

Curriculum vitae

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Sara Johanne Kruse Olsvig
Born in Nuuk 1978

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Short bio:

Sara Olsvig is International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council. Olsvig served as member of the Parliament of Denmark (2011 - 2015) and the Parliament of Greenland (2013 - 2018). Olsvig has been leader of the political party Inuit Ataqatigiit and was Vice Premier and Minister of Social Affairs, Families, Gender Equality and Justice in the Government of Greenland from 2016 to 2018. Olsvig was member (2011 - 2014) and Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region from 2013 to 2014. Sara Olsvig was an appointed member of the Constitutional Commission of Greenland, and is today member of the Human Rights Council of Greenland. Olsvig holds a Master of Science in Anthropology and is currently a Ph.D.-candidate at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland (2020 - 2023). Sara Olsvig lives in Nuuk, Greenland, with her partner and their children.

Education:

2020 – currently: Ph.D.-candidate, Institute of Social Science, Economics & Journalism, Department of Arctic Social Science & Economics, Ilisimatusarfik – the University of Greenland, <https://uk.uni.gl/find-employee/department-of-arctic-social-science-economics/sara-olsvig.aspx>

2008: Cand. Scient. Anth. (Anthropologist), University of Copenhagen

2002: BA in Cultural and Social History of Greenland, Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland

1998: HF Student, Frederikshavn Gymnasium and HF

1996: Ordinary seaman, Training Ship Georg Stage

Courses and programs:

2016: Pre-MBA Education (Mini MBA), Prohana Business School

2009: Journalism for communication officers, single course, Danish School of Media and Journalism

2005: Indigenous Peoples in the International System, International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples, Nuuk, Greenland

2000: Intensive course in English as a Second Language, School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies ESL Intensive Courses, Carleton University, Canada

Political career:

2014 – 2018: Leader of political party Inuit Ataqatigiit

2016 – 2018: Vice Premier and Minister for Social Affairs, Families, Gender Equality and Justice, Government of Greenland

2013 – 2018: Member of Inatsisartut, Parliament of Greenland
Committee memberships, among others:

- The Foreign and Security Policy Committee (Vice Chair),
- The Finance and Fiscal Affairs Committee (Vice Chair),
- The Legal Affairs Committee,
- The Conservation and Environment Committee,
- The Family and Health Committee,
- The Scrutiny and Eligibility Committee.

2011 – 2015: Member of Folketinget, Parliament of Denmark
Committee memberships, among others:

- The Greenland Committee (Chair),
- The Foreign Policy Committee,
- The Defense Committee,
- The Environment Committee,
- Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (Vice-Chair and later Chair),
- Nordic Council (alternate member),
- NATO's Parliamentary Assembly (member and later alternate member)

Professional career:

2019 – 2020: Head of Programme, Greenland, UNICEF Denmark

2011 – on leave after election to parliament: Executive Director, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Greenland

2009 – 2011: Coordinator of Human Rights Issues, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Greenland

2008 – 2009: Secretary to parliament member, The North Atlantic Group, Folketinget

2007 – 2008 Student, The North Atlantic Group, Folketinget

2005 – 2008: Student at the Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland, participation in meetings in the UN, among others; Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

2004 – 2006: Student at the North Atlantic House, Copenhagen

2002 – 2004: Project officer, Danish Centre for Environment and Energy

Other positions:

2022 – 2026: International Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council, www.inuit.org

2021 – currently: Board member, Pisiffik A/S

2021 – currently: Member and Chair since 2022, Advisory Board, Arctic Circle Assembly, Iceland, <https://www.arcticcircle.org/>

2021 – 2022: Board member, Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat,

2020 - 2023 Appointed member, The Constitutional Commission of Greenland, member of the Working Group on Rights and Duties, www.tunngavik.gl

2019 – currently: Member, The Human Rights Council of Greenland, Chairperson from 2019 - 2021, www.humanrights.gl

2019 – currently: Board member, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, IWGIA, www.iwgia.org

2019 – 2022: Board Member, Pink Polar Bear Foundation, <https://www.pinkpolarbear.org/>

2019 – 2020: Board member, Transparency International Greenland, www.transparency.gl

2018 – currently: Delegate, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Greenland, www.inuit.org

2013 – 2015: Board member, IKIU, the independent legal aid in Greenland

2013 – 2014: Board member, Det Grønlandske Selskab

2002 – 2003: Board member Avalak, Organizationen of Greenlandic Students in Danmark

Selected publications, activities, and speeches

Publications

Olsvig, S. (2022). 'Uagununa nunarput' ('It's our country'). Greenland's aim to move from trilateralism with Denmark and the US, to US–Greenlandic bilateralism. In: Danish Foreign Policy Review 2022, eds. Fischer, Kristian and Mouritzen, H., DIIS. pp. 74 – 106.

[https://pure.diiis.dk/ws/files/5603173/Danish Foreign Policy Review 2022 DIIS June 22.pdf](https://pure.diiis.dk/ws/files/5603173/Danish_Foreign_Policy_Review_2022_DIIS_June_22.pdf)

Olsvig, S. (2022). Greenland's ambiguous action space: Testing internal and external limitations between US and Danish Arctic interests. In: Depledge, Duncan (ed.) The Polar Journal.

Jacobsen, M. and Olsvig, S. (forthcoming). From Peary to Pompeo: The history of United States' securitizations of Greenland. In: Jacobsen, Marc; Gad, Ulrik P. and Wæver, Ole (eds.). Greenland in Arctic security: (de)securitization dynamics under climatic thaw and geopolitical freeze, University of Michigan Press.

Olsvig, S. & Gad, U.P. 2021. "Grønland som udenrigs- og sikkerhedspolitisk aktør", in Sikkerhedspolitik i Arktis og Nordatlanten, Jon Rahbek-Clemmensen & Camilla Sørensen, Djøf Forlag, Copenhagen.

Olsvig, S. & Gad, U.P. 2021. "Greenland obviously has its own defense policy – but it needs anchoring to be sustainable", Danish Institute for International Studies, Policy Brief November 2021.

Olsvig, S. & Gad, U.P. 2020. "Outdated lines of communication undermine legitimacy", Danish Institute for International Studies, Policy Brief December 2020.

Olsvig, S. 2020. "We Live in the Arctic: Inside Greenland Looking Out", in Global Asia, vol. 15, East Asia Foundation, South Korea.

Olsvig, S 2020: "Greenland's self-government and security matter implications in decision-making" pp. 63 – 66 in "Building autonomies" by Jens Dahl, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Shapiom Noningo Shankar Limbu, Sara Olsvig and IWGIA.

Olsvig, S 2013. "Building Resilient Communities in the Arctic. Greenland perspective", pp. 252 - 264 in *The Arctic in world affairs: a North Pacific dialogue on the future of the Arctic. 2013 North Pacific Arctic conference proceedings* edited by Oran R. Young, Jong Deog Kim, Yoon Hyung Kim.

Olsvig, S 2013. "Arctic development by the peoples of the Arctic", pp. 23 - 24 in *The Circle* No. 1 2013 http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/the_circle_2013_1_web.pdf

Olsvig, S 2018. "Inclusiveness for a strong Arctic", pp. 16 – 18 in *Important steps in the Arctic Parliamentary Cooperation 25 Years - 1993–2018* published by the Secretariat of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region.

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/delegasjoner/jubileumshefte-25-ar.pdf>

Olsvig, S and Nielsen, Rasmus L. 2019. "Da Trump ville købe Grønland", pp. 74 - 84 in *Udenrigs* 3, 2019.

Olsvig, S 2019. "Evolving Self-Governance, the Rights of the Child and the Future of Greenland", pp. 108 - 113 in *The Arctic in World Affairs: A North Pacific Dialogue on The Arctic Moves from Periphery to Center* (co-edited with Robert W. Corell, Jong Deog Kim, Yoon Hyung Kim, Arild Moe, Charles E. Morrison, David L. VanderZwaag, and Oran Young), Seoul: Korea Maritime Institute Press.

Speeches

2012: Speaker at the 10th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region:

<http://www.arcticparl.org/files/conference-report%2C-akureyri.pdf>

2013: Keynote speaker at the Arctic Frontiers Conference: "Geopolitics and the changing Arctic as homeland" <http://www.arcticparl.org/announcements.aspx?id=5374&p=8>

2013: Speaker at the Third North Pacific Arctic Conference: <https://iafolketingimi.dk/da/olsvig-taler-under-stillehavskonference-om-arktis/>

2014: Keynote address at the 11th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region:

<http://www.arcticparl.org/files/bio-olsvig-final.pdf>

2014: Parliamentary address at Arktisk Redegørelsesdebat in Folketinget:

<https://iafolketingimi.dk/da/arktisk-redegoerelsesdebat-23-januar-2014/>

2014: Parliamentary address at Redegørelsesdebat om Rigsfællesskabet in Folketinget:

<https://iafolketingimi.dk/da/folketingets-foerste-debat-om-rigsfaellesskabet/>

2014: "Strong cooperation for a peaceful Arctic" Speech at the Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly: <https://iafolketingimi.dk/da/olsvigs-tale-ved-iccs-generalforsamling/>

2015: Udenrigspolitisk redegørelsesdebat, Inatsisartut, ordførerindlæg:

https://ina.gl/dvd/EM2015/pdf/media/2677486/pkt14_em2015_udenrigspolitiske_redegoerelse_ordf_inuit_ataatigait_da.pdf

2017: Opening speech, Model Arctic Council, Ilisimatusarfik: <http://iafolketingimi.dk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/opening-speech-by-Sara-Olsvig.pdf>

2018: “Inuit – The Arctic We Want” Speech at the Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly: <https://iccalaska.org/wp-icc/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Sara-Olsvig-Speech.pdf>

Activities

2012: Host of political and academic conference in the Parliament of Denmark: “Råstoffer i Arktis – de udenrigspolitiske udfordringer”: <https://iafolketingimi.dk/da/konferencer/2-maj-2012/taler-og-oplaeg-fra-konferencen/>

2012: Host of the meeting in Nuuk of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region: <http://www.arcticparl.org/announcements.aspx?id=5260&p=10>

2012: Rapporteur to the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region on human development in the Arctic: <https://iafolketingimi.dk/da/sara-olsvig-fremlaegger-rapport-med-anbefalinger-om-samfunds-udvikling-i-arktis/>

2015: Motion in the Parliament of Greenland to evaluate the defense agreements between Denmark (Greenland) and the US: https://ina.gl/dvd/FM2016/pdf/media/2776214/pkt90_em2015_bf33_forsvarsaftale_saol_inuit_a_taqatigiit_dk.pdf