

# Year In Review



## Thematic Network on Northern Tourism

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### Key Developments in Northern Tourism Research in 2025

In 2025 a curated collection on Arctic Tourism was published within the *Annals of Tourism Research*, a leading journal in the field. This collection was compiled by four network members, who also wrote the Review of Research. It discusses climate change, the potential emergence of new transportation routes, increasing access to natural resources, and contested geopolitical orders that are triggering a greater public interest in the Arctic region.

Two major projects began within the network. **Tourism Employment in the Arctic**, which seeks to examine the sustainability of labour and movement towards decent work, entered year one. This project has multi-year funding by the Nordic Arctic Programme (NAPA), as well as the Government of Canada's Global Arctic Leadership Initiative (GALI). In addition, it receives mobility support through NordPlus. In October, 36 participants came together (15 researchers, 16 Masters students, 3 representatives from industry and community, and 8 PhD students) for a week-long symposium, and Masters-level field course across Southwest Iceland (Reykjavik, and Laugarvatn). The specific topic this year was issues of precarity and parallel to the symposium, the PhD students were involved in a writing and mentorship retreat.

**Place-based Tourism Strategy Evaluation in the North Atlantic** looks at supporting small coastal communities in Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Norway using a framework developed in the Orkney Islands. The project provides a tool for local destination managers to strategically plan for socially sustainable tourism that supports local communities, emphasising local identity, culture and traditions as key elements that tourism development should be based on. The project is supported by the Nordic Atlantic Cooperation programme (NORA).

#### Legacy of Dieter Müller

Sadly, the year ended with the sudden and unexpected loss of one of our network founders, Professor Dieter Müller of Umeå University, on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Dieter was a giant in the field of Arctic tourism (amongst other tourism sub-fields), and his presence and ongoing support will be greatly missed.



Photo: Patrick Maher

### Highlights of the upcoming activities

Looking ahead to 2026, we plan to host a network pre-meeting at the UARctic Congress in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (May). We expect a number of members to present at the conference of our sister-network, the International Polar Tourism Research Network, in Nuuk, Greenland (September), as well as at the 34<sup>th</sup> Nordic Symposium on Tourism and Hospitality research held in Iceland (October).

Finally, we hope to once again host our symposium/field course in Abisko/Kiruna, Sweden in November (funding dependent).

The impact of one of our regular activities – a 3-course, collaborative Masters program, of which the field course in Iceland is a part of – has been the focus of a recent UARctic Impact Study, undertaken in Fall 2025. Full results should be available shortly.

FIND OUT MORE !

<https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/northern-tourism/>

