

**Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre
Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland**



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

1. The Creation of the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre

The Centre was opened formally at Ilisimatusarfik (the University of Greenland) on 16th March 2016. Its name in Greenlandic is *Issittumi uuliamik gassimillu imm* and in Danish, *Forskningscentret for Arktisk Olie og Gas*. The Centre operates within the Institute of Social Sciences, Economics and Journalism at Ilisimatusarfik. The Centre commissioned a logo in April 2016 by Greenlandic artist Ivalu Risager.

2. Staffing

The Directors of the Centre are Professor Anne Merrild Hansen and Professor Rachael Lorna Johnstone. Professors Hansen and Johnstone were both employed by Ilisimatusarfik as of 1st January 2016 for a three year period to conduct research, teach at the University, supervise graduate student research projects, contribute to curriculum development, and promote the University within Greenland and abroad.

Birger Poppel and Mark Nuttall, both of the Institute of Social Science, Economics & Journalism are Members of the Centre, in which capacity they offer constructive feedback on research projects, grant applications, etc.

Through 2016, the Directors report to Mette Sonnicks who assists with administration and planning for the Centre. During September and October 2016, Laila Egede Ignatiussen provided secretarial support to the Centre.

The Centre commissions translators on an *ad hoc* basis to translate information into Greenlandic for publication and outreach.

3. Principal Objectives of the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre

During their early meetings with colleagues at Ilisimatusarfik and in light of the terms of their employment contracts, the Directors identified the research priorities of the Centre. First and foremost, the Centre will conduct interdisciplinary research on the social and economic impacts of hydrocarbon and other large-scale resource developments in the Arctic. The academic fields of most pertinence are economics, political science, social anthropology, law, international relations and critical geography. The Centre will also seek to incorporate and integrate indigenous knowledge as appropriate.

From a Greenlandic base, it will seek out research partners in other Arctic countries or who are otherwise involved in Arctic-related research on large-scale extraction activities. Research will be conducted at an individual level by the Centre Directors and Members as well as collaboratively in research teams. External funding will be sought to facilitate the expansion of the Centre's research activities.

The Centre will seek views from local community members, government representatives, oil and gas companies and NGOs as well as academics as it develops its research agenda. The Directors will travel around Greenland in 2017 to meet with different communities and stakeholders, holding open fora that allow all concerned participants to express their views.

4. The Centre Website

The website of the Centre was launched on the same day as the Centre opened, on 16th March 2016. It provides information regarding the Centre's staff and activities, including a regularly updated News section and Briefing Notes that summarise in ordinary language the Centre's research activities (see publications).

5. Publications and Other Communications

Academic Publications by the Directors

In 2016, Professor Johnstone published the following articles, book chapters and working papers of relevance to the Centre's research focus:

- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, "Respectful Neighbourliness: the United Kingdom's Arctic Approach" 8 *Yearbook of Polar Law* (2016).
- レイチェル・ロルナ・ジョンストン「北極評議会を通じた環境ガバナンス：国際環境規範の主導者としての北極評議会」『国際協力論集（神戸大学大学院国際協力研究科）』第24巻第1号（2016年7月）29-44頁。(Environmental Governance through the Arctic Council: the Arctic Council as Initiator of Norms of International Environmental Law) Open Access: http://www.research.kobe-u.ac.jp/gsics-publication/jics/johnstone_24-1.pdf
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, "The Principle of "Full Reparation" for Environmental Damage and Very Small States" in *Responsibilities and Liabilities for Commercial Activity in the Arctic: The Example of Greenland*, Vibe Ulbeck, Anders Møllmann and Bent Ole Gram Mortensen (eds), Routledge Research in International Environmental Law (2016).
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone and Federica Scarpa, "Little Italy: Seeking a Niche in Arctic International Relations" 11(1) *Nordicum Mediterraneum* [2016]. Open Access: http://nome.unak.is/wordpress/volume-11-no-1-2016/01_double-blind-peer-reviewed-article/little-italy-seeking-niche-international-arctic-relations/
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, "Little Fish, Big Pond: Icelandic Interests and Influence in Arctic Governance" *No one is an Island: Iceland and the International Community*, 11(2) *Nordicum Mediterraneum* [2016]. Open Access: <http://nome.unak.is/wordpress/volume-11-no-2-2016/>
- Duncan French (Chair), Tim Stephens (Rapporteur) and others, ILA Study Group on Due Diligence, Second Report, July 2016 (Rachael Lorna Johnstone, lead author of chapter: What factors, if any, may vary a due diligence standard?).
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, *Environmental Governance through the Arctic Council: the Arctic Council as Initiator of Norms of International Environmental Law*, Polar Cooperation and Research Centre, Kobe University, Japan, Working Paper No. 1 [2016]. Open Access: <http://www.research.kobe-u.ac.jp/gsics-pcrc/paper.html>

Johnstone published three book reviews on recent texts on Arctic governance:

- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, Review of: *The Arctic Council: Governance within the Far North*, Douglas C Nord (Routledge, 2016) 11(1) *Nordicum Mediterraneum* [2016].
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, Review of: *International Politics of the Arctic: Coming in from the Cold*, Peter Hough (Routledge, 2013) 11(1) *Nordicum Mediterraneum* [2016].
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, Review of: *Polar Geopolitics: Knowledges, Resources and Legal Regimes*, Richard C Powell and Klaus Dodds (eds) (Edward Elgar, 2014) 11(1) *Nordicum Mediterraneum* [2016].

In 2016, Professor Hansen published the following articles and reports of relevance to the Centre's research focus:

- Hansen, A. M., & Tejsner, P. (2016). *Challenges and opportunities for residents in the Upernavik District while oil companies are making a first entrance in Baffin Bay. Arctic Anthropology*, 53(1).
- Hansen, A. M., Vanclay, F., Croal, P., & Skjervedal, A-S. H. (2016). *Managing the social impacts of the rapidly expanding extractive industries in Greenland. The Extractive Industries and Society*. DOI: 10.1016/j.exis.2015.11.013
- Hansen, A. M. (2016). *Offshore oil exploration and impact assessment in Greenland. Northern Public Affairs*, 4(2).
- Kirkfeldt, T. S., Hansen, A. M., Olsen, P., Mortensen, L., Krumova, K., & Welsch, A. (2016). *Why cumulative impacts assessments of hydrocarbon activities in the Arctic fail to meet their purpose. Regional Environmental Change*. Epub ahead of print.
- Hansen, A. M., Larsen, S. (2016). *Miljøvurdering af offshore kulbrinte aktiviteter: en benchmarkundersøgelse af krav til VVM for efterforskningsaktiviteter i Grønland, Norge, Canada, Danmark og Alaska: videnskabelig rapport fra Det Danske Center for Miljøvurdering, Forskningscenter for Arktisk Olie og Gas. Aalborg Universitet*.
- Hansen, A. M., & Larsen, S. V. (2016). *Benchmarking af miljøvurderingslovgivning for olieaktiviteter i Grønland: Bilagsrapport 2 - Opsamling fra Workshop 2. Institut for Planlægning, Aalborg Universitet*.
- Hansen, A. M. (2016). *Managing the Social Impacts of Offshore Hydrocarbon Development in Greenland: Lessons Learned from Alaska. In Managing the Social Impacts of Offshore Hydrocarbon Development in Greenland: Lessons Learned from Alaska. (Vol. 4, s. 22-24). (Arctic and International Relations Series)*.
- Hansen, A. M., Tejsner, P., & Egede, P. P. (2016). *Traditional Knowledge and Industrial Development: On the potential use of indigenous and local knowledge as a resource to assess competencies in Greenland. In R. Knudsen, & M. Jacobsen (red.), Perspectives On Skills. (s. 152-166). Kapitel 7.1.Greenland Perspective*.
- Larsen, S. V., & Hansen, A. M. (2016). *Impact assessment of offshore oil activities in the Arctic. I Proceedings - Final Papers*.
- Virginia, R. A., Sfraga, M., Arnbom, T., Chamberlain, L., Chatwood, S., Tepecik Diş, Hansen, A. M: Vestergaard, N. (2016). *The Fulbright Arctic Initiative: An Innovative Model for Policy Relevant Research and Public Outreach. The Arctic Yearbook, (2016)*.

Arctic Oil and Gas Centre Briefing Notes (all available for download on the Centre website)

The Centre produces Briefing Notes that summarise in accessible language its key research activities and findings. These are published on the Centre website in English, Danish and Greenlandic. In 2016, three such Briefing Notes were published:

- Briefing Note 1: Introduction to the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre was published on the day of the launch, 16th March 2016, to explain the purposes of the Centre and introduce the Directors.
- Briefing Note 2: Environmental Assessment of Offshore Hydrocarbon Activities was published on 10th October 2016 and summarised a study conducted by Professor Hansen and Sanne Vammen Larsen on the EIA process for Greenland's offshore hydrocarbon activities.
- Briefing Note 3: Free, Prior and Informed Consent was published on 23rd November 2016. It summarised a presentation by Professor Johnstone given at the 4th Arctic Circle Assembly on the status, interpretation and implementation of the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Outreach Publications and Newspaper Articles

The Directors published two short presentations of the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre in Arctic-focused academic publications, *Northern Notes* and *Arctic Review on Law and Politics*.

- Rachael Lorna Johnstone and Anne Merrild Hansen, "Introduction to the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre", (2016) 45 *Northern Notes* 26, Open Access: <http://iassa.org/images/newsletters/Northern-Notes-Issue-45-Spring-Summer-2016.pdf>
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone and Anne Merrild Hansen, "Introduction to the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre" (2016) 7(1) *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* 107, Open Access: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17585/arctic.v7.421>

Johnstone also published two newspaper articles, one of which was translated and published in Russian:

- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, *Akademísku frelsi til varnar (In Defence of Academic Freedom)* Fréttablaðið, 31 May 2016 <http://www.visir.is/akademisku-frelsi-til-varnar/article/2016160539749>
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, *Scotland seeks "even stronger partnerships with northern neighbours"* The Independent Barents Observer, 12 October 2016 <http://www.thebarentsobserver.com/en/2016/10/scotland-seeks-even-stronger-partnerships-northern-neighbours>
- Rachael Lorna Johnstone, *Шотландия хочет «еще более тесно сотрудничать с северными соседями»* The Independent Barents Observer (Russian edition) 27 October 2016 <http://thebarentsobserver.com/ru/life-and-public/2016/10/shotlandiya-hochet-eshche-bolee-tesno-sotrudnichat-s-severnymi-sosednyami>

Johnstone gave an interview to the Icelandic National Radio (*Rúv*) programme, *Spegillinn* (The Mirror) on the potential State responsibility for oil and gas activities. The interview was broadcast on 11th October 2016.

Hansen gave an interview to Kalaallit Nunaaata Radioa (Greenlandic Broadcasting Corporation). The interview was broadcasted in the national news on the radio on September 26th 2016. The interview was on the topic of strategic implications of new Chinese investors in the company GME who holds exploration license for the planned Rare Earth Metals mine in Narsaq, South Greenland. Hansen further gave an interview to Sermitsiaq/AG the National newspaper in Greenland on the same topic. The interview was further cited in two news articles:

- Walter Turnowsky, *Mine kan skabe storpolitiske forviklinger*, Sermitsiaq AQ, 27 September 2016 <http://sermitsiaq.ag/kan-skabe-storpolitiske-forviklinger>
- Kenneth Elkjær, *Ekspert: Derfor er kinesisk investor godt nyt for Kvanefjeld*, KNR, 27 September 2016, <http://knr.gl/da/nyheder/derfor-er-kinesisk-investor-godt-nyt-kvanefjeld>

Public Consultations

In November 2016, the Parliament of the United Kingdom's Scottish Affairs Committee launched the [*Scotland and the High North Inquiry*](#). Professor Johnstone submitted views in her personal capacity.

6. Conferences and Events

Launch of the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre, 16th March 2016:

An open seminar was held at Ilisimatusarfik to mark the launch of the Centre and to introduce the new Directors. At the event, Tine Pars, Rector of Ilisimatusarfik introduced the Arctic Oil and Gas

Research Centre and the two directors. Hansen explained the objectives, priorities and planned activities of the centre. The directors then each delivered a presentation in which Johnstone discussed the importance of the legal framework in managing hydrocarbon activities and Hansen explained the essential criteria for an effective environmental and social impact assessment process. Over fifty people attended the launch and participated in a lively discussion where they talked about their hopes and expectations for the Centre. Participants came from Ilisimatusarfik; the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources; Niuernermik Ilinniarfik (the Business College); the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Trade; the Mineral Licence and Safety Authority; the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS); the Greenland Business Association; Greenland Business; S.I.K. (the Labour Association of Greenland); Nunaoil; WWF; and Transparency International Greenland.

Arctic Circle Forum, Greenland, 18th May 2016

At the Arctic Circle Forum, held at Katuaq, Professor Johnstone presented the Centre, explained its objectives and called for comments and suggestions on the Centre's research priorities.

Arctic Circle Assembly, Iceland, 7th-9th October 2016

Professor Hansen organised a breakout session in the name of the Centre which explored *Social Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic – Challenges and Benefits*. Owing to the Greenlandic weather conditions, Hansen was unable to attend in person but Professor Johnstone chaired the session, presented the Centre and introduced the four speakers: Anita Parlow, Brigte Dale, Natalya Novikova and Emma Wilson. Around fifty people attended the session, posed questions to the speakers and engaged in a dynamic discussion of the issues.

Also at the Arctic Circle, Professor Johnstone delivered two further presentations: "Hazardous Activities, Small States and the Risk of Reparation" at a breakout session on *Arctic Ocean Oil and Gas Exploration and Legal Liability* and "Free, Prior and Informed Consent in Large-Scale Development Projects in the Arctic" at a breakout session on *Global Arctic: The Resource Dynamics of the Urbanized Arctic*.

Professor Johnstone additionally organised three other breakout sessions at the Arctic Circle Assembly under the banner of the Polar Law Symposium. These were on *Global Influences on Polar Governance*; *Arctic Sustainable Development*, and *The Law of the Sea: Navigation*.

Health and Wellness in the Arctic, Dartmouth 10th-15th January 2016

Professor Hansen took part in the planning and execution of a seminar at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, which brought together experts and community perspectives on health care and delivery, infrastructure challenges, youth engagement, and traditional knowledge. The Dartmouth seminar was a consensus seminar featuring facilitated panel discussions by experts, breakout sessions, and non-traditional and holistic approaches, including a traditional talking circle to ground the academic discussion in the shared, first-hand experiences of community members and health care providers. Professor Hansen gave a presentation on her recent research. The key determinants of community wellness that were identified included human capacity building and local training, cultural connection, trauma, access to health care services and self-determination.

Towards a Sustainable Arctic Future, Oulu 11th February 2016

On Thursday, 11th February, 2016, Professor Hansen presented her ongoing research as a part of a broader public symposium that gathered together Arctic scientists, students, policymakers, industry and NGO representatives and other key stakeholders as well as the general public. The event was open to anyone interested in Arctic issues.

Through high level keynotes, panels and interactive discussions, the symposium addressed changes in the Arctic, particularly through the themes of the FAI program (energy, water, infrastructure and

health), and contributed to developing strategies and policies for a sustainable Arctic future. Presenters included distinguished scientists and policymakers. The Symposium took place at the Saalasti Hall of the University of Oulu.

Alaska Dialogue: Devolution, Girdwood, Alaska, 20th-21st May 2016

Professor Hansen was invited as a speaker for the seminar on Devolution, arranged by The Institute of the North. The focus was on developing local capacity for increased self-reliance. Professor Hansen gave a speech on the History and function of the self-rule System in Greenland and reflected on the recent development in relation to oil and gas exploration and the large scale industries role in national strategies as a means to achieve increased political independence.

Community Wellbeing and Infrastructure in the Arctic, Nuuk, 1st October 2016

A working group on health and infrastructure under the Fulbright Arctic Initiative under the US Chairmanship of Arctic Council, including Professor Hansen, initiated a workshop on community wellbeing and infrastructure in the Arctic. The workshop was arranged through collaboration between the Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre, NORDREGIO, The Greenland Health Research Centre and the Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment at Aalborg University, with financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers' Nordic-Arctic Collaboration Programme.

Fulbright Arctic Week 22nd-29th October 2016

As a participant and grant recipient of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, Professor Hansen took part in a full week of activities in October. Professor Hansen and others met with the Directors and other officials working on energy and hydrocarbons in the State Department. She presented her research in Carnegie Hall with the National Academy of Science (broadcast live), at the Smithsonian Museum and met the Secretary of State John Kerry. The full programme can be seen here:

<http://www.cies.org/fulbright-arctic-week>

7. Fieldwork

Professor Hansen was a visiting professor at University of Alaska Fairbanks and conducted fieldwork on the North Slope of Alaska for a six weeks period from April 21st to June 2nd 2016. The fieldwork was on the topic of social impacts of hydrocarbon development on rural communities and involved case studies and interviews with more than 80 residents, experts, government officials, oil companies and others.

8. Research Grant Applications & Related Activities

Arctic Studies Cooperation Fund

Professor Johnstone led an application for 13,600 Euros that facilitated exchange visits between Professor Jessica Shadian (University of Akureyri), Johnstone and four researchers from the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway. Rachael and Jessica travelled to Tromsø in January 2016 and held a number of meetings, including a roundtable where they met representatives of various research institutions to discuss potential research collaboration on Arctic oil and gas.

NORDMIN: Arctic Cooperation Programme 2015-2017 (A)

Professor Hansen submitted an application for 250.000 DKK to cover fees, tickets and accommodation to bring in speakers and participants to the workshop on Community Wellbeing and Infrastructure in the Arctic (described above). The application was successful and the funds covered the cost of the workshop.

NORDMIN: Arctic Cooperation Programme 2015-2017 (B)

Johnstone submitted an application to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Cooperation Programme that would have established a network of researchers studying the economic and social

impacts of Arctic hydrocarbon activities in order to make practical recommendations for best practice. It would have worked in collaboration with the University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Extractive Industries (TN) and the PhD programme in Arctic Extractive Industries that it coordinates. The fund was highly competitive and although the application received positive feedback, it was ultimately unsuccessful.

RANNÍS Application 2017-2019

Johnstone led an application for 47,670,000 ISK on *Evaluation of the Status of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the Arctic for Large-Scale Resource Development Projects*. Professor Hansen, on behalf of the Centre, and Professor Nigel Bankes of the University of Calgary, are co-proposers on the project which involves a total of nineteen researchers. A number of the researchers named in the application were recruited as a direct result of the Arctic Studies Cooperation Fund visit by Johnstone and Shadian in January 2016. A funding decision is anticipated by the end of January 2017.

9. Other Outreach Activities

During 2016, the Directors met with, *inter alia*, representatives from the following institutions to discuss the Centre's development and research agenda.

- Ilisimatusarfik
- The Government of Greenland
- The Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
- The Mineral Licence and Safety Authority
- Greenland Oil Industry Association (GOIA)
- Nunaoil
- WWF
- University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway
- Memorial University, Newfoundland
- Nordland Research Institute, Norway

10. Teaching

Professor Hansen delivered 21 hours of classroom teaching within the course *Sociology* (15 ECTS) in Fall 2016. Annemette Lauridsen was the course coordinator and Steven Arnfjord also taught on the course.

Professor Johnstone organised and delivered two courses at Ilisimatusarfik in 2016. In Spring, she directed the course, *International Law* (10 ECTS) and co-taught it with Professor Guðmundur Alfreðsson. In Fall 2016, Johnstone directed and delivered the course: *Human Rights Law and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (10 ECTS).

11. Doctoral Student Activities and Support

Professor Hansen was appointed Head of the newly established PhD School at Ilisimatusarfik and the Head of the PhD Council. Hansen is further the main supervisor of three PhD Students, Samo Nielsen, Anne Sofie Skjervedal and Parnuna Petrine Egede, all enrolled at Ilisimatusarfik and working on topics of extractive industries and impact assessment.

Professor Johnstone was called as the external commentator for the mid-term evaluation of PhD candidate Natalia Ermolina at University of Tromsø: the Arctic University of Norway. Ms Ermolina's thesis is provisionally entitled: *Regime of State responsibility applicable to the exploration and exploitation of shared hydrocarbon resources*. The assessment took place in October 2016.

12. Curriculum Development

Professor Johnstone serves on the committee appointed to evaluate the feasibility of providing legal education at Ilisimatusarfik and to propose a suitable curriculum or curricula.

13. Financial Report

During the calendar year, the expenses of the Centre totalled 812.582,73 DKK. These are broken down as follows:

Category	DKK
Travel Expenses	62.381,00
Accommodation	25.800,00
Wages	677.176,73
Miscellaneous	47.225,00
Total	812.582,73