UArctic Thematic Network on Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research

Activities 2022

Outreach:

- Lead Interview Northern and Arctic Studies Research. https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/northern-and-arctic-island-studies-research/
- Network meeting, August 30, 2022.
- Network meeting, October 6, 2022.
- Network meeting, December 8, 2022.
- "Yarns and Yarns" project connecting knitters and story-tellers across the North.

Network meetings in 2022:

The discussions have focussed on the interests of the members, such as islandness, fisheries and coastal development, tourism, archaeology, sustainable island communities and intangible cultural heritage.

In the first meeting Owe Ronström talked about the importance of thinking with islands and that it was vital to develop and promote the transnational nature of island studies in the north, in order to break out of limited national thinking. He further suggested that we should help each other to develop centres of island studies.

In the second meeting the exploitation of natural resources and the impact of tourism on the landscape, the environment and the well-being of communities featured in the discussion. Frank Rennie summed things up by suggesting that manifold island resources should be capitalised on in a way that benefits the island communities themselves as well as tourists. Helene Martinsson-Wallin suggested that members might like to participate in the Uppsala University seminars on sustainability, providing an island perspective.

In the third meeting Andrew Jennings told the participants about his workshops exploring Scottish Island Futures in 2050 and suggested this might be something that others would like to develop in their own island communities. Ilan Kelman and Roxane Permar suggested that island based solastalgia would be an important theme for further development. Discussion also focused on intangible cultural heritage and the 'Yarns and Yarns' webinar series. This will bring together knitters and storytellers virtually around the North Atlantic.

Activities planned and conducted in 2023

The first webinar was be held on the 24th January 2023 and will be led by Dale Jarvis from Heritage Newfoundland and it will be partnering with the library in St Johns.

https://www.uarctic.org/news/2022/12/successful-uarctic-thematic-network-on-northern-and-arctic-island-studies-research-meetings/

We had the first of our series of virtual knitting and storytelling events called Yarns and Yarns on 24/01/23. It was hosted by the St John's Public library. People joined from all the following places:

Hereford, England

Aberdeenshire, Scotland
London, ON
Charlottetown, PEI

Mallorca
Ottawa, ON
Anchorage, Alaska
Scottish Highlands
NYC
Toronto, ON
Oslo, Norway
Corner Brook, NL
Derbyshire, England
St. John's, NL
Notre Dame Bay, NL
St. John's, NL
Inverness
Burra Isle, Shetland
Derbyshire, UK
Nottinghamshire England
Newcastle Under Lyme, UK
Trinity, NL
Dunbeath, Caithness
St. Lewis, Labrador, NL
St. John's, NL
Antigonish, NS
Sutherland
Bonshaw, PEI
Conception Bay, NL
St. John's, NL
Drumnadrochit, Scotland
St. John's, NL
St. John's, NL
Wolfville, NS
Fife, Scotland
Isle of Skye
Dingwall, north of Inverness
Scottish Borders
Charlottetown, PEI
St. John's, NL
Levenwick, Shetland

Clarenville, NL
Benbecula, Western Isles
Earletown, NS
Stanhope, PEI

More information here https://www.uarctic.org/news/2023/3/thematic-network-on-northern-and-arctic-island-studies-reseach-held-a-virtual-knitting-and-storytelling-event-yarns-and-yarns/

The next Yarns event is being organised for April 18th 2023 and will be hosted at Taigh Chearsabhagh in North Uist.

TN had a network meeting on 17/03/23. One of the things they discussed was running a workshop in St John's in December to discuss research priorities and research funding. This will be a 3 or 4 day event which will bring together members from across the network in Newfoundland. It will coincide with the Mumming Festival.

TN is also going to organise an island reading circle which will suggest arctic and island literature for the members of the network to enjoy.