



**LÆRA
INSTITUTE**



UArctic

INTRODUCING THE LÆRA INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUMPOLAR EDUCATION

Third UArctic Congress

Iceland
16th May 2021

OVERVIEW

The UArctic Læra Institute for Circumpolar Education was established in 2020 to support and strengthen UArctic member capacity to deliver locally appropriate and pedagogically high-quality Circumpolar Studies programmes, without compromising their own academic flexibility.

The Læra Institute will renew and revitalise the UArctic Circumpolar Studies programme, not by updating centrally planned curricula, but by developing and maintaining best-practice educational resources for Circumpolar Studies. The Læra Institute will also help to knit UArctic together as a borderless academic community by hosting workshops for UArctic faculty on Circumpolar Studies teaching and pedagogical innovation, and by convening student symposia for UArctic students studying the Circumpolar world.

The Læra Institute is very grateful to UiT The Arctic University of Norway and the Norwegian Ministry for Education and Research for initial funding for this work.

WORK PLAN

- Educational resources
 - Curriculum criteria
 - Exemplar courses
 - Pedagogical materials
- Opportunities for dialogue
 - Faculty workshops
 - Student symposia

STRUCTURE

- Leadership
 - Academic Co-Directors
 - Managing Director
 - Steering Committee
- Sub-Committees and Working Groups
 - Communications Sub-committee
 - Funding Sub-committee
 - Curriculum Criteria Working Group
 - Website Working Group

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Website development (laerainstitute.org)
- First faculty workshop online – “Circumpolar Studies Is...” (April 2021)
- Conference participation
 - Scotland-Arctic Network Series event on 'Scotland's role and contribution in a changing Arctic environment' (March 2021)
 - Official launch and panel session ‘Innovation and pedagogy in Circumpolar Studies’ at UArctic Congress (May 2021)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Panel session 'Innovation and pedagogy in Circumpolar Studies' at International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (June 2021)
- Further faculty workshops focused on teaching about the Circumpolar world
- First student symposium focused on undergraduates including innovative experiential learning events

Thank you / Þakka ykkur fyrir

Dr Gary Wilson

**Academic Co-Director
Læra Institute for Circumpolar Education**

**Professor of Political Science
University of Northern British Columbia**

info@laerainstitute.org

www.laerainstitute.org

[@laerainstitute.org](https://www.instagram.com/laerainstitute.org)

