INTRODUCING THE LÆRA INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUMPOLAR EDUCATION

24th Arctic Science Summit Week

University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria | 21 February 2023
UArctic founded in 2001 to promote circumpolar collaboration in education, research and outreach

Canada
40 members

Denmark/Greenland/Faroes
13 members

Finland
18 members

Iceland
10 members

Norway
17 members

Russia
55 members (participation paused)

Sweden
6 members

USA
27 members

Non-Arctic
42 members

‘Empower people of Circumpolar North by providing unique educational and research opportunities’

Source: UArctic, Læra Institute
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

(altiesh paused)

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

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

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<th>Curriculum guide</th>
<th>Detailed guidebook for developing Circumpolar Studies curricula, enabling the design of locally appropriate courses based on shared understanding</th>
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<td>Exemplar materials</td>
<td>Example Circumpolar Studies courses and teaching resources, to be used as models, adapted to local needs, or taught ‘off-the-shelf’</td>
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<td>Faculty workshop</td>
<td>Meeting of UArcit member faculty teaching Circumpolar Studies courses, to share pedagogical research, best-practice and local insights</td>
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<td>Student symposia</td>
<td>Meeting of UArcit member undergraduate students, to share learning, present own research and collaborate on joint activities</td>
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<td>Dialogue and collaboration</td>
<td>Convening conference sessions on educational topics, and support for/collaboration on proposals and projects with educational components</td>
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Source: Læra Institute
Last summer, we published first edition of our Circumpolar Studies Curriculum Development guide

Laëra Institute CS Curriculum Guide

• 10 principles for designing high-quality undergraduate Circumpolar Studies curriculum
• 3 themes that any comprehensive Circumpolar Studies curriculum should cover
• Key learning outcomes for students organised by theme
• Question-based checklist to assist curriculum developers
• Appendices – ‘What is Circumpolar Studies?’ and overview of Circumpolar Studies resources

‘Living document’ to be revised and republished at intervals in future
Our curriculum development guide informed by our first faculty workshop on topic of ‘Circumpolar Studies Is...’

We plan second faculty workshop this spring to review first edition, and consider improvements for second edition.
Læra Institute reaches out to wider academy by sponsoring conference sessions on Circumpolar 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

- **Spring 2023**: Second faculty workshop to review and plan for next edition of Circumpolar Studies Curriculum Development guide (hybrid/online format)

- **Autumn 2023**: First undergraduate student symposium (planned as in-person/hybrid event originally postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions)

- **End 2023**: Publication of exemplar Circumpolar Studies courses, and associated teaching materials

- **Rolling**: Continued delivery of UArctic CS courses, sponsorship of education-focused conference sessions, and support of educational proposals and projects

Don’t hesitate to be in touch if you’d like to take part, or if you have a proposal for collaboration

Source: Læra Institute
Thank you / Danke

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