INTRODUCING THE LÆRA INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUMPOLAR EDUCATION

UArctic Thematic Networks and Institutes Leadership Conference

University of St Andrews
St Andrews, UK  |  13 May 2022
UArctic created Circumpolar Studies as undergraduate core curriculum available for use by all member institutions.

UArctic CS Core Curriculum

- Introduction to the Circumpolar World
- Land and Environment of the Circumpolar World I & II
- Peoples and Cultures of the Circumpolar World I & II
- Contemporary Issues of the Circumpolar World I & II

All UArctic students eligible to take CS courses—taught online even before pandemic.
Læra Institute established in autumn 2020 to help renew and revitalise UArctic Circumpolar Studies programme

Læra Institute founding and steering partners

Trent University

UNBC University of Northern British Columbia

Lakehead University

Nord University

Agro University

Yukon University

UAA University of Alaska Anchorage

(participation paused)

(joined 2021)

We’re grateful to Norwegian Ministry for Education and Research for funding for our work

Source: Læra Institute; universities shown (logos)
Læra Institute promotes shared understanding of Circumpolar Studies and borderless academic community

- **Curriculum criteria**: Detailed topic specifications for Circumpolar Studies, to help UArctic members develop locally appropriate courses based on shared understanding.

- **Exemplar materials**: Example Circumpolar Studies courses and teaching resources, which UArctic members can use as models, adapt to local needs or teach ‘off-the-shelf’.

- **Faculty workshop**: Regular meeting of UArctic member faculty teaching Circumpolar Studies courses, to share pedagogical research, best-practice and local insights.

- **Student symposia**: Regular meeting of UArctic member undergraduate students, to share learning, present own research and collaborate on joint activities.

*Source: Læra Institute*

Recordings and transcript of first faculty workshop ‘Circumpolar Studies Is...’ available on our website.
Læra Institute held first faculty workshop – ‘Circumpolar Studies Is...’ – online in March 2021

Participating UArctic member institutions

- Arctic State Agrotechnological University (Russia)
- Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts (Russia)
- Florida State University (USA)
- International Sámi Film Institute (Norway)
- Nipissing University (Canada)
- Nord University (Norway)
- Northeastern Federal University (Russia)
- Trent University (Canada)
- Yukon University (Canada)
- University of Alaska Anchorage (USA)
- University of Cambridge (UK)
- University of Highlands and Islands (UK)
- University of Northern British Columbia (Canada)
- University of Washington (USA)

Recording and transcript available on Læra Institute website

Source: Læra Institute
Læra Institute reaches out to wider academy by sponsoring or taking part in sessions on Circumpolar Studies education

Calls for abstracts announced on our website

Source: Læra Institute; conference organisers shown (logos)
We have upcoming plans in which UArctic faculty and students are most welcome to be involved

- **End summer 2022**: Roll-out of first set of Circumpolar Studies curriculum criteria and exemplar pedagogical material
- **Autumn 2022**: Second faculty workshop in conjunction with 4th UArctic Congress (pending announcement of alternative venue or hybrid/online format)
- **Spring 2023**: First undergraduate student symposium (planned as in-person/hybrid event originally postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions)
- **Rolling**: Continued delivery of UArctic CS courses, and continued sponsorship of conference sessions on CS educational innovation and pedagogy

Don’t hesitate to be in touch if you’d like to take part
Thank you

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