

# Year In Review

## Thematic Network on Critical Arctic Studies (CAS)

MONICA TENNBERG

Feb 2026

In 2025, we organized a research clinic in March to help master's and doctoral students develop a critical approach in their research. In June, we had a webinar called "Art/place" in collaboration with three artists working in Svalbard to discuss place-based practices and art. We organized a yearly symposium in October on critical Arctic studies, focusing this time on the theme of "Care for Life in the Arctic", and also a panel at the Arctic Circle to discuss the future of Arctic cooperation. In addition, we worked on our book project "More-Than-Human Entanglements in the Arctic", based on papers presented in the CAS symposium in 2023.

### Strengthening Research Skills, Collaboration, and Visibility in Critical Arctic Studies

- The research clinic has received positive feedback from students who have participated, as it has helped them develop a more critical approach in their research projects.
- Overall, dialogue with CAS partners and fellow students has supported the participants' studies and the development of the dissertations. The activities have also offered a platform for training academic discussion and presentation skills.
- The network activities have expanded the number of participants in our activities (both in terms of discipline and regional coverage) in events like the webinar Art/Place and symposium.
- The network has been active in producing publications, which increases the impact and visibility of Critical Arctic Studies, UArctic and the thematic network itself.
- The publication activities offer an opportunity for early career researchers to publish their work and contribute to the development of Critical Arctic Studies in general.
- The thematic network and its activities have functioned as a platform where early career researchers can develop and expand their own networks and, for example, find possibilities for international mobility.
- The rich variety of research themes covered in the network's activities has diversified Arctic social scientific research and the topics/research approaches that Arctic scholars engage with.



CAS group photo

### Our plan for activities this year includes:

- Research clinic, March 2026
- Continuation of the "Art/Place" webinar, later in the spring
- Critical Arctic Studies Symposium, August 2026
- Working on a special issue "Care for life in the Arctic"
- Also, possibly a panel at a suitable international/Arctic conference

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