



**INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

CENTRE FOR ARCTIC
POLICY STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

ARCTIC UNIVERSITY CITIES

Saturday 8 October 14:30-15:30

Speakers:

Mara Kimmel

Senior Fellow at the Institute of the North, Alaska

Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen

Professor of Northern Studies and Barents Chair in Politics, University of Tromsø, the Arctic University of Norway (UiT)

Panelists:

Anne Husbekk

Rector, University of Tromsø, the Arctic University of Norway (UiT)

Dagur B. Eggertsson,

Mayor, City of Reykjavík

Jón Atli Benediktsson

Rector, University of Iceland

Lára Jóhannsdóttir

Assistant Professor, Environment and Natural Resources, School of Business, University of Iceland

Moderator: Margrét Cela, Project Manager, Centre for Arctic Policy Studies, University of Iceland

Description of the breakout session

Cities play a crucial role in fighting climate change given the fact that urban activity accounts for around 80% of global energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. In order to meet commitments made by city leaders during and after the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), various non-state actors need to be brought together in a sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices to develop and implement innovative solutions, with

representatives from the authorities, academia and business. In this perspective Arctic university cities make an interesting case as they are often isolated, dependent on natural resources and particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

CLIMATE REFUGEES, DIASPORA AND TOURISM IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC GATEWAY TO THE ARCTIC

Sunday 9 October 16:15-18:15

Speakers:

The Northgate Network: Sociocultural Aspects of Climate Change

Kristinn Schram

Assistant Professor in Ethnology, University of Iceland

How can West Nordic diplomacy respond to the pressures from climate change, migration, and new business opportunities?

Lau Øfjord Blaxekjær

Assistant Professor and Programme Director: Master in West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management, University of the Faroe Islands

Fleeing because of Climate Change – environmental factors and migration

Erna Kristín Blöndal

Director of the Nordic Institute for Migration and a PhD student in Human rights law

Sharing Space with Tourism

Guðrún Þóra Gunnarsdóttir

Director, Icelandic Tourism Research Centre

'Suitcase Diplomacy: Soft Power and Asian Tourism in the Arctic'

Marc Lanteigne

Senior Research Fellow at NUPI

Chair: Kristinn Schram, Assistant Professor at the University of Iceland and academic leader of the Northgate network

Description of the breakout session

The effects of climate change include unforeseen, and hitherto underrepresented, changes in human mobility within and into the Arctic through tourism, industries and migration. These factors create new challenges to governance and the well-being of local communities, as well as enhancing the danger of over-exploiting the sensitive vegetation and animal life of Arctic and sub-Arctic areas. This panel will discuss these emerging challenges such as adapting infrastructure and the legal environment to increased mobility, the ambiguous status of climate refugees, local views on cohabiting with tourists and the attraction of Arctic and 'green tourism' in many middle class populations of

the world, including Asia. Discussions will focus on the West-Nordic/North Atlantic context and the Northgate network's goals of providing policy-relevant knowledge and creating a communication platform between academics, policy makers and local communities.