



**LÆRA
INSTITUTE**



UArctic

INTRODUCING THE LÆRA INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUMPOLAR EDUCATION

Arctic Congress 2024

Nord University & Nordland Research Institute
Bodø, Norway | 29 May 2024

UArctic founded in 2001 to promote circumpolar collaboration in education, research and outreach



Canada

40 members



Denmark/Greenland/Faroes

13 members



Finland

18 members



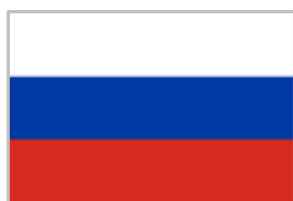
Iceland

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



(participation paused)

(joined 2021)

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

Source: Læra Institute; universities shown (logos)

info@laerainstitute.org | @laerainstitute

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Læra Institute promotes shared understanding of Circumpolar Studies and borderless academic community

Curriculum guide

Detailed guidebook for developing Circumpolar Studies curricula, enabling the design of locally appropriate courses based on shared understanding

Exemplar materials

Example Circumpolar Studies courses and teaching resources, to be used as models, adapted to local needs, or taught 'off-the-shelf'

Faculty workshop

Meeting of UArctic member faculty teaching Circumpolar Studies courses, to share pedagogical research, best-practice and local insights

Student symposia

Meeting of UArctic member undergraduate students, to share learning, present own research and collaborate on joint activities

Dialogue and collaboration

Convening conference sessions on educational topics, and support for/collaboration on proposals and projects with educational components

Læra Institute also reaches out to wider academy by sponsoring conference sessions on Circumpolar education



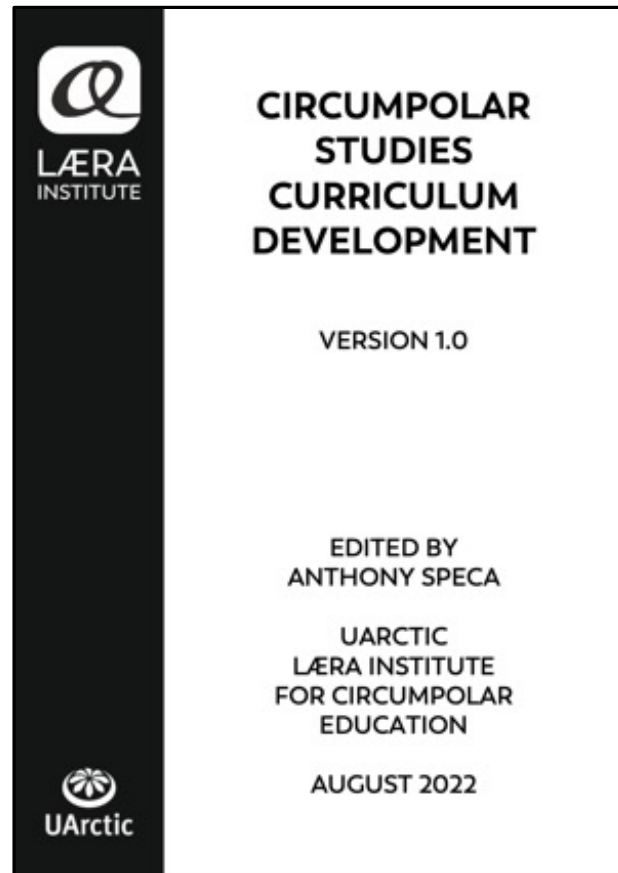
Two sessions tomorrow on educational innovation for Circumpolar North, from primary to postgraduate level

Source: Læra Institute; conference organisers shown (logos)

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In 2022, we published CS Curriculum Development guide to assist faculty to design and teach CS in own local contexts

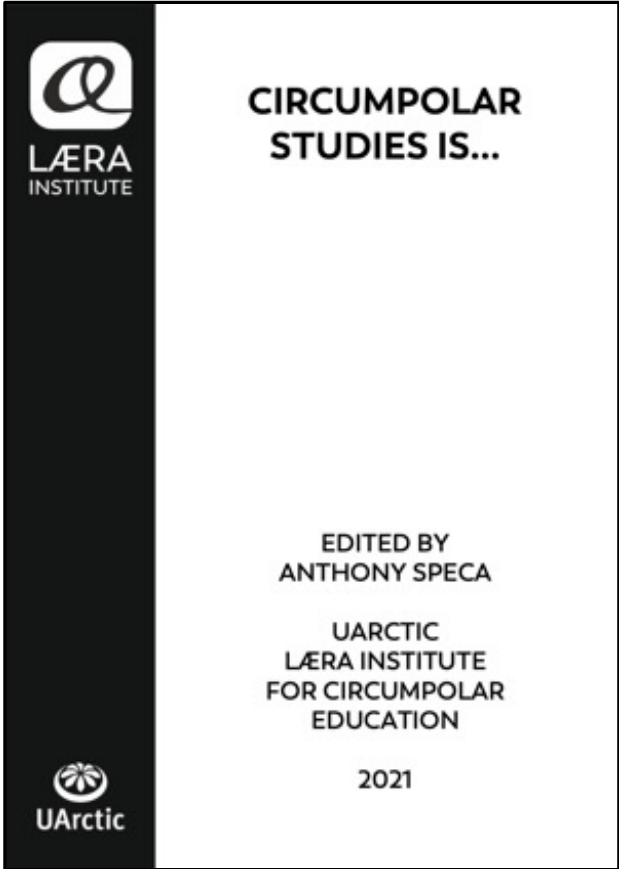


Læra Institute CS Curriculum Development Guide

- 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

We welcome comments from users of this guidebook

Our curriculum development guide was informed by our 2021 faculty workshop on topic of ‘Circumpolar Studies Is...’



Curriculum development guide was discussed at second faculty workshop at UArctic Assembly at Laval University in 2023

Source: Læra Institute

At this third faculty workshop, we're pleased officially to launch two new 'off-the-shelf' exemplar CS courses

Representations of the Circumpolar North in literature, film and popular culture



- Detailed course pack
- Sample lesson plan
- Suggested assessment framework
- Developed by Dr Drew Lyness, Yukon University

Climate change and the Circumpolar world



- Detailed course pack
- Resource slide deck
- Suggested assessment framework
- Developed by Dr Tara Stehelin, Yukon University

Exemplar courses extend UArctic core CS curriculum in keeping with principles of CS Curriculum Development guide

We'd also like to devote this third workshop to two open discussions with interested faculty

Curriculum

Publication of CS Curriculum Development Guide and two exemplar CS courses; supporting UArctic core CS curriculum delivery

Dialogue

Hosting or sponsoring faculty workshops, student symposia, education-focused conference sessions

Community

Collaboration on other education-focused projects by UArctic faculty, e.g. 'Circumpolar Civic Education', 'Co-creating Circumpolar Education', etc

Management

Establishing and embedding Læra Institute within UArctic framework; designing and launching Læra website

First to hear your suggestions for our next major steps, having largely achieved our initial objectives (some ongoing)...

...and second to hear from faculty interested to engage more directly with Læra Institute and our work

Ideal balance for Læra Institute Steering Committee

North America
& Europe*

Indigenous & non-
Indigenous scholars



Humanities, social
& natural sciences

Established & early-
career scholars

*We look forward to a future in which Russia renounces war, and Russian scholars can join us again

We especially invite faculty from European UArctic member institutions to consider joining our Steering Committee

Thank you / Tusen takk / Gijtto

Dr Anthony Specca

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