

U Arctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law (TNAL)

Newsletter #2

18th March 2024

Welcome to the second 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.

Membership

Having launched in October 2023, today we have forty-four members. Please let your colleagues know about the subgroup and remind them that it is open to all who have an interest in the topic (see below).

Forthcoming Events

Seminar and Workshop, 2nd-3rd May 2024

Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen (hybrid format)

A public seminar in hybrid format (both in person and online) on *Sovereignty, History and Archives* will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 2nd May at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). Confirmed speakers for the event are:

- Raymond Frogner, Head of Archives/Senior Director of Research, National Center for Truth and Reconciliation, Canada
- Lisa Mullins, Archivist, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Canada
- Njörður Sigurðsson, Assistant Director, National Archives of Iceland
- Bjarni Már Magnússon, Professor of Law, Bifröst University Iceland
- Astrid Nonbo Andersen, Senior Research, Danish Institute for International Studies

A workshop will be held around the event, on the morning of 2nd May and all day on Friday 3rd May. It will focus on wider issues on the topic, including archives and reconciliation, cultural heritage, privately-held archives and theoretical issues. At the workshop, members of the subgroup and other invited guests will present their work in progress, share reflections, discuss priority issues, and seek out means to pursue the research further through publications and funding opportunities. The workshop will also be in hybrid format so that participants do not need to travel to Copenhagen. Please contact Rachael if you would like to attend either in person or online (and have not already received an invitation). rlj@unak.is

The events are supported by Nordforsk grant 2023-24 for the project “Decolonising Nordic Archives” and the Danish Institute for International Studies. [Astrid Nonbo Andersen](#) is the lead for the event.

Arctic Circle Berlin Forum, 7th–8th May 2024

Berlin, Germany

Romain Chuffart, subgroup member, is coordinating a panel on archives at the [Arctic Circle Berlin Forum](#) from 7th to 8th May. Organised under Romain's Nansen Professorship for Arctic Studies, the panel focuses on "Nordic Colonial Legacies, Historical Records, and Indigenous Self-Determination" and will include presentations and discussion by Maria Press (Swedish National Archives, Östersund), Malin Arvidsson (Lund University), Astri Dankertsen (Nord University), and Rachael Lorna Johnstone (Akureyri). Register through the [link](#) to join us in Berlin!

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

Östersund, Mid-Sweden

The [17th Polar Law Symposium](#) will be held in Östersund from 23rd to 25th September. Please reach out if you would like to participate in a seminar organised through the subgroup. Of course, you are all encouraged to submit individual abstracts for lectures and short lectures if you prefer on any topic in polar law, but Rachael will try to organise at least one seminar on Arctic Archives. Contact: rlj@unak.is if you would like to be part of an archives seminar.

Arctic Circle Assembly, 17th–19th October 2024

Reykjavík, Iceland

It's time to think about breakout sessions on Arctic archives for the annual Arctic Circle Assembly from 17th to 19th October in Reykjavík. See the call for session proposals on the [Arctic Circle website](#) or contact Rachael at rlj@unak.is for advice on submitting a proposal.

18th Polar Law Symposium, November 2025

Nuuk, Greenland

The 18th Polar Law Symposium will be held in Nuuk in the second week of November 2025 in conjunction with *Greenland Science Week*. Watch this space!

Publications

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

The call for abstracts for a special issue on Arctic archives for the International Journal of Heritage Studies was very successful. We received far more excellent submissions that can be included in a single issue and therefore we will discuss at the DIIS workshop which papers to include in the issue and which to keep for future publication. We will assist all those who submitted in finding a suitable outlet for publication, taking into account the likely timeline for completion of the papers and any urgency pertaining to academic advancement (e.g., PhD completion plans).

“Decolonising Arctic Archives: a Research Agenda”

Rachael Lorna Johnstone and Inge Seiding, “Decolonising Arctic Archives: a Research Agenda,” is accepted for publication in the 15 *Yearbook of Polar Law* and should shortly be entering the production stage. Meanwhile, Rachael can send a manuscript copy to anyone interested. Contact rlj@unak.is

Other publications and events

For future newsletters, it would be desirable to include a list of recent publications on Arctic archives from our members and any forthcoming events that could be of interest. Please send news to Rachael for inclusion in future newsletters! rlj@unak.is

Funding

Grant applications have been submitted to the International Arctic Science Committee and the University of the Arctic to pursue the subgroup’s research. We should be informed of the success or otherwise of the applications in April and May respectively.

The 2023 grant application to the Icelandic Centre of Research (Rannís) for the project: “Decolonising Archives in Iceland, Greenland and Inuit Nunangat” was unfortunately not successful. The team are reflecting on the feedback from the reviewers and preparing a revised application for the 2025-27 funding period. The application deadline is 14th June 2024 and funding decisions are shared in January 2025.

Avenues for cooperation

In 2022, a U Arctic Thematic Network on [Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata \(DALAM\)](#) was established under the leadership of Susanna Parikka at U Lapland.. Their work is complementary to our own. Rachael is a member of the network and attends the monthly meetings to share information about events and research opportunities.

Membership of the Sub-Group on Arctic Archives

If you are not yet a member or would like to invite colleagues to the network please ask them to send the following information to Rachael at: rlj@unak.is. The group is non-hierarchical and does not require any academic or professional qualifications or affiliations.

By joining the sub-group, 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 sub-group. 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 Sub-Group lead is Rachael Lorna Johnstone, University of Akureyri, Iceland: rli@unak.is .

The overall lead for the TNAL is Kamrul Hossain: Kamrul Hossain, University of Lapland, Finland: kamrul.hossain@ulapland.fi .