CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS, IS, COULD BE...

Third UArctic Congress

Iceland
17th May 2021
1. Circumpolar Studies was...
   A brief foray into the distant past

2. Circumpolar Studies is...
   Where we are now

3. Circumpolar Studies could be...
   recommitting to shared voices and co-construction of knowledge will set future directions
CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...
Some dates for context

- **1987**: *Our Common Future*, October
- **1989–1991/06**: AEPS development in late Cold War environment; June adoption; included Indigenous peoples’ organizations
- **1991/12**: of the Soviet Union
- **1991**: The Web goes worldwide
- **1993**: AEPS added sustainable development
- **1994**: Netscape browser
- **1996**: Formation of the Arctic Council
- **1997**: Proposal for a university of/for the Arctic
- **2002**: BCS 100 piloted
CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...
Initially a plan for a Bachelor degree

A light-weight, laddered program that leveraged existing capacity
CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...
Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies brochure
CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...
Towards a common vocabulary

“The seven core Circumpolar Studies courses, including an introduction and three pairs of courses in different topics, ensure that all students share a broad knowledge and understanding of the lands, peoples, and major issues of the Circumpolar World.”
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CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES IS...
Now just ‘Circumpolar Studies’

- Dropped the “Bachelor”
- Dropped the Advanced Emphases
- Revised the core texts
- Working to expand member participation
- Working to solve bureaucratic (provincial/national) mismatches
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CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...
What Circumpolar Studies can do

- Can benefit from current conversations about reconciliation, and equality, diversity and inclusion
- Support, encourage and build on the work of Indigenous scholars
- Can again be “a new way for students to learn about the North”
CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...
Inclusive, comparative, but also separate, distinctive

- Geographically
- Linguistically
- Culturally
- Epistemologically
- Ontologically
- Academically
CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...
In the North, for the North, by the North – differently

- Building bridges
- Bridging differences
- Embracing differences
- North-centred critique
- Decolonial
- Ethical
CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...
Connected to the aims of the North

- Supporting sustainable, respectful cohabitation of the North
- Living well together, Indigenous and incomers
- Recognizing and honouring the infinite forms of expertise
- Leaving space for other voices, all voices
- Making connections far and wide
- Teaching and learning also in unconventional ways, on the land, in classrooms, in the virtual realm
- Sharing knowledge and best practices
Thank you / Þakka ykkur fyrir

Amanda Graham

Steering Committee Member
Læra Institute for Circumpolar Education

Chair of the School of Liberal Arts
Yukon University

info@laerainstitute.org
www.laerainstitute.org
@laerainstitute.org