

2021 ARCTIC FRONTIERS
**BUILDING
BRIDGES**

TROMSØ NORWAY 1 - 4 FEBRUARY

1 - 4 February 2021

BUILDING BRIDGES

Arctic family and friends will meet from February 1-4 2021 for the 15th edition of our annual Arctic Frontiers conference. Registration is now open and we are looking forward to welcoming active participation from around the globe.

This year under the banner of Building Bridges we have created four thematic days that bridge both plenary and science topics:

Monday 1 Feb:
Wellbeing and Societal Health

Tuesday 2 Feb:
Building the Future

Wednesday 3 Feb:
Ocean meets Coast

Thursday 4 Feb:
Business Solutions

With Tromsø as our backdrop we will invite a small number of guests to participate live in our Arctic Frontiers studio at UiT The Arctic University of Norway and welcome other speakers from around the world on our digital conference platform. The Arctic Frontiers 2021 Plenary program starts 1 February at 12:00 CET and The Arctic Frontiers 2021 Science program starts 1 February at 11:00 CET.

Key to making this year a success is you, our friends and participants, who we trust will engage with us on social media and via questions during our sessions. Our digital platform will also facilitate networking between participants.

The pricing this year is easy. Through our conference platform you get access to the full program and networking tools all four days.

See the updated program here
myonvent.com/event/arctic-frontiers

[Buy your access pass here](#)

Regular participant
1000 NOK (ex VAT)

Students, PhD students and postdocs
400 NOK (ex VAT)



MONDAY 1 FEB 2021

WELLBEING AND SOCIETAL HEALTH

PLENARY

Moderator **Eva Bratholm**

Key note **Johannes Labba**, Reindeer herder, Saarivuoma čearru/reindeer herding district. Sweden.
Kristen Tanche, Regional Health and Wellness Coordinator, Decho First Nation. Canada.

SESSION 1

ARCTIC RESPONSES TO COVID-19

12:00 – 13:45 CET

Who could have known that 2020 would be defined by a global pandemic? The Arctic has not escaped the impacts of COVID-19 which has underscored existing vulnerabilities such as remoteness, access to health services and ushered in economic slowdown. How have Arctic communities and decision makers responded to COVID-19? And what does the Arctic have to share with the rest of the world in terms of resilience, recovery and re-opening?

Speakers

Urmás Reinsalu, Foreign Minister of Estonia. Estonia.

Kirsti Mijnhijmer, Head of Secretariat Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. Denmark.

Dr. Liza Mack, Director, Aleut International Association. USA.

Brief Outlook

Dr. Kathrine Kristoffersen, Municipal Chief Physician, Tromsø Municipality. Norway.

SESSION 2

ADDRESSING ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES IN ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

14:30 – 15:45 CET

Resilient Arctic communities are at the heart of the northern and Arctic Strategies being released by the Arctic States. And many strive towards a real reckoning of past policies with current realities when it comes to addressing mental and physical wellbeing in Arctic communities. This session seeks to explore the approaches that are empowering indigenous peoples and northern inhabitants to address societal health challenges in culturally appropriate and innovative ways.

Speakers

Kristen Tanche, Regional Health and Wellness Coordinator, Decho First Nation. Canada.

Dr. Jóna Margrét Ólafsdóttir, Adjunct Lecturer, Faculty of Social Work, University of Iceland. Iceland.

Brief Outlook

Sunna Nousuniemi, Filmmaker. Finland.

The Arctic is a diverse and vibrant region of people who have lived there since time immemorial and also those who have chosen this beautiful region as home. Healthy Arctic societies are threatened by worrying levels of contamination, disruptions of food webs, mental illness and suicide. The COVID-19 pandemic poses additional obstacles for Arctic communities and businesses. Solutions are complex due to a myriad of challenges left by the vestiges of colonialism, including access to health care services and equipment, the need for reckoning over racial injustice, southern migration of young people and the masculine character of Arctic communities. This session seeks to shed light on the stories and strategies required to build bridges to healthier Arctic populations.

SESSION 3

BUILDING BRIDGES

16:30 – 18:00 CET

Our high-level session on wellbeing and societal health will build bridges between cultural perspectives and international borders. What are the biggest challenges in addressing societal health in northern and Arctic communities? Are the strategies in place adequately funded to affect real change for the people most in need? Are resilience practices in Arctic communities an “export” that should be shared with the rest of the world?

Speakers

Mary Simon, Fellow Arctic Institute of North America. Canada.

Jenny Gilruth, Minister for Europe and International Development, Scottish Government. Scotland.

Lisa Murkowski, Senator for Alaska, United States Government. USA.

Brief Outlook

Mikhail Pogodaev, Deputy Minister, Development of the Arctic and the Peoples of the North of the Republic of Sakha. Russia.

MONDAY 1 FEB 2021

WELLBEING AND SOCIETAL HEALTH

SCIENCE PARALLEL 1

SESSION 1 ARCTIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

18:00 – 19:00 CET

Panel discussion

[Detailed description](#)

SCIENCE PARALLEL 2

SESSION 5 THE COUPLED ARCTIC SYSTEM: IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING FROM RECENT INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

[Detailed description](#)

YOUNG

EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP: BRIDGES AMONG RESEARCHERS: STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF ARCTIC BIOMARKERS SCIENTISTS

09:00 - 11:00 CET

Arctic biogeochemistry is a rapidly developing field, spurred by ongoing climate change, and its ecological applicability in studying ecosystem dynamics, ecotoxicology and movement ecology shows great promises.

Such momentum, along with typical challenges inherent to interdisciplinary research and the increasing need for digital operability, calls for a strong and resilient international collaboration network in which knowledge sharing in an open and reproducible science framework is pivotal.

This workshop therefore aims to bring together Arctic biomarkers scientists, from all kinds of specialty and career stage, to seek out the collective opinion and knowledge to strengthen the network of Arctic biomarkers scientists.

Speakers

Paul Renaud, Senior Researcher,
Akvaplan-niva

Clare Eayrs, Research scientist, Association of
Polar Early Career Scientists

YOUNG

CLEAR MINDS; CLEAR VISION

14:30 – 16:00 CET

Good Health and Wellbeing feature as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (3). As the saying goes, health is wealth; it has become increasingly important to pay attention to different aspects of our health, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. How are young people coping with stress? Anxiety, depression and self-harm, have become the 'trilogy' affecting many young people due to a myriad of reasons. This session examines some of the practical ways of combating stress, loneliness and anxiety among young people. What collective action is needed at the global and local level to give mental health issues among young people much prominence?

Speakers

Ragnhild Dybdahl, Associate Professor of
Psychology, Oslo Metropolitan University

Amy Rasmussen Waluk, Director,
Four Directions Center for Social Health

TUESDAY 2 FEB 2021

BUILDING THE FUTURE

PLENARY

Moderator **Eva Bratholm**

Key note **Joel Clement**, Arctic Initiative Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. USA.

SESSION 1

CLIMATE COLLABORATION FOR THE FUTURE

12:00 – 13:45 CET

Climate change is top of mind for young people living in the Arctic as they experience the impacts on a daily basis. Climate change threatens to completely reshape the Arctic environment and economic landscape. This session will bridge perspectives from academia and indigenous communities with national decision makers.

Speakers

Henrik Asheim, Minister of Research and Higher Education, The Norwegian Government. Norway.

Dr. Mia Bennett, Assistant Professor, Hong Kong University. USA.

Inga Anne Karen Sara, Sámi Reindeer Herder, Reindeer grazing district 22 Fieltar. Norway.

Brief Outlook

Anna Ziya Geerling, Student, UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Holland.

Ingvild Brox Kielland, Advisor, SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge. Norway.

SESSION 2

STAYING NORTH – CHALLENGES OF OUT-MIGRATION

14:30 – 15:45 CET

Growing up in Arctic communities comes with its own set of unique opportunities and challenges. Access to education, health services, counselling, and early career opportunities can be difficult. Our panelists will address these challenges, but also provide examples of how communities, business and political leaders are working together to meet these obstacles head-on.

Speakers

David Korgak, Manager of Individual Advocacy Services, Representative for Children and Youth. Canada.

Johannes Lundvoll, Youth Leader, Troms and Finnmark County Council. Norway.

Mia Chemnitz, Entrepreneur, Qiviut AS. Greenland.

Semen Yaptune, Chair of RAIPON Youth Council. Russia.

Brief Outlook

Daniela Toma, Student, UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Greece.

This year Arctic Frontiers will host a panel of young Arctic leaders alongside seasoned Arctic influencers who will dive deeper into the opportunities and obstacles northern youth face now and in the future. Framed in the context of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, speakers are invited to discuss the pressing issues they stand to inherit such as climate change, societal pressure, migration of young people to the south and the question of whether the Arctic is facing its own cultural revolution. Today's session seeks to build bridges between generations, borders and disciplines to find the best solutions for a resilient Arctic.

SESSION 3

BUILDING BRIDGES

16:30 – 18:00 CET

How are young people influencing policy at the highest level and what we can expect in the future? This session will host a panel of young Arctic leaders alongside seasoned Arctic influencers who will dive deeper into the opportunities and obstacles northern youth face now and in the future.

Key note

Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission. EU/Spain.

Speakers

Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway. Norway.

James DeHart, U.S. Arctic Coordinator, U.S. Department of State. USA.

Sam Schimmel, Student, Stanford University. Canada.

TUESDAY 2 FEB 2021

BUILDING THE FUTURE

SCIENCE PARALLEL 1

SESSION 1

ARCTIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL
INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

18:00 – 19:00 CET

Panel discussion

[Detailed description](#)

SCIENCE PARALLEL 2

SESSION 5

THE COUPLED ARCTIC SYSTEM:
IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING FROM RE-
CENT INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

18:00 – 19:00 CET

Panel discussion

[Detailed description](#)

YOUNG

EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP:

BRIDGES TO THE COMMUNITY: EXPLOR-
ING MULTIPLE OUTREACH CHANNELS
AND RESPONDING TO A TARGETED
AUDIENCE

09:00 - 11:00 CET

This session is the opportunity to develop, fine-tune and practice your science communication skills with the support of a professional science communicator. In this session, we will have presentations and exercises on science communication, particularly in written formats, culminating in the production of a short piece regarding your field of expertise. You will then have the opportunity work with local school students with regards to your written piece and gain feedback from a young audience, gaining key insight into what is needed to best communicate your work.

Speakers

Matthew Davidson, Consultant, Flow Concepts Norway

Hanna Kauko, Post-doctoral researcher, Norwegian Polar Institute

WEDNESDAY 3 FEB 2021

OCEAN MEETS COAST

PLENARY

Moderator **Liv Monica Stubholt**

Key note **Ambassador David Balton**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries in the Department of State, Wilson Center, USA.

SESSION 1

THE PARADOXES OF

CO-EXISTENCE

12:00 – 13:45 CET

This session will shed light on the need to balance growing ocean economies with the commitment by Arctic states to ensure sustainability and healthy coastal communities. Voices of research, Indigenous knowledge and business will address how these challenges are being met head-on.

Speakers

Sissel Rogne, Director, Institute of Marine Research, Norway.

John Goodlad, Chairman, Fisheries Innovation Scotland.

Brief Outlook

Dr. Minsu Kim, Director / Northern & Polar Regions Research Department, Korea Maritime Institute, South Korea.

SESSION 2

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL – 25 YEARS OF PEACE AND COOPERATION

14:30 – 15:45 CET

Over the past 25 years, the Arctic Council has brought together Arctic States and Indigenous peoples at one table to chart a path forward for the region. Today, the Council is regarded as the preeminent forum for addressing Arctic issues, for maintaining peace in the region, fostering exceptional cooperation and contributing to the well-being of people across the Arctic. To mark its anniversary, the Arctic Frontiers and the Arctic Council will host a high-level dialogue on the Council's formation accomplishments, institutional changes and challenges – a conversation that will serve as an invitation to reflect on the Council's next 25 years.

For centuries Arctic communities have turned to the seas to provide food, safe haven, transportation, natural resources and energy not just to survive, but to thrive. Once considered secondary, traditional activities are now the centrepiece of national policies and business since it is no secret that we need our oceans to meet growing demands for food, resources, transportation and energy. This reality is balanced by the urgent need to sustain healthy oceans to ensure a healthy planet. This session seeks to discuss the opportunities and challenges created by the rapid growth of ocean-based industry and the societies on the front lines, through the lens of cooperation and innovation.

SESSION 3

BUILDING BRIDGES

16:30 – 18:00 CET

This session will bring together views on how ocean activities are impacting communities around the circumpolar region. How are conflicts and the paradoxes of sustainable economic growth and environmental protection being resolved? What are the biggest threats as identified by government, communities and Indigenous peoples?

Speakers

The Honourable Daniel Vandal,

Minister of Northern Affairs, Canada

Thor Sigfusson, Founder and CEO, Iceland Ocean Cluster, Iceland.

OCEAN MEETS COAST

SCIENCE PARALLEL 1

SESSION 3 VALUING THE DIGITAL OCEAN

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

[Detailed description](#)

SCIENCE PARALLEL 2

SESSION 6 ADVANCED PREDICTION CAPABILITIES FOR THE ARCTIC AND BEYOND

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

18:00 – 19:00 CET

Panel discussion

[Detailed description](#)

YOUNG

EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP: BRIDGES TO THE INDUSTRY: ARCTIC SEA- WEED FARMING AS A CASE STUDY FOR STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

09:00 - 11:00 CET

Seaweed farming has the potential to become a major industry in Norway for sustainable feed and food production. Such potential is currently limited by a low level of processing automation and a limited demand for seaweed food products. The development of innovative products containing bioactive seaweed ingredients can help to counteract future challenges related to the lack of an efficient system for large-scale biomass production. In this session, participants will hear different perspectives about the stakeholders and challenges involved in developing and marketing such products.

Speakers

Mari Bjordal, Adviser, Bellona

Pierrick Stévant, Researcher, Møreforskning

YOUNG

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN A POST-COVID WORLD

14:30 – 16:00 CET

This session is a lecture on the topic of Science Diplomacy. Scientific and technological advancement speaks to the potency of knowledge in our daily lives. This session aims to present the key ingredients of the concept of Science Diplomacy, both in theory and practice. The session will engage questions of why it is necessary to build bridges of cooperation in the production and use of scientific knowledge by states.

Speakers

Bård Ivar Svendsen, Ambassador at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in the Haag

Professor Rasmus Gedssø Bertelsen, Professor of Northern Studies, Barents Chair in Politics, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Ambassador Marie-Anne Coninx, Former EU Ambassador for the Arctic

THURSDAY 4 FEB 2021

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

PLENARY

Moderator **Liv Monica Stubholt**

Key note **B. Scott Miner**, Chairman of Guggenheim Investments and Global Chief Investment Officer. USA.

SESSION 1

CIRCULAR ECONOMY
ADVANCES IN THE ARCTIC
12:00 – 13:45 CET

As the EU and Arctic states step up efforts to become carbon neutral, circular industries and policies will need to take centre stage. This session will discuss different approaches, challenges and success stories important for the Arctic green transition.

Speakers

Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Union. EU/Lithuania.

Justin Sternberg, Program Director, Alaska Ocean Cluster. USA.

Tonje Nermark, Vice-President, Strategic Communications and Public Affairs, Mo Industrial Park, Norway.

Brief Outlook

Marianne Kroglund, AMAP Vice Chair and Arctic Senior Advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency. Norway.

SESSION 2

CARBON CAPTURE AND MEETING
FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS
14:30 – 15:45 CET

The growing need for energy and the desire to become carbon neutral offer a unique paradox that require innovation from our business leaders. What are the opportunities for hydrogen as future source of energy? Are new technologies a real option for the Arctic?

Speakers

Steinar Eikaas, VP-Low Carbon Solutions, Equinor. Norway.

Heidar Gudjonsson, Chairman, Arctic Economic Council. Iceland.

Yuri Vasiliev, Executive Director of the Institute of Arctic Technologies, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. Russia.

Brief Outlook

Jannicke Gerner Bjerkås, Director CSS, Fortum Oslo Varme. Norway.

Today's thematic sessions seeks to look at specific solutions to challenges facing Arctic businesses at the heart of northern communities. Unique competence and expertise remain challenged by capacity issues, under-capitalization and infrastructure challenges that limits commercialization and scaling for Arctic products and services. Arctic Frontiers 2021 will draw to a close with our final Building Bridges session hosted by Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg. Leaders will discuss how the global economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic has also been felt in the Arctic and provide insights into what recovery will look like for businesses that operate in the region. The second half of the discussion will focus on shifting approaches to geopolitics North of 60.

SESSION 3

BUILDING BRIDGES
16:30 – 18:00 CET

The last panel of the 2021 Arctic Frontiers brings together political leaders from the Nordic Arctic. Discussion will be split into two topics - COVID recovery and Shifts in the geo-political Arctic. Our Speakers will pull on green recovery strategies and recently released Arctic Strategies during this final Building Bridges panel.

Speakers

Erna Solberg, Prime Minister, Norway.

Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister, Sweden.

Sanna Marin, Prime Minister, Finland.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister, Iceland.

Brief Outlook

Dr. Peter Winsor, Director, WWF Arctic Programme. USA.

THURSDAY 4 FEB 2021

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

SCIENCE PARALLEL 1

SESSION 4
SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED
ENTERPRISES (SMEs)
STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL
SUSTAINABILITY IN
THE HIGH-NORTH

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

[Detailed description](#)

SCIENCE PARALLEL 2

SESSION 2
WHO GETS TO TELL
THE ARCTIC STORIES?

11:00 – 12:00 CET

Welcome & keynote presentations

13:30 – 14:30 CET

Block of short presentations

15:30 – 16:30 CET

Block of short presentations

[Detailed description](#)

YOUNG

**GROWING TOGETHER –
YOUNG PEOPLE INSPIRE EACH OTHER**

12:30 – 14:00 CET

Over the years, Arctic Frontiers has served as the platform where professionals, politicians and promising young leaders meet to exchange ideas on the sustainability of the Arctic. While we appreciate that creating the opportunity for an inter-general dialogue is indispensable, we also recognize the importance of building bridges among participants of our various young programs. As the participants of Student Forum are in transition; looking to move further into academia, industry or governance, connecting with other young people who are already walking their intended future paths to share ideas and stories is most valuable. This session brings young leaders who are alumni of our Emerging Leaders program to engage with bachelor and master students.

Speakers

Maria Høegh Berdahl, Advisor, Science and Earth Observation, Norwegian Space Agency

Svetlana Konopleva, Coordinator, Economic and Business Cooperation, Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Murmansk

Dr. Alexandra Cherkasheva, Assistant Professor, Department of Geophysics, St. Petersburg State University

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