



UARctic
Thematic Networks

Year In Review

Thematic Network on Arctic Cultures and History (ARCH)

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Understanding the Arctic Through Culture and History

Members of the Thematic Network ARCH – Arctic Cultures and History are convinced that there is no efficient way to approach and solve problems in the Arctic or Arctic-related issues without considering the historical and cultural dimension of any given question. The network is dedicated to the study of history and culture including literature, travel writing and creative writing, the performative arts, history and the history of art.

Key Activities

- International workshop *Aurora borealis - observations, descriptions and visualisations* at Panhard Pavillion on UVSQ's science campus in Versailles. (January 2025)
- *Arctic and the Nordic Region. New Narratives*. Network chair invited speaker at the Nordic Day-event arranged by Nora - intergovernmental organisation under the Nordic Council of Ministers. (February 2025)
- Erasmus+ BIP: *Knowledge from the Arctic in past and present - collecting and (co)-constructing cultural continuity and change*. Students and teachers from France, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Austria, Germany and Denmark met together to learn more about the circulation of knowledge between Europe and the Arctic and current challenges in conducting respectful cooperation with Indigenous people in the Arctic. The programme was aimed at young researchers (Master and PhD) who study (or plan to study) issues in Arctic Studies, especially circulation of knowledge about the Arctic between Europe and the Arctic and would like to deepen their skills in using modern technologies in knowledge production and transfer for their studies. (June 2025)
- *The Mineral Arctic: Imagination, Communication and Practices*. International interdisciplinary conference together with the MIARC team and in cooperation with the research group Nordic Blue Humanities at the Sorbonne University from 8-10 October 2025 in Versailles / Paris and on-line. (October 2025)
- Session at the Arctic Circle in Reykjavík, Iceland: *Human(ities) in the Arctic: History, Politics, Environment, and Culture*. (October 2025)
- Network chair invited speaker at the Danish National Commission for UNESCO's annual meeting in Copenhagen. (January 2026)
- Session at the UArctic Congress in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. *Arctic Life Stories - connecting past and future for better understanding of Indigenous Identities as well as environmental and cultural changes*. (May 2026)
- Chairing Thematic Plenary Session at the UArctic Congress in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands: *Resilience and Adaptation in Northern Communities*. (May 2026)
- Session at the UArctic Congress in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands: *Analyses of Contemporary Cultural Indigenous Representations in the Arctic*. (May 2026)

Publications

- *L'autochtonie comparée des Amériques. Droit et représentations culturelles*. Jan Borm together with Daniel Chartier, Martina Lourdes Rojo and Leila Devia. A collective volume with multidisciplinary comparative articles on indigeneity in the Americas focusing especially on law and cultural representations. (January 2025)
- *Practices and Mediations of Sámi Culture: Indigeneity, Ethno-history and Art*. Edited by Jan Borm. Third title in the Arctic Humanities series published by Brill. (May 2026)
- **Publication series:** Members of the network are deeply involved in the publication of the series *Arctic Humanities* (Brill) of which 4 vol. have been published so far. A volume on Iceland and the Faroe Islands seen from within and without is due in the late autumn of 2026.



Workshop "Aurora borealis - observations, descriptions and visualisations" participants, Versailles, January 2025.
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Future Plans

- Participation in a session about Jean-Baptiste Charcot and French polar exploration history at the Arctic Circle Assembly. October 2026.
- Publication of Inter-Nord 25, special theme "The Mineral Arctic", contributions from the conference held in Versailles in 2025. December 2026.
- Publication of volume 5 in the *Arctic Humanities* series (Brill): *Iceland and the Faroe Islands Seen from Within and Without. Cross-cultural Perspectives, 17th-21st century*. December 2026/January 2027.
- Co-organisation of the Franco-German workshop for early-stage researchers "Gateway to the Arctic", (with AWI), Tartu, Estonia. March 2027.

FIND OUT MORE !

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