

**LÆRA**  
INSTITUTE



**UArctic**

# **CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES**

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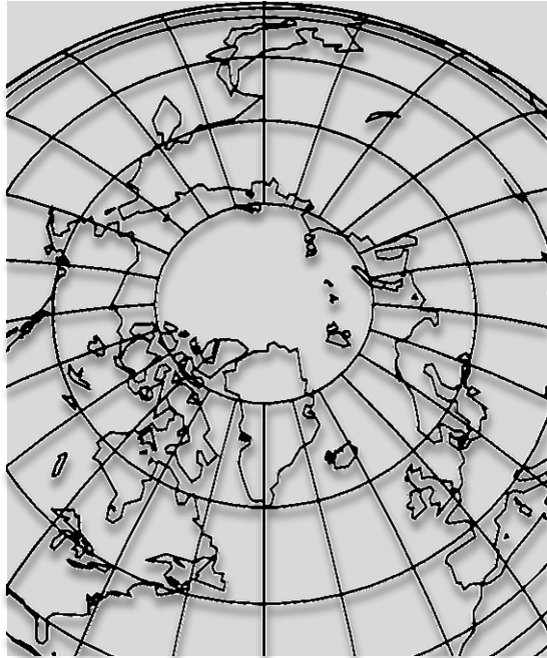
**WAS,  
IS,  
COULD BE...**

**International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences**

**Arkhangelsk / Online**

**17 June 2021**

# CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS, IS, COULD BE...



## Circumpolar Studies was...

A brief foray into the distant past

# Some dates for context

**1987:** *Our Common Future*, October

**1989–1991/06:** AEPS development in late Cold War environment;

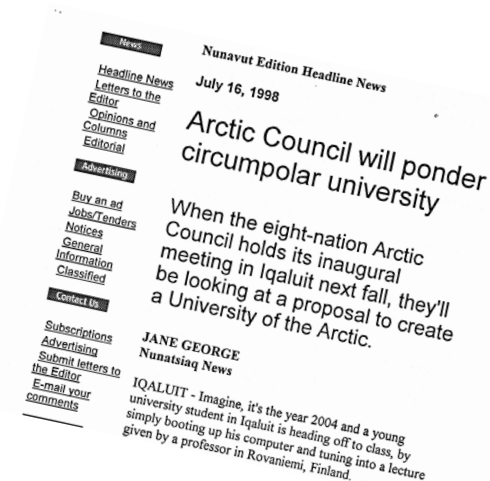
**June** adoption; included Indigenous peoples' organizations

**1991/12:** of the Soviet Union

**1991:** The Web goes world wide

**1993:** AEPS added sustainable development

**1994:** Netscape browser



# Some dates for context

**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

**Circumpolar Studies**



A light-weight, laddered program that  
leveraged existing capacity

# Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies (BCS) brochure



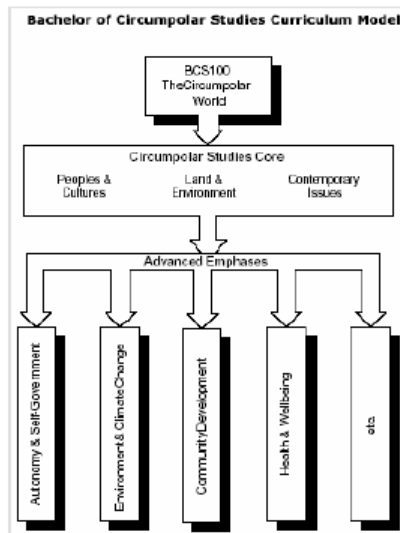
UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

## Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies

The Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies (BCS) is a new way for students attending University of the Arctic (UArctic) member institutions to learn about the North, with courses held in the classroom, on-line, outdoors and around the world. As UArctic's signature undergraduate program, BCS provides a solid understanding of issues relevant to the Arctic and opportunities to further study unique and diverse research subjects. You can choose Circumpolar Studies as your main study subject ('major') or combine it with other degree programs at your home institution. The BCS program gives you the opportunity to learn about the lands, peoples and issues of the Circumpolar North and prepares you for advanced study or professional employment in fields as diverse as sustainable resource management, self-government, Arctic engineering and tourism.

### What Courses Do I Take?

The BCS program consists of three components: **Introduction**, **Core** and **Advanced Emphases**. Most students will take at least the introduction and core, depending on what options are available at your home institution and whether you



and critical issues of the contemporary North, and can be taken in your first year of studies.

The main component of the program is the **Circumpolar Studies Core**, consisting of six courses (two each) in

(European Credit Transfer System) credits. This is roughly equal to a 3 credit course in many North American institutions.

Finally, students can complete one or more **Advanced Emphases**, roughly equivalent to half a year of studies. Advanced Emphases focus on advanced study of an area, issue, or problem of particular relevance to the North and for its people. Currently available Advanced Emphases include Arctic Governance; Northern Scandinavian Politics and Society; Arctic Environmental Technology; and Polar Oceanography and Meteorology. Advanced Emphases in indigenous tourism, aboriginal public administration, international project management, Arctic sustainable resource development, and many others are currently in development. Your home institution will offer Advanced Emphases that reflect its particular area of expertise. You may also choose to complete your degree at another member institution of the University of the Arctic that offers an Advanced Emphasis in your area of specialization.

### How Do I Take the Courses?

The Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies is designed for flexible delivery to meet the

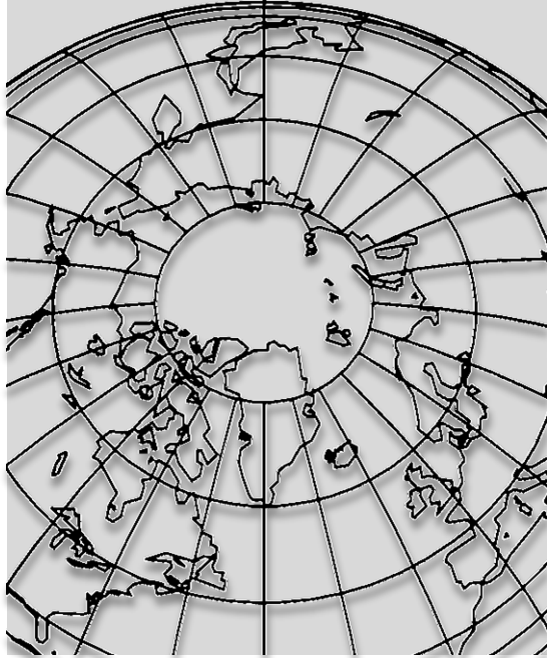
# Towards a common vocabulary

“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 WAS, IS, COULD BE...



## Circumpolar Studies is...

Where we are now



# Just 'Circumpolar Studies'

Slimmed down the project

- Dropped the “Bachelor”
- Dropped Advanced Emphases

Revised the core texts

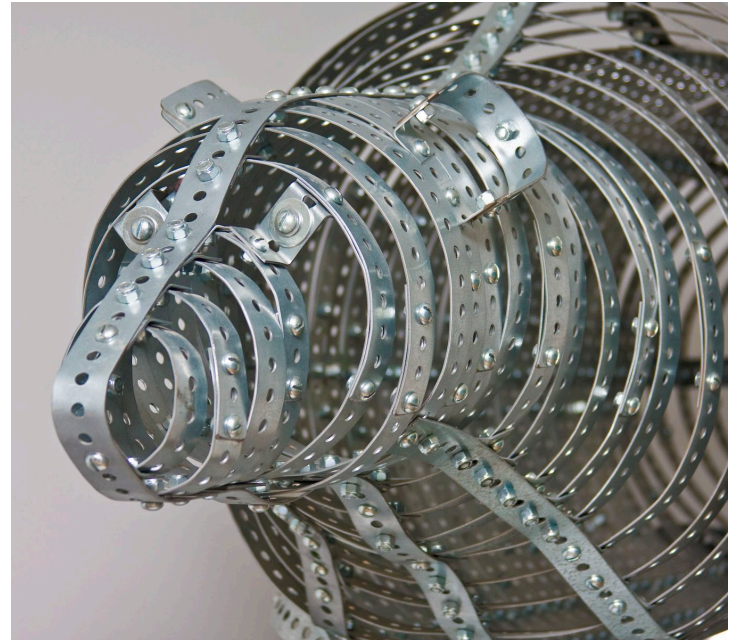


# Looking for 'Circumpolar Studies' colleagues

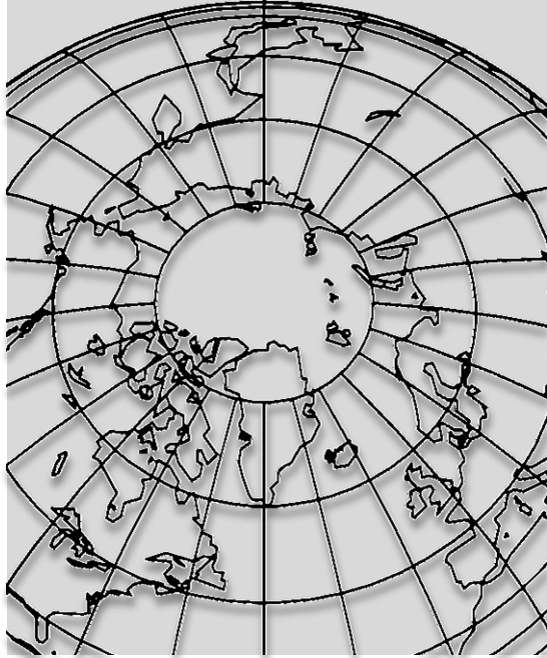
Spreading the word

- To expand participation

Solving national academic /  
bureaucratic mismatches



# CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS, IS, COULD BE...



## Circumpolar Studies could be...

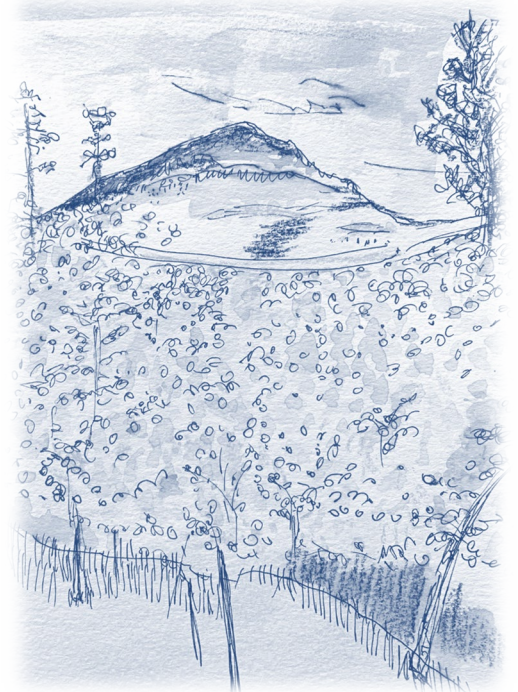
Recommitted to shared voices and  
co-construction of knowledge

# Circumpolar Studies can ...

Be open to ways of knowing that are generous  
in their inclusiveness

Support, encourage, and build on the work of  
Indigenous scholars

Again be “a new way for students to learn  
about the North”



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# Circumpolar Studies could be...

Inclusive,  
Comparative,  
but also  
  
Separate,  
Distinctive

Geographically  
Linguistically  
Culturally  
Epistemologically  
Ontologically  
Academically





# In the North, for the North, by the North – differently

Building bridges

Embracing differences

North-centred critique

Decolonial

Ethical



# Circumpolar Studies: 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~~ <sup>novel</sup> practices

# Thank you

**Amanda Graham, MA**

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**Chair of the School of Liberal Arts  
Yukon University**

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