



ARCTIC CENTRE
University of Lapland

Critical Arctic Studies Symposium 2023

Post-Human Dialogues: Rethinking human—nature relations in and through the Arctic

10 - 12 October 2023

PROGRAMME



Location: Arktikum, Pohjoisranta 4, 96100 Rovaniemi, Finland
Rooms: Aurora / Thule

Tuesday 10.10.

12:30 Registration (Arktikum lobby)

13:00 Welcoming words (Aurora/Online)

13:15—14:15 Keynote: Michael Bravo: *Writing from the Edge of the Sea* (Aurora/Online)

14:15—14:45 Film Screening with Saskia de Wildt: *Voices of Thunder* (Aurora)

14:45—15:15 Group photo and break (Aurora)

15:15—17:00 Session I

A: Exploring human—animal relations (Aurora)

Chair: Nuccio Mazzullo

Othering human-bear encounters: historical dynamics of public discourse in Kolyma, Russia (in person)

Asya Karaseva (University of Tartu)

Becoming-Animal in the Arctic: More-Than-Human Encounters in Alaska, Iceland and Siberia (online)

María Del Portillo-Cure and Carlos Bermúdez Alarcón (Universidad de los Andes)

Negotiating (with) the swarm: mosquitoes as mediators between people and landscape in “pre-pesticidal” travel accounts (online)

Eemi Nordström (University of Helsinki)

Wayfaring as an ethical research practice of knowledge relating in Nunavut polar bear monitoring (in person)

Saskia De Wildt (Queen’s University)

B: Challenging traditional approaches to nature — Agency and rights of nature (Thule)

Chair: Marlene Payva Almonte

Nonhuman Agency. Challenging the Unagentic Perspective of Nonhuman Entities (in person)

Corinna Casi (University of Helsinki & University of Lapland)

The potential contribution of the Sámi People to the development of the Rights of Nature in the EU (online)

Alessandra Cafà (University of Lapland)

Developing Framework for Human-nature Rights-based Approach (in person)

Assi Harkoma (University of Lapland)

How can the Aarhus Convention help the Arctic? (online)

Duncan Weaver (University of Suffolk)

17:00—18:00 *Trees, parks, people* – Art exhibition with Mari Mäkiranta and Kaisa Sirén (Arktikum)

18.00—19.30 Session II

**A: Mapping embodied human—
nature relations (Aurora)**

Chair: Vesa Väättänen

Institutional Erosion, Relational Retreat: A Social-Ecological Network Mapping of Arctic Coastal Management in Alaska (online)

Nicholas Parlato (International Arctic Research Center)

Human-nature relations in Svalbard: how an embodied understanding of place can bring new perspectives to Disaster Risk Reduction / Response (DRR/R) (in person)

Dina Brode-Roger (KU Leuven)

Lost, Found, and in Between. Following maps in Norwegian Rescue Services in Northern Norway (in person)

Virga Popovaitė (Nord University)

Nature connectedness and multispecies research methodologies (in person)

Riitta-Marja Leinonen, Anna Rönkä and Mervi Heikkinen (University of Oulu)

**B: Problematising sustainable Arctic
economies (Thule)**

Chair: Adrian Braun

An Agent-Based Model of Country Performance and Competition in Arctic FinTech (online)

Mikhail Oet (Northeastern University) and Tuomas Takko (Aalto University)

Territories of contention: Pre- and post-human reflections on mining-related disputes in Finland from the geosystem services perspective (in person)

Toni Eerola (Geological Survey of Finland)

Circular Economy in the High North – Could Sustainable Investments rescue the vulnerable ecosystems? (in person)

Adrian Braun (University of Lapland)

Anti-racist Women-led Climate Change Solutions (WCCS): Developing A Policy Guide from Indigenous and Immigrants Perspectives (online)

Jebunnessa Chapola (University of Regina)

Wednesday 11.10.

10:15—12:15 Session III

A: Indigenous knowledge, resilience and resistance (Aurora)

Chair: Laura Junka-Aikio

Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Resiliency (in person)

Stefanie Kunze (Northern Arizona University)

Climate Change and Means of Subsistence: An Ontological Reading of an Absolute Norm (in person)

Jolein Holtz (Leiden University)

Conservation Conflicts and Human-Nature Relations in the Swedish Arctic (online)

Alexandra McFadden (Lund University)

Rethinking Techno-lab in Sapmi (in person)

Marija Griniuk (Sami Center for Contemporary Art) and Tue Brisson Mosich (Independent)

B: Relating with Arctic water, snow and ice (Thule)

Chair: Monica Tennberg

Uneasy Inhabitations: Liminal States of Being Amid a Changing Cryosphere (in person)

Mirjami Lantto Klein

Floating Islands and Flowing Landscapes. An Ecocritical Reading of Siri Ranva Hjelm Jacobsen's "Island" (2017) (online)

Călina-Maria Moldovan (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca)

Waterways: Research about northern ice, change and loss (online)

Sohvi Kangasluoma (University of Helsinki)

Life between buildings in the Arctic (in person)

Hannah Strauss-Mazzullo (University of Lapland)

Rewilding rivers in Finnish Lapland (in person)

Monica Tennberg (University of Lapland)

12:15—13:15 Lunch (Arktikum Café)

13:15—15:00 Session IV

A: Sensing relationality — Naturecultures, soundscapes and art (Aurora)

Chair: Tiina Seppälä

Performing naturecultures: embodied practices of relating and attention in more-than-human environments (in person)

Nina Vurdelja (Tampere University)

Life between art and blood (in person)

Heidi Pietarinen and Amna Qureshi (University of Lapland)

Generation across scale: Microbial resilience amongst precarious naturecultures in Finnish Lapland (in person)

Alicia Ng (University of Helsinki)

The Flowers Opened the Way: Plants as Place-Makers in the Arctic (online)

Adriana Craciun (Boston University)

B: Arctic futures and more-than-human communities (Thule)

Chair: Aleksandra Middleton

Polar Literature since 1841: Place-ing Science, Climate and Empire (in person)

Daniel Abdalla (University of Liverpool)

How young people would like to shape the future of the Arctic (in person)

Marco Dordoni (University for foreigners of Perugia)

Imagining a Future for Northern Fauna: Arctic Solarpunk Fiction, Settler Colonialism, and Multispecies Justice (online)

Jennifer Schell (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

The future of the Arctic in postnormal times (in person)

Alexandra Middleton (Oulu Business School)

15:15—17:00 Session V

A: (Re)Imagining the Arctic — Literature and storytelling (Aurora)

Chair: Joonas Vola

Reading the North Anew? Literary Studies in Polycrisis (online)

Elsi Hyttinen and Karoliina Lummaa (University of Turku)

SYMBIOSIS - joint virtual exhibition and visual investigation of human understanding of nature, curated and exhibited by arctic museums, created by visual storytellers (in person)

Sia Søndergaard (VIA University College)

B: Climate change and sustainability discourses (Thule)

Chair: Özlem Terzi

Assessing the SDGs role in the policies on the Arctic and its peoples (online)

Reetta Toivanen (University of Helsinki)

Emotions and science communication of Arctic knowledge (in person)

Svenja Holste (Bielefeld University)

In Search of New Stories: Rethinking human-nature relations through a study of reindeer myths (in person)

Rozan van Klaveren (Independent)

Northern Reach Report – Intra-view on the im/possibilities of intra-living (in person)

Joonas Vola (University of Lapland)

Deconstructing the European Green Deal: Discourses on the Place of Nature in Arctic Implications of the Green Deal (in person)

Özlem Terzi (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Thursday 12.10.

9:00—10:45 Session VI

A: Human—soil relations in the Arctic — Places, spaces and plants (Aurora)

Chair: Anu Valtonen

Creating local communities with Earth kin (in person)

Elaina Weber and Elizabeth Barron (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

Temporal communality as epistemological strategy in mediation of Arcticness (in person)

Eva la Cour (University of Copenhagen) and Jasmine Zhang (The Swedish Center for Nature Interpretation, SLU)

Human-soil relations in the Norwegian high north (online)

Ida Højlund Rasmussen (The Oslo School of Architecture and Design)

B: Rethinking ocean and space governance (Thule)

Chair: Kamrul Hossain

Rethinking Polar Law in the Kinocene (online)

Apostolos Tsiouvalas (University of Tromsø)

Legal implications of conducting Environmental Impact Assessment for better conserving Arctic marine biodiversity (online)

Yiyi Shen (University of Vienna)

Questioning the Holisticness of Space Sustainability with Regard to Commercial Spaceports in the Arctic and in Scotland (in person)

Tom Royer (University of Lapland)

11:00—12:00 Keynote: Joana Castro Pereira: Human/non-human nature relations in world politics: state of the art and pathways forward (Aurora/ Online)

12:00—13:00 Lunch (Arktikum Café)

13:00—15:00 Session VII

A: Developing post-human approaches through tourism and outdoor activities (Aurora)

Chair: Outi Rantala

Envisioning posthumanist cultural tourism: socio-material teaching of Indigenous cultures to tourists (in person)

Ella Björn and Monika Lüthje
(University of Lapland)

Unveiling Critical Connections: Exploring the Relationship between Tourism, Sense of Place, and Conflict in the Circumpolar North (in person)

Kristin Weis (George Washington University)

The 'awkward' geopolitics of China's Arctic Village tourism (online)

Liling Xu (Royal Holloway University of London)

Decolonizing human-nature relationships in the European Arctic: the case of the Swedish friluftsliv as a (colonial) space-making practice (in person)

Liubov Timonina (KTH Royal Institute of Technology)

Shades of darkness in tourism experiences; the suffering, death and consumption of King Crabs (in person)

Hindertje Hoarau-Heemstra (Nord University),
Albina Pashkevich (Dalarna University) and
Carol Kline (Appalachian State University)

B: Arctic identities and aspirations (Thule)

Chair: Sanna Kopra

Human—nature relations in the context of the European Union: environmental myths, territoriality and the EU Arctic Policy (in person)

Michael Laiho (University of Oulu)

Negotiating from In-between: Greenland in UN Climate Negotiations (online)

Elin Westerling (International IDEA) and
Carola Klöck (Sciences Po Paris)

Building an Arctic Ecological Environment Community—from China's perspective (online)

Chuan Chen (Peking University)

Constructing Arctic Identities: the case of Belarus (in person)

Anna Davis (University of Oxford)

Conflict Disruptions of Epistemic Communities: Initial Lessons from the Impact of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine (online)

Anna Ivanova (Washington State University)

15:15—15:30 Closing words (Aurora/ Online)

15:30—18:00 Visit to the Arktikum Science Centre