
ARCTIC FUTURES SYMPOSIUM 2019

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS
AND MODERATORS





Laura Churchill

Youth Board Member, Pauktuutit

Laura Pia Churchill is one of two youth board members of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. She is 22 years old, originally from Clyde River, Nunavut and currently resides in Iqaluit, the capital city of Nunavut in Canada's Arctic. Laura's first language is Inuktitut; she is also fluent in English and speaks some Spanish. Previously, Laura was employed as a Land Administrator with the Land Administration Office of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). Laura was recently a speaker at the Nunavut Mining Symposium in Iqaluit on behalf of Pauktuutit where she talked about issues facing Inuit Women in the extraction industry, as well as her personal reflections and relationship to mining through her previous employment and through family working in the industry.

Currently, Laura is the Child and Family Advocate for the Arctic Children Youth Foundation, which is a not-for-profit organization in Nunavut. In this role, she works at the Umingmak Centre, which is Nunavut's first Child Advocacy Centre, a one-stop-shop that coordinates interventions and supports victims of child abuse. Laura participated in the Third Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls in Mexico City in 2018 as an Inuit Youth Representative. She spoke on issues facing Inuit Youth in Nunavut and the challenges they face with the education system as well as the lack of safe and enabling environments for children and youth. More recently, Laura travelled to Nuuk, Greenland along with the Department of Community Justice, Government of Nunavut on a delegation with the Government of Greenland on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

In her free time, Laura trains and runs with her Inuit dog sledge team, which she has been raising since 2017. Responsibilities with her dog team include feeding the dogs regularly, teaching them commands, sewing harnesses for the dogs, and making warm clothing for herself.



Gjert Lage Dyndal

Colonel (PhD), Deputy Head, Strategic Analysis Capability, NATO HQ / Docent at the Swedish Defence University

Gjert Lage Dyndal is an active duty Colonel in the Royal Norwegian Air Force, currently working as a strategy analyst/advisor at NATO HQ in Brussels. Colonel Dyndal has an operational military background with Norwegian maritime patrol aircraft in the High North, and with other operations in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

He also worked for Statoil (now Equinor) as a Principal Researcher and project leader for new exploration technologies for the ice-covered Arctic Sea in 2012-13.

In addition to his military education, Colonel Dyndal has a PhD in Modern History from the University of Glasgow. He holds a part-time

academic post as *Docent* at the Swedish Defence University and held a position at the Department of Cybernetics at the Norwegian Science and Technology University (NTNU) for drone developments for the Arctic until August 2019.

As an academic, Dyndal has researched and published extensively on strategy and security, Arctic issues included, as well as on-air and sea power issues.



Heather Exner-Pirot

Research Associate, Observatoire de la politique et la sécurité de l'Arctique (OPSA)

Heather Exner-Pirot is a research associate at the Observatoire de la politique et la sécurité de l'Arctique and the Managing Editor of the *Arctic Yearbook*. She has held positions at the University of Saskatchewan, the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development and the University of the Arctic. Dr. Exner-Pirot is a regular contributor to Radio Canada's Eye on the Arctic website, a board member for The Arctic Institute and the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network, Chair of the Canadian Northern Studies Trust, and a member of the GlobalArctic Mission Council.

She completed her doctoral degree in political science at the University of Calgary in 2011. She has published extensively on Arctic and northern governance, regionalism, security and development.



André Gattolin

Senator, Vice President of the Commission on European Affairs, French Senate

André Gattolin is a French politician (La République En Marche party) and academic. Since October 2011, he has been a member of the French Senate, currently serving as Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee. He also sits on the Cultural Affairs Committee. From 2014 to 2017, he was Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee. On behalf of the European Affairs Committee, he authored three EU/Arctic-related reports, including one focusing on Greenland. He also chairs the France-Northern Europe Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Furthermore, he is actively involved in the promotion of human rights, especially in South-East Asia. Born in 1960, he studied at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po). From 1988 to 1991, he held senior advisory roles in the political studies departments of several polling institutes (Gallup, CSA, Ipsos). From 1996 to 2006, he was the director for studies and development at the French daily newspaper *Libération*. Holding a PhD in information and communication sciences, he still teaches at the New Sorbonne University of Paris.



Einar Gunnarsson

Ambassador Arctic Affairs, 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.



Erika Anne Hayfield

Associate Professor, University of the Faroe Islands

Erika Anne Hayfield, PhD, is Associate Professor and Programme Director in the Department of History and Social Sciences at the University of the Faroe Islands. Erika's research includes gender, labour market mobilities and cultures of migration in peripheral areas. She has researched youth out-migration from the small island community of the Faroe Islands, as well as the experiences of non-Nordic immigrants coming to the Faroe Islands. Erika's research has further focused on issues of social cohesion and connectedness as significant features in understanding the workings of small places in the Arctic.

Erika has published her work in international academic journals, is currently Vice-Chair of the Faroese National Research Council as well as a member of Gender Equality in the Arctic. Prior to working in academia, Erika was an advisor to the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Faroe Islands. Her areas of responsibilities included gender equality and she headed up the national population growth strategy of the Faroese government as well as the Faroese government strategy to combat and prevent domestic violence.

**Verena Gisela Huppert**

PhD Fellow Aalborg University, Arctic Consensus, Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq and Greenland Business Association

Verena Gisela Huppert is a PhD fellow at the Department for Culture and Learning at Aalborg University (Denmark), Arctic Consensus (Denmark / Greenland), Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq (Greenland), and the Greenland Business Association (Greenland). Her research focus is on the recruitment and retention of labour in Greenland, in the light of a current skills mismatch on the Greenlandic labour market. The project aims to identify potential discrepancies between employers' and employees' notions of a good working life and give recommendations to future initiatives regarding the recruitment and retention of labour in Greenland. Results are expected to be published in the course of 2020.

Verena holds an M.A. in Arctic Studies from Aalborg University, Denmark (2016), a B.A. in Scandinavian and Roman languages and literature from Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany (2014), as well as a vocational education in tourism management (2009). Born and raised in the South of Germany, Verena has during her educational and professional life lived in France, Sweden and Denmark. Currently, she is based in Nuuk, Greenland.

**Margretha Jacobsen**

Representative of the Faroe Islands to the Arctic Council

Margretha Jacobsen holds the position of Senior Arctic Official of the Faroe Islands to the Arctic Council. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Jacobsen worked on 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 on 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.

**Ellen Marie Jensen**

Guest Researcher at the Center for Women's and Gender Research, UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

Ellen Marie Jensen is dual US/Norwegian citizen and has a coastal Sámi background from Finnmark Province. She holds a PhD in Humanities and Social Sciences and a Master's in Indigenous Studies and Master's in English literature. Her research and writing broadly

concern Indigenous and Sámi Studies, Gender Studies, migration and diaspora, and narrative methods. As a guest researcher at the Centre for Women's and Gender Research at UiT, the Arctic University of Norway, she is currently developing an interdisciplinary research project on lateral violence in Sámi and other northern Indigenous communities in historical and trans-Atlantic perspectives.



Odile Joannette

Executive Director, Wapikoni Mobile

For close to 20 years, Odile Joannette has been striving to uphold and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples and to improve their living conditions. From 2017 to 2019, she served on the Ordre de Montréal's board and is one of 15 members of the Table on Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination. A graduate of UQAM specialized in communications and public relations, she became involved with the Québec Native Women's Movement in 2002. Five years later, she collaborated on developing and opening Montréal's first Indigenous daycare centre and helped create the Montréal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK.

She is a founding member and administrator of DestiNATIONS: International Crossroads of the Arts and Cultures of Aboriginal Peoples and remains committed to making Montreal a major destination for Indigenous culture and tourism. She was Director of Partnerships and Communications for the Assembly of First Nations Québec-Labrador's Human Resources Development, Employment and Training Commission before accepting the position of Wapikoni's Executive Director.



Kathleen Larkin

Arctic Security Officer, Office of Nordic, Baltic, and Arctic Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Kathleen Larkin serves as the Arctic Security Officer at the U.S. Department of State. Ms. Larkin joined the State Department in 2013 as a Presidential Management Fellow and served as a budget analyst in the Bureau of Budget and Planning from 2013-2015. During her fellowship, she participated in two development rotations, covering an extended staffing gap on the Albania Desk and serving in the Political and Economic Section at U.S. Embassy Lisbon, Portugal. From 2015-2019, Ms. Larkin served as the Bosnia and Herzegovina Desk officer in the Office of South Central Europe, where her portfolio included political and economic developments, human rights, counterterrorism, the rule of law, and sanctions.

Prior to joining the State Department, Kathleen worked at a number of federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, the Department Justice, and the Department of Defense, gaining expertise on topics ranging from performance

management to the land rights of Native Hawaiians. Kathleen holds a B.A. in History from Harding University in Arkansas and M.P.A. from the American University in Washington, D.C. Ms. Larkin is originally from Colorado Springs, CO.



Tanja Lepistö

Special Advisor, East and North Finland EU Office

Tanja Lepistö works at East & North Finland EU Office as a Senior Advisor. Her focus fields are forest-based bio-economy, urban policy and RDI. She has a strong background managing forest-related regional development projects and forest-related bioenergy initiatives, as well as projects dealing with smart specialisation, business and organisational development.

Mrs. Lepistö holds a Master's Degree in Agriculture and Forestry from the University of Helsinki and she has worked at the Finnish Forest Centre for many years before moving to Brussels to work at the East and North Finland EU Office.



Nils-Olov Lindfors

Councillor, Region of Norrbotten; Chair of the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas network (NSPA)

Nils-Olov Lindfors is Chair of the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) network, representing the fourteen northernmost regions in Norway, Finland and Sweden, which to a great extent constitutes the European Arctic. Mr. Lindfors represents the Region of Norrbotten as the regional councillor responsible for regional development, and has been an active politician for ten years and leads the Center Party at the regional level. He holds an MSc and a Eur Ing in Metallurgy. He graduated from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm 1973, and has had a civil career as a metallurgist with international experiences such as being a high-level consultant for the United Nations and the World Bank.

Mr. Lindfors is also a farmer and has since 1983 managed a farm outside Luleå together with his family, managing forests and breeding Arabian horses as the farm's main income. Climate change and active forestry are of great interest for him and he has been very active in different projects on carbon capture and storage in addition to other initiatives to enhance the role of forest management.



Björn Lyrvall

Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

In September 2017, Björn Lyrvall assumed the position of Swedish Ambassador for Arctic Affairs. From 2013 to 2017, he served as Ambassador of Sweden to the US and between 2007 and 2013 he was

Director-General for Political Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm. From 2002 to 2007, he was posted at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels. Ambassador Lyrvall has also worked as a Special Advisor to former Prime Minister Carl Bildt and International High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995-1997), as well as UN Special Envoy on the Balkans in 1999.

Additional diplomatic posts have included Leningrad, Moscow and London. Born in Hofors, Sweden, in 1960, Björn Lyrvall is a graduate of the University of Stockholm and holds a degree in political science, Eastern European Affairs and Russian.



Harri Mäki-Reinikka

Ambassador and Special Adviser on northern policies at Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Arctic Team

Currently, Mr. Harri Mäki-Reinikka is Secretary-General of Finland's Advisory Board on Arctic Affairs, Ambassador and Special Adviser on northern policies at the MFA's Arctic Team (since 1 September 2016). He has worked as Ambassador of Finland to six countries: to Lithuania and Belarus from 1 January 2013 until 31 August 2016 and to Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan from 1 September 2008 until 31 January 2012. He was Deputy to the Minister and Chief of the Secretariat for Nordic Cooperation at the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2005 until 2008. He already gained experience on Arctic issues through his involvement in the Northern Dimension process between 1996 and 1998.



Nataliya Markushina

Professor, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Doctor of Political Sciences; School of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University

Professor Nataliya Markushina is a Candidate of Historical Sciences and a Doctor of Political Sciences. After a practical study at Moscow State University of Foreign Affairs (MGIMO) in 2003, the following year she pursued a practical study under Chair Interbrew-Baillet Latour at KULeuven, Institute for International and European Policy Leuven, Belgium.

Professor Markushina has been a Doctor of political science since 2012, doing her dissertation on "The Russian foreign policy strategy in a context implementation of the concept 'New North'". Since 2016 Mrs. Markushina has been a Professor at the School of the International Relations of St. Petersburg State University. Professor Markushina is also an expert of the Russian Academy of Sciences and an expert in the Federal Register of Experts in the scientific and technical sphere. Moreover, she is a member of the editorial board of Azimut Research: Economics and Management (Russian Science Citation Index, State Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles) and she obtained the

grant of the President of the Russian Federation to support young scientists - PhDs (Competition - MK-2009) "The Role of Russia in the" New North "Concept".

Finally, her sphere of research interests includes the Russian regions and the EU: advantages and disadvantages of cooperation, regional programs as the tool of a good-neighbourhood in a context of relations of Russia-EU, the Northern Dimension, the New North and questions of the Arctic cooperation.



Elle Merete Emma

EU Coordinator, Sámi 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 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 Sámi and Minority Affairs in the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernization. She holds a Master in Law from the University of Oslo.



Jean-Sébastien Moore

Professor, Université Laval; Coordinator Lab. of Evolutionary Ecology of Northern Aquatic Resources, Institut nordique du Québec

Jean-Sébastien Moore is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology and the Institute of Integrative and Systems Biology at Université Laval in Québec City. He holds a B.Sc. (Hons) and an MSc from McGill University, a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia, and has conducted postdoctoral work at Université Laval. His research focuses on the applications of genomics and acoustic telemetry to inform the conservation and management of native northern fishes, particularly anadromous (sea-run) salmonids. For the past ten years, he has collaborated extensively with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Inuit communities to study ecology and evolution of Arctic Char, a species of great cultural and economic importance in Northern Canada. He has participated in many science outreach efforts and served for three years on the Executive Committee of the Association for Polar Early Career Researcher, including one year as President. He is the recipient of a W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research and of the Early Career Award of the American Fisheries Society's Genetics Section.

**Tonje Nermark**

Vice-President, Strategic Communications and Public Affairs, Mo Industrial Park

Tonje Nermark has been the VP of Public Affairs and Communications at Mo Industrial Park Ltd. since 2017. Mo Industrial Park (MIP) has more than 100 companies and 2500 employees, making it one of the largest in Norway. Prior to joining the team at MIP, the VP has worked several years in Brussels. She also currently holds three board member positions in regional companies and member organizations. Nermark has a masters in International Relations from King's College London.

**Andreas Østhagen**

Senior Research Fellow, Fridtjof Nansen Institute; Senior Fellow, Leadership Group, the Arctic Institute

Dr. Andreas Østhagen is a Research Fellow at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) in Oslo; one of Norway's leading research institutes concerning marine resource management, the Arctic and Russia.

He also holds a position as Senior Fellow and member of the Leadership Group at The Arctic Institute, a Washington D.C.-based non-profit, and as an Advisor at the High North Center for Business and Governance at Nord University, North Norway.

Østhagen has also completed a PhD at the University of British Columbia (UBC) focused on maritime space.

He has previously worked at the Norwegian Institute of Defence Studies in Oslo, at the North Norway European Office in Brussels, and at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington D.C.

He holds a Master's in International Relations from the London School of Economics, from 2010.

**Neil O'Rourke**

Assistant Commissioner, Arctic Region, Canadian Coast Guard

Neil O'Rourke was appointed Assistant Commissioner, Arctic Region, for the Canadian Coast Guard in October 2018. Prior to this appointment, he served for a decade in senior positions with the Coast Guard, including as Senior Director, Safe Shipping and Economic Intelligence, and as the national lead for Arctic program policy, user fees and the implementation of e-Navigation in Canadian waters. He also has significant private sector experience as a former management consultant and executive with Petro-Canada. Mr. O'Rourke also served as a councillor with the International Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authority (IALA) on behalf of Canada.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Carleton University and a Master of Business Administration—International from the University of Ottawa. He resides in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories with his family.



Bob Paquin

Head, Canadian International Arctic Centre, Canadian Embassy, Oslo, Norway

Bob Paquin took up his current position as Head of the Oslo-based Canadian International Arctic Centre in 2015. Prior to this, Paquin was Deputy Director of the Human Rights Policy Division from 2013-15, Director of the Task Force on International Critical Incidents from 2011-13, Middle East Regional Policy Coordinator, 2009-11, and he undertook a temporary assignment as Political Director of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan in 2009. Before this, he worked as Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister for Bilateral Relations from 2008-09. He also served as Senior Asia Regional Strategist from 2006-2007, and in the International Crime and Terrorism Division from 2004-06. He spent three years in Singapore as the Political/Economic Relations and Public Affairs Program Manager in 2001-04 and served in the Southeast Asia Division from 1999-2001. Through 1998-99, he was the Program Coordinator with the newly-created Forum of Federations for the First International Conference on Federalism. Based in Singapore from 1993-98, Paquin undertook consulting work for the Canadian International Development Agency's Southeast Asia Regional Program. Prior to this, he worked in the private sector in the publishing industry.



Terkel Petersen

Senior Expert, Arctic Affairs, European External Action Service

Terkel Petersen was born in Denmark in 1963. His education covers degrees in languages, economics and law as well as international relations, obtained at the Copenhagen Business School and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (Cambridge, Massachusetts); he also studied at Università Bocconi in Milan. He is currently a senior expert for Arctic matters at the EEAS in the division covering multilateral regional cooperation. Between 2012 and 2015, he was deputy head of division for the Western Balkans. He also covered Asian issues in 2010/11. He served in Geneva at the EU/Council liaison office from 2003 to 2007 (ao. disarmament affairs as well as development issues in the UN and WTO). Before this, he covered ao. multilateral environmental agreements (climate change, biodiversity, CITES) for the EU/Council at HQ (2001-3) and at the Danish Ministry of Energy and Environment (1993-1995 and 1999-2001).



Christian Prip

Senior Policy Analyst, Fridtjof Nansen Institute

Christian Prip is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen's Institute with a law background. Prip has published a series of articles and reports on international environmental governance, in the last years with a specific emphasis on the Arctic.

Currently, he is involved in the research project Science and Business in Arctic Environmental Governance (POLGOV) together with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). The project systematically assesses how and why science and business actors' knowledge claims have gained purchase (or failed to do so) in the Arctic. In addition, he is doing research on how a future international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (currently under negotiation at the UN) may influence Arctic marine governance.

Before entering academia, Dr. Prip had 20 years of experience as a lead negotiator in international environmental negotiations for his native country of Denmark. From 2005 to 2007, he served as chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.



Marita Vang Rasmussen

CEO of the Employers Association in the Faroe Islands, House of Industry

Marita Vang Rasmussen is the CEO of the Employers Association in the Faroe Islands, House of Industry. The primary role of the House of Industry is to negotiate wages and working conditions in the private sector of the labour market, as well as developing industrial policies in the Faroe Islands. As a representative of the Employers Association, Marita serves as a board member of several public institutions relevant to the labour market sector, such as the Agency of Social Services, National Pension Fund, and others.

Prior to working in the Employers Association, Marita was an adviser in the Ministry of Fisheries. She was also an advisor in the Fish Processing and Aquaculture Association, in addition to holding managerial positions within the sector.

Marita Rasmussen holds an M.A. of Fisheries from the University of Tromsø, Norway, and an M.A. in Management from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

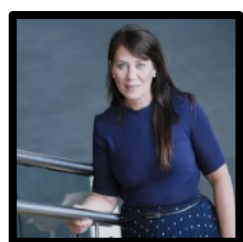


Federica Scarpa

Communication Manager, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, International Arctic Science Committee

Born in Venice, Italy, Federica Scarpa earned a Master's Degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology in 2011. She conducted fieldwork in Angmagssalik (East Greenland) on the economic, social and cultural relevance of traditional seal-hunting considered from an Inuit perspective.

After graduating in Venice, she moved to Akureyri, Iceland, where she started the Polar Law Masters' Programme in September 2011 and earned her second Master's degree in June 2013. Her thesis titled "The EU, the Arctic, and Arctic Indigenous Peoples" focuses on the need for the EU to integrate Indigenous peoples' issues within a developing EU Arctic Policy. Currently living in Akureyri, she takes a special interest in Indigenous Peoples, Arctic Governance and EU policies affecting the Arctic.



Li Skarin

Project Manager, PIKAB, Piteå Municipality Group

Li Skarin is an entrepreneur, former Project Manager of PIKAB, Piteå Municipality Group with a background in media and journalism, who works with regional development issues. Innovation, development of testbed clusters and natural resources are topics close to her heart.



Malgorzata (Gosia) Smieszek

Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland/ co-lead of a non-profit "Women of the Arctic"

Malgorzata (Gosia) Smieszek is a political scientist and a researcher at the Arctic Centre, the University of Lapland in Finland. Her research interests comprise questions of environmental, ocean and Arctic governance, science-policy interface, and the gender equality and sustainable development nexus. In December 2019, she will defend her doctoral dissertation "Informal International Regimes: The Case Study of the Arctic Council." Gosia has worked on a number of national and international projects, including most recently "Finland's Arctic Council Chairmanship in times of increasing uncertainty" for the Finnish Prime Minister's Office (2016-2018).

She has been the chair of International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Action Group on Communicating Arctic Science to Policy-Makers (CASP) and a representative of IASC to the meetings of the Arctic Council. She is a co-founder and a co-lead of a non-profit association "Women of the Arctic" (www.genderisnotplanb.com). You can follow her on Twitter at [@gosiasmieszek](https://twitter.com/gosiasmieszek).



Piet Steel

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.



Bård Ivar Svendsen

Special Adviser, Ambassador for Arctic and Antarctic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Bård Ivar Svendsen took up the role of Special Adviser / Ambassador for Arctic and Antarctic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway in 2018.

Prior to this posting, Ambassador Svendsen was Norway's Ambassador to Azerbaijan and Georgia (2014-18), Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Norwegian Embassy in Moscow (2011-14), and Assistant Director-General for Russia, Eurasia and Regional Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo (2009-11). Before this, he was also Counsellor for Political Affairs at the Norwegian Embassy in Moscow (2006-09), First Secretary at the Norwegian Embassy in Vienna (2003-06), and First Secretary at the Norwegian Embassy in Riga (2000-03).

In addition to his native Norwegian, the Ambassador also speaks fluent Russian, English, German, Latvian and Dutch.



Tove Søvndahl Gant

Policy Officer and Expert member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (as of 1 January 2020)

Ms. Søvndahl Gant is a policy officer at the Human Rights division of the European External Action Service where she is responsible for a range of human rights files, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples. For nearly three decades in her capacity as an official of the

Greenlandic Government, she has followed key UN processes pertaining to Indigenous Peoples including in the context of sustainable development and environment. She also served as the Executive Secretary for the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat of the Arctic Council 1996-2000. Between 2008 and 2012, she chaired the Board of Governors of Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland, and was the Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors for UArctic, the University of the Arctic, until 2019.

Ms. Søvndahl Gant has been elected to serve as an expert member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for the term 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2022.



Rósa Rut Þórisdóttir

Associate Scientist, Stefansson Arctic Institute

Dr. Rósa Rut Þórisdóttir is an Associate Scientist at the Stefansson Arctic Institute in Iceland. Living in Brussels, she has been associated with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and coordinated Social Sciences within the organisation from 2009 until 2013.

Dr. Þórisdóttir holds a Masters in Visual Anthropology from the Goldsmiths University of London, and an undergraduate in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Iceland, with a specialisation in Arctic regions and gender issues. She has a PhD in Anthropology from Paris VII and specialises in analysing visual documents related to the Arctic. In her studies, she points out the cultural heritage embedded in visual documents such as films and photos and the importance of returning them back to the cultures from which they originated. Her studies were published in the book *L'Arctique en Images, L'analyse des films de Jean Malaurie et la question de la valeur des documents visuel* (Éditions Universitaires Européennes, 2011).

Along with her teaching, Rósa is never far from the Arctic discourse. Last year she published a book on human encounters with polar bears from the time Iceland was first settled in 974 to modern times entitled *Hvítabirnir á Íslandi* (Hólar Editions, 2018). The book gathers confirmed sightings of over 600 polar bears for the first time in one book, interweaving legends, oral histories, rumours and other stories from uncertified backgrounds. The book was nominated by the Association of Non-fiction and Educational Writers in Iceland as one of the ten most interesting books published in 2018.



Jean-Pascal van Ypersele de Strihou

Professor at UCLouvain (Belgium), Former IPCC Vice-Chair, Co-author of the UN Global Sustainable Development Report 2019

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (born 1957, Brussels), holds a Ph.D. in physics (about Antarctic sea ice and the Southern Ocean) from NCAR

(National Center for Atmospheric Research, USA) and UCLouvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), where he is a full Professor of Climatology and Sustainable Development. He has extensively published with natural and social scientists.

He has been extensively involved in the IPCC since 1995, was its Vice-Chair (2008-2015), and is a candidate for the Chair position in 2022. He is a member of the Académie royale de Belgique and of the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development. He has participated in most UN conferences on climate since 1979 and has just co-authored, on request from the UN Secretary-General, the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report. On Twitter: [@JPvanYpersele](https://twitter.com/JPvanYpersele)

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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.



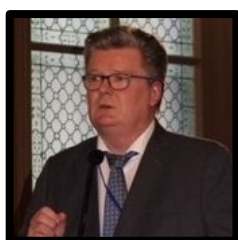
Jari Vilén

Senior Advisor for the Arctic, European Commission

Ambassador Jari Vilén is the Senior Advisor in Arctic policy matters in the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), the in-house think tank of the European Commission.

Prior to assuming this position in October 2018, Ambassador Vilén served as Finnish ambassador to Hungary and Poland, EU ambassador to Council of Europe and his career included also two terms as a Member of Finnish Parliament and minister of European Affairs in the Finnish government.

Ambassador Vilén is from Lapland himself and has worked extensively with Nordic and Arctic matters in his previous career. Ambassador Vilén holds Master of Education Degree from the University of Oulu and he has studied EU politics in the Trinity College, Dublin.



Petteri Vuorimäki

Ambassador, Arctic and Antarctic Affairs, Ministry of 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.



Lars-Gunnar Wigemark

Ambassador at Large for the Arctic, European External Action Service

Prior to joining the EU External Action Service, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark worked for the Swedish Foreign Service and the European Commission for over 20 years. He was the EU Special Representative and Head of Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina until September this year and EU ambassador to Pakistan 2011-2015. He was Head of the European Commission's Security Policy Unit 2008-2011. Ambassador Wigemark served as a Swedish diplomat in Belgrade, Washington, Brussels, Kabul and Moscow, where he was also Deputy Head of Mission. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University in Social Science and a Masters's degree from the

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in public international law and international economics.

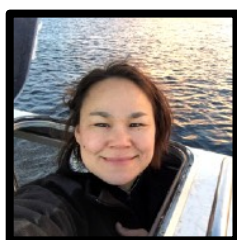


Thomas Winkler

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.



Nikoline Ziemer

Business development Manager, Royal Greenland A/S

Nikoline Ziemer was born in Greenland, Qasigiannnguit in 1973. In 2004, Ms. Ziemer obtained a Master of Science in Biology from Copenhagen University, with a specialization in marine biology.

Currently, she is the Business Development Manager of Royal Greenland A/S. The focus is to find new possibilities to utilize resources in the sea around Greenlandic waters. Out of scope are species that are already being utilized at the present moment. The focus is to look at a business case at a time and look into the whole value chain to evaluate the possibilities and then implement the project to see the actual viability of that business case. Examples of cases are sea urchins, sea cucumber and seaweed.

