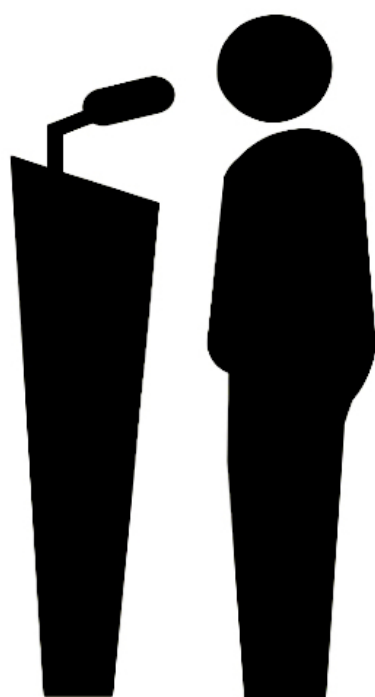


# ARCTIC FUTURES SYMPOSIUM 2020

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS  
AND MODERATORS





### **Philippe Archambault**

*Scientific Director, ArcticNet; Professor of Marine Biology, Université Laval*

Dr. Philippe Archambault is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Université Laval, in Québec City. He is also a Scientific Director of the Canadian Network of Centers of Excellence, ArcticNet. He is a researcher who strives to link fundamental biodiversity questions and theoretical research on global change and its effects on ecosystems functioning to applied science and policy-making. His work has been used to develop Marine Protected Areas in Canada. His well-known reputation in Research Network leadership is based on his headship of different national and international initiatives such as the multisectoral Network of Innovation called 'Notre Golfe', or as chairman of the 4th World Conference of Marine Biodiversity. He is on the International Science Advisory Board of Ocean Networks Canada and a benthic expert on the Circumpolar Marine Biodiversity program which is a cornerstone program of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group. The result of his research on connectivity of marine biodiversity at the planetary level was selected as one of the 10 discovery of 2019 by the Quebec Science magazine. He is strongly engaged in training the next generation of marine scientists.



### **Ellen Avard**

*Director, Nunavik Research Centre*

Dr. Ellen Avard's academic background is in Environmental Studies and Geographical Sciences; specifically, in northern community development and food security. She was appointed Director of the Nunavik Research Centre (NRC) in 2014. The Nunavik Research Centre is an Inuit body that was created in 1978 to monitor and collect land use and ecological data in the Nunavik region - the Inuit region of Northern Quebec, Canada. The NRC is located in Kuujuaq, the administrative capital of Nunavik, and operates within the Department of Environment, Wildlife & Research of Makivik Corporation. Today, the majority of the work carried out by NRC staff involves conducting scientific research on wildlife (i.e. country food) and the natural environment. The NRC also administers projects and programs that directly respond to the research needs of Inuit in Nunavik communities as well as in neighbouring regions. The NRC engages in numerous collaborative research projects and regularly partners with other research institutions, universities and all levels of government in order to address issues that are of direct relevance to Nunavimmiut.



### **Trevor Bell**

*Geographer and University Research Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Founder and Director of SmartICE*

Trevor Bell is a geographer and University Research Professor (Memorial University of Newfoundland) whose current work focuses on climate change adaptations. His pioneering research on climate variability and change in Inuit Nunangat has had significant, scholarly, community and policy impacts. He has twice received the Arctic Inspiration Prize for knowledge-to-action plans that benefit Arctic Peoples. His most recent partnership – SmartICE – has transformed into a social enterprise recognized by the United Nations for its novel climate solution. Trevor is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.



### **Anne Bergenfelt**

*Senior Advisor in the Cabinet of High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Joseph Borrell Fontelles*

Anne Bergenfelt is a former Danish Diplomat with more than 20 years high level institutional and political experience in 5 different cabinets in the European Commission. After having joined the Danish Foreign Service at the Danish Permanent Representation to the EU as a Transport Counsellor, she started in 1996 at the European Commission by joining as a member the Cabinet of Transport Commissioner, Rt. Hon Neil Kinnock .

In 1999 she joined the Cabinet of Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom. As Member of Ms. Wallstrom Cabinet, Ms. Bergenfelt and in 2004 she continued working in the Cabinet of Vice President Margot Wallstrom, Inter-institutional affairs and Communication, as Senior Advisor and later as deputy head of Cabinet.

In 2010 Anne Bergenfelt joined the Cabinet of Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, Climate action as Senior Advisor and later as deputy head of Cabinet. After 4 years in the Directorate General for Climate Action, where she headed the European Climate Diplomacy, she joined as Senior Advisor in 2019, the cabinet of the High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell. Anne Bergenfelt has a Law Degree from the University of Copenhagen as well as Graduate Studies in Political Science at Georgetown University in Washington, DC

**Doris Carson**

*PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Umeå University*

Doris Carson is assistant professor at the Department of Geography at Umeå University in northern Sweden and an affiliated researcher with the Arctic Research Centre ARCUM. Doris is a human geographer with an interest in the socio-economic future of small villages in sparsely populated northern or Arctic peripheries. With a background in tourism and regional innovation systems in remote Australia, Doris came to Sweden in 2014 to conduct research on issues relating to changing population mobilities in the inland north of Sweden and their implications for new social and economic development in small village communities. Her work has since been financed through several projects from the Swedish Research Council Formas and has broadly focused on three streams: 1) the processes that facilitate or hinder the transition from 'extractive' to 'attractive' industries, such as tourism and lifestyle-related industries; 2) the role of mobile and temporary populations in stimulating local innovation dynamics; and 3) the interplay between urbanisation, mobility and socio-economic change in the sparsely populated north. Recent publications have, for example, focused on the ongoing demographic and economic transitions occurring in small northern mining communities, or the contributions of international migrant entrepreneurs to post-productive development in the north. Current work examines what the continuing growth of regional cities in the Arctic might mean in terms of new development opportunities for smaller settlements in the sparsely populated hinterland. You can find more information about her research and publications on <https://www.umu.se/en/staff/doris-carson/>.

**Joseph Cheek**

*Project Manager, Science Communications Officer, International Polar Foundation*

Joseph Cheek is the Project Manager for the Arctic Futures Symposium at the International Polar Foundation (IPF). He also handles polar science communication at the IPF, where he communicates about research at the world's first zero-emission research station, the Princess Elisabeth Antarctica, and conducts interviews with world-renowned polar researchers with the goal of making polar science more accessible to the general public and policymakers. He has also represented the IPF in a number of EU-financed polar projects. From 2017 until 2019, he was involved in organising stakeholder workshops for the EU Arctic Policy Assessment Project led by the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland. He holds a Masters in International Relations from the Brussels School of International Studies.



### **Marie-Anne Coninsx**

*Former Ambassador at Large for the Arctic, European Union*

Marie-Anne Coninsx has been Ambassador at Large for the Arctic since September 2017. Previously, she was the EU Ambassador to Canada (2013-2017), and before this she served for four years as the EU Ambassador to Mexico. She has served in EU Delegations in New York (US) and Geneva (CH), and has extensive experience in multilateral issues. Ambassador Coninsx has been an official of the EU since 1984. She began her career in the Legal Service of the European Commission and worked 12 consecutive years as a Staff Member at Cabinets of three Commissioners. She also worked at the External Relations Department at EU HQ, overseeing relations between the European Union and Latin America. Ambassador Coninsx studied law at Gent University in Belgium and completed her post-graduate studies at Cambridge University (UK) and at the European University Centre in Nancy (France). Ambassador Coninsx is Belgian. She is fluent in Dutch, French, English, German and Spanish, and understands basic Portuguese and Italian.



### **James P. DeHart**

*U.S. Coordinator for the Arctic Region*

Jim DeHart is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with 28 years of experience as a U.S. diplomat. He holds the rank of Minister Counselor. Jim was appointed as U.S. Coordinator for the Arctic Region in July, 2020. He brings significant experience in regional security, civilian-military cooperation, and international negotiations. A hallmark of his career has been close collaboration with U.S. allies and partners to advance our shared interests and values.

As Senior Advisor for Security Negotiations and Agreements from 2019-2020, Jim led the negotiation of status of forces, defense cooperation, and burden-sharing agreements worldwide. He served twice in Afghanistan – as Assistant Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul (2018-2019) and in Panjshir Province as Director of the only civilian-led U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Team (2009-2010). From 2015–2018, Jim served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Oslo, Norway, with extended periods as Chargé d’Affaires. Previously, he was Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) where he oversaw assistance programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan and global programs targeting corruption, money laundering, and organized crime. From 2010-2013, Jim was Director of the Office of

Afghanistan Affairs reporting to the Department's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP).

Jim was a Rusk Fellow at Georgetown University where he taught a graduate-level course on NATO enlargement and wrote for publication. He served as Director for Central Asia on the National Security Council Staff at the White House and as Deputy Director for Caucasus and Central Asian Affairs at the State Department. He worked for two Under Secretaries of State as Special Assistant for Europe and Eurasia and served overseas at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium; in Melbourne, Australia; and in Istanbul, Turkey. He also served as desk officer for Greece and in the State Department Operations Center.

Jim was raised in a Foreign Service family in Australia, Hong Kong, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Washington, DC and Central Oregon. He holds a B.A. from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington and a Masters in International Affairs from The Elliott School at George Washington University.



### **Stéphane Dion**

*Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the EU and Europe, and Canada's Ambassador to Germany*

Stéphane Dion presented his credentials as Canada's Ambassador to Germany on June 6, 2017. Prior to his appointment, M. Dion was Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs from November 2015 until January 2017, where he championed Canadian leadership in the world on crucial global interests including promotion of universal human rights, peace and stability efforts, the global climate challenge and Canada's commitment to multilateralism.

He was previously Minister of the Environment from 2004 to 2005, when he secured what is praised as one of the greenest budgets in the history of Canada and, in 2005, chaired the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP11/MOP1) where he reconciled the diverging interests of member countries so that decisions could be taken to effectively implement the Kyoto Protocol.

As Minister responsible for Official Languages (2001-2003), he crafted and launched the Action Plan for Official Languages, still used as a reference today.

Serving as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs between 1996 and 2003, longer than any other Canadian since Confederation, he played a primary role promoting Canadian unity.

In 2006, Mr. Dion was elected as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and became Leader of the Official Opposition in the Canadian House of Commons, a position that he retained until 2008. M. Dion



served as a Member of Parliament first in 1996 and was re-elected seven consecutive times.

Before entering politics, Stéphane Dion taught Political Science at Université de Moncton in 1984, then at Université de Montréal from 1984 to 1995. He has authored many scientific articles and books on Public Administration, Organizational Studies, Political Institutions and Environmental Policies. He also sat on the External Advisory Board of the Yale Climate and Energy Institute from 2011 until November 2015.

Born in Quebec City, Canada, he studied at Université Laval before obtaining a Doctorate in Sociology from the Institut d'études politiques in Paris, France. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Carlos III University of Madrid.



**Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway*

Ine Eriksen Søreide is Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway. She was Minister of Defence from 2013 to 2017. Before that, she served as a member of the Storting (Norwegian parliament) for 12 years. From 2009 to 2013, she chaired the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. In the same period, she was also Head of the Delegation for Relations with the European Parliament as well as Head of the European Consultative Committee. From 2005 to 2009, Ms Eriksen Søreide chaired the Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs.

Ms Eriksen Søreide started her political career in 1996 as a member of the Central Committee of the Young Conservatives. From 2000 to 2004, she was Chair of the Young Conservatives. She was a member of the Conservative Party Executive Committee from 2004 to 2014. Ms Eriksen Søreide has a graduate degree in Law from the University of Tromsø. She was born in 1976 and grew up in Strømmen, just outside Oslo.



**Anu Fredrikson**

*Executive Director, Arctic Frontiers*

Anu Fredrikson is the Executive Director of Arctic Frontiers, one of the largest global arenas for discussions on the Arctic. Arctic Frontiers is an organization aiming to set the agenda, linking policy, business and science for responsible and sustainable development of the Arctic. Established in 2007, Arctic Frontiers is headquartered in Tromsø, Norway.

Ms. Fredrikson has vast experience working with Arctic issues. As the first Director of Arctic Economic Council (AEC) she was highly involved in building up a new international organization and leading its work from 2016 until 2020. In her role at the AEC, Ms. Fredrikson led the organization's operations and worked hands-on with the pan-Arctic business community. Facilitating Arctic business-to-business activities and providing advice and a business perspective to the policy makers, formed a central part of her work.

Ms. Fredrikson has also experience from Arctic policy making. Prior to joining the AEC in 2016, Ms. Fredrikson worked as an Advisor in Political Affairs and Arctic Policy at the Embassy of Finland in Oslo. In addition to Arctic policy and trade promotion, her portfolio focused on foreign and security policy, questions related to energy and economy, climate and development policies.

Ms. Fredrikson is originally from Oulu, Finland. She has a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Tampere in Finland and holds a *Certificat d'Etudes Politiques* from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lille in France. She has also studied in the USA and Norway.



#### **Einar Gunnarsson**

*Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Iceland; Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials*

Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson has been working with the Icelandic MFA's Arctic Affairs Division since August 2018 preparing for Iceland's Chairmanship. Prior to that, he served as Iceland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 2015 where he, amongst other responsibilities, chaired the Third Committee of the General Assembly during its 72nd session.

Mr. Gunnarsson was the Permanent Secretary of State of the MFA from 2009 until 2014, dealing with the aftermath of the economic crisis of 2008. Before serving as Permanent Secretary of State, Mr. Gunnarsson held various positions in the Icelandic Foreign Service, such as Director of International Trade Negotiations, Director of Personnel, Deputy Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Geneva, Counsellor at the Mission of Iceland to the EU in Brussels, Counsellor in the External Trade Department and Legal Advisor in the Defence Department in the MFA.

After finishing his law studies from the University of Iceland in 1992, Mr. Gunnarsson worked as a lawyer and a District Court Advocate at a private law firm in Reykjavik until he joined the Foreign Service in 1996.



**Hjálmar Hátún**

*Senior Research Scientist at the Faroe Marine Research Institute and  
Lecturer at the University of the Faroe Islands*

Hjálmar is a senior research scientist (PhD in Physical Oceanography) at the Faroe Marine Research Institute (FAMRI) and a lecturer at the University of the Faroe Islands.

His research focuses on the large-scale oceanic circulation in the subpolar North Atlantic and its impact on marine ecosystems. He has illustrated how the size and circulation intensity of the North Atlantic subpolar gyre regulates temperature, salinities, nutrient concentrations, the abundance key zooplankton species, stock sizes spawning distribution and feeding migration routes of pelagic fish stocks (blue whiting and mackerel), the breeding success of seabirds and the number of pilot whales. Hjálmar brings in large-scale indices like the *gyre index* to collectively discuss key trends in several components of this vast pelagic complex. In addition, he suggests that the adjacent shelf ecosystems should not be studied separately, but rather integrated in a bigger perspective which includes the oceanic waters connecting these shelves.

Currently Dr. Hátún continues his research on the impact of the subpolar gyre on the marine climate and ecosystems, and he is also involved in research on the Atlantic Inflows towards the Arctic and the overflow across the Greenland-Scotland Ridge – a key branch of the ThermoHaline Circulation system.

**Arne Holm**

*Editor in Chief, High North News at the High North Center, Nord  
University*

Holm works as executive editor of the High North News, an independent newspaper published by the High North Center at the Nord University in Bodø, Norway.

Holm has had a long and prominent journalistic career and has worked for some of Norway's leading media companies. In addition, he has published several books. He has won several national awards for outstanding journalism.

Holm comes from Bodø, and is thus a northerner by birth. He has spent several years on Svalbard, which has added to his extensive knowledge of the Arctic.

Holm has been employed at the High North Center since 2007.



### **Margretha Jacobsen**

*Representative of the Faroe Islands to the Arctic Council*

Margretha Jacobsen holds the position of Senior Arctic Official of the Faroe Islands in the Arctic Council. Prior to joining the Foreign Service Ms Jacobsen worked with foreign trade promotion and the national branding of the Faroe Islands at the Faroe Islands Trade Council. At the Foreign Service, she has worked as an adviser of foreign policy issues related to development assistance policies. In addition to representing the Faroe Islands in the Arctic Council she currently works on the national implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda in the Faroe Islands and represents the Faroe Islands in cooperation on sustainable development in peripheral areas on the EU Interreg Programme.

Ms Jacobsen holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Aalborg University in Denmark.



### **Tonje Margrete Winsnes Johansen**

Advisor, Saami Council Arctic and Environment Unit

Tonje Margrete Winsnes Johansen works as an advisor for the Saami Council in the Arctic and Environmental Unit. In her work Johansen focuses especially on sustainable development and climate change issues in the Arctic.

Johansen has studied political science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. In her master thesis she did a statistical review of natural resource and land use conflicts on Indigenous territories. With this in mind, Johansen finds the increasing presence in the Arctic, not only by states, but also corporations interesting and challenging from an indigenous perspective.

Johansen comes from a small Saami coastal community, Gussanjárga, in the northernmost county in Norway, and has also lived on Svalbard for five years. She is currently residing in Guovdageaidnu. Through both her studies and spending most of her life in the Arctic, Johansen has a great understanding of local, indigenous Arctic communities' concerns and the political issues at stake in the Arctic.

The Saami Council is a non-governmental organization that represents the Saami people living in Finland, the Russian Federation, Norway and Sweden. The organization has been a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council since the beginning and has long experience with international cooperation in the Arctic with other indigenous peoples' organisations.



### **Friðrik Jónsson**

*Director-General GRÓ, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland*

Minister-Counsellor Friðrik Jónsson concurrently serves as Director-General for GRÓ – Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainability and Societal Change (from 1 October 2020), and as Iceland's Senior Arctic Official to the Arctic Council (from November 21, 2019). Prior to his current position he served briefly as Director, Development Evaluation (August to November 2019). Previously, from 2014 to 2019, he served as Iceland's Representative to NATO's Military Committee, the last year as the Dean, the first civilian to hold that title, and concurrently as Iceland's representative to the Echelon of National Military Representatives at Allied Command operations (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium.

From 2011 to 2014 he served as an Advisor to the Executive Director for the Nordic and Baltic Countries on the Board of the World Bank in Washington DC. In the summer of 2009, he started an 18-month tour in Afghanistan, first with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) for 12 months, followed by 6 months with the United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA). Mr. Jónsson started his career in the Icelandic Foreign Service in January 1996, serving at various times in the Ministry's Political, Defense, Trade and Development Directorates. His first posting abroad was in 1998 at the Embassy of Iceland in Washington DC, where he served as First Secretary and Defense Counsellor, followed by a posting as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Iceland in Copenhagen, from 2002 to 2006.

Mr. Jónsson holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies, as well as an MBA in International Business. His undergraduate degree is in International Relations and Diplomacy. He is married to Mrs. Elinborg Thora Thorbergsdottir and they have four children, two grandsons and two hound dogs. Mr. Jónsson counts singing, strumming his guitars, cycling and walking his dogs as his favorite pastimes. He does not play golf.



### **Christian Keldsen**

*Director, Greenland Business Association*

Christian Keldsen is the director at Greenland's largest NGO, the Greenland Business Association. He has a strong background in the Greenland business community as well as an international outlook. He has had management positions with Air Greenland and was one of the founders of the success Visiobox Consulting which is the leading Greenlandic consulting firm. He is the honorary consul for Great Britain and Northern Ireland and generally involved in the local community in Greenland. He holds several board positions in Greenland.

**Mira Kleist**

*Special Advisor, Greenland Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Energy*

Mira Kleist is a Special Advisor on Arctic, defense and security related issues for the Greenland Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has been posted to the Greenland Representation to the EU and worked at the UN Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch. Mira Kleist has also previously held the role as the Government of Greenland's representative among the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials.

**Nikolay Korchunov**

*Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs, Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation*

Nikolay Korchunov is a career diplomat who has served as the Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Russia and the Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation to the Arctic Council since December 2018.

Prior to his current role, Korchunov occupied various positions at the headquarters of the MFA of Russia and abroad, including postings at the embassies of the Russian Federation to Sweden and Finland and at the Russian Mission to NATO.

In addition, he served as Head of Russia's delegation to the Arctic Council's Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation and the Task Force on Improved Connectivity in the Arctic from 2015 until 2018.

Nikolay Korchunov is a member of the Northern Sea Route Public Council and Expert Council on Arctic issues under the State Duma.

**Michael Mann**

*EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters*

Michael Mann has been the EU's Special Envoy for Arctic matters/ Ambassador at Large for the Arctic since April 1. Prior to that, he spent two and a half years as the EU's Ambassador to Iceland. Between 2011 and 2017, he was head of Strategic Communications at the European External Action Service, doubling up as Chief Spokesperson to High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton from 2011 to 2014. Mr Mann worked as a European Commission Spokesperson between 2002 and 2011, covering a wide range of portfolios. He began his career in Brussels as a journalist, working for the Financial Times, Reuters and Bloomberg News, among other media.



**Crystal Martin - Lapenskie**

*President of National Inuit Youth Council (NIYC)*

The NIYC president serves as the national voice for Inuit youth, sitting on the ITK Board of Directors as a permanent participant and the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee as an observer. Martin-Lapenskie was elected President of NIYC in 2019 and will hold the position for two years.

Martin-Lapenskie is from Sanirajak (formerly Hall Beach) and currently resides in the Ottawa Valley. She has spent her entire career pursuing in improving the lives of Inuit across Canada through development and implementation of Inuit-specific programs and services and policy advancement.



**Elle Merete Omma**

*EU Coordinator, Saami Council*

Elle Merete Omma is a Sámi raised in a reindeer herding family in Norway and Sweden. Omma assumed full time duties at the Saami Council as the EU coordinator in 2017. She came from the position as the previous Executive Secretary at the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat in Tromsø. Previously she was employed as a Senior Adviser in the Department of Sami and Minority Affairs in the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernization. She holds a Masters in Law from the University of Oslo.



**Elin Mortensen**

*Head of Mission, Mission of the Faroe Islands to the EU*

Before moving to Brussels in 2018, Ms. Mortensen was head of unit on EU affairs, as well as ocean affairs in the Faroese Foreign Service. She also chaired the Faroese Government's Brexit Task Force and represented Faroese interests in international cooperation on fisheries and oceans e.g. NAFO, NASCO and FAO.

On Arctic Affairs Ms Mortensen has been the representative of the Faroes in the Arctic Council, representing the Faroes in the multilateral negotiations on the Agreement of Arctic Futures Fisheries as well as in the Task force on Arctic Marine Cooperation. In addition she was a part of the committee which formulated the Faroese Government's 2013 strategic assessment *The Faroe Islands – a Nation in the Arctic*.

Ms Mortensen holds a Master's degree in political science from the University of Copenhagen.



**Tomas Norvoll**

*President, Nordland County Council and Chair of the Board, North Norway European Office*

Tomas Norvoll has been President of the County Government of Nordland, Norway, since 2013. Before this, he was Member of the Nordland County Council (since 2011), and member of the Board (1993-1997). Tomas Norvoll was elected in 1993 as representative from Nordland in the National Parliament of Norway. He was a member of the Committee for Church, Education and Research. He served as a Delegate at the UN General Assembly (1995), Deputy member of the Parliament's Delegation to the Council of 2000-2001, Member of the Parliament's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (1997-2001). Tomas has been Deputy member of the Council of the Andøy Municipality (1991-1995). He has also worked as Senior Advisor for the Bodø Science Park from 2003 to 2011.

**Embla Eir Oddsdóttir**

*Director, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN); Chair, SDWG Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG)*

Embla Eir Oddsdottir has experience in research, project management, and various policy relevant issues including Arctic environmental governance. She currently leads the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN). Embla has held leadership roles and directed projects at the Northern Research Forum and the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland. She has also taught courses on northern issues at the University of Akureyri and Western Kentucky University, where she holds the position of adjunct professor.

Her educational background is interdisciplinary, and includes socio-economic development, anthropology, cultural geography, international relations, international law, indigenous studies and other topics. Embla holds a Msc in Law, Anthropology and Society from The London School of Economics and Political Science.

Her undergraduate studies include socioeconomic development at the University of Akureyri and interdisciplinary studies at the University of Northern British Columbia in Canada. Embla completed Masters level courses in Polar Law at the University of Akureyri.





### **Urmas Paet**

*Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe Group)*

Urmas Paet has been a Member of the European Parliament as of November 2014. He specialises in foreign and security policy issues. He is a Member of the Foreign Affairs and Security and Defence Committees as well as a substitute member in the International Trade Committee. Mr Paet is also the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee Working Group on Eastern Partnership. He is the rapporteur of the European Defence Union Report, the EU Arctic Policy Report and the Cyber Defence Report.

Before joining the European Parliament, Urmas Paet was the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia for almost ten years. Urmas Paet has also served as a Minister of Culture and as the Head of the Nõmme City district in Tallinn.

He majored in Political Science and started out as a journalist in Estonian Radio and daily newspaper "Postimees".



### **Andrey Petrov**

*Director, ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa; President of IASSA*

Andrey N. Petrov is ARCTICenter Director and Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Northern Iowa, USA. Dr. Petrov is an economic and social geographer who specializes in Arctic economy, regional development and post-Soviet society, with an emphasis on the Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Russia and other circumpolar countries. His current research is focused on regions of the Arctic and concerns regional development, spatial organization, and restructuring of peripheral economies, human wellbeing, dynamics of social-ecological systems and sustainable development.

He has published on issues pertaining to socio-economic change, development, and demographic dynamics of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, relationships between communities and extractive industry, sustainability science and sustainable development in the Arctic.

Dr. Petrov is the President of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) and Chair of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Social and Human Working Group.



### **Ida Maria Pinnerød**

*Mayor of Bodø, Norway*

Ida Maria Pinnerød is a Norwegian politician and mayor of Bodø . She was elected to the city council in Bodø for the first time in 2011.

She has a master's degree in language and a master's degree. in social sciences from the University of Tromsø and has worked at Nord University since 2003.

In 2011, she was elected to the City Council of Bodø for the period 2011–2015, where she was deputy chair of the committee for living conditions until September 2014, when she was elected as a representative to the chairmanship. Pinnerød was elected to the board of Bodø Labor Party in January 2012, where she was a woman contact.

In January 2013, she was elected leader of the Bodø Labor Party. She was re-elected twice (January 2014 and in March 2015). She is currently deputy chair of the board of Nordland Labor Party and sits on the Labor Party's national board.

Ida Pinnerød was elected mayor of Bodø on 29 October 2015, after the Labor Party entered into a cooperation agreement with the Center Party, the Green Party , the Red Party and the Socialist People's Party . She was re-elected on October 3, 2019 after the Labor Party, the Center Party, the Socialist Left Party, the Green Party and the Christian People's Party entered into a cooperation agreement.



### **Julie Rademacher**

*Head of Communication, Tele Post*

Former Member of Parliament in Denmark and advisor for the Premier, Mayor in Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq, President of the Labour Unions and Regional Leader of Foundation of Entrepreneurship – Greenland.

As Head of Communication in Tele Greenland Julie Rademacher experienced the crisis situation with COVID-19 in a company in the Arctic. In Greenland people live in remote areas and are not used to be connected, but in 2019 Greenland connected more than 92% of the population with flatrate 4G Internet connectionw. Now the company has 100 % as a goal and secure 8% of the population with improved satellite communications.

As a former member of the Danish Parliament, advisor and campaigner Julie Rademacher sees an opportunity in a crisis situation. The COVID-19 situation challenged the Greenlandic national Tele company to prove their role in society in 2020. As the COVID-19 situation developed The Tele Greenland secured the tele communications and connections through the corona crisis. For

example the company was split up into two teams – the A and B teams, made meeting.gl for the whole country, a Corona hotline, SMS Service and free entrance for the national health care site about COVID-19 [www.nun.gl](http://www.nun.gl).



### **Lisanne Raderschall**

*Policy Analyst, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD*

Lisanne Raderschall is a Policy Analyst in the Regional Development and Tourism Division of the Centre for Entrepreneurship SMEs, Regions and Cities of the OECD. Since joining the OECD in 2016, Lisanne has prepared advice to national and sub-national governments on rural and regional policies. She has conducted several reviews on multi-level governance systems for place based policy making, local policy making for migrants and Indigenous peoples as well as climate change related challenges and opportunities in rural areas. Her work aims to strengthen and support the well-being of inhabitants in all types of regions, reinforce their resilience in a fast-changing world and reduce inequalities.

Before joining the OECD Lisanne set-up, the Migration Hub Network, a Berlin based co-working space, which functions as a platform for local integration initiatives and worked as a researcher at the Freie Universität Berlin. Lisanne holds a Master's degree from Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) and a Bachelor's from the University of Maastricht (Netherlands) as well as the University of Sydney (Australia) in the fields of Sociology and Political Sciences.



### **Marya Rozanova Smith**

*Professorial Lecturer at the George Washington University (GWU) and Advisor to the Chancellor at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU)*

Dr. Marya S. Rozanova-Smith is Professorial Lecturer at the George Washington University (GWU) and Advisor to the Chancellor at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU). In addition to her work in academia, she participated in a wide range of social projects. She was the founder and chairperson of the Center for Civil, Social, Scientific, and Cultural Initiatives "STRATEGIA" (2007–2015), and also served as a Galina Starovoitova Fellow for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center. Since 2014, Dr. Rozanova-Smith has been (co-)organizing international academic projects on the wide range of Arctic issues

that brought together representatives of social and natural sciences, Indigenous communities, and policymakers.

She has also initiated educational programs and informal surveys conducted in collaboration with Indigenous communities and their leaders in Russian Arctic regions. She is currently teaching the course *The Arctic in International Affairs* at the GWU. Dr. Rozanova-Smith's current research interests include Arctic governance and diplomacy, Indigenous empowerment, and women's participation in politics and government in the Arctic.



### **Meredith Rubin**

*Senior Arctic Official, U.S. Department of State*

Meredith Rubin is the United States Senior Arctic Official (SAO). As part of the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, she works with key stakeholders to formulate Arctic policy and to represent U.S. interests at the Arctic Council. Prior to her current position, Meredith served as the Deputy SAO.

Meredith's overseas postings include Kosovo, Iceland, and Uzbekistan. In Washington, DC, she served as the Country Assistance Coordinator for Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine as well as the Turkmenistan Desk Officer. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Meredith worked for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine.

Meredith holds a M.A. in Security Policy Studies from George Washington University and received her B.A. in Government and Russian Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She speaks Albanian, Icelandic and Russian.



### **Dalee Sambo Dorough**

*Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council*

Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough (Inuit-Alaska) is the International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, a non-governmental organization that represents approximately 180,000 Inuit from the Russian Far East, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. She holds a Ph.D. from University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law (2002) and a Master of Arts in Law & Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University (1991). She is affiliated with the University of Alaska Anchorage where she served as an Assistant Professor of International Relations within the Department of Political Science from 2008-2018. Her current UAA title is Senior Scholar and Special Advisor on Arctic Indigenous Peoples.

Serving as an Expert Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for two consecutive three-year terms, she held the position of Chairperson from 2014-2015. She was also a member and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. Presently, she serves as the co-Chair of the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Her past service to the ILA includes membership in the former Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



**Andres Sanabria**

*Policy Analyst/ Economist, Regional and rural Development, OECD*

Andres has worked in regional and rural development issues at the OECD for around four years. He has conducted various OECD case studies on mining regions, notably North Karelia in Finland, Upper Norrland in Sweden and Andalucía in Spain. His participation in these studies focused on policies and government arrangements to promote economic diversification, rural entrepreneurship and using innovation to accelerate the low-carbon economic transition in a mining context. He also collaborated in the development of the new OECD framework of rural policy by designing the strategies to boost rural productivity, the guidelines for rural policy implementation and the vision of the rural areas of the future. Before that, Andres co-produced a number of OECD urban development studies, including Vietnam and South Korea and Morocco, with the aim at reducing negative externalities of urbanisation.

Previous to the OECD, Andres was the lead economist at the Association of Oil Companies in Colombia. Andres is an economist with a Master of Public Policy from London School of Economics and Sciences Po.



**Mike Sfraga**

*Director of the Polar Institute, Wilson Center*

Dr. Mike Sfraga is the founding director of the Polar Institute and also serves as the director of the Global Risk and Resilience Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. An Alaskan and a geographer by training, his work focuses on the changing geography of the Arctic and Antarctic landscapes, Arctic policy, and the impacts and implications of a changing climate on political, social, economic, environmental, and security regimes in the Arctic.

Sfraga served as distinguished co-lead scholar for the U.S. Department of State's inaugural Fulbright Arctic Initiative from



2015-2017, a complementary program to the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council; he held the same position from 2017-2019. Sfraga previously served in a number of academic, administrative, and executive positions including vice chancellor, associate vice president, faculty member, department chair, and associate dean.

Sfraga has testified before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, he maintains an active national and international speaking and facilitation schedule, and his commentary has been featured in several major media outlets including MSNBC, National Public Radio, Alaska Public Media, CCTV/CGTN, Bloomberg News, and C-SPAN.

Sfraga is the author of the biography *Bradford Washburn: A Life of Exploration*, is affiliate professor at the International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, serves as the co-director of the University of the Arctic's Institute for Arctic Policy, and has served on a number of non-profit boards and advisory committees including past chairman of the Institute of the North.

Sfraga earned a PhD in geography and northern studies from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



### **Virginijus Sinkevičius**

*European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries*

Virginijus Sinkevičius is the present Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, at the European Commission. Mr Sinkevičius was from 2017 to 2019 Minister of Economy, and before he was leading the Committee of Economy at the Parliament of Lithuania. Mr. Sinkevičius was elected to the Parliament in October 2016. Prior, he was a Team Lead for Regulatory Affairs at Invest Lithuania. Mr. Sinkevičius holds BA in International Relations and Affairs from Aberystwyth University and Master's degree in European International Affairs from Maastricht University.



### **Emil Skjervedal**

*Head of Business Department, Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq*

Skjervedal works as the Head of Business Department at Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq, the world's geographically largest municipality with a demonstrated history of working in the executive office industry.



Skjervedal has long demonstrated skills in Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Operations Management, English, Public Administration, and Strategic Planning.

He obtained his Msc in Innovation, Knowledge and Entrepreneurial Dynamics from Aalborg University in 2012.



### **Tor Erik Somby**

*Co-Founder, Tundra Drone*

Tor Erik Somby (35) holds a master degree in marketing and is one of the cofounders in Tundra Drone together with cofounder Tim Valio (39), who holds a master's degree in electronics engineering and is responsible for Tundra Drone's user-driven product development. Tor Erik is responsible that the marketing and sales in Tundra Drone is human-centered. He has six years of experience from the Norwegian Seafood Council, one of Norway's most competent marketing environment that develops markets for Norwegian seafood. Seafood is Norway's most important export product after oil. During this period, Tor Erik has gained solid experience and expertise in systematic work with market insights, market development and reputation building in selected markets around the world. Among other things, he has been involved in developing a global strategy for Norwegian salmon, been responsible for global consumer studies, development of digital insight solutions and worked with digital marketing systems. During his studies, he completed the prestigious master's course ME310 at Stanford University in the USA and gained solid experience in design thinking and product development in practice, for project owner Kongsberg Innovasjon AS. He also has experience as a middle manager in the State, as a business advisor in SpareBank1 Nord-Norge, as a good salesman in Norway's largest electronics retail chain and has run his own business for many years. In addition to this, he has held board positions in voluntary organizations and been actively involved in various projects.

Tundra Drone's team complements each other optimally with the fact that they have different expertise and at the same time have experience within each other's fields. This makes it possible for them to challenge each other in each other's professional fields. Both also have a network of relevant stakeholders with whom they can collaborate. Overall, they have the best conditions for success in the arctic tundra in Norway.



### **David Sproule**

*Senior Arctic Official, Canada; Director General, Polar, Eurasian and European Affairs, Global Affairs Canada*

David Sproule began his career as a Foreign Service officer with External Affairs Canada in 1981. Following his first posting as Third/Second Secretary in Singapore, Mr. Sproule held other positions in

embassies abroad, including as First Secretary in Bangkok and Counsellor in Washington, D.C. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Sproule served as Counsel and Deputy Agent of Canada before the International Court of Justice, in the “Case Concerning the Legality of the Use of Force (Yugoslavia v. Canada)”. He was first appointed as a Head of Mission in 2004, serving as High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He subsequently served as Head of Mission to the following countries: Ambassador to Afghanistan; Ambassador to Thailand; Ambassador to Norway; Ambassador to Libya; and Ambassador to Mongolia.

In Ottawa, Mr. Sproule’s assignments have included Deputy Director of the Economic Policy and Summits Division; Deputy Director of the Human Rights Law Section; Director of the Asia Division at the Intelligence Assessments Secretariat of the Privy Council Office; Director of the Oceans and Environmental Law Division; Director of the Human Rights, UN, and Economic Law Division; and, Director General of the Legal Bureau. Mr. Sproule has also led numerous Canadian delegations in negotiation of bilateral and multilateral treaties and other international legal instruments.

Mr. Sproule took up his current position in August 2019. In this capacity, his areas of responsibility encompass policy development for Polar affairs, as well as bilateral and regional relations with Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, the non-EU nations of the Western Balkans, Central Asia and the five Nordic countries.



### **Piet Steel**

*Vice-President, Belgian Polar Secretariat; Director, IPF Board, President Corporate, EU-Asia Centre*

Board Member, Polar Secretariat; Former Ambassador of Belgium to Vietnam Piet Steel began his professional career as a Belgian diplomat. Between 1975 and 1997, he held various diplomatic assignments including Chief Negotiator during the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round in Geneva, Ambassador to Vietnam and Consul General to Hong Kong. In 1997, he accepted responsibility for Public Affairs at the Solvay Group (Belgium), overseeing the chemical and pharmaceutical company's global government affairs activities. In 2005, he joined Toyota Motor Europe as Vice-President of External Affairs. In 2010, the Government of Japan appointed him as its Honorary Consul General for the Flanders region.

He is Chairman of the Belgium Hong Kong Society, President of the Board, Special Olympics Belgium and Member of the Board of the Polar Secretariat. He was appointed “Distinguished Visiting Fellow” of the European Business School of Regent’s University in London. Mr Steel is an advisor on international affairs to various companies.



Kristen Tanche is an alumni of the Jane Glassco Northern fellowship, she was in the 2018-2019 cohort. During the program Kristen focused on local addictions programming. Her paper Ways forward in addictions programming in Fort Simpson Northwest Territories Dene Gogpndié Voices of the People, examines addiction programming and related services offered by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories (NWT), and provides policy recommendations based on conversations with community members.

Kristen currently works in Health & Wellness, for her regional Indigenous Government Organization, Dehcho First Nations. Kristen is passionate about the North's well-being and people in her community and region.



### **Kjersti Tønnessen Busch**

*CEO, SALT Lofoten AS*

Dr. Kjersti Eline T. Busch is one of the founders and the CEO of SALT. Today the company has close more than 20 highly educated staff, working from offices in the Lofoten islands in Northern Norway and in small offices in other Norwegian regions. Realizing the great opportunities in the Arctic region, with an emphasis on the marine environment, is SALTs core mission. Marine litter is posing challenges to coastal communities in the Arctic. SALT is working actively to monitor marine litter and to prevent littering from land-based and sea-based sources. One of the great motivators for Kjersti Eline T. Busch is to create knowledge-based jobs in the Arctic region – preferably in the coastal communities.



### **Isak Utsi**

*Mayor of Arjeplog, Sweden*

Isak Utsi is the mayor of Arjeplog, Sweden's most sparsely populated municipality, located in northern Sweden with a population of 2751 inhabitants.

Born and raised in a Saami family Isak has grown up in an indigenous context with traditional reindeer herding and other cultural practices. Isak has, for a long time, been an advocate for Saami and indigenous rights. In the capacity of President of the Swedish Saami Youth Association he has represented Saami youth on a national, Nordic and an international level and raised issues such as the importance of leadership, education, health and the impact of climate change from an indigenous perspective.

Besides indigenous issues, Isak has been a member of WWF Sweden Youth as a trustee of the board and served as president of the Student Union of Luleå University of Technology. In recent years, before becoming a full-time politician, Isak has worked at Luleå

Business and Economics with public affairs and business development.

Arjeplog is, by area, the fourth largest municipality in Sweden with a population density of 0.22 people per sq. km. Arjeplog is home for both traditional Saami reindeer herding and winter testing proving grounds for the car industry. The winter test industry in Arjeplog holds a market leading position globally and every winter Arjeplog's population doubles when 2500 engineers and personnel arrive.



**Vilena Valeeva**

*Research Associate, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies*

Vilena is a co-research Group Leader at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam. Her research focuses on interactions between climatic, environmental, political, and socio-economic changes in the Arctic. She is particularly interested in the Russian Arctic. Vilena works on a Horizon 2020 Arctic climate science project called Blue-Action, focusing on co-developing an information service with stakeholders around future climate scenarios. One of the goals of the scenario exercise is to enhance Arctic residents' capacity to adapt to changes in the Arctic. Vilena studied Political Science and History at the Lomonosov Moscow State University. Since then, she has worked on climate, energy, and Arctic issues in several organisations in Russia and Germany.



**Veronica Veits**

*Director for International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries, in the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission*

Born in 1963 in Austria, Veronika Veits studied French and Italian at the University of Salzburg and Vienna, as well as Agriculture at the University of "Bodenkultur" in Vienna. She started her career in the Austrian national administration and joined the European Commission in 1996 where she spent her first ten years in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. In 2005, Veronika Veits was appointed Head of Unit for Structural Policy in the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Next, in 2011, she took over the management of the Unit responsible for International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations in the same Directorate-General, until the end of 2016. Following a short two-month stint as Head of Unit of the WTO unit in the Directorate-General for Trade, Veronika Veits was appointed Director for Fisheries Policy, Mediterranean and the Black Sea in the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Since 1 September 2019, Veronika Veits has been Director for International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries in this Directorate-General. This includes International Ocean Governance,



Law of the Sea and Arctic Policy, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, and the Fight against IUU Fishing.



**Christian Vintergaard**

*CEO, Danish Foundation for Entrepreneurship*

Prior to this he was Managing director for the Oeresund Entrepreneurship Academy.

Christian Vintergaard earned his Ph.D. at Copenhagen Business School. His areas of research are venture capital and entrepreneurship. Mr. Vintergaard also has international teaching experience and is often used as an advisor for entrepreneurs, the established business community and policy makers.



**Petteri Vuorimäki**

*Senior Arctic Official; Ambassador, Arctic and Antarctic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland*

Petteri Vuorimäki has been Finland's Ambassador for Arctic and Antarctic Affairs since 1 September 2019. He is also the Finnish Senior Arctic Official in the Arctic Council. Before his current post, he served in diplomatic postings for Finland in Moscow, Pristina, Strasbourg and Brussels. Before his MFA career, he worked for the International Organization for Migration in Geneva and Helsinki and held various positions in the Finnish Labour Administration. During his tenure in Brussels, he worked in the Finnish Permanent Representation to the EU, in the External Relations Directorate General in the European Commission and in the European External Action Service, where he was appointed as the first permanent chairperson for the COEST and COSCE Working Parties and subsequently as a Senior Expert. In Brussels, his primary fields of interest and responsibility have been related to EU-Russia relations and various regional cooperation structures in the North, including the Arctic cooperation. He was also selected as the Chair of the Vision Group for the Council of the Baltic Sea States which was a group of independent experts which submitted a report to the CBSS Ministerial meeting on the future of the CBSS and the Baltic Sea region cooperation.



**Pál Weihe**

*Director of the Department of Occupational Medicine and Public Health, Faroe Islands*

For over 30 years, Dr. Pál Weihe has led the Department of Occupational Medicine and Public Health in the Faroe Islands and, for part of this period, as Medical Director of the Faroese Hospital System. He also is an Adjunct Professor at the University of the Faroe Islands, a Visiting Scientist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and a Visiting Scientist at the Institute of Public Health at the University of Southern Denmark. Between 2005 and 2016, Dr. Weihe served as Chair of the Faroese Board of Public Health.

Dr. Weihe is deeply committed to serving his community through the provision of medical care and devotion to his work on minimizing community exposures to marine contaminants. Specifically, he has overseen the examinations of over 3,000 Faroe Islanders of five prospective studies of birth cohorts exposed to marine contaminants associated with neurotoxicity, growth and development, immunotoxicity, and endocrine disruption. He is also involved in other research areas such as reproductive toxicological studies of time to pregnancy and semen quality as well as age-related functional deficits and degenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's disease and cardiovascular diseases, concerning lifetime exposure to methylmercury and persistent lipophilic contaminants.

Dr. Weihe has published more than 140 scientific papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals and books and been invited to more than 120 conferences and lectures.

**Thomas Winkler**

*Arctic Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Head of the Department of Arctic and North America of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Ambassador Winkler has worked in the Danish foreign service since 1986, including as Legal Adviser and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Moscow and Ottawa. He has worked with Arctic issues since 2004 and was instrumental in the planning and realization of the 2008 Ilulissat conference and declaration. He is currently working as the Arctic Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark and head of the Department of Arctic and North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen.