, relativism, and selective trust in information sources—often framed as autonomy grounded in personal experience. This shift toward self-trust over expert, data-driven knowledge coincides with an expanding experiential gap: many young people encounter environmental issues primarily through digital media rather than direct, embodied interaction with ecosystems.

At the same time, youth are navigating an overabundance of AI generated information heavily based on social media algorithmic filtering as well as politically driven misinformation. These information sources outpace the rigor of scientific research on environmental issues. The challenge is therefore not a lack of information, but a deficit of engagement with scientific knowledge that can penetrate AI driven information environments. This is further compounded by a perceived lack of public and private sector accountability, as limited policy action on environmental science contributes to declining trust in the entities that can provide both experiential information and academic research. Youth trust only their own lived experience, yet that experience is increasingly lived online.

Civil society actors occupy a critical position at this intersection, both as providers of experiential learning and as translators of scientific knowledge into general audience dissemination formats. The presentation will argue that their insights must be taken seriously within academic and policy debates. Addressing soft climate denial requires not only that youth “touch grass,” but that they can link lived experience with scientific knowledge to navigate information environments and make informed decisions.

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NORAD and NATO Collaboration on the Northwestern Flank

North American defence is the backbone of the NATO alliance and trans-Atlantic security. Canada and the 5 Nordic nations have reaffirmed collaboration to “enhance security in the Arctic, and ... support the efforts to strengthen the Alliance presence through NATO.” Responding to a challenging geopolitical environment, Canada has committed a generational investment to modernize the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), with supporting infrastructure built throughout the Canadian North. NORAD is the binational command responsible for the aerospace warning and control and maritime warning of Canada and the continental United States, representing North America’s first line of defence and NATO’s northwestern flank.

NORAD is postured to deter, detect, and defeat threats through the North American Arctic from 10 to 2 O’clock. The 2 O’clock is focused on the Greenland-Iceland-UK (GIUK) gap, which serves as a chokepoint for Russian submarines and air/sea-launched cruise missiles targeting North America. JFC Norfolk and Arctic Sentry recognize protecting the sea lanes of communication and linking operations. To combat air and maritime threats at the 2 O’clock, NORAD already partners with Denmark and Greenland. However, a more demanding operating environment requires greater collaboration between North American and Nordic partners to share early-warning information for domain awareness, increase operational tempo, and achieve more fulsome collaboration; this means that NORAD and NATO are exploring efficient ways to work together to collectively defend NATO territory. This paper will explore the historical impetus for NORAD, recent Arctic policy developments in Canada and NATO, and provide recommendations to deepen collaboration on NATO’s northwestern flank.

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Northern Intelligence: Post-Secondary Education, Community Capacity, and What Arctic Security Needs to Learn

Arctic security conversations are accelerating — driven by geopolitical tension, sovereignty assertions, and the militarization of northern infrastructure. Recently, Jennifer Spence of the Harvard Kennedy School insisted that while the “Arctic is not outside geopolitics, it should now be reduced to geopolitics. The hazard is real. The intelligence frameworks guiding these big conversations have

been slow to reckon with what is already on the ground: Indigenous governance structures, community infrastructure with no redundancy, and the place-based knowledge held by peoples who have sustained life in the circumpolar North across generations. When hospitals, airstrips, and communications hubs become dual-use assets, they become potential targets — and in small northern communities, those are often the only such assets that exist. Security imagined as a layer above civilian life is no longer a viable model, if it ever was.

I propose that northern post-secondary institutions — universities rooted in and accountable to their northern contexts — represent an underrecognized site of the intelligence Arctic security actually requires. Drawing on the experience of Yukon University, Canada’s only northern university, and considering the longer history of circumpolar education through UArctic and its members, and its programs, including Circumpolar Studies and the late Northern Research Forum, I trace institutional drift: from establishing a region, building the capacity of northern peoples to understand and act on their own circumstances, toward producing knowledge about the North for external consumption. That drift matters in the current moment.

The recently launched Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Yukon University offers an example of a concrete response — a degree deliberately designed to place Indigenous and western knowledge on equal intellectual footing, to cultivate adaptable, place-grounded graduates with the skills to participate in and lead the complex conversations their communities face. From Sápmi to the Yukon, the circumpolar world has been trying to build this kind of intelligence for twenty-five years. Arctic security needs to catch up.

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Arctic Narratives in Global Media from 2016 to 2026

Interest in the Arctic is surging in the global media. Just a decade ago, the region was largely overlooked in major news coverage in both traditional and new media. When mentioned, the Arctic was most often associated with global warming, but its role was often limited to being portrayed as a victim of warming. Another common practice was to position the Arctic as an eccentric curiosity.

One major turning point came during Donald Trump’s first term, when he highlighted Greenland’s strategic importance and even considered its annexation. Media and public interest in the region grew afterward, though the Arctic still received far less attention than regions like the Middle East. Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent NATO accession of Sweden and Finland brought the Arctic into broader hard security debates. The Greenland crisis of 2025/2026 further accelerated this shift. Within less than a decade, the Arctic moved from a niche topic to a mainstream one, with this surge in attention significantly affecting the region’s communities, politics, economy, and culture.

Since the Arctic is rarely discussed, we face an information crisis marked by an overwhelming flood of low-quality or misleading content. Much of it relies on assumptions rather than analysis or genuine knowledge of the region. The dominant rhetoric is shaped by geopolitical clichés such as “great power rivalry” or “scramble for the Arctic,” which, while partly accurate, largely ignore the perspectives and realities of Arctic communities.

My article aims to trace the narrative surrounding the Arctic in key media outlets over the past decade. I will address the following questions:

How often did the topic of the Arctic appear in the media outlets under study?

In what contexts was the Arctic discussed?

How has the narrative about the Arctic changed in the key media outlets over the years?

Who talks about the Arctic (creates narratives)?

The article will be based on comparative and quantitative methods. For this study, I will examine several key media outlets (both online and traditional) from the United States, United Kingdom, China, Germany, Russia, Arabian Peninsula, and India.

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Motto: If to defend your father land is called patriotic, to protect the Mother Earth (Gaia) should be interpreted as patriotic, too!

Recent pictures of total destruction – in Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Ukraine – are horrifying, shocking, and a blunt reminder of the crudity of war, when even schools, hospitals, tent shelters are being bombarded – is this defense, and if whose defense anyway? In addition of killing people and causing destruction, each exploded bomb and warhead, as well as the fighter jet, missile, drone, ship or other war machine carrying it, has direct impacts by polluting land, air and waters, causing CO2 emissions, and shaking geologically the earth’s topography. Further, energy, natural resources (minerals, water) and intellectual resources are being used in their production, which correspondingly pollutes and causes CO2 emissions, in peace time. After the Cold War, great powers, have fought several (neo-colonial / neo-imperialist) wars (the term not always used!), the USA more than 100 ones without being punished - for to terminate terrorism, make a regime change, to grab land & resources – yet, none for national survival.

The presentation argues that this, together with ‘no exit strategy’, makes them political or tactical, not strategic. Unlike, the struggle of the Palestinians for survival under massive bombardments by Israel, as well as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran, is very strategic. Similarly, to cause total destruction by the military is not a strategy, as it nullifies climate change mitigation objectives. Further, that this makes ‘military security’ – fostering fear, insecurity, and destruction by the military

– a modern version of the ‘scorched earth policy’, and a sort of ‘substitute’ for environmental protection and mitigation. Unlike, ‘environmental / human security’, meaning security based on non-military means and confidence-building, is very strategic by trying to preserve and maintain the Planet as habitable. Finally, the presentation proposes that the long-range and sustained action could be started by eliminating the military as harmful for the Mother Earth.

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Mapping Arctic Intelligence: Sámi Knowledge, EU Governance, and Participation in Motion

What does “intelligence” mean in Arctic governance, and who gets to define it? While current debates often narrow intelligence down to AI, data infrastructures, or geopolitical surveillance, my research shows a much broader and more contested landscape. In the Arctic, and in our case, in Sápmi, different forms of intelligence, such as strategic, technological, ecological, legal, and Indigenous knowledge systems, coexist and interact. These are not neutral or separate layers, they actively shape how governance is practiced through EU policy, land-use planning, environmental regulation, infrastructure development, and participation frameworks.

In my doctoral research on Sámi institutional engagement with EU Arctic policy, I look at how Sámi actors operate within governance systems that increasingly emphasize inclusion, dialogue, and sustainability, yet still reproduce uneven power relations in decision-making. I am particularly interested in how “participation” is structured: whether it leads to meaningful influence or whether it remains largely procedural, offering recognition without a sufficient level of authority. My analysis focuses on three interconnected dimensions of EU–Sámi relations: participation and institutional navigation, green transition and resource governance, and cultural and linguistic regeneration. Across these areas, I explore a central tension: EU climate and sustainability ambitions, namely renewable energy expansion and critical raw materials strategies, often intersect directly with Sámi land use, cultural continuity, and Indigenous self-determination in ways that produce both opportunities and conflict.

Rather than framing Sámi institutions as passive stakeholders, I approach them as strategic actors. My work aims to show how they actively navigate, adapt to, and reshape governance spaces through hybrid institutional practices and transnational engagement across scales, from Brussels to Sápmi. Methodologically, I draw on qualitative policy analysis, Indigenous Institutional Theory, and Environmental Justice frameworks to examine how authority and knowledge are produced and negotiated across these overlapping governance systems.

In the spirit of the Calotte Academy’s participatory approach, I plan to include a short collective exercise - The Arctic Intelligence Map - inviting participants to reflect on how different forms of intelligence (policy-based, technological, and Indigenous) are recognized, valued, and mobilized in

shaping Arctic futures. Overall, my argument is that the Arctic is not facing a shortage of intelligence. Instead, what is at stake is a struggle over recognition: which knowledge is legitimized, which are sidelined, and whose understanding of the Arctic is ultimately allowed to shape governance outcomes.

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Intelligence for Sustainability? AI, Data Governance, and Epistemic Power in the Arctic Region

The growing prominence of “intelligence” in contemporary governance - particularly through artificial intelligence (AI), data infrastructures, and strategic foresight -raises critical questions for Arctic sustainability and climate action. This paper conceptualizes intelligence not only as computational capacity or security practice, but as a political and epistemic process through which knowledge is produced, legitimized, and mobilized across scales and geographies.

Drawing on ongoing PhD research at Imperial College London on digital innovation for sustainable development in Arctic climate extreme settings, the paper examines how AI-enabled systems are reshaping environmental monitoring, climate governance, and decision-making in the region. It focuses on three interrelated dynamics. First, it explores how technologies such as GeoAI, satellite data, and predictive analytics are transforming the production of environmental knowledge, often privileging data-driven and technocratic forms of intelligence. Second, it critically assesses the risks of “information extractivism,” whereby Arctic data is collected, controlled, and operationalized by external actors, raising concerns about data ownership, digital sovereignty, and equitable benefit-sharing. Third, it interrogates the paradox between AI’s promise for sustainable development and the increasing material and energy demands of digital infrastructures.

The paper situates these developments within broader tensions between scientific, policy, and Indigenous knowledge systems, asking how different forms of intelligence are recognized, integrated, or marginalized in Arctic governance frameworks. Methodologically, it adopts an interdisciplinary approach combining science and technology studies, political geography, and sustainability governance, informed by engagement at the science–policy interface.

It argues that intelligence in the Arctic must be understood as relational, contested, and embedded in questions of power, justice, and sustainability. The paper contributes to interdisciplinary dialogue on how competing forms of intelligence-technological, political, and Indigenous knowledge can be brought into more equitable and sustainable Arctic development governance frameworks.

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Governing the Invisible: Legal Frameworks for AI-Driven Environmental Monitoring in the Arctic

The Arctic is increasingly monitored not by human observers but by algorithmic systems. Satellite-fed machine learning models, autonomous sensors, and AI-driven data platforms now track ice melt, permafrost degradation, and biodiversity shifts in near real-time. While this technological turn promises unprecedented environmental insight, it raises a set of underexplored legal and governance questions: Who owns the data these systems produce? Who is accountable when algorithmic assessments inform, or displace, policy decisions? And how do existing international legal frameworks cope with forms of environmental “intelligence” that are automated, opaque, and often privately owned?

This paper will approach AI-driven environmental monitoring in the Arctic as a legal governance challenge at the intersection of environmental law, data sovereignty, and emerging technology regulation. It argues that current frameworks, including the UNCLOS regime, the Arctic Council’s working group structures, and nascent national AI strategies, are ill-equipped to address the technocratic authority that AI systems are quietly acquiring in Arctic environmental governance. As these systems increasingly mediate the relationship between raw environmental data and political decision-making, questions of legitimacy, transparency, and accountability become urgent.

Drawing on legal theory and comparative analysis of existing regulatory gaps, the paper proposes a conceptual framework for evaluating how AI-generated environmental intelligence should be governed in the Arctic context. It pays particular attention to the tension between the efficiency gains AI monitoring offers, especially relevant to climate adaptation, and the risks of concentrating epistemic power in a small number of state and corporate actors, potentially at the expense of Indigenous knowledge systems and local communities.

The paper ultimately contends that governing AI in Arctic environmental monitoring is not merely a technical or ethical issue, but a matter of legal legitimacy and epistemic justice, of who is authorised to narrate the changing Arctic and to bear responsibility for its misreading.

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Post-anthropocentric empathy – bodies resonating in permeability

Other forms of intelligence

Of communication

Come to realise

How limited humans are

Could we listen if we wanted?

Relearn symbiosis

Fungi secrets teach me

Interdependency

Through aesthetic research

Musical embodiment

Lending my voice, imagining

What you would say, mycelium

What do we need to hear?

Post-anthropocentric empathy

Bodies resonating

In permeability

Through the mycelium-network spreading in every direction, fungi and plants are connected, exchanging nutrients and information. Fungi are very good at adapting to their environment - constantly evolving, feeding and eating in symbiosis, communicating, connecting, enabling exchange, decentralized beings - it seems like they possess an entirely different form of intelligence. There is a lot we could learn from them facing the escalating climate crisis and outbreaking wars, total disconnection amongst humans, as well as between humans and the environment. We are in need of a paradigm shift of what living together means.

We are inseparable from our environment. Through the food that we eat, the air that we breathe, the fungi and bacteria in our bodies and on our skin: We are completely permeable, we are walking symbioses. This interdependence between all stakeholders of the biosphere urges us to approach future projects with a post-anthropocentric mindset. We need to get over our superiority complex and observe what surrounds us. Unfortunately, we cannot simply start talking to a tree and expect it to talk back. Taking off our human-glasses, our expectation of what intelligence looks and sounds like, we find it everywhere.

In the artistic sound project Mycelium, through aesthetic research, automatic writing, music and embodiment, I imagine what fungi would say if they used human language and musical harmony to communicate, in hopes of raising awareness of our dependency, the interconnectedness of the

biosphere, between life and non-life. I use music as a connecting medium for it is both rooted in physics, natural laws, and at the same time understood as something deeply human. Musical harmony is sound waves resonating. How does resonance affect our bodies? Our collective body? In resonance we connect. Can it teach us to take care?

<https://tinyurl.com/ytxmxvem> - link to listen to Mycelium

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Circumpolar Education and the Challenges of New (Geo)political Paradigms

For nearly twenty-five years, UArctic and other circumpolar educational networks have advanced a regional model of research and learning grounded in a shared vision of Arctic cooperation. The spatial logic of AMAP's cartographic frameworks, with their layered and intersecting regional boundaries, long served as evidence of a coherent circumpolar space defined by continuity, common challenges, and mutually relevant research questions.

But what becomes of this idea of a circumpolar region—held together by scholarly collaboration and shared educational priorities—when the foundations of cooperation begin to fracture under the pressure of geopolitical tensions and domestic political shifts?

This presentation examines the emerging consequences for Circumpolar Studies and considers potential strategies for developing new forms of regional knowledge that respond to shifting conceptual and political paradigms.

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The Closing of the Academic Mind: Populism, Securitization, and the Erosion of University Autonomy in Western Democracies

Right-wing populism and the deliberate securitization of knowledge are eroding academic freedom across Western democracies, including Finland. The Trump administration's weaponization of federal funding against ideologically disfavored universities has normalized state interference in scholarship, a trend echoed in Europe through nationalist politics and austerity-driven research agendas. As critical

fields are reframed as threats to national cohesion, the distance between Western academic governance and Chinese-style political control of knowledge production is narrowing in ways that would have been unthinkable a decade ago. This paper argues that what appears as scattered policy disputes is in fact a coherent project to subordinate academic autonomy to political will — and that the West risks abandoning the very institutional freedoms it long held up as a point of distinction from authoritarian states.

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Operational Intelligence in the Polar Regions: Bridging Policy, Risk, and Cooperation Across the Arctic, Antarctic, and wider Cryosphere

This research explores how operational knowledge and practitioner-level experience contribute to “polar intelligence” and influence governance, cooperation, and risk management across the Arctic, Antarctic, and broader cryosphere. While formal diplomatic and policy mechanisms play an important role in shaping polar governance, much of the practical knowledge that informs decision-making emerges from operational collaboration among scientists, logistics personnel, Indigenous communities, policymakers, and industry partners. This project examines how operational intelligence is generated, shared, and applied, and how it can support more resilient and cooperative governance across cryospheric environments.

The Calotte Academy provides a unique opportunity to examine these dynamics across multiple geographic and institutional contexts. Through engagement with regional stakeholders, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners across Sápmi and the European Arctic, this research will explore how operational knowledge is transmitted between local, regional, national, and international decision-makers. Particular attention will be given to how operational cooperation can serve as both a practical mechanism for achieving policy objectives and a forum for information exchange in environments characterized by uncertainty, environmental change, and geopolitical complexity.

Drawing on a practitioner-scholar approach informed by experience in both polar regions, this research also incorporates comparative insights from the Antarctic, where operational cooperation has historically supported stability and scientific collaboration despite geopolitical tensions. By comparing governance structures and operational practices across the Arctic and Antarctic, and considering their relevance to broader cryospheric environments, this work seeks to identify lessons for improving coordination, enhancing resilience, and supporting cooperative security.

Ultimately, this research contributes to an emerging framework of Applied Polar and Cryosphere Risk and Governance, emphasizing the role of operational intelligence, economic considerations, and practitioner-level collaboration in shaping policy implementation. The project aims to generate

insights that support more effective decision-making, strengthen cooperation, and improve risk management across the cryosphere in an increasingly complex strategic environment.

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Russia's Foreign Policy priorities in the Arctic and the Implications for Canada and NATO

The Russian Arctic is home to its Northern Sea Route and the Kola Peninsula (host to Russia's Northern Fleet), both of which are critical to Russian security and defence, its global power projection, energy dominance, and overall economic security. Consequently, Russia has increasingly invested in Arctic military and economic security. This presentation will outline Russia's Arctic priorities and activities and discuss what motivates them from the perspective of how they align with its overarching foreign policy goals. A central component to Russian foreign policy is how it frames its national interests in the context of adversity with the West, and so this presentation will discuss this framing (the story Russia tells itself and the world about its interests), and what this narrative means for NATO's Arctic states as they respond to Russian activities in the Arctic. Long considered immune from the realities of geopolitics, the Arctic is exceptional no more and Russia's relations with its neighbors in the region have shifted considerably. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the adversarial relationship with NATO, and Russian "grey zone" or hybrid warfare tactics in the Arctic, are both drivers and consequences of this shift. It is in this context of adversity that Russia's prioritization of its Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (AZRF) is interpreted. This presentation will attempt to unpack the motivations of Russian efforts to exercise its sovereign rights in the AZRF as a pillar of its social and economic development, as outlined in its Strategy of Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and the Provision of National Security for the Period to 2035. On the one hand, Russian foreign policy documents frame the importance of preserving the Arctic as a "zone of peace," but its posturing in the region prioritizes ambiguity. This presentation will address what this means for Canada and its NATO allies as they navigate this ambiguity.

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Extracting the Emptiness: EU Space Law and Earth–Space Extractivism at the “Polar Gateway to Space”?

This ongoing study contributes to the critical legal scholarship on Arctic and cosmic extractivisms. Firstly, it introduces the concept of ‘terrestrial extractivism for space purposes’ (TESP) to highlight how space activities are used to justify land exploitation — a form of ‘spacewashing’ (Persaud et al., 2026). The Esrange Space Centre in Kiruna, Sweden, framed as “Europe’s polar gateway to space,” exemplifies this dynamic. Esrange’s planned orbital launch capability is increasingly discussed as a contributor to Europe’s autonomous access to polar and sun-synchronous orbits, which are important for Earth-observation and security-relevant monitoring missions.

This raises questions about how the production of strategic knowledge about the Arctic depends upon terrestrial infrastructures situated on Indigenous lands. Land use laws in the region, since the Reindeer Grazing Act of 1886, have been criticised for enabling extractivism, including the construction of the area’s supposed ‘emptiness’ as a resource (Sheehan, 2018; Sörlin, 1989). Archival records show Sámi concerns as early as 1961, during consultations about the planned rocket range, regarding tangible impacts on Sámi lifeworlds and reindeer wellbeing.

In this context, this study examines the 2025 EU Space Act Proposal through the Historically Inflected Jurisprudence method (Pahuja & Storr, 2017) to clarify to what extent the Proposal fits in the historical trajectory of TESP in the Arctic. Although the Proposal includes a sustainability pillar requiring operators to quantify and reduce environmental impacts, it does not appear to contain specific provisions addressing noise impacts on reindeer husbandry, land-access conflicts, or Indigenous rights. A historically grounded analysis of the Proposal can clarify how EU space law reproduces or departs from established patterns of TESP, and what reforms may be needed to ensure that space infrastructures evolve in ways that respect Arctic ecologies and Sámi communities.

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Competing Forms of Intelligence in Arctic Resource Governance: Indigenous Rights and State Policy Rationalities

In a governance context, intelligence refers to human-driven cognitive and institutional capacities, including judgment, ethical reasoning, and contextual understanding. In Arctic resource governance,

this understanding of intelligence shapes how land, resources, and development priorities are interpreted, evaluated, and regulated. Competing forms of intelligence emerge where state policy rationalities grounded in legal-bureaucratic and extractive logics intersect with Indigenous knowledge systems rooted in relational land ethics, long-term stewardship, and collective decision-making.

Against this backdrop, Arctic resource management remains a critical and contested arena in which the interests of states, corporations, and Indigenous communities frequently collide. The region's vast mineral, oil, and gas reserves have attracted extensive state-led development, often at the expense of Indigenous rights, environmental sustainability, and cultural continuity. This paper explores the ongoing tensions in Arctic resource governance by examining Indigenous-state conflicts across the circumpolar region and beyond through the lens of governance intelligence. In doing so, it addresses a gap in existing literature, where limited attention has been given to understanding Arctic resource conflicts as interactions between competing forms of governance intelligence. Using a literature-based approach, it identifies and analyzes the structural challenges underlying these disputes, including legal and political exclusion, conflicting economic priorities, and cultural misunderstandings. Through real-world case studies, the paper highlights patterns of marginalization and resistance, while also pointing to emerging models of co-management and Indigenous governance. Drawing on these insights, the paper offers policy recommendations aimed at strengthening governance intelligence through more equitable and sustainable frameworks grounded in Indigenous sovereignty, legal recognition, and meaningful participation.

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Sámi communities in the European Arctic: navigating tensions between state-dependent governance and Indigenous self-determination in resource management decisions

This paper would examine how Sámi communities across Norway, Sweden, and Finland negotiate the structural tension between state-dependent governance frameworks and Indigenous self-determination in the context of resource management. Drawing on legal pluralism and political ecology, I would hope to argue that existing Arctic governance arrangements, shaped by Nordic welfare state structures, EU environmental policy, and international Indigenous rights instruments such as ILO Convention No. 169, produce a form of constrained autonomy in which Sámi participation is formally recognized yet substantively circumscribed. Through the comparison of two resource domains, reindeer herding and mineral extraction, the paper would trace how Sámi communities contest, adapt to, and strategically engage with state institutions to assert territorial and environmental claims. It would pay particular attention to the role of Sámi Parliaments as ambivalent sites of governance: institutions that simultaneously enable Indigenous voice, while reproduce state authority and limiting the reach of these indigenous voices. The paper would further explore how

Indigenous ecological knowledge and relational understandings of land are mobilized, and often marginalized, within technocratic resource management frameworks and discourses. This paper would hope to contribute to emerging debates on decolonizing Arctic governance and offer a critical perspective on the limits of recognition-based approaches to Indigenous self-determination.

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Plural Arctic Intelligences: Ethical AI, Indigenous Knowledge, and Emerging Climate Governance Futures

Climate change is accelerating environmental transformation across the Arctic, intensifying geopolitical tensions and reshaping how intelligence - scientific, technological, Indigenous, and political - is produced and mobilized. As AI-driven tools become central to environmental monitoring and climate risk assessment, they introduce new forms of algorithmic intelligence into an already complex landscape of knowledge systems. Yet most AI climate models depend on satellite imagery and scientific datasets, often excluding or undervaluing Indigenous and local knowledge traditions that hold deep temporal, relational, and place-based insight into environmental change. This emerging asymmetry contributes to broader crises of intelligence - crises of interpretation, legitimacy, epistemic authority, and community trust.

This research area seeks to explore how AI-enabled climate intelligence can evolve in ways that acknowledge multiple epistemologies rather than displace them, and how Arctic communities can retain agency, sovereignty, and interpretive power as digital systems increasingly mediate environmental knowledge. Positioned at the intersection of responsible AI, knowledge justice and community epistemologies, including Indigenous studies, environmental governance, and science and technology studies, the project investigates the political, ethical, and epistemological challenges that arise as algorithmic systems become embedded in Arctic decision-making.

The central guiding question is: How can AI systems for climate risk modelling and decision support in the Arctic be designed and governed so that Indigenous and local knowledge is meaningfully integrated, while ensuring transparency, fairness, and community-led control over data and interpretations of environmental change?

By focusing on the interplay between algorithmic, Indigenous, ecological, and geopolitical intelligences, this emerging research aims to contribute to Calotte Academy's broader inquiry into how intelligence is defined, contested, weaponized, and reimagined in times of climate urgency and global disorder.

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“Scientific Information”: Is it losing sight in the Arctic Geopolitics?

The Arctic is warming at four times the global average, yet the scientific cooperation required to monitor this shift is currently paralyzed. In the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, regional strategic competition—driven by narratives of national security and territorial sovereignty—has sidelined and overshadowed the scientific validity of critical environmental warnings. The suspension of scientific engagement with Russia, which encompasses over 50 percent of the Arctic landmass, has created significant data voids. These ‘knowledge gaps’ provide fertile ground for speculative assessments and misinformed governance decisions. The limited functioning of the Arctic Council has marginalized non-Arctic stakeholders, further fragmenting the production of global climate knowledge. Two critical aspects that further complicate the pursuits of scientific information in the region are: the use of “science as a cover” by states for hybrid operations and intelligence gathering activities; and states’ perception and view about even legitimate scientific research, through the lens of intelligence and espionage activities rather than the public good. Apart from the traditional East-West power rivalry, the Arctic is also witnessing emerging rifts and strategic re-alignments even between traditional allies. The shifting U.S. approach toward Greenland—driven by an intent to dominate spaces of high strategic and economic potential—has further prioritized traditional “hard security” over non-traditional, collaborative contexts.

This paper argues that the Arctic is facing a crisis of epistemic fragmentation of scientific information which would challenge future decision-making. Unless cooperation over scientific research (that remain essential for providing science based intelligence/information/knowledge) is decoupled from geopolitical rivalries in the region, the expanding voids in it would leave the global community ill-equipped to manage the catastrophic transitions originating from the High North.

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Skolt Sámi Experiences of Security in a Time of Geopolitical Uncertainty

This research is based on my master’s thesis, completed in September 2025 as part of my Master’s studies in Arctic World Politics at the University of Lapland. It examines how Skolt Sámi people experience security in the current situation, particularly after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the closure of the Finnish–Russian border.

The study is based on eight semi-structured interviews conducted in Inari, Finland. Through these interviews, I explore how Skolt Sámi people understand security and how recent geopolitical developments have affected their daily lives, sense of belonging, and community relations.

The findings show that security is understood in a broad way. It is not only about physical safety, but also about cultural continuity, livelihoods, and social relations. The closure of the eastern border has been experienced in different ways. On the one hand, it has increased a sense of safety. At the same time, it has limited connections across the border, including contacts between relatives and cultural networks. These experiences are also connected to emotions and everyday life — how the border feels in people's lives, not just how it functions politically.

More broadly, the research shows how global geopolitical changes can have local and personal impacts. In the case of the Skolt Sámi, these changes are directly connected to everyday life, identity, and concerns about the future.

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From Great Power Competition to Subaltern Geopolitics: A Systematic Literature Review of Agency in Arctic Geopolitics

Great power competition has both historically and recently dominated Arctic geopolitical analysis in the media, politics, government documents and even business talks, framing the region from a state-centric viewpoint where the actions of superpowers and international alliances control the regional discourse. While the Cold War era Arctic was dominated by great power competition between the “West” and the “East”, the fall of the Iron Curtain resulted in a paradigm change: confrontation made way for cooperation, for example in the form of cooperative forums such as the Arctic Council. Various non-state Arctic stakeholders, such as Arctic Indigenous organizations, gained a more prominent voice. Yet these non-state actors are rarely treated as equal geopolitical voices in contemporary analyses of Arctic geopolitics, often seeing their agency simply as objects of state actions or pesky resistance to state interests. The classical viewpoint of state-centric geopolitics has been challenged prominently in the recent decades by critical geopolitical research, dismantling the idea of only states being notable geopolitical actors and expanding the ways geopolitics can be comprehended and studied. Implementing the theoretical framework of critical geopolitics, this paper focuses on academic articles from the past 26 years on Arctic geopolitics released in high-impact geopolitical/political geography and IR-oriented peer-reviewed journals. Using systematic literature review, the paper intends to find out how the representations of geopolitical agents and agency have evolved within academic circles and what research gaps there might still be in the study of geopolitical agency of non-state actors.

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Employee Participation as an Internal Participation System: An Inclusive Service Design Perspective on Hybrid Workplaces

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The rapid digitalization of work and the expansion of hybrid organizational environments are reshaping how employee participation unfolds across contemporary workplaces. In hybrid workplaces, employee participation increasingly takes place across multiple communication and interaction settings, where communication, coordination, and decision-making are carried out through both digital and in-person interactions. While these arrangements may expand opportunities for interaction, they can also make it more difficult to maintain continuity, visibility, and follow-through in participation processes across organizational contexts. Drawing on an inclusive service design perspective, this study examines employee participation across different organizational contexts in hybrid workplaces. Based on semi-structured interviews with 20 managers across four Finnish companies operating in hybrid work environments, employee participation was analyzed through four dimensions: access, voice, influence, and translation.

The findings suggest that participation in hybrid workplaces is shaped not only by opportunities for access and communication, but also by how employee input is connected, coordinated, and sustained across organizational contexts. While digital communication tools and multiple participation channels may expand opportunities for interaction, they do not necessarily strengthen the continuity of participation processes. Instead, participation may become fragmented as employee input moves across different communication settings, organizational layers, and decision-making processes. By viewing employee participation as an internal participation system, the study highlights the importance of understanding participation as an ongoing organizational process rather than a series of isolated participation opportunities. From an inclusive service design perspective, supporting participation requires attention not only to access and expression, but also to continuity, visibility, and the translation of employee input into organizational action. These insights contribute to broader Northern and Arctic discussions on distributed work, digital mediation, and the governance of knowledge in geographically dispersed work environments.

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How is militarization experienced as a 'happy object' among military families in Rovaniemi?

The unlawful invasion on Ukraine by Russia on February 24th, 2022, sparked a change in the Finnish military discourse, which has led to significant 'semantic shifts' in the country's security and defense policies (Laine, 2025). Finland's accession to NATO in May 2023 emphasized these changes, with the additional layer of entering the Finnish Defense Force cooperation to its new collaborative partners across the world. This has in turn led to increased military activity, especially in Finnish Lapland. According to its recently published Arctic Foreign and Security Policy, Finland has a responsibility, as one of the eight Arctic states, to shape an Arctic foreign and security policy that provides opportunities and protects the local inhabitants (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2025). The aim of this research paper is to determine how militarization can be branded as a 'happy object' among military families in the Arctic region. The term, coined by Sara Ahmed (2010), is explained as a concept that envisions a promising future, while simultaneously promoting a strong sense of national identity and a sense of belonging (Ericson et al 2023, p. 498). Additionally, the paper aims to incorporate the critical approach, as a way to challenge the current Arctic narrative, which is often described as a vast, empty, and densely populated space covered by ice and inhabited by polar bears. Critical approaches allow us to recognize that there are many Arctics, the so-called Arctic plurality (Lindroth et al 2022, p.9). The critical study approach is beneficial in assessing the increased military activity in the Finnish Arctic region, because it can reveal new, unforeseen perspectives that can be advantageous for policy making and research in the future. Identifying and acknowledging blind spots is a productive method to ensure the sustainable future of the Arctic.

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Interdisciplinary perspectives on regional and global arctic intelligence

A few subarctic societal cases/issues, with some perhaps unexpected geo-economic security repercussions, will be briefly presented with slides and bullet points, for reflections on what is implied in the wide title of this presentation.

- Regional intelligence & collective memory versus globalism and international/Western "best practices"

- What “good” does the recent launching of a new/opportunistic course in “Sikkerhet og Beredskap” (Security and Preparedness) bring to Finnmark County in Norway and the citizens of its eastern borderland with Russia?
- What “good (feel-good nonsense)” does a local prohibition bring citizens of the border town of Kirkenes, issued by the town’s mayor, against the Russian Consulate to place flowers at the local WWII memorial at the annual anniversary of the liberation of Kirkenes from Nazi occupation by the Red Army in 1944?
- What point does the Norwegian on-line publication Barents Observer have in publicising that some employees at the Russian Consulate in Kirkenes have a background as servicemen of the FSB?
- Are borderlands a fair ground on which national security agencies should recruit informers and hunt for spies and naïve idiots in the service of the enemy
- Freedom of speech, research, intelligence exchange. Symmetry in discussing propaganda and patriotism
- Weaponizing research: When, throughout the history of science and technology, was research communities politically ordered or opportunistically going into hostile camps an efficient instrument of war/peace?
- Is the university a politically handy and low-cost arena for state sanction policies? Do such measures, imposed by the media or university leadership, risk to create political conformity of research and teaching?
- How decisive are institutional, regional or national social boycotts and intellectual sanctions, compared to economic and kinetic warfare as means to settle conflicts?
- Farfetched or eye-opening comparison: Euro Arctic & Euro African Regions: the town of Tarifa on the Strait of Gibraltar: how does border interaction get replaced by conventionally understood security, and as a result produces mindless university courses out of touch with history and intelligence?

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Shaping Arctic intelligence competences through expert and knowledge continuity and legacy at the edges of geopolitical transformations: FORAS project experience

Current state of science dialogue worldwide and in the Arctic in particular shows that such fragmentation, political interference and institutional transformations, require new approaches and new mechanisms to sustain knowledge sharing and continuity. Turbulence produces the perfect

communicative gap which fosters the adaptive strategies and forces science community to find intelligence and smart ways to ensure the legacy of scientific knowledge and ways of thinking in absolutely new grounds backed at the influence of institutionally limiting external factors. Such a need for search results in new collectively effective and functional forms of international science communication. Even though the person-to-person communication is admitted as one of the real communicative strategy at present, the examples of collective gathering at the endorsement of global organizations produces the other level of possible interaction and integration. One such example is FORAS project endorsed by UNESCO's International Decade of Science and sustainable development. FORAS stands for "From the Arctic for the Arctic: science diplomacy for sustainable future of the region and its people".

A series of online sessions with scientists, experts, and residents of the Arctic region is organized within FORAS projects to discuss the most important development issues in the Arctic through the prism of science diplomacy, as well as scientific, expert, and local knowledge. Online sessions are organized on a regular basis. With this project the development of international and interregional dialogue among Arctic scientists, experts, and residents is promoted and facilitates the involvement of non-regional participants in the Arctic dialogue from the members of CIS, BRICS, SCO, and other countries. The geographical coverage of FORAS project is not limited to the Arctic only and extends beyond its limits which reduce the political attitude and burden towards the project and discussions and helps to mitigate risks and critical challenges which highlight the commonality of planetary values. It also in practice helps to avoid the effect of Arctic exceptionalism discourse.

To ensure the continuity of knowledge FORAS project team has developed the second phase of the project – FORAS2E (For Arctic Science to Education) which aims at organization of open online school (MOOC – Massive open online course with live sessions and discussions) for the young generation and early-career researchers from different geographies. This will help to create new intergenerational communication supported by continuity of knowledge and create a trustier background for future science communication to avoid the "lost generation" gap.

Both projects seek to bridge through science diplomacy the existing and currently widening gap in today's Arctic science, to facilitate and disseminate actionable scientific knowledge to local communities and practitioners to achieve sustainable development goals through global research collaborative initiatives and open science for a safe and prosperous future for everyone in the Arctic and beyond. This second phase of the project is highlighting the significance and importance of the continuity of knowledge, science and education for the next generations of people and humankind.

As part of the project, the discussions on various topics related to the Arctic region and international cooperation in the Arctic will be organized. The online sessions will feature discussions on the International Decade of Science and sustainable development, the Decade of Ocean Science, and the International Polar Year. Sessions on "People of the Arctic," "Arctic Biodiversity," and others will take place according to the project's plan.

Intermediate results of the project show that for 6 months of its implementation and within 6 organized sessions and 3 conference events, the project reached over 2500 people online and onsite. The topics covered during the project's activities included UNESCO International Science Decade, Challenges of the Russian Arctic development in a changing world, Where the Arctic meets Africa, Rational Nature Management in the Arctic, Evolution of drifting measurement platforms for studying

the Arctic Ocean, International Polar Year — 150 years of science empower at the poles, International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic, Building the new science dialogue at the era of transformations.

The thorough observation of the project's development and its results within the research framework can highlight the efficiency of such initiatives and activities for consideration of future dialogue strategies.

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Mukhrino field station as an extra-geographical intelligence hub: Why West-Siberian peatlands are indispensable for global climate monitoring

The global multi crisis we face today is not only geopolitical and ecological but also a crisis of intelligence – of information, sense making, and knowledge production. One of the most dangerous blind spots in contemporary Arctic and climate intelligence is the growing disconnection from Western Siberia – the site of the world's largest peatland complex, which stores approximately 70 Pg of carbon. As Professor Gareth Rees of the University of Cambridge and his co authors have conclusively stated: “One cannot fully represent Arctic processes without understanding the Russian part of it” (Büntgen & Rees, 2023; see also Rees et al., 2024). Excluding Siberian data from global models does not reduce uncertainty – it amplifies it.

Since 2009, the Mukhrino field station (Western Siberia, Yugra State University, Russia) has operated as a scientific hub – a place where knowledge is produced through long term commitment to environmental monitoring, methodological innovation, and open data. Here, here is maintained one of the longest continuous eddy covariance records of CO₂ and CH₄ fluxes in the Eurasian boreal zone, coupled with high frequency hydrological monitoring, UAV based vegetation mapping, peat stratigraphy, and hydrochemical assessments, including dissolved organic carbon fluxes. This multi scale intelligence – from paleo reconstruction to real time fluxes – reveals that different peatland microforms (ryam, ridge, hollow, pool) function as a complex ecosystem, each storing and releasing carbon and information at different rates and under different vulnerabilities. Moreover, this emphasizes the global role of West Siberian ecosystems and their involvement in planetary scale processes.

This intelligence is currently at risk. The isolation of Russian science from Western collaborative networks has created growing data gaps that directly undermine global climate predictions, especially for permafrost carbon feedbacks and methane budgets. Mukhrino is not just a Russian station – it is a shared infrastructure for planetary climate literacy. Restoring bridges to this region is not a political luxury but a scientific and humanitarian necessity.

The purpose is to demonstrate the practical forms of collective intelligence – from open data protocols to remote collaboration models – that can help the Arctic research community preserve knowledge

continuity across geopolitical divides. Supporting extra geographical stations like Mukhrino is an act of intelligence in the deepest sense: recognizing where critical knowledge resides and defending the conditions for its production.

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Digital hegemony: The rise of techno-authoritarian neoliberalism as a challenge to human security in the European Arctic

Digital technologies have deeply penetrated everyday life, with digitalisation largely driven by capitalist logic that prioritises economic growth over human well-being. The economic imaginaries of the leading digital corporations—embodying a techno-authoritarian form of neoliberalism—fuel neoliberalisation trends that have led to a significant redistribution of power and wealth, both domestically and globally.

This paper examines how the promotion of the economic imaginaries behind techno-authoritarian neoliberalism and the associated “commercialisation of everything” challenges efforts to achieve sustainable livelihoods, using the human security framework. It discusses how mainstream digital services for everyday practises, including social media or artificial intelligence, favour the generation of profit and geopolitical dominance over social and ecological sustainability, as well as over community autonomy. The way how digital technologies are being adapted under prevailing digitalisation policies risks consolidating power in the hands of a transnational elite rather than serving local and community-level needs.

Arctic Yearbook

The Arctic Yearbook is intended to be the preeminent repository of critical analysis on the Arctic region, with a mandate to inform observers about the state of Arctic geopolitics and security. It is an international and interdisciplinary peer-reviewed open access publication, published online at <https://arcticyearbook.com> to ensure wide distribution and accessibility to a variety of stakeholders and observers.

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Calotte Academy 2026 Role Play Game material

The program of the Calotte Academy 2026 includes 4-5 rounds of Role Play Game on “Who owns Greenland in June 2026?” (see, The Background Context). The Role Play Game at Calotte Academy, third time in 2026, is based on the Role Play Game model designed by Professor Heininen for IR courses at University of Lapland.

The main aim of the Role Play Game is to simulate an international negotiation on Greenland in general, and in particular a negotiation situation, which can be peaceful or dynamic between relevant actors of the Arctic, not least between Greenland and Kingdom of Denmark, and the USA.

Among goals are first, to find out what kind of relationships there are between the main parties; second, how these relations are influenced by fear based on force, power (military, economic), authority, alliance, trust based on cooperation, knowledge; third, what kind of role Arctic stability and cooperation plays there; finally, to find and brainstorm better, if not best practices how, and by whom, to (re)build confidence between parties, and what would be potential first steps to start by.

About Simulation as a Method

Briefly speaking, ‘Simulation’ is to imitate a complicated situation or process for research, and applied further for expertise and best practices, to analyze different situations between human beings, even to solve problems.

Simulation “enables participants to experience negotiating an international issue... [and encourages] to balance theoretical and conceptual ideas... with the ‘real world’ expectations of foreign policy making” (Enterline & Jepsen 2009). It is within the framework of ‘Game theory’, as a method to examine, discuss and calculate (i.e. test how participants calculate), and based on that find out what kind of choices & decisions participants do in different circumstances. In the same way, as reality is never a closed system (due to in & outputs), after being started simulation, as well as a role play game, will follow its own rhythm and logic, and be open towards inputs from outside.

Among multiple objectives of simulation are: 1) to prepare participants (e.g. early-career researchers & students) to make deeper analyses, read and understand a nature, dynamics, rules & procedures of an international negotiation (situation), as well as difficulties & challenges of agreeing; 2) to increase participants’ knowledge and understanding on an issue area, in particular multi-dimensional & complex ones, as a part of world / global politics, as well as roles and interrelations of relevant actors; 3) to increase participants’ knowledge on interests, policies / strategies & objectives of international actors, and their interpretations of ‘power’ (based on military and/or economic strength) vis-a-vis ‘influence’ (based on knowledge, communication & diplomacy), as well as how interests could be combined even when actors disagree; 4) to prepare participants to assume & adopt policy-shaping & decision-making processes, and assume, adopt & train their leadership roles; 5) to train oral and rhetoric skills, i.e. how (first) to listen others and (then) argue on behalf of your points of view / opinions (based on knowledge & proper information), and how to convince others in an open discussion.

And finally, to adopt, and assist other participants to adopt, a ‘dialogue’ as a doable, even effective, method for confidence-building, if and when “the potential of dialogues” (Gadamer 1992; also Heininen 2023) is being materialized.

Simulation is, first of all, a process consisted of several rounds of a dialogue as steps like for example, firstly, to find out & examine, if there is patience and political will by parties for real discussions, and hence if a dialogue is achievable and valued – here “to agree that we disagree” is an achievement in the beginning; secondly, to brainstorm doable and effective ways & methods how to (re)build, and by whom, confidence between parties; thirdly, to define common interests, and potential steps how to reach them; and fourthly, to draft a memorandum of understanding or statement on the situation based on the discussions & negotiations.

Participants & Actors

Concerning the participation of the Role Play Game at CA 2026 we need a wide spectrum of key actors, and that all relevant Arctic actors, including actors from the main categories of international actors, will be represented. It would be ideal to have 2–3 actors from each category.

There is no official list of international actors, yet the following categories are mostly, also in the 2026 Role Play Game, included:

- States: e.g. Arctic states & their armies, Arctic Council Observer states
- Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs): e.g. UN, UNCLOS, Nordic Council, Arctic Council, European Union, NATO
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs): e.g. WWF, GreenPeace, IASC
- Sub-national governments: e.g. Greenland, Nuuk, Nunavut, Inari Municipality
- Civil societies: e.g. Indigenous peoples’ organizations, scientific community
- Transnational Corporations (TNCs) & State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs): e.g. Gazprom, Equinor (Statoil), LKAB, UTAC, Big Tech

There will be a ‘chair’ with a technical mandate given by the Security Council of United Nations.

Role Play Game at CA 2026

The Role Play Game will start from the reality, i.e. the state of the Arctic in June 2026 (see, the Background Context). The reality will be discussed, debated and formulated, by the participants, into scenarios. This will be followed by the simulation, which will be started by imitation of real actors and their actions & reactions.

After a short presentation of each actor & its main interests by all participants (1st Round) the Game will create its own dynamics and go, most probably, beyond the reality. Then the participants are asked to follow the logic of the Game and act accordingly: On one hand, to defend your role and its interests and aims, and on the other, to be open-minded and innovative by reading the Game and its dynamic, as well as looking the main aim and goals of the Game, as well as objectives of simulation.

As mentioned, among the goals are to find out how and by what relations between the parties are influenced, and to brainstorm better, if not best, practices how to (re)build confidence between parties. An ultimate goal could be to search for a mutual understanding of the situation and a way out of the deadlock, which would maintain the geopolitical stability and cooperation (on environmental protection and climate change mitigation) in the Arctic. Nonetheless, an outcome could be an “agreement to disagree”, or bluntly a failure.

Planned Rounds

1st Round: Welcome & procedures of the Game, and short introductory presentations of the actors and their interests & policies by the participants (1-2 min); only technical questions on the procedure are allowed.

2nd Round: Discussion & formulation of scenarios for alternative futures, starting from a ‘best case’ scenario (Scenario A) to a ‘worst case’ scenario (Scenario D), and having in between ‘compromise cases’ (Scenario B, Scenario C) (more details later).

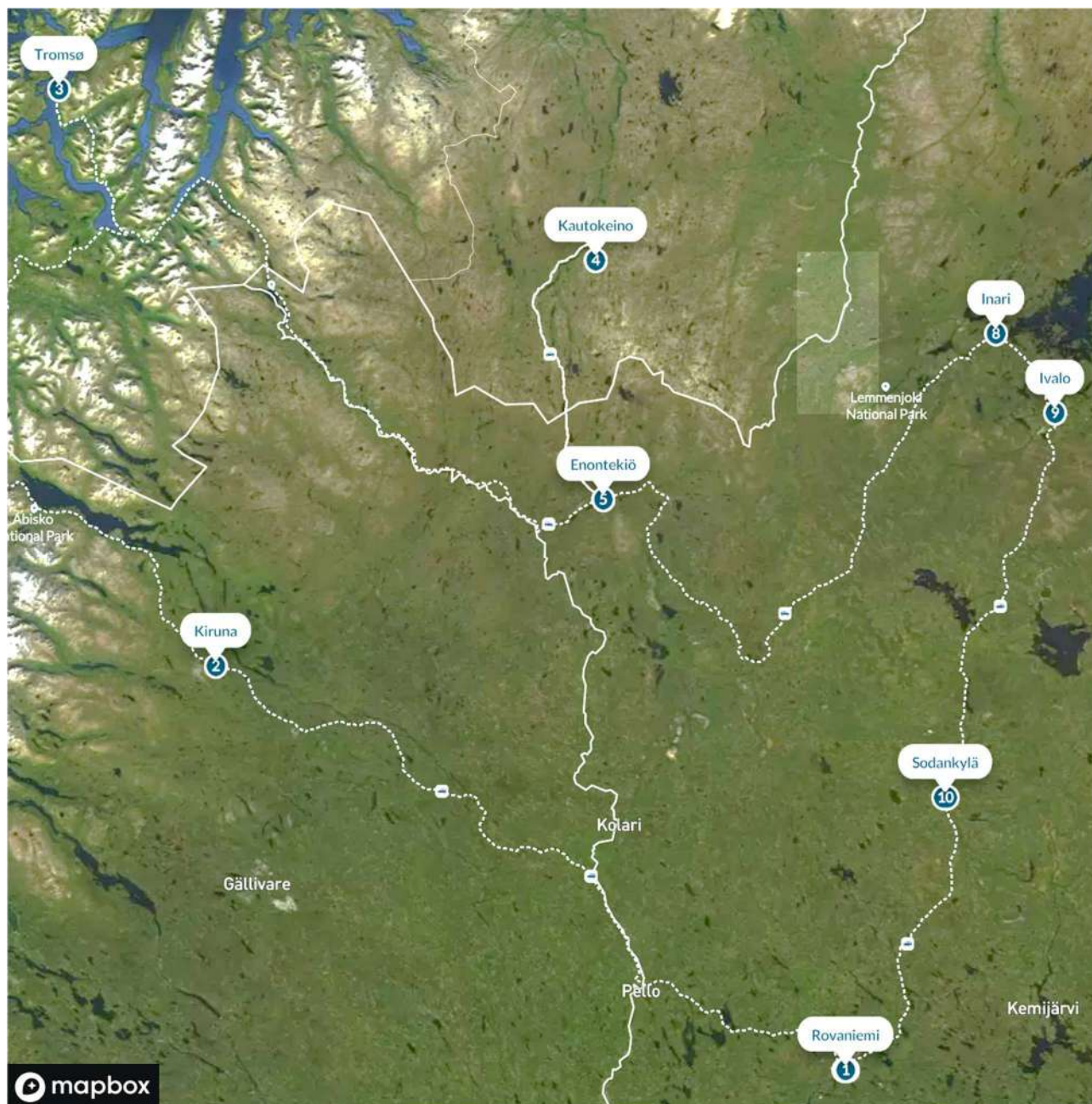
3rd Round: Presentations (a’ 2-3 min) of the actor on a state of the Arctic in general, and in particular concerning the Greenland issue; substantial questions & comments by others after each presentation are allowed, even expected.

4th Round: Brainstorming by participants, on behalf of the actors, on ways & steps how to (re)build confidence between parties; substantial questions & critical comments by others after each presentation are expected, even recommended.

Please, remember to be short and avoid long presentations. This is firstly, to guarantee that all participants / actors will have the floor, and second that we manage to go through the planned rounds. Finally, and importantly, to allocate time enough for a dialogue, the best precondition that “the potential of dialogues” will be materialized.

All in all, the Role Play Game is all about rhetoric, based on oral presentations, and simulation: The Arctic, including Greenland, consists of the card table; actors are the pieces (not pawns) played by you; Arctic governance, geopolitics and security consist of the frameworks and guidelines, and peaceful coexistence is the stake; and finally, oral presentations consist of the dice.

Route of Calotte Academy 2026



8–14 June 2026

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