

18th Polar Law Symposium (as of Sept.25)

Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland and University of Akureyri, Iceland
Hans Egede Hotel, Nuuk, 22-24th October 2025

Time	Wednesday 22nd October 2025
8.30-9	Registration
9-9.30	Welcome Plenary Maria Ackrén (Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland) Gitte Adler Reimer, Rector (Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland) Moderator: Rachael Lorna Johnstone (University of Akureyri, Iceland, and Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland)
9.30-10.30	Keynote Presentation Sara Olsvig, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council, “There’s no such thing as a better colonizer.” Moderator: Timo Koivurova (University of Lapland, Finland)
10.30-11	Coffee
11-12	Plenary Inuit Circumpolar Council, “The Growing State Obligations around Indigenous self-determination and the use of Indigenous Knowledge in Environmental Governance” <u>Panellists:</u> Sara Olsvig, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council Eirik Larsen, Head of Human Rights Unit, Saami Council Vernae Angnaboogok, Inuit Arctic Policy Director, Inuit Circumpolar Council - Alaska Axel Ingeman-Jeremiassen, Oceans and Inuit Knowledge Coordinator, Inuit Circumpolar Council – Greenland Moderator: Aviaja Tindbæk Jørgensen, Marine Governance Advisor, Inuit Circumpolar Council – Greenland
12-1	Lunch
1-2	Keynote Presentation Alan Hemmings, Professor, University of Canterbury, Aotearoa/New Zealand Moderator: Akiho Shibata (Polar Cooperation Research Centre, Kobe University, Japan)

2.10-3.10	<p>The future of Greenland-EU relations: aspirations, chances, and limits</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Mininnguaq Kleist (Greenlandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Research/Science, Government of Greenland)</p> <p>Rasmus Leander Nielsen (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland)</p> <p>Simon Bojsen-Møller (European Commission Office in Greenland, European Union)</p> <p>Andreas Raspotnik (Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway)</p> <p>Moderator: Patrick Flamm (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany)</p>	<p>Arctic Shipping</p> <p>Yoshifumi Tanaka (Centre for Private Governance, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Denmark), “Environmental Regulation of Arctic Shipping”</p> <p>Maxim Usynin (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)</p> <p>SHOC – Shipping and Ocean Law Group</p> <p>CEPRI – Centre for Private Governance Law Faculty), “The Northern Sea Route: The role of private law and sustainability considerations”</p> <p>Moderator: Kentaro Nishimoto (Tohoku University, Japan)</p>
3.10-3.30	Coffee	
3.30-4.30	<p>Climate Commodification: Law, extraction and resistance</p> <p>Romain Chuffart (University of Akureyri, Iceland), “The Patchy Law’fe of Arctic Sea Ice and the Troubles of Techno-care Governance”</p> <p>Apostolos Tsiouvalas (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway), “Cryopower Unfrozen: The Arctic Ocean as a Testbed for Sea Ice Geoengineering and International Law”</p> <p>Christine Schwöbel-Patel (Warwick University, UK), “Green Frontiers: International Law and Inter-Imperial Battles for Greenland in the Green Transition”</p>	<p>Antarctic Governance</p> <p>Trevor Daya-Winterbottom (University of Waikato, Aotearoa/New Zealand), “Protecting Antarctic Biodiversity under National Law”</p> <p>Antje Neumann (University of Akureyri, Iceland), “The Silence of Polar Regions – A value to be protected or just a privilege of stressed and well-heeled city dwellers?”</p> <p>Alejandra Mancilla (University of Oslo, Norway), “Indigenous voices in Antarctic governance”</p> <p>Eric Rubenstein (University of Akureyri, Iceland), “Aesthetic Values and Antarctica’s Environmental Protocol”</p> <p>Moderator: Karen Scott (Faculty of Law, University of Canterbury, New Zealand)</p>
6.00	Reception (TBD)	

Time	Thursday 23 rd October 2025		
8.30-9.30	<p>Inuit Circumpolar Council: Indigenous Peoples' Rights in a Just Transition</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Aviaaja Isaksen (Human Rights Coordinator, Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland) Eirik Larsen (Head of Human Rights Unit, Saami Council) Naja Graugaard (Associate Professor, Center for Gender, Sexuality & Difference, Dept. of Nordic Studies & Linguistics, Copenhagen University, Denmark) David Heilmann Ottosen, (Filmmaker and ICC Inuit Youth Engagement Program Participant, Greenland)</p> <p>Moderator: Aviaja Tindbæk Jørgensen (Marine Governance Advisor, Inuit Circumpolar Council – Greenland)</p>	<p>Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement in the Arctic: Selected Issues on Regime Interaction</p> <p>Hilde Woker (Leiden University, Grotius Centre of International Legal Studies, The Netherlands), “Revisiting an Asked and Answered Question: The Arctic Council (Secretariat) as an International Organization?”</p> <p>Kristine Dalaker (Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security (ANCORS), Australia), “The Implications of the BBNJ Agreement for Submarine Cable Activities within the Arctic Context”</p> <p>Maria Madalena das Neves (Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Norway), “The Implications of the BBNJ Agreement for Norway’s Seabed Mining Activities”</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	<p>Contested frontiers: Exploring the (re)constitution of Arctic peripheries</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Aaron Spitzer, Ragnhild Nilsson, Andrew Newman, and Anja Tucker, (Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Norway)</p> <p>Moderator:</p>
9.40-10.40	<p>Keynote Presentation Kenneth Høegh, Arctic Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council 2025-27</p>		

	Moderator: Maria Ackrén (Ilisimatusarfik)		
10.40-11	Coffee		
11-12	<p>Meaningful engagement with communities for a just transition in the Arctic: A workshop to share research outcomes and invite feedback from the audience</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Karin Buhmann (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark), Rachael Lorna Johnstone (Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland and University of Akureyri, Iceland), Dorothée Cambou (University of Helsinki, Finland)</p> <p>Moderator: Karin Buhmann (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark)</p>	<p>Hybrid Defence and Security (roundtable)</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Maria Ackrén (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland) Rasmus Leander (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland) Christoph Humrich (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) Mira Kleist (Kaya Partners, Greenland) (TBC)</p> <p>Moderator: Jeppe Strandsbjerg (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik Greenland and Royal Danish Defence College)</p>	<p>Governance of Antarctic Air Tourism</p> <p>Kees Bastmeijer (University of Groningen, the Netherlands), “The origin and progress of the current negotiation within the ATCM on a comprehensive and consistent framework for the regulation of tourism”</p> <p>Osamu Inagaki (Kobe University, Japan), “Legal issues concerning Antarctic air tourism under the Antarctic Treaty System”</p> <p>Yousra Mkanse (Wageningen University, the Netherlands), “Issues and concerns posed by the growth and diversification of Antarctic air tourism on environmental, safety, and other Antarctic Treaty System values”</p> <p>Moderator: Antje Neumann (University of Akureyri, Iceland)</p>
12-1	Lunch		
1-2	<p>GANG: Achievements and Challenges of Indigenous Autonomy</p> <p>Nicolò P. Alessi (UniDistance, Switzerland) and</p>	<p>Unveiling Green Injustice? Indigenous Rights, Migrant Workers, and Non-Human Recognition in the Arctic Transition</p>	<p>Decolonial Sociology of Law in a Nordic Context (roundtable)</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Ida Nafstad (Sociology of Law Department,</p>

	<p>Francesca Maria Cavalcant (University of Tilburg, The Netherlands), “Variations of indigenous peoples’ autonomy beyond consolidated paths: privatized autonomy and urban reserves”</p> <p>Alexander Osipov (The Åland Islands Peace Institute; non-resident fellow; Germany), “Setting the indigenous legal framework in Russia: agendas, agencies and rationalities”</p> <p>Sébastien Brodeur-Girard (Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (School of Indigenous Studies), Canada), Suzy Basile (Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (School of Indigenous Studies), Canada), “Between Rights and Recognition: Implementing UNDRIP in Greenland and Canada”</p> <p>Moderator: Maria Ackrén (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland)</p>	<p><u>Panellists:</u> Dorothee Cambou (University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law) Sade Mäntylä (University of Helsinki) Tero Kivinen (University of Helsinki) Berfin Osso (University of Helsinki)</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	<p>Lund University, Sweden) Michael Molavi (Sociology of Law Department, Lund University, Sweden)</p> <p>Moderator:</p>
2.10-3.10	<p>Regulation of Extractive Industries</p> <p>Dwight Newman (University of Saskatchewan, Canada), “Implications for Resource Projects of</p>	<p>Ice Governance as a Component of Global Polar Law</p> <p>Kirsty Langley (Asiaq (Greenland Survey), Greenland), “Greenlandic ice today</p>	<p>Emerging Issues in Law of the Sea</p> <p>Karin Buhmann (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, “Deep-Sea</p>

	<p>Transborder and Localized Indigenous Consultation/FPIC Processes in the Arctic”</p> <p>Seita Vesa (Center for Climate Change, Energy, and Environmental Law (CCEEL), University of Eastern Finland and the Finnish Environment Institute’s Climate Solutions Unit (SYKE)), “Critical Raw Materials, Sustainability, and Environmental Law in the Arctic”</p> <p>Mar Campins-Eritja (Faculty of Law, University of Barcelona, Spain), “Arctic critical minerals for a sustainable future: The EU–Greenland MoU and its legal implications”</p> <p>Helga Númadóttir (Stefansson Arctic Institute, M.A. in Polar Law from the University of Akureyri, Iceland), “Mining Encounters in South Greenland: Exploring Local Perceptions and Socioeconomic Dimensions of the Nalunaq Goldmine”</p> <p>Moderator: Kamrul Hossain</p>	<p>and tomorrow: Governance challenge”</p> <p>Corine Wood-Donnelly (Nord University, Norway), “Ice & self-determination: Norms, sovereignty & justice”</p> <p>John C. Moore (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland), “Geoengineering in the polar regions: Antarctic ice today and tomorrow”</p> <p>Miharu Hirano (Graduate School of Law, Kobe University, Japan), “Giving legal frames to ice: A value-based approach”</p> <p>Moderator: Akiho Shibata (Polar Cooperation Research Centre, Kobe University, Japan)</p>	<p>Mining: What a Business-and-Human-Rights Approach may Contribute”</p> <p>Chie Sato (Meiji University, School of Law, Japan), “Designating MPAs in the Arctic - Due Diligence Obligation under UNCLOS?”</p> <p>Niall Jansen (University of Akureyri, Iceland, Arctic Youth Network (AYN), “Submerged Rights: State-centrism in the 1982 LOSC as a challenge to Arctic Indigenous Self-determination”</p> <p>Moderator: Romain Chuffart (University of Akureyri, Iceland)</p>
3.10-3.30	Coffee		
3.30-4.30	International Law and Displaced Archives in	Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)	

	<p>Arctic Countries: Book presentation</p> <p>Rachael Lorna Johnstone (University of Akureyri, Iceland and Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland), “Interdisciplinary Research on Decolonising Archives: A Call and an Answer</p> <p>Bjarni Már Magnússon (Bifröst University, Iceland), “The role of the 1918 Danish – Icelandic Act of Union in the resolution of Icelandic archival claims in the 1920s”</p> <p>Rebecca Bourgeois (University of Alberta / Western University, Canada), “The Role of Archives in Reconciliation in Canada: Untangling Systemic Barriers to Contribute to Sustainable Change”</p> <p>Apostolos Tsiouvalas (UiT, The Arctic University of Norway), “The “Double Life” of Arctic Archives: Perpetuation of Normativity or Obsolescence on Display for the 1929 Thule Law of Northwest Greenland”</p> <p>Romain Chuffart (University of Akureyri, Iceland), “Bordering as Archives: Cross-border</p>	<p>Karen Scott (Faculty of Law, University of Canterbury, New Zealand), “Cold Cooperation: Reconciling the 2023 BBNJ Agreement and the Antarctic Treaty System”</p> <p>Kentaro Nishimoto (Tohoku University, Japan), “Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Ocean: The BBNJ Agreement and the Antarctic Treaty System”</p> <p>Osamu Inagaki (Kobe University, Japan), “The Significance of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement (CAOFA) in the Current Arctic Scientific Cooperation”</p> <p>Ekaterina Antsygina (Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea – A UiT Aurora Centre, Faculty of Law, UiT the Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø), “Interpreting the Non-Undermining Clause of the BBNJ Agreement: Restrictive or Complementary Roles for the COP within RFMO Competences?”</p>	
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	mobilities and self-determination in Sápmi Moderator: Timo Koivurova	Moderator: Yoshifumi Tanaka (Faculty of Law, Copenhagen University)	
18.00	Conference Dinner (additional charge)		

Time	Friday 24 th October 2025	
08.30-9.30	Working with and for Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic M. Sigvanna Tapqaq (Kawerak, Inc., Alaska/USA), “Building Together: Imagining a Circumpolar Inuit Law Association” Anna-Lise Kappel (Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland), “What sense does that make? – about the psychological work environment in Greenlandic workplaces.” Åsmund Aamaas (University of South-Eastern Norway, Norway), “Engaging with Saami perspectives in Norwegian teacher education: Practices and paths toward decolonial indigenization” Moderator: Romain Chuffart (University of Akureyri, Iceland)	Climate change and the polar regions Øyvind Ravna (Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway), “The Green Transition: Balancing Indigenous Rights Against Interventions Arising from the Right to a Healthy Environment” Louis Galo McDonough (Ghent University, Belgium), Jianping Guo (Xi’an Jiaotong University, China), “The ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change: Remaining Gaps and Challenges for Arctic Fisheries” Marlene Payva (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland), “Establishing interconnectedness between the Arctic and Small Island States” Rachael Lorna Johnstone (University of Akureyri, Iceland and Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland), “Just Transition in a Low-Carbon Economy: Making Sense of the Discourse in Iceland” Moderator: Sara Fusco (University of Akureyri, Iceland and University of Lapland, Finland)
9.40-10.40	Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Self-determination Diana J. Fox (Bridgewater State University, USA), “Toward Self-Determination: An Ethical Framework for Enhancing Engagement with and Support for Indigenous Peoples of the	Issues in International Relations Christoph Humrich (University Groningen, The Netherlands), “Autonomy, Democracy and Polar Law” Cécile Pelaudeix (Pacte Sciences Po Grenoble-UGA France), “The US, Denmark, Greenland and EU’s

	<p>Caribbean—Implications for the Polar Regions”</p> <p>Sara Fusco (University of Akureyri, Iceland and University of Lapland, Finland), “Whose Future? Rethinking Conservation Through Indigenous Sovereignty and Intergenerational Justice”</p> <p>Ekaterina Zymvalova (Mid Sweden University, Sweden), “Law and Language Revitalization: Saami Children’s Right to Language Education in Sweden, Norway, and Finland”</p> <p>Elena Kavanagh (University College Cork, Ireland), “Language Rights and Self-Determination in the Arctic: Identity Building Through Language in Arctic States”</p> <p>Moderator: Timo Koivurova</p>	<p>securitizations of Greenland: what options for a (post-colonial) security architecture?”</p> <p>Judy Boyd (The Arctic Institute, USA), “Untangling Polycrisis: A Framework for Complex Crisis Analysis in the Modern World”</p> <p>Pavel Tkach (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland), “Arctic 2035: Russian legal vision for the future of the International Arctic Governance. Russia in the Arctic Council and/or BRICS in the Russian Arctic?”</p> <p>Moderator: Maria Ackrén (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland)</p>
10.40-11	Coffee	
11-12	<p>Rights of Indigenous Peoples and resources:</p> <p>Jade Owen (Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Canada), “Supporting Inuit Self-Determination in Commercial Fisheries”</p> <p>Lotta Viikari (University of Lapland, Finland), “Food Sovereignty Of Sámi Reindeer Herders & (Un)Sustainable Space Activities”</p> <p>Elisabeth Alber (Eurac Research) and Eva Maria Belser (University of Fribourg), “Who owns natural resources? Conceptual frameworks and comparative insights”</p>	<p>GANG: Law and Agency – Nordic and Global Experiences</p> <p>Maria Ackrén (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland), “Nordic cooperation in troubling waters?”</p> <p>Annegret Eppler (Hochschule Kehl, Germany), “Autonomy and Secessionism in Asymmetrical Federal Systems”</p> <p>Hasan Akintug (Centre for Nordic Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland), “NATO in the eyes of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland.”</p> <p>Bjarni Már Magnússon (Bifröst University, Iceland), “Lessons from the 1918 Act of Union Between Iceland and Denmark in a Changing Arctic Geopolitical Landscape”</p>

	<p>Medes Malaihollo (University of Groningen, The Netherlands), “Different Trends on ‘Consent’ in EU Law and International Human Rights Law: Implications for the Sámi in Finland?”</p> <p>Moderator: Kamrul Hossain (University of Lapland, Finland)</p>	<p>Moderator: Maria Ackrén (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland)</p>
12.00-1245	Lunch	
1245-1345	<p>New Insights in Polar Law</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Maja Normann Sandgreen, Debora Kleist, Timo Jeremiassen, Winnie Harder Evaldsen, Norja-Celine Walther, and Ditte Lillholm Post Weibull (Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland) and Billy Starkey, Emma Lipoff, Jolanda Lipu, Katarina Wellerstedt, and Mathieu Gelin (University of Akureyri, Iceland)</p> <p>Moderator: Rachael Lorna Johnstone (University of Akureyri, Iceland, and Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland)</p>	<p>Environmental law and policy</p> <p>Tomohiko Kobayashi (Otaru University of Commerce, Japan), “Public Morals, Trade Measures, and Small Cetacean Hunting in the Arctic: The Need for Interstitial Legal Norms”</p> <p>Gor Samvel (UiT-The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law), Apostolos Tsiouvalas (UiT-The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law), “Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment in the Institutional Memory of the Arctic Council: International Law and Policy Revisited”</p> <p>D. S. Pensley (Widener University Commonwealth Law School, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A), “Multi-Level Regulation of PFAS in the U.S. Arctic and Subarctic”</p> <p>Adriana Craciun (Boston University, USA), “The Independence of Greenland’s Plant Life”</p> <p>Moderator: Antje Neumann (University of Akureyri, Iceland)</p>
1355-1455	<p>Emerging Voices: Growing Our Own Inuit Lawyers and the Future of Sovereignty in Inuit Nunaat</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p>	<p>Global Polar Law:</p> <p>Kanagavalli Suryanarayanan (UiT Norges arktiske universitet, Norway), “Legal Transplant of the Arctic Model of</p>

	<p>M. Sigvanna Tapqaq (Kawerak, Inc., Alaska/USA) Lisa Navraq Ellanna (Mitchell Hamline School of Law recent law graduate, Kawerak, Inc., Alaska/USA) Allaryce Agloinga (University of Seattle School of Law, Kawerak, Inc., Alaska/USA)</p> <p>Moderator:</p>	<p>Cooperation in the Third Pole Region: Science Diplomacy and Neocolonialism”</p> <p>Patrick Flamm (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany), Jonas Franken (Technical University Darmstadt, Germany), “A cable to Antarctica: Exploring the Geopolitical Dimension of Connecting the Last Frontier of the Material Internet”</p> <p>Yuanyuan Ren (The University of Dayton School of Law, USA), “Historic Titles and Historic Rights in the Law of the Sea: A Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) Inquiry”</p> <p>Moderator: Corine Wood-Donnelly (Nord University, Norway)</p>
1455-1510	Coffee	
3.10-4.10	<p>Plenary: Asia and International Polar Law</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Julia Xue, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China Akiho Shibata, Kobe University, Japan Kamrul Hossain, University of Lapland, Finland Michelle Lim, Singapore Management University, Singapore</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Nengye Liu, Associate Professor of Law, Singapore Management University</p>	
4.10-4.40	<p>Closing Plenary</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Akiho Shibata (Polar Cooperation Research Centre, Kobe University, Japan) Timo Koivurova (University of Lapland, Finland) Trevor Daya-Winterbottom (University of Waikato, Aotearoa/New Zealand)</p> <p>Moderator: Maria Ackrén (Nasiffik, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland)</p>	