

**U Arctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law (TNAL)
Newsletter #1
Introduction to the Sub-Group on *Arctic Archives***

6th November 2023

Dear friends,

Thank you for your interest in the new sub-group on Arctic Archives of the U Arctic [Thematic Network on Arctic Law](#).

Goals of the Sub-Group on Arctic Archives

The objectives of the sub-group, under the long-established TNAL, is to create a forum to share research ideas, opportunities for collaboration and fellowship on the topic of Arctic Archives. It is open to anyone interested in the topic irrespective of formal education or practical experience. It is not necessary to have an academic or professional affiliation.

Basic Standards of Mutual Respect

- The sub-group should at all times be a safe space. Discrimination, harassment and/or abuse by members in the carrying out of the sub-group's activities will not be tolerated.
- Members are encouraged to express their views whilst maintaining respect for others whose views may differ.
- Members should take into consideration that they may be addressing topics that cause personal distress to others and should exercise discretion accordingly.
- Members take responsibility for their words and actions.
- The sub-group is non-hierarchical. All members' views are equally welcome.

Launch of the Sub-Group on Arctic Archives and the Polar Law Symposium

The sub-group was launched formally at the [16th Polar Law Symposium](#) in Torshavn, Faroe Islands, during a lively seminar on *Archives, Culture and Climate Change in the Arctic*, consisting of three excellent presentations:

1. Jordane Liebeaux, University of Bristol, England: "Memories, Emotions, and Archives: The Role of Institutional Amnesia in Displaced Nordic Archives"
2. Anastasia-Svenia Kørner, University of Eastern Finland: "Arctic Indigenous Peoples Rights and Cultural Genocide"
3. Melis Yüksel, Atılım University, Turkey: "Return or Restitution of Cultural Properties and the Historic Declaration of Mondiacult"

Romain Chuffart, Durham University, moderated the session.

The symposium also included a workshop on Critical Approaches to Displaced Archives in the Arctic during for which two draft working papers were shared in advance before brief presentations and discussion at the workshop itself. The papers are:

1. James Lowry, City University of New York: “The Record as Command”
2. Rachael Lorna Johnstone, University of Akureyri, Iceland & Romain Chuffart, Durham University, England: “The Quest to Decolonialize Archives Through International Law”

Eric Rubenstein, University of Akureyri, moderated the session.

The draft workshop papers by James, Rachael and Romain are available on request to rlj@unak.is.

Previous activities and events

Rachael Lorna Johnstone, with co-proposers Inge Seiding and Astrid Nonbo Andersen, secured a Nordforsk grant 2023-24 for the project “Decolonising Nordic Archives”. The funding supports, *inter alia*, two exploratory workshops and a special issue. The first workshop was held in March 2023 in Reykjavík.

Rachael, with co-PI James Lowry and a number of excellent co-proposers and advisory board members, applied for a grant 2025-27 from the Icelandic Centre of Research (Rannís) for the project: “Decolonising Archives in Iceland, Greenland and Inuit Nunangat.” The results of the application should be known by the end of January 2024.

Planned events and publications

An article by Rachael and Inge Seiding, “Decolonising Arctic Archives: a Research Agenda,” which, as the title implies, sets out some initial problems and questions for the research group, has been accepted for publication in the 15 *Yearbook of Polar Law*. This is expected to be published in early 2024.

SAVE THE DATE

The second workshop and public seminar under the aforementioned Nordforsk grant is currently being planned for Copenhagen from 2-3 May 2024 (to be confirmed). A call for papers for public presentation at a seminar and submission for the special issue is also in preparation. More information soon!

Avenues for cooperation

In 2022, a U Arctic Thematic Network on [Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata \(DALAM\)](#) was established under the leadership of Susanna Parikka at U Lapland.. Their work is complementary to our own. Rachael will reach out to discuss avenues for cooperation and potential shared funding applications, including under U Arctic.

Membership of the Sub-Group on Arctic Archives

If you are not yet a member or would like to invite colleagues to the network please ask them to send the following information to Rachael at: rlj@unak.is

By joining the sub-group, you are automatically included in the main Thematic Network on Arctic Law and will also receive periodic updates by email from them.

By completing this information, you consent to receive emails with news of opportunities, events and publications by other members in the sub-group. The mailing list is managed by Rachael Lorna Johnstone at the University of Akureyri. You may withdraw from the list by emailing rlj@unak.is at any time. There are no other rights or obligations attached to membership.

Name	Email	Main Position	Main Affiliation	Already a member of the TNAL? Yes/No

The Sub-Group lead is Rachael Lorna Johnstone, University of Akureyri, Iceland: rlj@unak.is .

The overall lead for the TNAL is Kamrul Hossain: Kamrul Hossain, University of Lapland, Finland: kamrul.hossain@ulapland.fi .