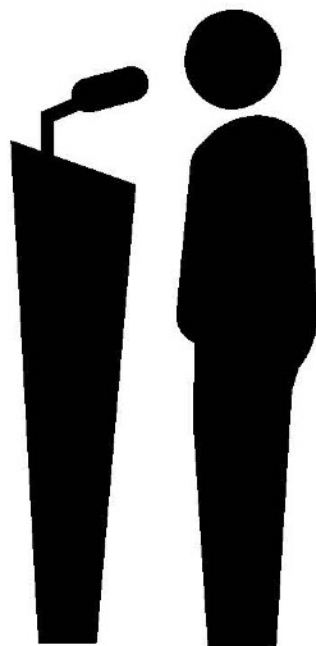
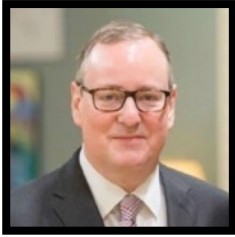


# ARCTIC FUTURES SYMPOSIUM 2021

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS  
AND MODERATORS





### **Pétur Ásgeirsson**

*Senior Arctic Official, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland*

Ambassador Pétur Ásgeirsson is Iceland's Senior Arctic Official to the Arctic Council. He is an Economist from the University of Stirling, Scotland (1987) and has worked for the Government for nearly 30 years. Ambassador Ásgeirsson is no stranger to the Arctic. He served as Ambassador to Canada from 2017 to 2021 and was appointed Iceland's first Consul General in Nuuk, Greenland in 2013, where he was the first foreign diplomat to reside in Greenland since World War II. Ambassador Ásgeirsson served as Director General of Administration and Consular Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2009 to 2013. He first joined the Foreign Service from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in 1999.

Ambassador Ásgeirsson is married to Mrs. Jóhanna Gunnarsdóttir, a lawyer. They have two sons, born in 1991 and 1993.



### **Erik Bergkvist**

*Member of the European Parliament, Social Democratic Party*

Erik Bergkvist has been a Social Democratic member of the European Parliament since 2019 and the voice of Northern Sweden in Europe. His focus is to create an equal Europe, both within and between Member States. The Union's regional and growth policy is at the heart of this work. Dr Bergkvist has a good deal of political experience, both as a chair of the Northern Region Västerbotten and as a municipal board member in his home city of Umeå. He holds a PhD in Economics from Umeå University.

Dr Bergkvist worked with Arctic-related issues in his role as a regional politician in Västerbotten and in the context of his engagement on a European level. He is a member of the European Parliament's committee of regional development and the Arctic Friendship Group. He was recently elected as Vice-chair in SEArca with a special focus on Arctic matters. Furthermore, he has also been Vice-chair for the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR).



### **Francesco Bertoldi**

*Head of Nordic and Arctic Unit, The Scottish Government*

Francesco Bertoldi is the Head of the Nordic and Arctic Unit in the Scottish Government's Directorate for External Affairs. He led on the development of Arctic Connections, Scotland's first Arctic policy framework, and is now responsible for its implementation, advising Scottish Ministers on opportunities for engagement and policy collaboration between Scotland and the Arctic region. A proud Friulian hailing from Udine, Francesco holds an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Florence. He's currently working towards a PhD in Politics at the University of Edinburgh (he will finish it one day, just don't ask him when) and served as editorial assistant for the Regional & Federal Studies journal (2018-2021).



**Louise Calais**

*Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden*

Louise Calais' background is primarily in security policy and EU affairs, having worked in Stockholm, Brussels, and New York. She has been active in humanitarian affairs and worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for three years before being stationed in Iraq as Deputy Head of Mission in Baghdad and the Head of Section Office in Erbil. In January 2020, she was appointed as the new Senior Arctic Official for Sweden and expert on multilateral affairs.



**Ailish Campbell**

*Ambassador of Canada to the European Union*

Dr Ailish Campbell was appointed Ambassador of Canada to the European Union in October 2020. In this role, she leads diplomatic representation to the EU and strategic engagement of Canada's second largest trade and investment partner.

Dr Campbell joined Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada in 2002 as a trade negotiator in the WTO Doha Round. During her time as a federal public servant, she has held successively senior executive roles in economic, finance, and international policy including at the Privy Council Office and Industry Canada. Outside of the public service, Dr Campbell was Vice President, International and Fiscal Policy, at the Business Council of Canada from 2013 - 2015. In 2015, she returned to public service and became General Director, Economic Development and Corporate Finance, at Finance Canada where she led work on innovation, clean technology, and defence. From 2017-2020, she served as Chief Trade Commissioner of Canada and Assistant Deputy Minister, leading Global Affairs Canada's team of Trade Commissioners across six Canadian offices and over 150 locations worldwide. Under her leadership, the Trade Commissioner Service expanded services to high growth companies and established a range of new digital services to small businesses to promote the use of Canada's global network of free trade agreements.

Dr Campbell holds a Doctorate in International Relations from the University of Oxford. Her doctoral thesis was published by Palgrave Macmillan (UK) as "European Welfare States and Supranational Governance of Social Policy". In August 2020, she earned her ICD.D designation from the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. She was designated a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.



**Alyssa Carpenter**

*Northern Fellow, the Gordon Foundation*

Alyssa Carpenter is a Jane Glassco Northern Fellow. She was born and raised in the Western Arctic region of the Northwest Territories and identifies as Inuvialuit and Dene and is a northern social worker that currently resides between Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, with her family. A majority of her work experience is within the non-profit sector, working with various levels of government in both the Yukon and Northwest Territories, working primarily with Indigenous people and northern youth. She is the Community Outreach Manager for BYTE: Empowering Youth and consults for other youth-based organizations and initiatives, such as Taking It Global, and other Indigenous and non-for-profit organizations. The Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship is a policy and leadership development program recognizing leadership potential among

young northern Canadians eager to address policy challenges facing the North.



**Romain Chuffart**

*Research Associate and Leadership Group Member, The Arctic Institute*

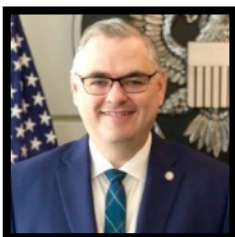
Romain Chuffart is a Leadership Group member and Research Associate at The Arctic Institute where he serves as internal communication coordinator and co-hosts The Arctic Institute’s Bookshelf Podcast. Mr Chuffart has a strong Arctic research background. He studied at Ilisimatusarfik (winter 2016) and holds a MA in Polar Law from the University of Akureyri, Iceland. He is currently doing his PhD in law at Durham Law School, Durham University in the United Kingdom as part of the Leverhulme Trust-funded Durham Arctic Research Centre for Training and Interdisciplinary Collaboration (DurhamARCTIC). His doctoral research focuses on international law and the relationship between the implementation of Indigenous rights and environmental protection mechanisms across the Arctic. Mr Chuffart also worked as the Research Intern Museum and Exhibition Center for Technical and Technological Development of the Arctic in St. Petersburg, Russia (2018) and he was a Research Fellow at the Polar Cooperation Research Centre at Kobe University, Japan (2018-2019). He recently co-authored an article on the EU-Arctic nexus and the European Green Deal with Andreas Raspotnik and Adam Stępień.



**Marie-Anne Coninx**

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

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.



**Louis J Crishock**

*Senior Arctic Official, US. State Department*

Louis John Crishock was born February 8, 1971 in Arlington, Virginia. He graduated from Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, Virginia in 1989. He received a B.A. in religion summa cum laude from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, in 1993, and an MA in sociology from the same institution in 1995.

In 2017, he was a distinguished graduate of the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy of the National Defense University, Washington, DC (MS, national resource strategy).

Following graduation in 1995, Mr. Crishock taught sociology at Ural State University in Yekaterinburg, Russia (Academic Year 1995-1996) as part of

the Civic Education Project. From 1996-1998, he served as the Civic Education Project's Deputy Director for Russia based in Moscow, where he worked with Russian and international colleagues promoting educational exchange.

Mr. Crishock joined the Foreign Service in January 1999. He has served at several overseas postings as well as in Washington, DC. His most recent overseas postings were as Chargé d'Affaires in St. George's, Grenada (2012-2015) and Consul General in Vladivostok, Russia (2019-2021).

Crishock speaks Serbo-Croatian, Russian, and some Ukrainian. His hobbies include reading and jazz music. Mr. Crishock is single and has no children.



**James P. DeHart**

*U.S. Coordinator for the Arctic Region*

Jim DeHart is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with nearly 30 years of experience as a U.S. diplomat. He holds the rank of Minister Counselor. Mr DeHart was appointed as U.S. Coordinator for the Arctic Region in July of 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.

From August - October, 2021, Mr DeHart helped lead the evacuation of American citizens and Afghan Allies from Kabul and then led the Afghanistan Task Force in Washington. As Senior Advisor for Security Negotiations and Agreements from 2019-2020, Mr DeHart 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, Mr DeHart 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, Mr DeHart was Director of the Office of Afghanistan Affairs reporting to the Department's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP).

Mr DeHart 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.

Mr DeHart 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. He is married to Lisa DeHart, a public school teacher, and has two daughters.





**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 the University of British Columbia's 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. She served as the co-Chair of the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, whose report was adopted in December 2020. Her past service to the ILA includes membership in the former Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



**Jocelyn Douh ret**

*Director, Business Development Office, Soci t  du Plan Nord*

Mr. Jocelyn Douh ret joined the Soci t  du Plan Nord in April 2016 as Director of the Business Development Office. Mr. Douh ret had previously been involved in the mining industry for more than 10 years as Business Development Director and then vice-president of a mining services company. From 1998 to 2006, he worked for Qu bec companies on industrial development projects in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Canada, particularly in the natural resources, energy, and environment sectors.

Mr. Douh ret began his career as scientific attach  at the French Embassy in Slovakia in 1996. He holds a master's degree in science from Laval University in Qu bec (Canada – 1996) and an engineering degree from the National School of Agricultural Engineers of Dijon (France – 1994).



**Sveinung Eikeland**

*Vice Rector, Sociologist, UiT The Arctic University of Norway*

Sveinung Eikeland has served as Vice Rector of the Arctic University of Norway since 2013 where he is responsible for the university's policies and operations in the northernmost part of Northern Norway (Finnmark County and the northern part of Troms County) and its handling of regional issues in the North and Arctic.

As a researcher, Eikeland has conducted analyses of regional developing processes, relations between indigenous and regional policies, and demographics.

He has recently published analyses of the Norwegian Saami Parliament policies addressing the Norwegian High North Policies and new industrial

initiatives in the Arctic, the Finnmark Municipal County relation to the land management governed by the Finnmark Act and sustainability in Smart Specialization Strategies in Arctic regions in Finland, Sweden, and Norway. The last was assigned by the EU Commission.

Mr Eikeland has lived in Alta, a very interesting and fast-growing city in the Norwegian Arctic region, since 1985.



**Niklas Eklund**

*Director, Arctic Centre, Umeå University*

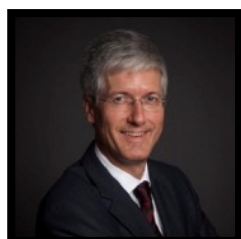
Professor Niklas Eklund is Chair of Politics and Public administration at the Department of Political Science at Umeå University. He is also Director of the Arctic Center at Umeå University (Arcum) and currently divides his time equally between the two organizations.

His academic career and service to the university spans more than three decades in a wide array of research projects, teaching assignments, and administrative functions on departmental, faculty, and university levels, including a number of international teaching exchanges. He is the long-standing university representative on the organizing committee for Pax Nordica, a yearly open-to-the-public symposium on issues related to Nordic and Arctic security.

Professor Eklund is a member of the Executive Committee for Arctic Five, facilitating cooperation between the universities of Umeå, Luleå, Tromsø, Rovaniemi, and Oulu, and he was recently appointed as a board member of the Lyndon Olson Trust. He has served as an expert on Russian affairs at the Swedish Defence College and currently serves as academic adviser to the Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE).

Professor Eklund's research interest has moved increasingly in the direction of civil and military security, public institutional leadership, and crisis management. He is the project leader of Critflow, a major interdisciplinary study of the intersection between critical infrastructure, logistics, and public institutions in Swedish preparedness planning that is financed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency.

Among his other publications relevant to the Arctic are "The Swedish Chairmanship: Foresight and Hindsight in Arctic Activism" in *Leadership for the North-The Influence and Impact of Arctic Council Chairs* (D. C. Nord, ed., Springer 2019) and "Security Perspectives from Sweden" in *Routledge Handbook of Arctic Security* (G. Hooghensen Gjørv, M. Lanteigne, H. Sam-Aggey, eds., Taylor & Francis 2020).



**Rolf Einar Fife**

*Norway's Ambassador to the EU*

Ambassador Rolf Einar Fife has been Norway's Ambassador to the EU since January 2019, having served as Norway's Ambassador to France previously.

Ambassador Fife has held various positions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1985, and has a law degree from the University of Oslo.

Born on 18th October 1961, Ambassador Fife is married with 1 child.



### **Mads Qvist Frederiksen**

*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 to the work of the Arctic Council.

Prior to 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, a journalism trainer in Kabul, Afghanistan, and a journalist in 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.



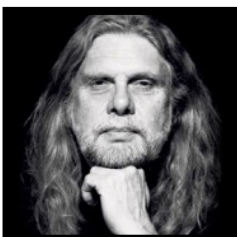
### **Morten Høglund**

*Senior Arctic Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway*

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 Senior Official ASEAN at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Special Adviser for Arctic Affairs. Mr. Høglund has 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.



### **Arne Holm**

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

Arne 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, winning several national



awards for outstanding journalism. He has also published several books.

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

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



### **Áslat Holmberg**

*Vice President, Saami Council*

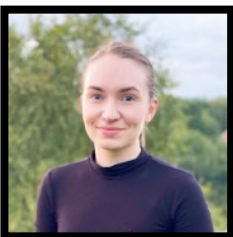
Áslat Holmberg is a Saami politician, activist, fisherman, teacher, and scholar. He is a Vice President of the Saami Council, an umbrella organisation of Saami NGOs, which represents Saami civil society across state borders throughout Sápmi - the traditional territory of the Saami people in Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. He is a former member of the Saami Parliament of Finland and has a master's degree in indigenous studies from the University of Tromsø. His master thesis discusses indigenous knowledge and science as two ways of gaining knowledge on salmon and the River Deatnu, and how these knowledge systems are reflected in the management of fish stocks. Currently, he works with research ethics as well as indigenous rights and knowledge, especially in relation to biodiversity and conservation.



### **Margretha Jacobsen**

*Senior Arctic Official of the Faroe Islands in the Arctic Council*

Margretha Jacobsen holds the position of Senior Arctic Official of the Faroe Islands in the Arctic Council. As senior adviser at the Foreign Service of the Government of the Faroe Islands, she promotes the Faroese perspective on Arctic affairs at large and in international and multilateral cooperation fora including the Nordic Council of Ministers and in European Union Interregional programmes on sustainable development in peripheral areas. Ms Jacobsen holds a Master's degree in International Relations.



### **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, focusing on sustainable development and how climate change issues impact Saami society in the Arctic.

Ms Johansen studied political science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and carried out statistical review of natural resource and land use conflicts on Indigenous territories for her master's thesis. With this in mind, Johansen finds the increasing state and corporate presence in the Arctic interesting and challenging from an indigenous perspective.

Ms Johansen comes from a small Saami coastal community, Gussanjárga, in the northernmost county in Norway, and has lived on Svalbard for five years. She is currently residing in Guovdageaidnu. Through both her studies and years in the Arctic, Ms 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 its start and has long experience with international cooperation in the Arctic with other indigenous peoples' organisations.



**Nikolay Korchunov**

*Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russian Federation*

Nikolay Korchunov is Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials and Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs. 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, Nikolay 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.



**Heidi Kutz**

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

Heidi Kutz joined the Department of External Affairs and International Trade in 1995 after working with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. In Ottawa, her assignments included desk officer with the Peacebuilding and Human Security Division, Summit of the Americas coordinator with the Inter-American Relations Division, deputy director of trade policy and advocacy in the Canada-U.S. Advocacy and Liaison Division and deputy director in the Mexico and North America Division.

She has served as director of the Central America and Caribbean Division, the Inter-American Relations and Regional Policy Division and the South America and Inter-American Relations. In 2009, she became director general of the Task Force on Security Abroad. Ms. Kutz served in Mexico and Argentina as a political officer, returning to Mexico in 2001 to become program manager of the embassy's Political and Congressional Relations Section.

In 2010, Ms. Kutz became director general of the Security and Intelligence Bureau. She was subsequently appointed director general of the Geographic Strategy and Services Bureau. She served as Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic from 2011-2013. From 2013-2017, she assumed duties as Deputy Consul General at the Canadian Consulate General in New York. She served as director general of Assignments and Executive Management in Ottawa from 2017-2021.

Ms. Kutz is presently Senior Arctic Official and Director General for Arctic, Eurasian and European Affairs. She earned a Bachelors of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Calgary in 1992 and a Masters in Public Administration from Carleton University in 1995.



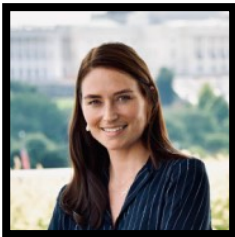
### **Qivioq Løvstrøm**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Culture & Social History, University of Greenland; Chair, Human Rights Council of Greenland*

Qivioq Løvstrøm is Chair of the Human Rights Council of Greenland. Qivioq has a candidata magisterii in Cultural and Social History and lectures at the University of Greenland as an assistant professor. She is an Indigenous rights activist who has experience in working for the Human Rights Council of Greenland from 2013-2015 and has been an intern at the Greenland Representation to the EU, Brussels in 2019 and later on worked at the Foreign Ministry of Greenland as a Head of Section in the areas of Asia, Climate, Trade, Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples' Rights.

She was also a former Focal point and later on Co-chair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) under the UN, and has fought for the establishment of the Indigenous Youth Forum together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. She is currently an advisor for the GIYC.

Qivioq was elected as a member of the Human Rights Council of Greenland by the Parliament of Greenland Inatsisartut in November, and has now further been elected as Chair of the Human Rights Council of Greenland.



### **Rebecca Lynge**

*Greenland Representative to the Arctic Council, Department of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Greenland*

Rebecca Lynge is Acting Head of Office for Foreign Affairs at the Greenland Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Nuuk. She started her career in the Greenland Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 2015 as Head of Section for trade policy.

In 2016, Ms Lynge was appointed as the Kingdom of Denmark's Head of Delegation to the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). She held a coordinating role within Denmark, working to secure successful engagement and output of projects aimed at advancing sustainable development in the Arctic. While serving in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Nuuk, Ms Lynge also represented Greenland on indigenous issues, working to achieve the goals of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

From 2017 - 2020, Ms Lynge was posted as First Secretary to the Greenland Representation in Washington, DC. Here her work focused on raising awareness, putting Greenland and Arctic issues on the agenda and cultivating relevant partnerships and networks with the United States and Canada within IA research, educational, cultural, and commercial sectors.

Most recently, Ms Lynge returned to Nuuk from a position as Policy Adviser on human rights and indigenous issues at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York.

In her current role as Acting Head of Office for Foreign Affairs, Ms Lynge is, among other things, Greenland's representative to the Arctic Council.



### **Michael Mann**

*EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters*

Michael Mann has been the EU's Special Envoy for Arctic matters and Ambassador at Large for the Arctic since April 2020. He previously 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 and 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.



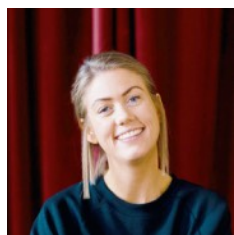
### **Naaja H. Nathanielsen**

*Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, Minerals, Justice and Gender equality*

Naaja H. Nathanielsen became the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, Minerals, and Gender Equality in April 2021. In June 2021, she was also appointed to the Ministry of Justice. Prior to this appointment, Ms Nathanielsen served as the Director of the Prison and Probation Service in Greenland for almost 5 years and as a member of parliament and of various committees for more than 7 years.

Her other experience includes working as head of a consultation unit for children, youth, and families for the municipality of Sermersooq, consultant on the merging of municipalities, teacher in Ilisimatusarfik, children and youth counselor, and psychologist.

Ms Nathanielsen earned her Masters in Psychology from Aarhus University in 2001 and Management Education from Aarhus Management Academy in 2006.



### **Charlotte Nyheim**

*Youth Coordinator Bodø 2024 – European Capital of Culture*

At 28, Charlotte Nyheim is employed as youth coordinator for Bodø 2024 and has extensive experience with the youth sector. She believes young people are the future.

Ms Nyheim was born and raised in Bodø and holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Nord University.

As the previous coordinator for Unge Stormen, Ms Nyheim has worked with many different projects, ranging from major festivals, concerts, live streaming events, and e-sports competitions to smaller events such as graffiti courses, dance courses, workshops, debates, lectures - and much more.

She brings her experiences from youth involvement to a new and larger project where the aim is to work not only with Bodø, but with all of Nordland County.





### **Embla Eir Oddsdóttir**

*Director, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network*

Embla Eir Oddsdóttir is the Director of the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN) and the Polar Law Institute in Akureyri, Iceland. She represents Iceland in the Arctic Council and Sustainable Development Working Group's Social, Economic, and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG) and is project lead of the SDWG project "Gender Equality in the Arctic", an Arctic Council Icelandic Chairmanship project 2019–2021.

Embla is a member of the European Polar Board, a Council Member of the International Arctic Social Association (IASSA), and Chair of the Icelandic Joint Committee of Arctic Affairs. She represented Iceland in the Arctic Science Ministerial III (ASMIII) Science Advisory Board, co-organized by Iceland and Japan in 2021.

Her educational background is interdisciplinary; her undergraduate studies include socioeconomic development at the University of Akureyri and interdisciplinary studies at the University of Northern British Columbia in Canada. She completed diploma-level courses in Polar Law at the University of Akureyri and holds a Msc in Law, Anthropology, and Society from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

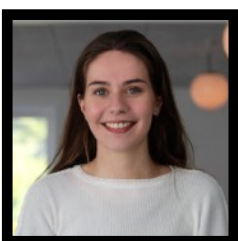


### **Monica Paulsen**

*Cluster Manager, Arctic Cluster Team*

Monica Paulsen is the General Manager of Kunnskapsparken Helgeland, a regional innovation company located in Northern Norway. She is also the Cluster Manager for Arctic Cluster Team (ACT), a leading industrial cluster under the Norwegian Innovation Cluster Program.

Ms Paulsen had 15 years of industrial experience before joining Kunnskapsparken Helgeland in 2010 and earned two master degrees in Manufacturing Technology and Technology Management. She is passionate about accelerating of regional development and growth through innovation and collaboration and supporting SMEs and large corporates in reaching new goals for sustainability and digital transition.



### **Birita Matras Petersen**

*Communication and Marketing Officer, Faroese National Union of Students, University of the Faroe Islands*

Birita Matras Petersen is a student at the University of the Faroe Islands and is the Communications and Marketing Officer of the Faroese National Union of Students. Born and raised in Klaksvík, a small town with approximately 5000 citizens, Birita Matras Petersen spent a year as an exchange student in the United Kingdom where she developed an interest in history. In 2019 Birita Matras Petersen started working towards a Bachelor of Arts in History, Small Nations and Globalisation at the University of the Faroe Islands. Currently she is in her 5th semester and works part-time at the National Museum of the Faroe Islands as a Museum Attendant and Retail Sales Worker.

Engaged in student affairs and committed to continuously improving student matters, Ms Petersen is a member of the board of the Faroese National Union of Students as Communications and Marketing Officer where she represents Faroese students in higher education. In addition, Ms



Petersen is a member of the board of studies in the faculty of History and Social Sciences at the University of the Faroe Islands.



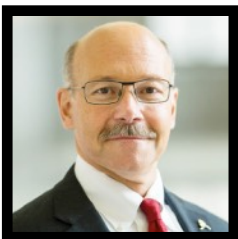
**Mika Riipi**

*County Governor, 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 well-being of the region, its municipalities, and the inhabitants of Lapland in all issues regarding development, planning, and 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.



**Mike Sfraga**

*Chair, U. S. Arctic Research Commission; Director, Wilson Center Polar Institute*

Dr Mike Sfraga is the Founding Director of the Polar Institute and was recently appointed incoming Chairman of the United States Arctic Research Commission by President Biden. An Alaskan by birth, Dr Sfraga is a trained geographer with a focus 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.

Dr 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 continued as co-lead scholar from 2017-2019 served as chair of the 2020 Committee of Visitors Review of the Section for Arctic Science (ARC), Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, and currently serves on the Finnish Institute for International Affairs Scientific Advisory Council (SAC). Dr 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.

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

Dr Sfraga is the author of the biography "Bradford Washburn: A Life of Exploration", affiliate professor at the International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and 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.

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



**Julie Simone Hébert**

*Director of Programmes and Territorial Cooperation, Société du Plan Nord*

Julie Simone Hébert's academic and professional career has been oriented towards improving the dialogues and processes of territorial resources management and planning in order to promote the well-being of Northern communities.

As a representative of the Government of Quebec within different ministries, she has collaborated on various files, from the implementation of a new concept of forestry planning based on Cree family territory system to the development of a protected areas network and wildlife habitat management projects in Nunavik and in Eeyou Istchee James Bay. She has been a member of the Société du Plan Nord team since its inception in 2015.

From her birthplace and home for the past 15 years in Chibougamau, she is acting as Director of programs and territorial cooperation. She supervises a dynamic and dedicated team that helps communities realize projects aiming to close the gap in the geographical distribution of daily living conditions, while bearing in mind the distinctive natures of Northern people and their land.



**Anna-Sofie Skjervedal**

*Head of Secretariat, International Arctic Hub*

Anna-Sofie Skjervedal is the Head of Secretariat at the newly established International Arctic Hub (Arctic Hub) in Nuuk, Greenland. Arctic Hub connects people, institutions, and countries within Greenlandic research.

Dr Skjervedal holds a PhD from Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland) and Aalborg University in Denmark. Her research focused on meaningful youth engagement through visual anthropological methods and social media (Towards Meaningful Youth Engagement: Breaking the Frame of the Current Public Participation Practice in Greenland, 2018).

As prior Head Advisor in Public Participation, Dr Skjervedal has also overseen public participation strategy development—and implementation at the Municipality of Sermersooq, in the capital Nuuk, Greenland. Moreover, Dr Skjervedal is part of the Greenland Science Week steering committee, a multidisciplinary science event for networking and outreach. (Read more about the International Arctic Hub at [www.arctichub.gl](http://www.arctichub.gl) and follow #arctichub on LinkedIn and Facebook).



**Jennifer Spence**

*Executive Secretary, Arctic Council, Sustainable Development Working Group*

Jennifer Spence is the Executive Secretary of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group with an Arctic Initiative Associate Faculty at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, and Adjunct Professor with Carleton University's Northern Studies Graduate Program. She previously worked for 18 years with the Government of Canada in senior positions related to resource management, conflict and change management, strategic planning, and leadership development.

Dr Spence holds a Ph.D. in public policy from Carleton University, a Master of Arts from Royal Roads University in conflict management and analysis, and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in political science from the University of

British Columbia. An expert in sustainable development, international governance, institutional effectiveness, and public policy, Dr Spence has a particular interest in the opportunities and challenges facing the Arctic region.



### **Piet Steel**

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

A current board member of the Polar Secretariat and 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 in 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 of Special Olympics Belgium, and a 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.



### **Pär Weihed**

*Professor; Pro-Vice Chancellor, Luleå University of Technology*

Pär Weihed is a Professor of ore geology and Deputy Vice Chancellor at Luleå University of Technology in Sweden. He was formerly president of the Geological Society of Sweden, president of the Society of Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA), and member of the National committee for Geology under the auspices of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences. He is also an elected member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences.

Professor Weihed earned his PhD from the University of Gothenburg and has acted as Head of Department of Engineering Sciences at Uppsala University. Over the past 30 years he has been heavily involved in issues related to the sustainable supply of metals. His research interest has focused on metallogeny of the Fennoscandian Shield with an emphasis on the Arctic areas of Fennoscandia, writing over 150 research papers on these issues. He is currently involved in several EU projects regarding natural resources and is frequently part of evaluation committees dealing with raw materials governance at a EU and member state level.



### **Åsa Ågren Wikström**

*Vice President Regional Development Board County of Västerbotten*

Åsa Ågren Wikström is the Vice President of the Regional Development Board of Region Västerbotten and the Vice President of the Kvarken Council European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). She is a member of the Committee of the Regions EU the Committee of EU-affairs in the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), and the County Council of the Region Västerbotten. She was previously a Member of Parliament in Sweden. Ms Wikström is also the Vice Group Leader for the Swedish center right-wing political party, Moderaterna in the Region of Västerbotten.

She is experienced in Competitive Intelligence with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Skilled in Crisis Management, Political Communication, Government, Crisis Communications, and Progress Monitoring, Åsa Ågren Wikström has a history of working as a leader in the public sector as well as an entrepreneur in the private sector.



### **Thomas Winkler**

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

Ambassador Winkler has worked in the Danish Foreign Service since 1986, including stints 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 Kingdom of Denmark's Arctic Ambassador and head of the Department of Arctic and North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen.



### **Niels Winther**

*Senior Advisor and Deputy Director, House of Industry in the Faroe Islands*

Niels Winther manages the Faroese Aquaculture Association and the Faroese Fish Producers' Association at the House of Industry. He is also Chairman of the Board at Sjókovin, Blue Resource and Ocean Cluster Faroes, a private research institution with a focus on sustainable development and innovation in the marine industries. In addition, he serves as a board member on Fiskaaling, the Aquaculture Research Station of the Faroes. Before joining the House of Industry in 2011, he was Department Manager at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, managing the Department of Infrastructure and ICT.

Mr Winther has chaired and participated in several working groups on growth and sustainable development in the blue economy of the Faroes. He actively organized a breakout session on innovative economic development in the Arctic, when the Arctic Circle Forum HUBS – Building Dynamic Economies and Sustainable Communities in the North was held in the Faroes, and also chaired a breakout session on gender equality at the event.

Mr Winther has a background in political science and business management.