

**Arctic Days in Akureyri, November 14-17, 2023**  
**Program of Events (draft 3.11.23)**

**Arctic Days in Akureyri**, November 15-17, 2023, comprising seminars, informal meetings and the **2023 Stefansson Memorial Lecture, Keeping the Flame of Arctic Cooperation Alive in Difficult Times, delivered by Professor Oran Young**, at 16:15 on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> in room M102 at the University of Akureyri. Preceded by coffee and refreshments, a reception will follow.

*At the invitation of the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri; the Institute of Arctic Studies in the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College, and the local sponsor University of Akureyri.*

Niels Einarsson, Director, Stefansson Arctic Institute

Melody B. Burkins, Director, Institute of Arctic Studies in the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College

Thomas Barry, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Akureyri

**Wednesday November 15, 2023**

Oran Young participates in a class of the Polar Law program course *Arctic Economies* together with 20 international graduate students and undergraduate seniors and the course's coordinator and main instructor, Adam Daniel Fishwick.

**Time, place, and program:** Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:35-15:10 in room M202 in UNAK's main building of Sólborg

**Thursday November 16, 2023**

**2023 Stefansson Memorial Lecture, Keeping the Flame of Arctic Cooperation Alive in Difficult Times, delivered by Professor Oran R. Young**, at 16:15 on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> in room M102 at the University of Akureyri. The lecture will be preceded by coffee and refreshments (15:45-16:10) and followed by a reception (17:30-18:30).

- Oran Young is professor emeritus at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California Santa Barbara. His research focuses on theoretical issues relating to the roles social institutions play as elements of governance systems, with applications to the atmosphere, the oceans, and the polar regions. He also does comparative research on environmental governance processes in China and the United States. Dr. Young served for six years as founding chair of the Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change of the US National Academy of Sciences. He chaired the Scientific Steering Committee of the international project on the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC). He was a founding co-chair of the Global Carbon Project and from 2005 to 2010 chaired the Scientific Committee of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global

Environmental Change. An expert on Arctic issues, Dr. Young chaired the Steering Committee of the Arctic Governance Project and is senior counselor to the North Pacific Arctic Conference. Past service in this realm includes co-chair of the Working Group on Arctic International Relations, co-chair of the NAS Committee on Arctic Social Science, member of the US Polar Research Board, founding board member of the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, vice-president of the International Arctic Science Committee, chair of the Board of Governors of the University of the Arctic, consultant to the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, and co-chair of the 2004 *Arctic Human Development Report*. Dr. Young chairs the boards of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development and the Science Diplomacy Center. He holds honorary doctorates from UiT the Arctic University of Norway and the University of Lapland and is a recipient of the International Arctic Science Committee's Arctic Medal. He is the author or co-author of more than 30 books. His recent work focusing on the future of the global political order includes: *Governing Complex Systems: Social Capital for the Anthropocene*; *Grand Challenges of Planetary Governance: Global Order in Turbulent Times*, and *Addressing the Grand Challenges of Planetary Governance: The Future of the Global Political Order*.

- Coffee and refreshments will precede the lecture from 15:45-16:15 in Miðborg, the hall outside Room M102
- Professor Young's lecture begins at 16:15 in Room M102
- A reception will follow the lecture and Q&A from 17:30-18:30
- The event is open to all, but we ask in-person participants to register in advance to meet catering requirements and minimize waste.
- The event will be live-streamed.

The 2023 Stefansson Memorial Lecture is sponsored by the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri; the Institute of Arctic Studies in the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College, and the local host University of Akureyri.

**Dinner at Múlaberg in Hótel Kea at 20:00, by invitation.**

**Friday November 17, 2023**

**Arctic Days in Akureyri Advanced Seminar** at 09:30-15:00 on Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> in room N102 in UNAK's main building of Sólborg. Light refreshments will be provided at the venue as well as a lunch from 12:00 to 13:00.

This is a closed workshop open only to those who are specially invited by the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri and the Institute of Arctic Studies in the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth.

A note on themes and threads in dialogue between workshop participants:

While many Arctic issues call for international cooperation, the turmoil arising from the Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused a "pause" in Arctic Council engagements at the

official level and complicated many other Arctic activities, including the work of the science community. The result is a challenging situation in which confident, cooperative Arctic dialogues and research initiatives are constrained and limited. Are there ways to keep the spirit of Arctic cooperation alive during these difficult times?

The 2023 Stefansson Lecture and this seminar will explore options for pursuing Arctic cooperation and scientific collaborations, in institutions and on the ground, while recognizing the limitations imposed by the current crisis. For example: What can be done to preserve core ideals of Arctic research culture in terms of co-production of knowledge and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic inhabitants? Can cooperation continue for policy-relevant institutions such as the Arctic Council, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), and other international teams if high level policy dialogues and activities remain paused? Are there options that may move Arctic institutions towards some rebuilding of cooperation, even under limited engagement?

We are aiming for an open and productive discussion contributing to an enabling and constructive dialogue with possible policy-relevant results. Meetings will be held under Chatham House Rules (<https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>) and participants will engage in their personal capacity.