

ARCTIC FUTURES SYMPOSIUM

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS
AND MODERATORS



Arctic Futures Symposium 2023 Speaker Biographies



Riikka Aaltonen

Project Manager, Regional Council of Lapland, Finland

Ms Riikka Aaltonen holds MSc in geology and mineralogy from Turku University in Finland. She has worked with mining and related issues in both the public and private sector. She is Project Manager for "Lapland Mining Hub" at the Regional Council of Lapland. She has more than 10 years experience as senior adviser in mineral policy at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland. Prior to that she worked for several years at the national mining authority. She is also familiar with the industry perspective and the reality of mining and exploration as she worked for mining and exploration companies both in Finland and Sweden for more than 10 years.



Brynjar Andersen Saus

Project Leader, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Brynjar Andersen Saus is 27 years old. He is a former member of the city council of Tromsø. Brynjar has a master's in physics from UiT and currently works as the project manager for the project "Tromsø Arctic Simulation Centre" at UiT the Arctic University of Tromsø. He has been politically active in the municipality and region for 15 years and has held political positions at the local, regional and national level. He is also a deputy member of the Saami Parliament.



Sigrid Bjørnhaug Hammar

Deputy Mayor of Tromsø, Norway

Sigrid Bjørnhaug Hammer is Deputy Mayor of Tromsø municipality, representing SV (The Socialist Left Party) in the City Council. She has a bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

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Jackson Blackwell

Graduate Student, Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs; Advisor, Arctic Encounter

Jackson is a candidate for a Master in Public Affairs degree in International Relations at Princeton University. He is also a Harry S. Truman Scholar and graduated Magna Cum Laude with Economics and Political Science degrees from Boise State University. As a born-and-raised Alaskan, Jackson is particularly interested in international climate, energy, and development policy that impact Northern regions.

Previously, Jackson served in several roles for the Anchorage-based NGO, Arctic Encounter, and most recently helped lead the organization as its Managing Director. He also was part of the firm, Kallander & Associates, and worked with clients across the political, economic, and business sectors. Additionally, he worked with several public and private organizations over the past several years, including: the Wilson Center's Polar Institute, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and Senator Murkowski's Washington, D.C. Office.

In his spare time, Jackson likes to trail run, alpine and cross-country ski, and travel.



Patti Bruns

Secretary-General, Arctic Mayors Forum

Patti has been Secretary General of the Arctic Mayors' Forum since August 2022. Patti came to the AMF from the Canadian International Arctic Centre where she served as Senior Policy Advisor. She previously held the position of Executive Secretary of two Arctic Council Working Groups – ACAP (Arctic Contaminant Action Program) and EPPR (Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response). Patti has a deep knowledge of the Arctic through her work with the government, multilateral fora and the consultancy sector.

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Marie-Anne Coninx

Former EU Ambassador at Large for the Arctic; Fellow, Egmont Institute; IPF Board Member

Marie-Anne Coninx was the first EU Ambassador at Large for the Arctic (2017 - 2019) before her retirement after 35 years as an EU official. During her career as a European diplomat, she was the EU Ambassador to Canada and EU Ambassador to Mexico, and served at EU Delegations with the United Nations in New York (US) and Geneva (Switzerland), providing her with extensive experience in multilateral issues.

She began her career in the Legal Service of the European Commission and worked for 12 consecutive years as a Staff Member in the Cabinets of three Commissioners. She also worked in the External Relations Department at EU HQ, overseeing relations between the European Union and Latin America.

Ms Coninx studied law at Ghent University (Belgium) and carried out her post-graduate studies at Cambridge University (UK) and at the European University Centre in Nancy (France). As a Belgian citizen, she is fluent in Dutch, French, English, German, and Spanish.



Hjalmar Dahl

President, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Greenland

Hjalmar Dahl is currently President for ICC Greenland till 2026. He started his carrier in ICC since the establishment of the organization in 1980 as Special Assistant to the first President of the ICC Hans-Pavia Rosing, Nuuk Greenland. He was responsible to communicate ICC issues and policies locally and nationally in Greenland as well as to the international community. Hjalmar has also been instrumental during the negotiations and applications to let ICC to be accredited as NGO Category II Status within the United Nations system till the acceptance and approval by the UN Economic and Social Council.

He has since then coordinated ICC's involvement within the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, negotiations to the develop a draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous, Peoples, formation of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and all relevant activities to promote and protect indigenous people's rights.

Hjalmar also spent a year (1992-93) as one of the first Junior Indigenous Experts at the Center of Human Rights at the UN Geneva office.

In 2010 Hjalmar got elected as member of the ICC Executive Council and in 2014 as Vice-Chair of the council for Greenland and to date serves as President for the ICC Greenland and elected again in 2018 and still serves as ICC Vice – Chair and President for ICC Greenland.

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Päivi Ekdahl

Development Director, Regional Council of Lapland

Päivi has overall responsibility on regional development activities and their financing in Finnish Lapland. She has worked for more than 20 years with EU-financing programmes, both national and international, and has a strong focus on cooperation, networks, and joint processes. For the year 2023 she acts as a Chair of the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) steering group.



Mads Qvist Frederiksen

Executive Director, Arctic Economic Council

Mads Qvist Frederiksen is the Director of the Arctic Economic Council (AEC). Located in Tromsø, Norway, the AEC is an independent business organization established in 2014. It facilitates Arctic business-to-business activities and sustainable economic development. The AEC provides advice and a business perspective on the work of the Arctic Council.

Before joining the AEC in March 2021, Mr Frederiksen worked as a Senior Advisor in the Global Trade and Investment unit at the Confederation of Danish Industry. There, he was responsible for Arctic business development and policy. Before that he worked as a communication advisor for MADE (Manufacturing Academy of Denmark), as a journalism trainer in Kabul, Afghanistan, and as a journalist for the Danish department of Defense.

In addition to Arctic policy and trade promotion, his previous work was with sanctions and export control, development work, foreign investments, communication strategy, journalism, training, and capacity building.

Mr Frederiksen is originally from Denmark. He holds a Master's degree in Middle East Studies from the University of Southern Denmark and a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Contemporary history from City University and Queen Mary, University of London.

Mr Frederiksen has lived and worked in Denmark, Norway, Algeria, the United Kingdom, Iran, and Afghanistan.

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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 serving as a catalyst for decision-making and network building by mobilizing science, policy, business, and local Arctic communities to turn knowledge into actions. Established in 2007, Arctic Frontiers is headquartered in Tromsø, Norway.

Ms. Fredrikson has vast experience working with Arctic issues. As the founding 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. 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.

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Clara Ganslandt

EU Special Envoy for the Arctic, European External Action Service

Clara Ganslandt is Head of the Western Europe / Arctic / Regional Division (Europe 1) within the European External Action Service (EEAS) since 2019. The Division is in charge of EU relations with non-EU Western European countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the Holy See. The division monitors political and economic developments in these countries and leads political dialogue, covering foreign policy and global issues.

As of 1 September 2022, Clara Ganslandt is also Special Envoy for Arctic Matters. Previously, Clara Ganslandt was Head of the Division for Partnerships and Agreements with Third States and International Organisations (EU-NATO, EU-UN relations in the field of crisis management) within the EEAS Security and Defence Policy Directorate (2015-2019).

Before taking up that position, she was Head of the EEAS Division for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Chair of the Council of the European Union's Working Party on Global Disarmament (2011-2015).

Clara Ganslandt is a Swedish national. After her law studies, she entered the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1990. Following Sweden's accession to the EU in 1995, she joined the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in Brussels to work on the new structures set up in the framework of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).



Anna Hamrell

Senior Advisor for Arctic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Anna Hamrell currently holds the position of Deputy Senior Arctic Official and Deputy Director for Arctic Affairs at the Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. Previously she has worked at the Africa Department and the UN Department of the MFA. She has been posted to Tokyo, Japan and Tallinn, Estonia.

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Emily Holland

Associate Professor, US Naval War College

Dr. Emily Holland is an Assistant Professor in the Russia Maritime Studies Institute at the US Naval War College. Previously she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, and a visiting fellow at the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at NYU, the European Council on Foreign Relations (Berlin), and the German Institute for Economic Research (Berlin). Her research focuses on the geopolitics of energy and Russian foreign policy and her forthcoming book project is on European energy security.

Dr. Holland is a recipient of a 2022 MINERVA DECUR grant, and her work has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *War on the Rocks*, *Lawfare*, *the Journal of International Affairs*, and *The Christian Science Monitor* amongst others. She has been featured on CNN, *Government Matters*, *The Energy Show*, *Chain Reaction* and the *WarCast*. Dr. Holland holds a Ph.D., MA, and BA in political science from Columbia University.

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Alain Hubert

Founder and President, the International Polar Foundation

Alain Hubert is a Belgian explorer, certified mountain and polar guide, a civil engineer, and the President and Founder of the International Polar Foundation (IPF). With the IPF and support from sponsors from the private sector and the Belgian State, he built the the first zero-emission polar research station, the Princess Elisabeth Antarctica.

Alain Hubert obtained his Civil Engineering diploma from the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) in 1974. As an adolescent, he became an avid practitioner of outdoor sports including marathons, canyoning, skiing and paragliding.

Alain has always been an entrepreneur who lives for adventure and strives to achieve. Early in his career, he founded a co-op specialising in carpentry and joinery (CHERBAL) in the Ardennes region of Belgium.

He has gone on a number of major polar and mountaineering expeditions. His achievements include being the first Belgian to ever reach the North Pole in 1994 with Didier Goetghebuer, a world record autonomous crossing of Antarctica (3924 km in 99 days) with Dixie Dansercoer in 1998, and five attempts at Mount Everest. The Arctic Arc expedition with Dixie Dansercoer in 2007 was the first ever Siberia-Greenland crossing via the North Pole.

During his expeditions, Alain Hubert witnessed the pace and magnitude of climate change firsthand and decided to dedicate himself to that cause. He collaborates with scientists and collects ground truth data for them during his expeditions (for example snow depth data for the CryoSat mission during the Arctic Arc Expedition in 2007).

In 2002 he founded the International Polar Foundation along with climatologist André Berger and glaciologist Hugo Decleir. The International Polar Foundation supports polar scientific research, promotes informed action on climate change, and the development of a sustainable society.



Naja-Theresia Høegh

Law Student, Member of OCT Youth; Intern at Greenland Representation in Copenhagen

Naja-Theresia Høegh comes from Qaqortoq, Greenland. She is a board member of the Greenlandic Student Organisation Avalak, for Greenlandic students studying in Copenhagen, and a former delegate of the OCT-Youth Network (2022-2023). In her free time, she likes to be creative with art, and takes inspiration from her home country and culture. Naja-Theresia is currently studying law at the University of Copenhagen, and has an interest in international relations as well as Indigenous Peoples' rights.

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Morten Høglund

Arctic Ambassador for Norway, Senior Arctic Official of the Arctic Council

Morten Høglund was appointed Senior Arctic Official (SAO) for Norway in October 2021 and, before that, as the first dedicated Norwegian ambassador to ASEAN in Jakarta in 2017. Before these postings, Mr Høglund was a Senior Official ASEAN at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Special Adviser for Arctic Affairs.

Mr Høglund served 12 years in the Norwegian Parliament and 2 years as Deputy Foreign Minister. He has served as Deputy Mayor in two Norwegian counties. As a Member of Parliament, Mr Høglund chaired the Parliament's Arctic delegation and has also been Chair of the Circumpolar Arctic Parliamentary cooperation.

Mr Høglund is married and has four children. He has a long history in Chinese Dragon Boat Racing, including founding the Oslo Dragon Boat Club and co-founding both the European and International Dragon Boat Federation.

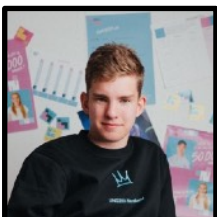


Bjarni í Liða

Risk Officer, Bank Nordik

Bjarni í Liða is the Deputy Head of Credit at BankNordik, a North Atlantic bank with activities in Greenland and the Faroe Islands. One of his main areas of focus is assessing and managing the long-term development of risks in the two small economies in which BankNordik operates.

Bjarni oversees BankNordik's collaboration with the European Investment Fund on the InnovFin and InvestEU programmes, which to date has mobilised more than DKK 400 million in additional funding of innovative projects in the Faroe Islands and Greenland. His is interested in enabling the financial system to effectively support local businesses drive economic growth in a sustainable manner.



Kristian Iversen

Chair of Bodø Youth Council

Kristian is 15 years old, is the chair of the Bodø Youth Council. He is also a representative in the reference group for UNG2024, the youth organisation of Bodø2024. Bodø and Nordland are European Capital of Culture in 2024.

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Kimmo Järvinen

Head of European Governmental Affairs, SSAB

Born and raised in Finland with a PhD in process engineering and MBA in International Business Operations, Kimmo currently holds the position of Head of EU Governmental Affairs for the SSAB. SSAB is a Nordic and US-based steel company. SSAB offers value added products and services developed in close cooperation with its customers to create a stronger, lighter and more sustainable world. SSAB has employees in over 50 countries. SSAB has production facilities in Sweden, Finland and the US and is listed on the NASDAQ OMX Nordic Exchange in Stockholm and has a secondary listing on the NASDAQ OMX in Helsinki.

With over 20 years of experience in the industry and before joining the SSAB Metal Producers, Kimmo was working with few Finnish multinational chemical and metal manufacturing companies being responsible for industrial operations ranging from R&D, sales and production. He has been living and working in the USA, Japan, the Netherlands and Belgium, and has extensive experience in doing business with Russia.

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Tanja Joona

Senior Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

Tanja Joona (Dr.Soc.Sci.) Title of Docent in Public International law is working as a Senior Researcher at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland (2000 -). She is the PI (Principal Investigator) of REBOUND, a consortium funded by the Strategic Research Council of Finland under the JUST TRANSITION program (2023-2029).

She is also the Finnish Institutional leader and WP4 leader of the H2020 project JUSTNORTH (2020-2023): Toward Just, Ethical and Sustainable Arctic Economies, Environments and Societies.

Tanja Joona also holds a position as the Arctic Five Chair in Just Green Transition (2022-2024). Joona's primary research interests focus mainly on the Arctic region, with comparative legal and political aspects of Indigenous Sámi society and especially issues dealing with traditional livelihoods, energy transition, and other land use, international human rights law, and identity questions in the context of justice and equality. Her Ph.D. (2012) dealt with the implementation of ILO Convention No. 169 concerning the rights of indigenous peoples and land use questions in Nordic countries. She has been working with several national and international projects, e.g., on Sámi children and youth in urban cities, funded by the Norwegian Research Council (NUORGÁV). During 2018-2020, she worked as a researcher on a project dealing with Arctic industrial cities and youth wellbeing (WOLLIE) funded by the Finnish Academy.

Tanja Joona has published numerous scientific peer-reviewed articles and participated in international conferences worldwide. She also has several positions of trust at the University of Lapland as well as in the society as a Directorate Board Member of Metsähallitus, Steering group member of the Truth and Reconciliation Process of the Sámi, Council Chair of Municipality of Ylitornio and Board Member of the Regional Council of Lapland.



Pigga Keskitalo

Professor of Education, University of Lapland; Adjunct Professor, University of Helsinki; Member, Saami Parliament of Finland

(PhD in Education, MCA) is Professor of Arctic Perspectives in Education at the University of Lapland, Faculty of Education, Rovaniemi, Finland. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Helsinki. She has participated in various national and international research and development projects regarding topics of socially sustainable development, education and equity in global and Arctic communities, and, more specifically, in Saami language teaching. Previously, she has worked in Norway at Sámi allaskuvla (Saami University of Applied Sciences) as an Associate Professor. In addition, she is a Saami Parliament member in Finland.

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Hans Peder Kirkegaard

Phd Student in Security Policy, University of Greenland

Hans Peder Kirkegaard is a former diplomat as a special advisor in Defense and Security Policy at the Government of Greenland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was a key member of the negotiation team regarding the Service Maintenance Contract Dispute at Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base). He was the lead negotiator for the Arctic Capabilities Package on behalf of the Government of Greenland. He was also a member of the Kingdom of Denmark's Security Policy Analysis Group; the report can be found here: <https://www.fmn.dk/da/emne/rsa/>

He is currently researching a Phd on how Greenlandic politicians and civil servants are navigating the changing security landscape at Nasiffik – Center for Foreign and Security Policy at the University of Greenland, funded by the Danish Ministry of Defense.

Hans Peder Kirkegaard holds a Master of International Business from the Darla Moore School of Business – University of South Carolina and a Master of Science in Organization and Strategy from Aalborg University.



Mira Kleist

Senior Associate, Kaya

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.

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Thomas Lauridsen

Chief Advisor, Ministry of Business, Trade, Mineral Resources, Justice and Gender Equality, Government of Greenland

Thomas Lauridsen holds the position of Chief Advisor at the Ministry of Business, Trade, Mineral Resources, Justice and Gender Equality under the Government of Greenland. Thomas Lauridsen's main responsibilities are market analysis, bilateral cooperation, marketing and drafting of licences and approvals. Thomas Lauridsen is the Government of Greenland's officer in charge on the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and the Government of Greenland on a strategic partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains.

Thomas Lauridsen graduated as MSc Applied Economics and Finance (AEF) and BSc Economics and Business Administration from Copenhagen Business School.



Marisol Maddox

Senior Arctic Analyst, Wilson Center Polar Institute

Marisol Maddox is a Senior Arctic Analyst at the Polar Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Her research considers the nexus of the Arctic, climate change, security, and geopolitics. She is particularly interested in how the growing presence of actorless threats-- such as climate change and biodiversity loss-- interplays with traditional security challenges and strategic thinking.

Ms. Maddox is a non-resident research fellow at the Center for Climate & Security and a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She currently serves as a core expert on the Arctic and hybrid threats for The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats. She regularly teaches at the Department of Defense Regional Center, the Ted Steven Center for Arctic Security Studies.

Ms. Maddox previously contributed expertise as a member of the Newport Arctic Scholars Initiative at the U.S. Naval War College and co-led the International Climate working group at Foreign Policy for America's NextGen Initiative. She frequently publishes and speaks on Arctic security and geopolitics. Her commentary has been featured in The New York Times, The LA Times, Arctic Today, Business Insider, Science, and the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, among other outlets.

Ms. Maddox holds an M.A. in International Security with a concentration in Transnational Challenges from George Mason University's Schar School. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Ecosystems from Binghamton University.

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Jeannette Menzies

Ambassador of Canada to Iceland

Ms. Menzies holds an Honours BA in Canadian Studies from the University of Manitoba, 1995, and a Master of Arts in Canadian Heritage and Development Studies from Trent University, 1998.

She was appointed Canada's Ambassador to Iceland in January 2021. She served for over 22 years in Canada's Foreign Service, with assignments in Ankara, Anchorage, Oslo and now Reykjavik. At headquarters, she has worked on Arctic policy, humanitarian issues and consular and emergency management. Outside of the foreign ministry, she served as Director of Knowledge Management and Engagement at Polar Knowledge Canada from 2015-2019, where she was integral to the establishment of the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Nunavut. Ms. Menzies is a governmental expert on Arctic and Antarctic issues and is passionate about engaging youth on the future of the polar regions.



Live Moen Johannessen

Creative Director, Gobmi

Gobmi [ghost] presents the ancient Saami culture through young design and fresh aesthetics. Created by two Saami sisters from Áltá, located in both Sápmi and Oslo, Gobmi is found in between the rural and the urban. With a modern approach they revive the ancient story of a unique people at the edge of the world. Gobmi is a wave of individuality and uniqueness sent from Sápmi and out into the world.

The sisters Live and Hanna discovered their Sami heritage when a family member got old and sick and suddenly spoke Sami. Growing up in the middle of Sápmi close to Saami culture, it all suddenly made sense. This day was the beginning of a journey where the sisters take back their culture and identity that almost got lost in generations before them. Gobmi is part of this journey. Their mission is to create a collective universe where diversity, sustainability and positivity are the central values.

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Hanna Moen Reinsnes

Executive Director, Gobmi

Gobmi [ghost] presents the ancient Saami culture through young design and fresh aesthetics. Created by two Saami sisters from Áltá, located in both Sápmi and Oslo, Gobmi is found in between the rural and the urban. With a modern approach they revive the ancient story of a unique people at the edge of the world. Gobmi is a wave of individuality and uniqueness sent from Sápmi and out into the world.

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Naaja H. Nathanielsen

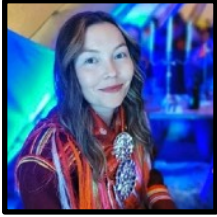
Minister of Business, Trade, Mineral Resources, Justice and Gender Equality, Government of Greenland

Naaja H. Nathanielsen (born 1975) is Minister of Business, Trade, Mineral Resources, Justice and Gender Equality in Greenland. She was first elected to Inatsisartut (the Greenlandic parliament) in 2009 for Inuit Ataqatigiit. The following 7 years she served on a number of committees, especially the Finance and Fiscal affairs committee and the committee for Trade, Commerce, Mineral and Oil Resources.

In 2016 she left the parliament and became director of the Greenlandic prison and probation service. She was reelected in April 2021 and became Minister for Housing, Infrastructure, Gender equality and Natural resources. In November 2021 she was appointed to the Ministry of Finance and Gender Equality. In a cabinet reshuffle in September 2023, she was appointed her current position. Nathanielsen holds a master's degree in psychology from the University of Copenhagen.

As member of parliament, she successfully proposed a bill to implement gender quotas on public boards and committees, proposed a gender equality law and proposed to establish a center for therapeutic help to violent partners. As minister she is currently updating the gender equality law, the minerals laws and regulations and the framework on business support and promotion.

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Karin Nutti Pilflykt

Advisor, Forest Issues, Saami Council EU Unit

Karin Nutti Pilflykt is born and raised in a reindeer herding family in the Swedish part of Sápmi. Nutti Pilflykt holds a master in forestry and a master's in Land Use and Environmental Law. Karin is working as an advisor at the Saami Council in the EU unit, mainly with forest issues.



Dag Rune Olsen

Rector, UiT the Arctic University of Norway

Professor Olsen took office as rector at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in 2021. Prior to that he served as dean and later rector at the University of Bergen. He holds a PhD in biomedical physics and was professor of medical physics at the University of Oslo and head of research at the Norwegian Radium Hospital in Oslo, before he was appointed dean in Bergen.

Olsen has been awarded with the Klaas Breur Gold Medal for his research, is an elected member of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences and *Academia Europae* – the European Academy - of which he was presented with the President's Merit Award in 2022.

Professor Olsen was recently elected president of Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN). He served as chair of the board of Universities Norway, is chair of the board of The Nordic Institute for Studies of Innovation, Research and Education and board member of the Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra.



Elle Merete Omma

EU Coordinator Head of EU unit, Saami Council

Elle Merete Omma is a Sámi raised in a reindeer herding family in Norway and Sweden. Ms Omma assumed full-time duties at the Sámi Council as the EU coordinator in 2017. She came from the position of 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 Saami and Minority Affairs in the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernization. She holds a Master's in Law from the University of Oslo.

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Samu Paukkunen

Deputy Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Mr Samu Paukkunen is the Deputy Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. He has served in several different national agencies, including the Finnish defence forces, in the Office of the President of the Republic of Finland (where he worked as a foreign and security policy expert) and in the Parliament of Finland (where he was responsible for Arctic cooperation).

Mr Paukkunen has presented his work to political leaders and senior officials from a variety of government agencies, including the Arctic Council, World Bank, and European and North American decision-makers. He has several publications related to Arctic geopolitics and hard security.



Krista Perälä

Student and student advocate University of Lapland

Krista Perälä is currently an intern in the European Parliament for Finnish MEP Ville Niinistö, and finishing her degree in Tourism Research at the University of Lapland.

She has been very active in the field of student advocacy, focusing on themes such as educational and social politics and municipal affairs. She has acted in different decision-making bodies and working groups of student associations, the student union and the university administration. Not only is she familiar with the Arctic thanks to her studies and positions of responsibility, but also by being born and having lived in Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland.

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Piotr Rakowski

Senior Advisor for Arctic Policy, Polish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Professional civil servant and diplomat. Between 2017-2020 and again from 2023 Senior Advisor for Arctic affairs in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Poland. National representative in the Senior Arctic Officials group in the Arctic Council. Previously worked in the Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU in Brussels, Belgium and in the Polish Embassy in Dublin, Ireland. He was also Director-General in the Office of the General Counsel of the Republic of Poland.

Between 2008-2013 an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Political Science and International Relations at Nicolas Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland. He was one of the editors of Poland's Polar Policy that was adopted in 2020. He is also responsible for Warsaw Format Meetings.



Mika Riipi

County Governor, Regional Council of Lapland, Finland

Mika Riipi has been the County Governor of the Regional Council of Lapland since March 2013. The Regional Council of Lapland's mission is to represent the wellbeing of the region, its municipalities, and the inhabitants of Lapland in all issues regarding development, planning, research as well as the interests of the region. Mr Riipi was formerly the Mayor of Posio, town secretary in Haapavesi, and senior adviser in the Municipality department at the Ministry of the Interior. Mr Riipi graduated from the University of Tampere in 2002 with a Master's degree in Administrative Sciences and majored in municipality jurisdiction.

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Stefano Sannino

Secretary-General, European External Action Service

Mr Stefano Sannino is the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union since 1 January 2021. He held the post of the Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues at the EEAS from April 2020 to December 2020. From March 2016 to April 2020 he was Ambassador of Italy to Spain and Andorra.

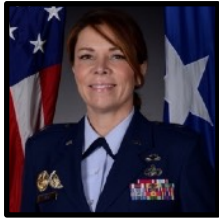
From July 2013 until March 2016 he held the position of Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU in Brussels.

After a period at the Cabinet of the President of the Commission (from 2002 to 2004) he joined the Directorate General for External Relations as Director for Crisis Management and Representative at PSC (2004-2006), then Director for Latin America (2008-2009) and finally as Deputy Director General for Asia and Latin America (2009-2010). In 2010 he moved to the Directorate General for Enlargement as Deputy Director General and later as Director General, a position he held until June 2013.

From 2006 to 2008 he was the Diplomatic Advisor to the Italian Prime Minister and his Personal Representative to G8 summits.

He has also held the position of Ambassador and Head of the OSCE Mission in Belgrade from 2001 to 2002 and within the Italian Diplomatic Service: Deputy Head of Mission of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade (1994-1996), Head of the Secretariat of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1996-1998), Diplomatic Advisor and Head of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Trade (1998-2001).

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Tracy Smith

Brigadier General, Air National Guard; Deputy Dean, School of Arctic and Climate Security Studies

Brigadier General Tracy D. Smith serves as the Assistant Adjutant General and Commander, Alaska Air National Guard, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. She is responsible for the recruiting, retention, training, and equipping of over 2,400 Alaskan citizen airmen in two flying wings. She provides strategic airlift, search and rescue, aerial refueling, air defense, and space warning and surveillance capabilities in support of state and federal missions worldwide.

Brigadier General Smith ensures the Alaska Air National Guard maintains a constant watch and commitment to Pacific Air Forces, Air Combat Command, United States Northern Command, United States Transportation Command, Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, and Air Force Space Command. Brigadier General Smith entered the United States Air Force in 1986 as a Medical Service Specialist. She received her commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1994. After completion of Basic Personnel Officer's School, Brigadier General Smith served at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado and at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. In 2001, she joined the Air Force Reserves and served as the 939th Rescue Wing in Portland before transitioning to the Air National Guard in 2004.

Brigadier General Smith previously served at the squadron, group, wing, state, and national headquarters level. Prior to her current position, she was the Director for Integration, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Integration in the Office of Military and Reserve Affairs.



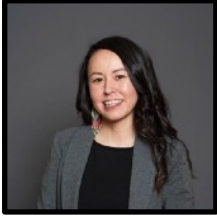
Chana Svensson

CEO, MindDig

Chana Svensson is a lawyer and entrepreneur from the U.S., who now lives in Luleå, Sweden. After moving to northern Sweden in 2021, Chana co-founded MindDig, a talent attraction and recruitment platform, aimed at bringing the best and brightest minds to the employers of Arctic Europe that are striving to decarbonize multiple industrial processes, from steel, to mining, to batteries. MindDig is the world's first collaborative recruitment system that aims to help the greenest companies in the world find the talent they need to save our planet.

Prior to moving to Sweden and starting MindDig, Chana co-founded Soilcea, an agriculture technology startup in the U.S., cutting-edge genetic manipulation techniques, including CRISPR. Before starting Soilcea, Chana practiced antitrust law in Washington, D.C.

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Kristen Tanche

Regional Director of Health & Wellness, Dehcho First Nations, Alumni of the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship

Kristen Tanche is Łı́ı́ııKı́é First Nation, Dehcho Dene from Łı́ı́ııKı́é / Fort Simpson Northwest Territories. She was raised in Southern Canada and the Northwest Territories. As a young adult she returned to her mother's home community of Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories to re-connect with her family, community and Dene culture. 23 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 Gogõndı́é 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.



Fridtjof F. Unander

Chief Economist, Aker Horizons

Mr. Fridtjof Unander is Chief Economist with Aker Horizons. He has more than 12 years' experience as Executive Director for Oceans, Energy and Sustainability at the Research Council of Norway. From 2006 to 2008 he was Deputy Executive Director and acting Executive Director of Enova SF, a state enterprise responsible for renewable energy programs in Norway.

Prior to this he worked nine years for the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris, where he held positions as Division Head of the Energy Technology Policy Division and as Principal Administrator. Among his key responsibilities at the IEA was designing and developing the first edition of the "Energy Technology Perspectives: Scenarios and Strategies to 2050" which has been established as one for the IEAs regular flagship publications. Mr. Unander also contributed to the development of several editions of the World Energy Outlook during his years at the IEA. Before joining the IEA, he was a Senior Scientist with Institute for Energy Technology (IFE) in Norway and visiting Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley

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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 24 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.



Nicolas Van Hoecke

Managing Director, International Polar Foundation

Nicolas Van Hoecke joined the International Polar Foundation in July 2021 as Managing Director. In this role, he manages the overall operations of the organization and is involved in developing strategies and projects to further its mission. Prior to his tenure at the IPF, Nicolas held various executive positions at multinational corporations such as Toyota Motor Europe, Samsung Europe, and Delhaize Group; he lived in both Europe and Asia during his time with these companies.

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Maria Varteressian

State Secretary for Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Maria Varteressian, a dedicated Labour Party member, serves as the State Secretary for Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide. Maria's career spans pivotal roles such as Political Adviser to the Minister for Climate and the Environment, Foreign Policy Adviser within the Labour Party Parliamentary Group, and previous advisory positions at WWF Norway and Arctic Frontiers. With a Master's in Globalization and a Bachelor's in political science, Maria's commitment to public service and policy development underscores her impactful contributions within the political landscape.



Mirja Vehkaperä

Chair of the City Board; Member, EU Committee of the Regions

Mirja Vehkaperä is the Chair of the Oulu City Board. She has a long career as a municipal politician. She has worked as a Member of Parliament in the Finnish Parliament from 2007 to 2018 and in the European Parliament 2018-2019.

Mrs Vehkaperä is currently a member of the EU Committee of the Regions. She holds numerous positions of trust in Oulu, Northern Ostrobothnia and at national level.

She has a master's degree in education from the University of Oulu. Mirja has also worked as a teacher in a primary school.



Charlina Vitcheva

Director General, DG MARE

Charlina Vitcheva was appointed Director General of DG MARE, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries in June 2020. Before this, she became Deputy Director General of the JRC in September 2016. She was acting DG for the JRC from the 1st of November 2019 to the 30th of April 2020. Previous to this, she was Director of Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe at DG Regional and Urban Policy, and also held a Director's position on Inclusive Growth, Territorial and Urban Development and Northern Europe.

Before joining the Commission, Charlina spent 15 years in Bulgarian public administration including at the Permanent Representation in Brussels, dealing mainly with agricultural and fisheries issues. During this period, she was actively involved in the accession negotiations of Bulgaria and between 2000 and 2004 headed the negotiations teams in the area of agriculture and rural development, food safety, and

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Petteri Vuorimäki

Senior Arctic Official, Ambassador, Arctic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Finland's Ambassador for Arctic Affairs as of 1 September 2019. Finnish Senior Arctic Official in the Arctic Council. Until the fall of 2022, also Ambassador for Antarctic Affairs.

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 (Coordinator for Russia and the CIS Countries) 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 charge of the COEST Working Party (Russia, CIS, Arctic and Northern Cooperation, European Neighborhood Policy, Black Sea cooperation), in the External Relations Directorate General of the European Commission (Unit for Relations with Russia) and in the European External Action Service, where he was appointed in 2011 as the first permanent chairperson for the COEST and COSCE Working Parties and subsequently as from 2015 a Senior Russia Expert.

In Brussels his primary fields of interest and responsibility were related to EU-Russia relations, the Union's Eastern Neighborhood, 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 that submitted a report to the CBSS Ministerial meeting on the future of the CBSS and the Baltic Sea region cooperation.



Jan-Gunnar Winther

Pro-rector research and development at UiT the Arctic university of Norway

Jan-Gunnar Winther currently held positions as the Director of the Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic at UiT The Arctic University of Norway and Specialist Director at the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI). Winther was director of the NPI from 2005 to 2017. He has been Adjunct Professor at École Polytechnique Fédéral de Lausanne (EPFL) and at the University Centre in Svalbard. He is the chair of the Board of GRID Arendal. Dr. Winther serves on several national and international committees and delegations including EU Mission Board, UN, WEF, IPCC, China Council, Arctic Council, and the Antarctic Treaty.

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Corine Wood-Donnelly

Associate Professor of International Relations and the High North, Nord University; Scientific Coordinator, JUSTNORTH project.

Dr. Corine Wood-Donnelly is an Associate Professor of International Relations and the High North. She is the Scientific Coordinator for JUSTNORTH (EU project 869327) and leads the Working Group on Arctic Justice.

Corine holds academic posts at Nord Universitet and Uppsala University. She has regional expertise in the Arctic with substantive knowledge of governance frameworks, maritime law and state practices. Corine received her both her Ph.D. in Government Research and her M.A. in International Relations from Brunel University. In 2016, she became an accredited Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and in 2017 became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. Her research interests include maritime search and rescue, maritime territory and resource sovereignty, performative geopolitics, values in sustainability and Arctic justice.

As a scholar of the Arctic, Corine conducts interdisciplinary work within International Relations and geography, but also draws from public international law and history. She is an editor of a forthcoming volume with Bristol University Press on Arctic Justice: Environment, Society & Governance.