FROM THE DIRECTOR

The multiple Arctics have lately been addressed by many policy makers and researchers. The purpose is often to counteract the stereotype understanding of the Arctic that is too often represented by icebergs and polar bears. The perspective highlights the fact that there are several differences in the region such as climate, political systems, demography, infrastructure, land and water resources etc. And it is a somewhat puzzling story how Sweden entered the Arctic co-operation and became one of the eight Arctic countries that are members of the Arctic Council. That process is part of the history and perhaps more challenging is the active role Sweden wants to play at present and in the future.

The Arctic identity of Swedish northerners is obviously weak. That is not surprising, since we have not used the term other than in the stereotypic understanding mentioned above. We probably have a better identification with northerness generally, with the North Calotte or the Barents region. But if Sweden aims to take a greater responsibility and increased influence in the collaboration that strives to improve the chances to achieve a sustainable and innovative Arctic, we need to step forward.

The establishment of Arcum can be seen as a response to these ambitions. Sweden was until December 2012 the only Arctic Council member that did not have a university-based Arctic research centre. Today more than 250 researchers have decided to join. We are convinced that by doing so there will be Arctic doors opened, doors that lead to an increasing number of calls, doors to new networks, doors to new conferences, and doors to a collaboration that continuously strive for research in response to societal challenges. Moreover, we contribute to a shaped and improved profile of Umeå University.

The Arctic Council celebrates its 20 years anniversary this year. Sweden has a new SAO (Arctic Ambassador), Andrés Jato, who has declared that he wants to see more Swedish participation in different Arctic contexts. This will be the theme of a symposium that Arcum, co-arranges together with the Foreign Ministry and the Polar Research Secretariat in Stockholm 7 April, where at least three ministers will join us. As a well-timed action we co-arrange, together with the Department of Political Science, a seminar with Douglas Nord who has recently published two books about the Arctic Council on 20 April (see more inside this Newsletter).

Peter Sköld
Call for funding from Arcum Strategic Resources

According to decision by the Board the Arcum affiliated researchers are entitled to apply for funding from the strategic resources. 2016 has two calls, during Spring and Autumn with deadlines 29 April and 25 November respectively.

For 2016 a total of SEK 200 000 are available for strategic purposes. The aim is to co-fund activities. Maximum amounts to apply for are SEK 20 000 for scientific arrangements, SEK 10 000 for travelling, SEK 10 000 kronor for invitations, and SEK 5 000 publishing. The activity must be of relevance for Arctic research.

PhD students and early-career researchers (PhD within last five years) are prioritised, as are those who have not received funding previously. Participating in Arcum seminars and events is advantageous. Arcum strives for an equal gender balance when granting funding. Successful applications must send in a report when the activity has taken place, and attach publications or other relevant materials.

Arcum should be given best visualization possible within the funded activities; for example being mentioned in publications and displayed in workshop advertising. Mandatory parts of the application are description of the activity and its aims, to include a complete budget where Arcum share is illustrated, to provide a time frame for the activity, and to consider gender aspects.

The application should be written in an especially provided form which are available at the Arcum website or here.

For more information on the call please contact Peter Sköld (peter.skold@umu.se) or Gabriella Nordin (gabriella.nordin@umu.se)

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**Ninth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences**

(ICASS IX)

8-12 June 2017

Umeå University

Umeå, Sweden

**Call for Sessions**

The International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) announces the 9th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS IX) to be held at the campus of Umeå University, in Umeå, Sweden, from 8-12 June 2017. The theme for ICASS IX is set to People & Place.

ICASS is held every three years, bringing together people from all over the world to share ideas about social science research in the Arctic. ICASS VIII, held in Prince George, Canada in May 2014, attracted 470 participants from 27 different countries.

IASSA is now seeking proposals for sessions. Please submit them by 23 September 2016 to Gabriella Nordin (gabriella.nordin@umu.se). Please include session title, name of session, organizer and complete contact information, and a brief description of the session.
The Arcum website

The Arcum website is filled with useful information with an Arctic/Northern theme. There you will find information on recent Arcum activities, upcoming seminars and workshops. You can also find upcoming conferences, courses and calls for funding’s, both national and international. Additionally we inform about New publications, and also latest News with an Arctic/Northern theme.

www.arcum.umu.se
www.arcum.umu.se/english/

Arcum Lunch Seminars Spring 2016

As previous semesters we will continue to offer a combination of scientific meetings and lunch. The first week every month at 12:00-13:00 we meet at Universitetsklubben for a short speech, discussions and a light lunch. This Spring we have a very interesting seminar schedule ahead of us. For more information on speakers and R.S.V.P-dates please visit www.arcum.umu.se or contact Gabriella Nordin at gabriella.nordin@umu.se.

Thursday April 20

Douglas Nord, visiting Professor at the Department of Political Science Douglas Nord, visiting professor at the Department of Political Science will hold a talk on "Providing Leadership from the Chair -- Sweden's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council".

Wednesday May 4

Asta Pellinen Wannberg, Professor of Physics, Umeå University, Department of Physics and Swedish Institute of Space Physics, Kiruna, will hold a talk on "The Arctic Dimension of Space Research".

Thursday June 2

Per Axelsson, Associate Professor at the Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and Vaa rtoe/Centre for Sami Research at Umeå University will hold a talk on "Colonisation and Indigenous Health and Wellbeing".

WELCOME!
Upcoming conferences and workshops

9th International Conference of the Circumpolar Agricultural Association

The 9th Circumpolar Agricultural Conference will be held in Reykjavik Iceland 6th to 8th October 2016. The overall theme of the conference will be the Role of Agriculture in the Circumpolar Bioeconomy.

Bioeconomy is the part of the economy that is based on biological resources and it is becoming more and more important in the international policymaking and research programs. People look to strengthening of the bioeconomy as means to deal with the many of the Grand Challenges that humanity is facing: Improve food security for the increasing world’s population, deal with climate change, the shift from an economy that is based on fossil fuels to an economy that is based on renewable resources as well as strengthening rural areas, create jobs and increase profitability.

The conference is an international conference with participation from the Nordic countries, Canada, Alaska and Russia. The aim of the conference is to highlight the role of agriculture in the circumpolar bioeconomy and the importance of knowledge transfer to ensure competitiveness and sustainable value creation in the agricultural and food sectors. Progress, trends and challenges in agriculture in the region with respect to innovation and the development of the bioeconomy are important topics for the conference. A special focus will be on success stories which can be used to stimulate progress in different arctic regions.


EA International Conference, 23-25 August 2016 Fairbanks - Registrations open

The EA International Conference will be held 23-25 August, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Visit the conference website at: EA Conference website for details on registration, hotel bookings and call for abstracts.

The conference will bring together experts and practitioners to examine the scientific, policy and indigenous understandings and experience of the ecosystem approach to management in the eighteen Large Marine Ecosystems of the Arctic and corresponding terrestrial areas. Topics to be addressed include scientific elements such as Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, as well as national policies such as Integrated Arctic Management and the Inuvialuit Settlement Agreement that are designed to carry out integrated management in an adaptive fashion. Proceedings from the conference will be presented to the ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in spring 2017.

Please note the following deadlines:

Call for abstracts: We invite contributions for oral or poster presentations. Please send abstracts of presentations (up to 500 words) to eaconference@pame.is by 5 April. Further details are at: Call for Abstracts

Registration: Click here to register! There is no registration fee before 1 May.

Accommodation: Rooms have been blocked from 22 August to 26 August 2016 for the conference guests at the Sophie Station Suites and Wedgewood Resort. Please keep in mind that August can be busy in Fairbanks, Alaska. To guarantee reservation please book by 22 June 2016. Click here for further information on booking.
Upcoming conferences and workshops continued

20th Biennial Inuit Studies Conference, Oct 7 - 10
2016 in St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador

Inuit traditions are a repository of Inuit culture and a primary expression of Inuit identity. The theme for the 2016 Inuit Studies Conference invites Elders, knowledge-bearers, researchers, artists, policy-makers, students and others to engage in conversations about the many ways in which traditions shape understanding, while registering social and cultural change.

The institutional hosts of “Inuit Traditions,” Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Nunatsiavut Government, invite you to contribute to an exchange of knowledge to be held in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, October 7-10, 2016. Presentations on all aspects of Inuit studies will be welcome. The host committee particularly welcomes presentations, discussions, workshops, performances and other opportunities for dialogue on Inuit traditions that may include:

• community knowledge
• expressions of identity
• social, communal and political interaction
• relationships with the land and the environment
• language and cultural expression

Finally, we hope that the 2016 Inuit Studies Conference will rekindle the dialogue between traditional knowledge and scholarly ways of knowing – a dialogue that animated the Inuit Studies Conference twenty years ago, the last time it was held in St. John’s. With the perspective of a further two decades of collaborative work, our ambition is that the conference will provide a forum to encourage and examine the conversation between diverse knowledge traditions. We warmly welcome ideas from all who are willing to help enrich this conversation.

More information: [www.mun.ca/is2016/](http://www.mun.ca/is2016/)

9th Polar Law Symposium, October 5-9, 2016 in Akureyri & Reykjavik, Iceland

The Faculty of Law at the University of Akureyri, Iceland, cordially invites submissions of abstracts for papers to be presented at the 9th Polar Law Symposium. The theme of the symposium is The Role of Law in Polar Governance.

The Keynote Speakers for this year’s symposium include Madeleine Redfern, Mayor of Iqaluit and Chair of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut and Erik Franckx, Professor of Law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Preliminary Schedule

5th-6th October 2016: Symposium at the University of Akureyri, Iceland

7th-9th October 2016: Breakout Sessions on Polar Law at the Arctic Circle, Reykjavik, Iceland.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts of up to 200 words accompanied by a short speaker biography should be submitted in word format by 31st March 2016 to: 9polarlaw@gmail.com

Conference website
Now in its nineteenth year of operation the Arctic Council, an innovative international organization, is going through a period of new growth and challenges. This work identifies the major trends and directions of current Arctic diplomacy and the manner in which national, regional and international leaders and organizations can all make useful contributions in dealing with the complex agenda of environmental, economic and political challenges faced by this increasingly significant area of the globe.

This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of international organizations, international relations and the environment.
New publications continued

The Changing Arctic. Consensus Building and Governance in the Arctic Council
By Douglas C. Nord

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Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan US
eBook ISBN 978-1-137-50186-8
Hardcover ISBN 978-1-137-50185-1
Number of Pages: 224

About the book: Over the last few years the Arctic has become a region of growing interest to the international community. Major environmental, economic, social, and security issues are all in evidence within its borders today. Many feel that there is an urgent need to establish an effective governance structure for the area. The Arctic Council has offered a basic forum for circumpolar consultation and cooperation over the past two decades. However, it has not been an easy undertaking and the organization has had to wrestle with a series of internal and external impediments that have hindered its forward progress. This volume explores the efforts of Sweden, a recent Chair of the Arctic Council, to build an enhanced framework for consensus-building and governance within the circumpolar region. It examines its efforts to provide focused leadership for the Arctic Council and to advance the environmental protection and sustainable development missions of the organization. It considers the various means by which Sweden utilized its position as chair of the Arctic Council to promote its program for action in both these areas. It also explores how this leadership position enabled it to foster necessary organizational reform within the body. The book gives new insight into how both the formal and informal ‘powers of the chair’ can be utilized to facilitate institutional growth and change. It also provides new and useful understanding of how a small country like Sweden can harness key elements of ‘soft power’ to advance its foreign policy objectives in the Arctic. The author closely followed the undertakings of the Swedish Chairmanship team over its two years at the helm of this emerging Arctic international organization. He witnessed its several successes and a few of its disappointments. The volume offers a behind the scene view of the challenges and opportunities faced by contemporary diplomats as they pursue their efforts at international organization.
If you want a post on the Arcum Facebook page or an Arcum-tweet on a new publication or an up-coming event send an e-mail to Lars at lars.oberg@umu.se or Linus at linus.lundström@umu.se.

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