

2018 annual report

rising to the challenge of a
**DYNAMIC
ARCTIC**



THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

CENTER FOR CIRCUMPOLAR SECURITY STUDIES

thearcticinstitute.org

creativity. independence. innovation.

THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

Who We Are

Established in 2011 and incorporated in 2015, The Arctic Institute is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization headquartered in Washington, D.C with a network of researchers across the world. **We envision a world in which the diverse and complex issues facing Arctic security are identified, understood, and innovatively resolved.** Rigorous, qualitative, and comprehensive research is the Institute's foundation upon which our global team develops solutions to challenges and injustices in the circumpolar north.

What We Do

The Arctic Institute's mission is to help shape policy for a secure, just, and sustainable Arctic through objective, multidisciplinary research of the highest caliber. Our research agenda is constantly evolving to reflect a rapidly changing Arctic. Institute projects, publications, and events span the most pertinent security issues of the circumpolar region, developed by direct engagement and collaboration with young scholars, emerging regional actors, and northern communities. We provide freely available data, analysis, and recommendations to policymakers, researchers, the media, and the interested public about circumpolar security challenges. Beyond our work, the Institute is building the future of Arctic research through partnerships with organizations across the globe.

Where We Work

We are a think tank for the 21st century. Our network of multidisciplinary scholars work in North America, Scandinavia, and continental Europe and represent expertise in many different disciplines. Together, we are dedicated to research of and engagement in the many dimensions of Arctic security.

USA

Boston, Massachusetts
San Francisco, California
Washington, DC

Canada

Guelph, Ontario
Hamilton, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, British Columbia

Europe

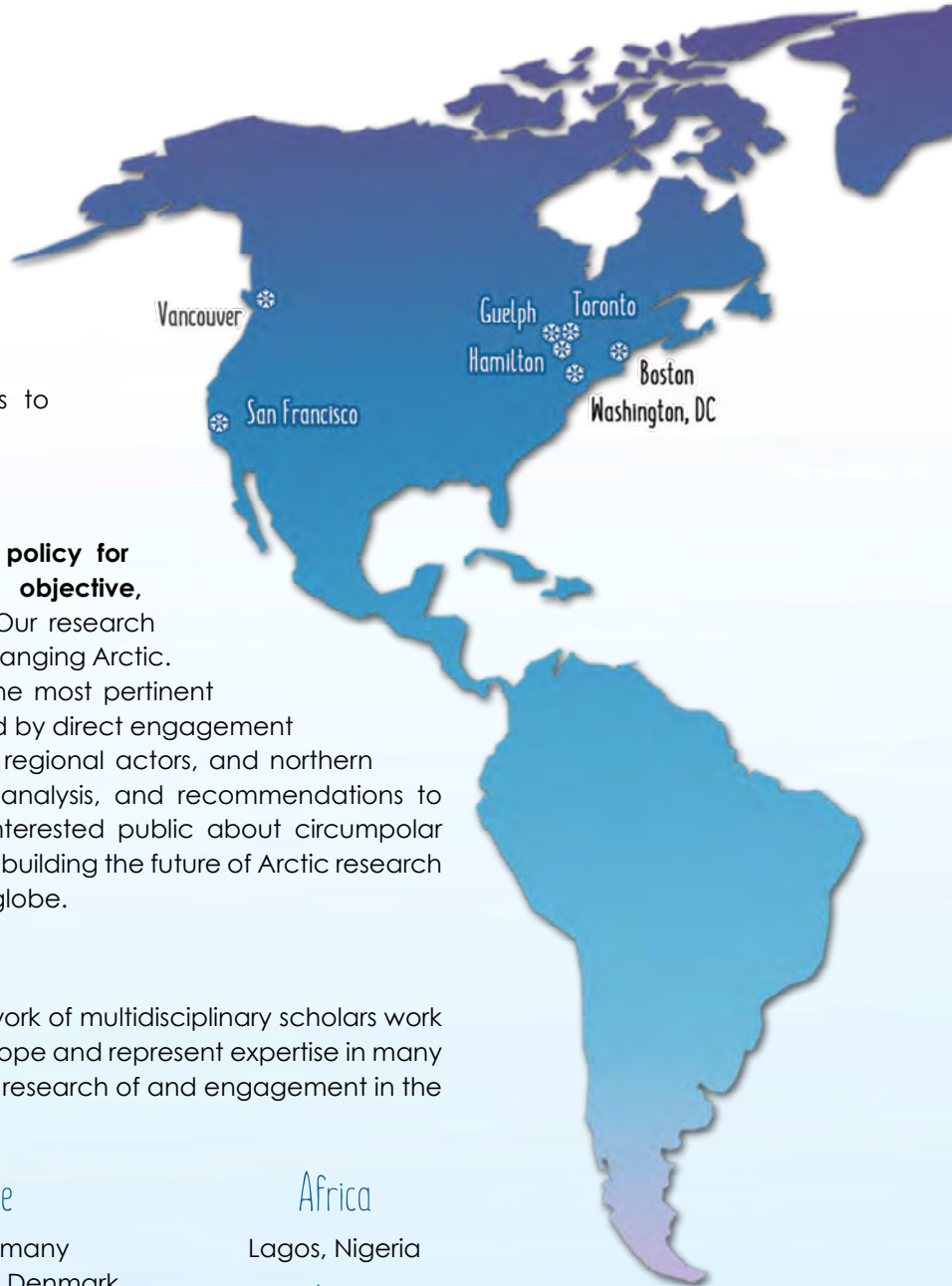
Berlin, Germany
Copenhagen, Denmark
Ghent, Belgium
London, United Kingdom
Oslo, Norway
Tallinn, Estonia
Vienna, Austria

Africa

Lagos, Nigeria

Asia

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Kobe, Japan





looking back on 2018

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A Letter from Our President

A commitment to courage & cooperation

The annual US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Arctic Report Card, released this past December, delivered a stark message: the impacts of climate change are already forcing the circumpolar region to undergo an unprecedented transition in human history. **As air and sea temperatures warm at record-breaking speeds, the Arctic has lost 95 percent loss of its oldest documented sea ice.** The Arctic Report Card was only the latest installment in a protracted series of dire climate science reporting published in 2018.

To act ambitiously on climate change, and to address the human, military, and environmental security threats multiplied by that warming, requires **the courage to pursue rigorous, cutting-edge research and a commitment to put that research into cooperative action.**

As the region's only think-and-do-tank, The Arctic Institute is rising to that challenge.

In 2018, The Arctic Institute's international team of thirty scholars applied sustainability metrics to shipping, mining, and energy development; cast a critical gaze on the security strategies of Russia and China; and dove deeper to explore the socio-economic ramifications of snow crab and seal pup litigation. But it is not enough to courageously investigate the challenges of the Arctic.

Knowledge is power only if it is made freely accessible and used towards cooperative solutions.

This past year, The Arctic Institute published more than 80 commentaries, articles, reports, and multimedia posts. We continued to serve our audiences with a curated weekly newsletter of Arctic news each Wednesday and an analytical roundup of the most pertinent stories each Friday. To reach even further, in 2018 we launched The Arctic This Week app, delivering the top five news stories to subscribers' smartphones before breakfast each Monday.

The Institute's influence reached beyond our pages to published opinions in *The Guardian* and *Scientific American*; expert interviews with the BBC, NPR, and *The Economist*; and testimonies at the European Commission and US Senate.

With events across Europe, The Arctic Institute reaffirmed its commitment to working collaboratively across the Atlantic. We launched a new series of networking events for young professionals interested in the Arctic in Oslo in November, and together with our partners at Nord University in northern Norway, The Institute's team established co-established a thematic network on smart cities. Bridging the pole, we created new partnership with Alaska's Institute of the North



and Norway's High North Center for Business and Governance, to explore opportunities for blue growth together.

But in order to inform the creation policy for a just, sustainable, and secure region in an era of rapid change, we must strive towards evermore impactful and inclusive programming.

In 2019, The Arctic Institute will continue our commitment to acting courageously and cooperatively across the Arctic – we must if we are to take seriously the climate change impacts that are already costing billions of dollars in damages, devastating family livelihoods, and inflicting irreplaceable cultural loss on the four million people that call the Arctic home.

Victoria Herrmann
President & Managing Director

A Letter from Our Chairman

Welcome to 2019 & a dynamic Arctic

I write to you as our year begins and the persistent and very public political challenges of the United States continue to distract many in the policy world toward other regions. That said, we maintain our focus and attention on the Arctic and High North by continuing to enable regional collaborations and to empower researchers of circumpolar security as part of an enduring commitment to The Arctic Institute's mission in the midst of such dynamic political change.

This year and, particularly, heading into the next U.S. general election cycle, our Board, myself, and the entire Institute team have reinforced our commitment to our work, and now would like to take the time to highlight our 2018 successes.

We began our year by strengthening our Board of Directors, welcoming the Honorable Fran Ulmer, current Chair of the Arctic Research Commission, and Jim Gamble, former Executive Director of Aleut International Association and current Senior Arctic Program Officer at Pacific Environment. With these internal changes, The Arctic Institute took the opportunity to broaden its public face once again. We improved our interactive website, a powerful update from our previous site, and shared over 80 new publications. Beyond our own writing, TAI experts and their research were featured on the BBC, New York Times, Al Jazeera, Reuters, The Guardian, and other global news outlets. The Arctic Institute held events across Europe in 2018, and Institute researchers reached further to present their knowledge at public events across the world. For all this work, we ranked 74 out of over 1800 think tanks in the United States by the University of Pennsylvania's Go To Global Think Tank Index.

As Chairman of the Arctic Institute Board, I've had the opportunity to watch as talented scholars and researchers have come to our doors, immerse themselves in a rich Arctic experience, and maintain their leadership roles throughout society and the world. These young men and women present



exactly the kind of leadership Arctic countries, their allies, and the region at large desperately need, and **it will be my pleasure to work closely with the Arctic Institute over the next year to help this program continue to produce the bountiful scholarly work and policy measure recommendations it has for more than five years.**

For the past several decades, we've watched a concerned bipartisan movement in America work to provide leadership in government and have an impact on culture. Too frequently, the results are underwhelming. Many of America's leaders lack character or depth of knowledge, and many US institutions do not possess the level of thoughtful coordination needed

to truly engage and renew a focus on an ever-changing Arctic.

We at the Arctic Institute seek to fill this void by producing a network of informed, thoughtful, and committed men and women steeped in knowledge of the Arctic Region and related issues and empowering them to work lasting transformative change in Arctic policy and efforts. **With hundreds of experts, community champions, and emerging leaders already part of our network of inspiring research and events, we look forward to connecting even more Arctic scholars with much needed publications, research projects, and capacity building opportunities in 2019!**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DMS'.

David M. Slayton
Chairman of the Arctic Institute Board

2018 by the Numbers



15,500

Twitter followers



3,400

Facebook followers



rank out of 2,000 in
University of Pennsylvania's 2018
Global Go To Think Tank Index



subscribers to TAI's
weekly newsletter

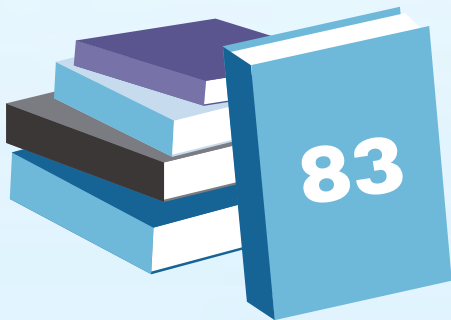


90

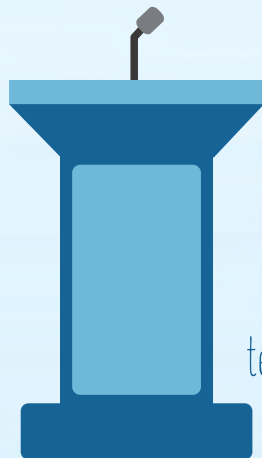
countries represented
in our subscribers



Arctic stories shared through
The Arctic This Week



article, report, &
multimedia publications



50+

presentations
made by TAI
team members



500+

people attended events across
North America & Europe



Communications & Digital Media: Informing the Dialogue & Influencing the Debate

High North News

In a time when the media's critical role of raising awareness and elevating diverse voices is being challenged, The Arctic Institute is committed to providing quality and in-depth exposure to Arctic news stories, events, and research for a global audience. **Over the past year, The Arctic Institute's team published over 100 articles in High North News, an independent newspaper published by the High North Center at Nord University.** From interviews with scientists on the cutting-edge of permafrost research to conversations with policymakers on tackling plastic pollution in the Arctic Ocean, our team used 2018 to widen the media dialogue and expand readers' direct access to those studying, working, and living in the region.

The Arctic This Week

For many, reading through a full newspaper dedicated to Arctic issues can be time-consuming during a busy work week. To service those on a tight schedule, **Research Associate Erika Vartdal manages our dedicated intern team to publish the Institute's flagship newsletter, The Arctic This Week (TATW), each Wednesday sent to thousands of subscribers in over 90 countries.** With over 100 news stories hyperlinked and organized into easily accessible categories, TATW helps to inform all those interested in the circumpolar north – from undergraduate students to state ambassadors. In 2017, we inaugurated our successful Friday news roundup, Take Five, giving readers an analytical redux of the five biggest circumpolar stories of the week. And in 2018, **we extended our reach even further with The Arctic This Week app to deliver bite-sized Arctic analysis every Monday before breakfast.**

Media Appearances

To inform the public debate with rigorous, research-based expertise, The Arctic Institute team's commentary is regularly featured across print, radio, and television media outlets. 2018 witnessed the first container ship to navigate an Arctic sea route. The Arctic Institute was at the ready to provide a nuanced take, with Founder Malte Humpert and Senior Fellow Ryan Uljua appearing on the BBC, Washington Post, and Reuters, among others, throughout the summer. Throughout the year, Managing Director Victoria Herrmann pressed the importance of addressing climate change head on through opinion pieces in Scientific American and The Guardian. And in late fall as the Norwegian snow-crab dispute headed up, Senior Fellow Andreas Østhagen appeared on several national news outlets, including Sysla, Dagens Naeringsliv, and Hgnar.no.

Social Media

Access to our scholars, to our research, and to our reading list is engaging a global audience of Arctic decisionmakers, knowledge holders, and lifelong learners. As we grow our Twitter outreach to over fifteen thousand followers, and our Facebook page to over three thousand subscribers, **The Arctic Institute's social media team continues to explore innovative outreach techniques.** Led by Senior Fellow Ragnhild Groenning and Social Media Manager Lillian Hussong, our Instagram engagement is connecting virtual outreach with in-person networking. We have begun to showcase when and where team members are present at events, conferences, and meetings across North America and Europe, and inviting our followers to meet us in person for a coffee and conversation about the circumpolar north.

Research & Publications

As the premiere platform for publishing by emerging and established Arctic voices alike, **The Arctic Institute's website pushed publishing boundaries from January to December of 2018.** In over 80 commentaries, reports, infographics, and articles, The Arctic Institute brought together career diplomats, scientists, youth leaders, practitioners, and academics in a vibrant virtual dialogue on some of the most pressing challenges and promising opportunities of the circumpolar north.

Educate

Despite its importance, Arctic sea ice terms are often misused or misunderstood in stories about sea ice extent, sea ice area, and the impacts a changing climate has on the seasons of sea ice. To provide educational materials around these issues, **The Arctic Institute began 2018 by creating visual field guides to Arctic sea ice and glacial ice to help readers identify different types and terms of sea ice when reading about their dynamic nature.** By pairing graphics with scientific definitions, our booklets not only provided our audiences a better understanding of the role Arctic ice cover plays in maintaining Earth's temperature; it also provided images for educators to use in Arctic ice lessons for students of all ages.

Explore

Traveling from Nuuk, Greenland to Copenhagen, Denmark, Senior Fellow Marc Jacobsen, Editor-in-Chief Kathrin Stephen, and Managing Director Victoria Herrmann **took part in a two-year research project to set out a framework for understanding Arctic sustainability as a political concept.** In fall 2018, The Arctic Institute released their findings to coincide with the release of the project's book, *The Politics of Sustainability in the Arctic: Reconfiguring Identity, Space and Time*, published by Routledge. Exploring the sustainability of political decisions around shipping, mining, and energy, Institute scholars pushed discipline and geographic boundaries to empirically investigate how sustainability is given new meanings in the postcolonial Arctic.

Elevate

In recent years, women researchers, scientists, and local champions have elevated their visibility and empowered their voices across the world. The Arctic is no exception. With powerful organizations like 500 Women Scientists (500womenscientists.org) and local movements like Women in Polar Science (twitter.com/womeninpolarsci) and Plan A (genderisnotplanb.com) growing their reach and impact, women are sharing their personal narratives, highlighting their contributions, and supporting each other like never before. During December 2018, **the first commentary of The Arctic Institute's *Breaking the Arctic's Ice Ceiling* series kicked off our team's contribution to this movement.** In a series of commentaries, articles, and multimedia posts, The Arctic Institute is highlighting the work of women working and living in the Arctic. From women climate change champions to being vegan at sea, we are using our publishing platform to elevate a more inclusive Arctic dialogue.



Partnerships & Events

AlaskaNor

With the rapid changes taking place across the Arctic, **questions are being asked about the profitability of northern economic ventures, in tandem with conditions for local and regional development.** The boom and bust cycles of Arctic activity are both a blessing and a curse for Arctic regions. Amongst these, Alaska and northern Norway share similar characteristics of a dependence on and potential for maritime industries and the blue economy. Building off a small project from Arctic-2030, 'Norway-Alaska Economic Development Cooperation in the Maritime Arctic', in 2018 The Arctic Institute began a three-year project in cooperation with Nord University and the Institute of the North, Alaska. The project, **AlaskaNor, convenes scholars, students, and practitioners across the Atlantic to explore commonalities and differences between Alaska and North Norway,** with the purpose of pinpointing room for further collaboration.

Smart Cities

Globally, the smart city concept has been developed as a method to portray cities as attractive places for working and living, promising better life quality through the smart management of city assets and the use of modern technology. In the Arctic, smart cities can be a crucial step towards a sustainable future, contributing to 'smarter' economic, social, and environmental development. The Arctic Institute's team is on the cutting edge of circumpolar smart city research. **Together with Nord University, The Arctic Institute launched the University of the Arctic (UArctic) Thematic Network on Smart Societies in the High North in 2018.** The network is bringing together scholars, public officials, and business leaders in the Arctic to research, promote, and disseminate knowledge around smart cities and societies for more inclusive and equitable approaches to northern development.

High North Dialogue

Since 2007, the High North Dialogue conference series has brought together emerging and established Arctic leaders to Bodø, Norway to discuss the dimensions of the changes taking place in the Arctic. In 2018, The Arctic Institute helped bring hundreds of students, diplomats, and business professionals again to the high north to learn from and debate with different perspectives on the future of the Arctic. **This year, we introduced a High North Young Entrepreneur competition.** Three start-ups had an opportunity to pitch their business ideas to 350 conference participants and compete for the main prize. **Corey Ellis, co-Founder of The Growcer, won the 50 000 NOK award for creating a modular food solution.** By taking lightly used shipping containers, the Growcer is able to create a state-of-the-art farming system using hydroponic technology and precision climate controls to reduce Arctic food security.



People

The Arctic Institute is led by President and Managing Director Victoria Herrmann. To ensure transparency and organization-wide consensus, senior management collaborates with a four-person Leadership Team of Senior Fellows. Together with the Board of Directors and distinguished Board of Advisers, they **guide the Institute's research agenda and foster an environment where innovation, diversity of thought, and multidisciplinary thrive.**

Board of Advisors

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Senior Adviser – Climate Change
GRID – Arendal Polar Centre

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Partner, Group Greenland Aps.

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International Institute for Sustainable Development

Jim Gamble

Senior Arctic Program Officer
Pacific Environment

Malte Humpert

Founder, Non-voting Member
The Arctic Institute

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Research Team

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Lillian Hussong

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Research Intern

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