

U Arctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law (TNAL)

Newsletter #4

5th October 2024

Welcome to the fourth newsletter for the *Arctic Archives* subgroup of the U Arctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law. Feel free to share this newsletter with any colleagues that may be interested and direct them to the [website](#) for more information and remind them that it is open to all who have an interest in the topic (see more below).

ORCID ID: Request from U Arctic

The UArctic has asked that members of the thematic networks link their ORCID IDs with the UArctic. This is most relevant for those of you in research-related positions but anyone can create an ORCID ID free of charge to keep track of their research and make it easier to find by other researchers. To link your ORCID ID with UArctic, please follow this [link](#).

Recent Events

17th Polar Law Symposium, 23rd-25th September 2024 Östersund, Mid-Sweden

The *Arctic Archives* subgroup delivered two seminars at the [17th Polar Law Symposium](#) took place in Östersund from 23rd to 25th September.

Arctic Archives I: Shared Archival Heritage in the Arctic, with Njörður Sigurðsson, Assistant Director, National Archives of Iceland; Maria Press, Section Chief, Archivist, National Archives of Sweden in Östersund; Apostolos Tsiouvalas, PhD Fellow, UiT The Arctic University of Norway; and Romain Chuffart, Nansen Professor, University of Akureyri, Iceland

and

Arctic Archives II: Decolonial Practices, Historiographic Sovereignty, and the Right to Know, with Astri Dankertsen, Professor of Sociology, Nord University, Norway; Astrid Nonbo Andersen, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark; and Rachael Lorna Johnstone, Professor of Law, University of Akureyri, Iceland.

There was a good turnout at the seminars and a great discussion was held.



Njörður, Rachael, Maria, Romain, Astrid and Astri at the Polar Law Symposium, Östersund

Visit to the Swedish National Archives, Östersund, 23rd September 2024

Fourteen participants at the Polar Law Symposium visited the National Archives of Sweden in Östersund at the kind invitation of Maria Press. Maria, and her colleague, Sara Gurt, explained how the archives was managing Sami archives in Östersund and took the visitors on a tour of the collections.



Visit to the National Archives of Sweden, Östersund

Critical Legal Conference, Lund, 16th – 18th September 2024

Founding member of the subgroup, Romain Chuffart presented his article on “The “Double Life” of Arctic Archives: Perpetuation of Normativity or Obsolescence on Display for the 1929 Thule Law of Northwest Greenland” co-written Apostolos Tsiouvalas (first author; PhD cand., NCLOS, UiT, Tromsø) in the stream "Critical Nordic Colonial Legal Histories", organized by Matilda Arvidsson (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) and Love Rönnelid (Stockholm University, Sweden) at the Critical Legal Conference 2024 at Lund University, Sweden. Matilda has since joined *Arctic Archives* subgroup. Welcome, Matilda!

Seminar and Workshop, 2nd-3rd May 2024

Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen

IASC Activity Report

The [activity report to IASC](#), which co-sponsored the seminar and workshop in Copenhagen earlier this year, has now been published. The three highlights identified from the events are:

- Peoples have the right, under international law, to define their own *histories, perceptions and representations* of the Arctic as an element of self-determination.
- Control over the archival record, not just access, is essential to Indigenous and post-colonial self-determination.
- Reconciliation in the Arctic requires access to archives and creates its own archival record which in turn requires culturally appropriate curation.

The [public seminar](#) remains available for catch-up viewing.

Forthcoming events

18th Polar Law Symposium, 22nd – 24th October 2025

Ilisimatusarfik, Nuuk, Greenland

The dates for the 18th Polar Law Symposium in Nuuk are now finalised as 22nd – 24th October 2025. Please note this is a *change* from the provisional dates that were proposed earlier. Keynote speakers include Sara Olsvig, Chair of Inuit Circumpolar Council, and Alan Hemmings, Professor at the University of Canterbury.

Save the dates!

- ❖ Mid-January 2025: Call for Papers
- ❖ 30 April 2025: Abstract submission deadline
- ❖ 30 June 2025: Acceptance of papers
- ❖ May 2025 – 20 October 2025: Registration Open
- ❖ **22-24 October 2025: 18th Polar Law Symposium, Nuuk**
- ❖ 30 November 2025: Submissions to *Yearbook of Polar Law*

Launch of Digital Archive of Arctic Artefacts outside the Arctic, 21st November 2024 Nuuk Art Museum, Nuuk, Greenland

On 21st November 2024, Nuuk Art Museum will host the launch a new digital archive of Arctic artefacts, mainly from Greenland, located in private collections across Denmark. Rather than advocating repatriation, the archive aims to visualize personal stories tied to these artefacts while rethinking traditional archival practices through an anti-colonial lens. Developed by Gudrun Havsteen-Mikkelsen, the project involves collaboration with collectors, experts, and artists in- and outside the Arctic.

Forthcoming publications

Arman Savarian, *The Law of State Succession: Principles and Practice* (OUP 2025)

Subgroup member Arman Sarvarian, Reader in Public International Law, University of Surrey, will soon publish *The Law of State Succession: Principles and Practice* with Oxford University Press. The monograph includes extensive discussion of the treatment of state archives and cultural property in cases where a State transfers territory to another State, such as when a new State is formed through separation from an existing state (e.g., South Sudan in 2011).

Special Issue [International Journal of Heritage Studies](#)

Following up on the excellent seminar and workshop at DIIS in May 2024 (see newsletter #3), a series of articles will be reviewed for the [International Journal of Heritage Studies](#) for publication in a Special Issue.

Current Developments in Arctic Law: call for papers

Deadline: 30th October 2024

The 12th volume of *Current Developments in Arctic Law* has issued a call for contributions discussing cutting edge research. They would welcome discussions on Arctic law, policy, politics, regional and institutional aspects, including regarding Arctic Archives. For more information, see the [call](#) or contact Kamrul Hossain at khossain@ulapland.fi.

Other Publications, Events and Initiatives

Please send news of recent publications on Arctic archives from our members and any forthcoming events, initiatives or grant calls that could be of interest to Rachael for inclusion in future newsletters: rlj@unak.is.

Membership of the Subgroup on Arctic Archives

If you are not yet a member or would like to invite colleagues to the subgroup please send the following information to Rachael at: rlj@unak.is. The subgroup is non-hierarchical and does not require any academic or professional qualifications or affiliations. We ask only that all members uphold the [Basic Standards of Mutual Respect](#) as outlined on the home page.

By joining the subgroup, 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 subgroup. 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 subgroup 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 .