

U Arctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law (TNAL)

Subgroup on Arctic Archives

Newsletter #5

12th August 2025

Welcome to the fifth 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).

The subgroup on Arctic Archives now has 68 members and is open to all those interested in the topic. Please see the ultimate section of the newsletter on how to join the subgroup.

Manuscript submission on Displaced Archives

The Arctic Archives subgroup has been quiet of late as we were working on an anthology on *International Law and Displaced Archives in Arctic Countries*. The manuscript, consisting of contributions from Rachael Lorna Johnstone, James Lowry, Romain Chuffart, Melis Yuksel, Njörður Sigurðsson, Bjarni Már Magnússon, Rebecca Bourgeois, William T D Wadsworth, Thomas D Andrews, Apostolos Tsiouvalas, and Giorgio Baruchello has now been submitted to Brill's series *Studies in Polar Law* and is currently under review.

Forthcoming events

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

Ilisimatusarfik, Nuuk, Greenland

Registration is now open for [18th Polar Law Symposium](#) in Nuuk, 22nd – 24th October 2025. The keynote speakers are Kenneth Høegh, Arctic Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Sara Olsvig, Chair of Inuit Circumpolar Council International, and Alan Hemmings, Professor at the University of Canterbury.

Many of our subgroup members will be there, including contributors to *International Law and Displaced Archives in Arctic Countries*.

Please note that registration is discounted until 15th September 2025 and hotel accommodation is limited.

New Publications

Subgroup member **Arman Sarvarian**, Reader in Public International Law, University of Surrey, recently published [The Law of State Succession: Principles and Practice](#) with Oxford University Press.

Subgroup member **Maria Press**, archivist at the National Archives of Sweden, published a book chapter, "Indigenous Archives in Sápmi: Renegotiating Ownership," in [12 Current](#)

[Developments in Arctic Law](#) (2024). The entire volume is available for download, open access.

Subgroup members **Rachael Lorna Johnstone**, Professor of Law, University of Akureyri, Iceland, and **Inge Seiding**, archivist, published “Decolonising Arctic Archives: a Research Agenda,” in [15 Yearbook of Polar Law](#) (2024). The Yearbook is available through most university libraries or the article on request to Rachael at: rlj@unak.is.

A team of Arctic Archivists, primarily in Greenland and Denmark, including subgroup member **Gudrun Eriksen Havsteen-Mikkelsen**, has launched the digital platform www.archiveinthemist.com sharing private archives and related information online. For information about the initiative, click on the black circle on the top right of the home page or just click one of the images to dive straight in.

PhD successes!

Arctic Archives subgroup member **Rebecca Bourgeois** defended her dissertation at the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) on March 19th 2025. Her supervisory and examination committee was made up of Kisha Supernant (Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology), Kimberly Fairman (Institute for Circumpolar Health Research), Andie Palmer (University of Alberta), Maggie Spivey-Faulkner (Outer Coast), and external examiners Lisa Rankin (Memorial University) and Darcie DeAngelo (University of Alberta).

Rebecca’s research was conducted in partnership with the Tłıchǫ, who are a self-governing Indigenous (Dene) nation whose four communities reside in what is now the Northwest Territories, Canada (Treaty 11). Over the course of her studies, she sat with Elders, youth, and community members to learn about their traditions for caring for knowledge in order to redefine principles of curation such as ownership, stewardship, preservation, categorization, and repatriation according to Tłıchǫ values. This partnership is continuing through Rebecca’s Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Western University (London, Ontario, Canada), through which they are working to activate these principles within Tłıchǫ archival and museum programming.

Rebecca’s dissertation is entitled “Tłıchǫ Naòwo Nezı Wek’èts’edı Nàdah Hots’ede: Amplifying Tłıchǫ Voices to Re-center Cultural Heritage Collections Within Traditional Practices of Care” and can be freely obtained here:

<https://ualberta.scholaris.ca/items/777616c2-878f-4618-8322-6fae1a0d50ae>

While all chapters are at various stages of publication in academic journals or as book chapters (including Chapter 3 “The Role of Archives in Reconciliation in Canada: untangling Systemic Barriers to Contribute to Sustainable Change” in *International Law and Displaced Archives in Arctic Countries*), her chapter specific to repatriation, “Reconceptualizing Repatriation as the Power to Decide, has recently been published in [Museum Anthropology](#) (open access). This paper provides a policy analysis of repatriation regulations in Canada,

from both western and Indigenous sources, and pairs them with Elder interviews to reimagine repatriation through an Indigenous lens.

On May 7th 2025, subgroup member **Apostolos Tsiouvalas** successfully defended his PhD dissertation, "*The Arctic Ocean in the Kinocene: A Kinopolitical Critique of the International Law of the Sea's Relationship with Motion*." The Evaluation Committee consisted of Associate Professor Henry Jones, Durham University (1st opponent), Professor Irus Braverman, The University at Buffalo, State University of New York (2nd opponent), and Associate Professor Petri Keskitalo, UiT The Arctic University of Norway (committee leader). Apostolos' Public Defence was preceded by a trial lecture on the prescribed topic: "*More-than-Human Mobilelegalities in the Arctic*."

Apostolos' dissertation, examined the normative and ontological relationship between the law of the sea and the concept of "motion" in the Arctic Ocean through a kinopolitical lens. By combining theoretical research within critical legal geography and empirical legal research with the semi-nomadic Inughuit communities of Avanersuaq, Greenland, his study illuminated how motion functions both as an object of power and as a mechanism of resistance against such power.

Apostolos' theoretical engagement with Inughuit law, particularly its archival value and significance for collective memory, was refined through feedback and discussions during the DIIS workshop on Decolonizing Arctic Archives in April 2024!

Apostolos' dissertation can be accessed freely here:

<https://munin.uit.no/handle/10037/36898>

CONGRATULATIONS DR REBECCA BOURGEOIS AND DR APOSTOLOS TSIIOUVALAS!

Publication Opportunities

Cambridge University Press has recently launched a new digital book series, [Elements in Indigenous Environmental Research](#). [Hear more about it](#) from the editorial team: Dina Gilio-Whitaker, Dr Clint Carroll, Professor Joy Porter, and Dr Matthias Wong.

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 .