

MYSEAC

The Mývatn District of Iceland: Sustainability, Environment and Change ca. AD 1700 to 1950 (MYSEAC) is funded by RANNÍS. The primary objective is to investigate the management of vegetation, haymaking and grazing in the Mývatn district. It continues *Investigations of the Long-Term Sustainability of Human Ecodynamics Systems in Northern Iceland* (MYCHANGE) funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the USA during 2014-2015. Results of MYCHANGE included the identification of the largest data set on the use of vegetation resources for any area of Iceland, as well as new insights into the reasons for successes and failures in land management. MYSEAC continues this research.

● International Collaboration & Networks

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

ipcc SAI participated in the work of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) during 2010 to 2014, with Joan Nymand Larsen becoming Coordinating Lead Author of the Polar Regions chapter in the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*; a contributing drafting author to the WG II *Summary for Policymakers*; and one of the lead authors of the WG-II *Technical Summary*. See www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2.

REXSAC

SAI is among partners of *Resources Extraction and Sustainable Arctic Communities*, a Nordic Center of Excellence in Arctic Research led by KTH Royal Institute of Technology in collaboration with Stockholm University and the Stockholm Environment Institute. SAI's Joan Nymand Larsen has a leading role with respect to the REXSAC task of defining a reflexive and policy-relevant understanding of sustainable development in a rapidly changing Arctic and of identifying a set of indicators that can be used for integrated environmental, social and economic assessment of trends.

International Arctic Social Sciences Association



Hosting the IASSA presidency and secretariat from 2008 to 2011, the SAI organized, together with the

IASSA Council, the *Seventh International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences* entitled *Circumpolar Perspectives in Global Dialogue: Social Sciences beyond the International Polar Year*. ICASS VII was held at the University of Akureyri on June 22-26, 2011 and attracted 450 participants from 20 countries and included 52 sessions, five keynotes and six film screenings. The proceedings that were prepared by SAI are located under "Publications" on www.iassa.org.

University of the Arctic (UArctic)



The SAI is a founding member of the UArctic, which is making important contributions to higher education throughout the Circumpolar North. SAI had a lead role in developing the UArctic's Circumpolar Studies program, and SAI staff collaborates with the University of Akureyri in their offering of international masters-level programs in Polar Law and West-Nordic Studies as well as with the coordination and delivery of undergraduate courses in Arctic studies under the UArctic umbrella.
- www.uarctic.org

Gender Equality in the Arctic

With the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality and the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, SAI organized the conference *Gender Equality in the Arctic - Current Realities & Future Challenges* held in Akureyri on October 30-31, 2014 with 150 participants. Broadly focused on the living condition of women and men throughout the Circumpolar North, and supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, Sweden, Finland, Norway, the Faroe Islands and the Arctic Council, the conference will help lay a foundation for a formal cooperation network of the various stakeholders interested in researching and discussing gender issues and promoting gender equality in the Arctic.

- <http://arcticiceland.is/is/gender-equality-in-the-arctic>
- www.mfa.is/news-and-publications/nr/8415.

Northern Research Forum



The University of Akureyri and SAI jointly host the NRF secretariat. The NRF provides a platform for policy-relevant discussion and the sharing of research on northern issues by organizing a biennial open assembly for members of the research community, policy makers and representatives of other stakeholders.
- www.nrf.is.

North Atlantic Biocultural Organization (NABO)

NABO is a research co-operative for communication and collaboration among the growing number of scholars interested in the North Atlantic region. SAI is the one of NABO's coordination offices and has hosted two of its regular open meetings.
- www.nabohome.org
- www.nabohome.org/meetings/Akureyri2013

...and more

Other initiatives, networks and programs in which SAI has participated include IASC, Arctic Council, Nordic Polar Group, CAVIAR, NORSAGA, SYNICE, SAON, POENOR, SWIPA, ICARP, CACCON, IUJCH, LOICZ, ArcticFROST, MISTRA, GHEA, IHOPE, Marine Resource Governance in the Arctic, Arctic Resilience Report, Icelandic Commission on Arctic Affairs, Icelandic IPY Committee... and more.



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www.svs.is

● About the Institute

The Stefansson Arctic Institute (SAI), established in 1998 and located in Akureyri, Iceland, is an independent governmental research institute within the Icelandic Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources. The SAI takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding human-environment relations in the Circumpolar Arctic. Particular emphasis is on research and scientific assessments concerning economic systems and human development, marine-resource governance, political ecology of agricultural systems, and the impacts of and adaptation to past and present climate change.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson



The Institute bears the name of explorer and anthropologist Vilhjalmur Stefansson (1879-1962). He was born in Canada and his parents were Icelandic immigrants. He studied anthropology at Harvard and then explored the Arctic from 1906 to 1918. When he returned he lived in the USA, giving lectures, writing and teaching.

The Stefansson Memorial Lectures

Public lectures in commemoration of Stefansson's life, work and vision for the Arctic are delivered annually around the time of his birthday, November 3rd. Generally held in Akureyri or at Dartmouth College, venues also include Scott Polar Research Institute, Nordic House in Reykjavik, University of Greenland and Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research. See list speakers and lectures: www.svs.is/en/um-stofnuninaen/memorial-lectures.

The Friendly Arctic – A Travelling Exhibition



This exhibition is produced by SAI and Visionis ehf. in collaboration with Dartmouth College and focuses on Stefansson's life, legacy and vision for the Arctic, featuring a selection of his photographs, recordings, publications, diaries, maps and other items. Launched in year 2000 in Akureyri, the exhibition has opened in Reykjavik, Norwich VT,

New York City, Copenhagen, Gimli, Winnipeg, Minneapolis, Iqaluit, Honningsvåg, Santiago de Compostela, Muros, Nuuk and Qaqortoq.

- <http://thefriendlyarctic.svs.is>

- www.svs.is/en/um-stofnuninaen/the-friendly-arctic-exhibition.

● Selected Projects

Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) 2004 & 2014

Published in 2004 by the SAI under the auspices of the Arctic Council, the inaugural AHDR is the first comprehensive assessment of human well-being covering the entire Arctic region and serves as a baseline instrument for assessing Arctic futures. Based on contributions by 90 scientists, the AHDR portrays the state and trends of development covering the topics of demography, societies and cultures, resource governance, community viability, health and well-being, education, gender relations, international relations, and economic, political and legal systems. English, Russian and Finnish versions of the report can be accessed at www.svs.is/en.

The second *Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages* (AHDR II) was published in the TemaNord series of the Nordic Council of Ministers, 2014. Providing an update to the first AHDR, this report identifies the major trends and rapid changes unfolding in the first decade of the 21st century, while highlighting variance as well as commonalities within the Arctic, regional processes and global connections, policy-relevant conclusions, key gaps in knowledge, and new and emerging Arctic success stories as well as challenges.

Download a copy of AHDR II at www.svs.is/en/ahdr-and-asi-secretariat.

Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) 2010 & 2014

The goal of the Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project, a AHDR follow-up activity of a multidisciplinary working group and endorsed by the Arctic Council and the International Polar Year Joint Committee, is to design and implement a system for monitoring changes in human development in the Arctic. The first ASI report (ASI-I, 2010) presents construction and discussion of indicators within six identified domains: Health and Population, Material Well-Being, Education, Cultural Well-Being, Contact with Nature, and Fate Control.

The second report, *Arctic Social Indicators - ASI: Implementation* (2014), constitutes testing, validating and refining ASI-I devised indicators, including their select application as case studies on Sakha Republic, The Northwest Territories, West-Nordic Region, Inuit regions of Alaska, and, with Survey og Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLICA) data, the Inuit world.

Download the reports or buy printed copy of ASI-II at www.svs.is/en/ahdr-and-asi-secretariat.

ARCTIC YOUTH

Following upon key recommendations in AHDR-II, *Arctic Youth and Sustainable Futures* is a project led by SAI with core funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers for 2016-18. The project convenes an international working group of Arctic scholars, alongside Arctic youth representatives, to conduct research on the aspirations, perspectives, experiences, opportunities and living conditions of Arctic youth, to fill identified gaps in knowledge on the lives, ambitions, needs, challenges, wellbeing, and reactive and proactive initiatives of youth – indigenous and non-indigenous – across the circumpolar North.

ARCPATH



The international and multidisciplinary project *Arctic Climate Predictions: Pathways to Resilient, Sustainable Societies* (ARCPATH) is one of the four Nordic Centres of Excellence in Arctic Research established by NordForsk in 2016 with funding awarded for five years.

Under the shared leadership of the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre (NERSC) and the Stefansson Arctic Institute, with Astrid Ogilvie as co-lead, the project will combine regional climate predictions with enhanced understanding of environmental, societal, and economic interactions in order to supply new knowledge on Arctic "pathways to action" and foster responsible and sustainable development in northern communities.

NUNATARYUK



The thawing of Arctic permafrost has many impacts from coastal erosion to collapsing infrastructure

to the increased release of the powerful greenhouse gas methane into the atmosphere. The EU's Nunataryuk project, coordinated by the Alfred Wegener Institute aims at quantifying organic matter, sediment and contaminant fluxes from thawing coastal and subsea permafrost and at assessing the implications for the indigenous populations, the local coastal communities and environment as well as the global climate; a major goal is also to develop targeted and co-designed adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Stefansson Arctic Institute is partner in the project and leads the work package on Mitigation and adaptation.
- www.svs.is/en/projects/nunataryuk

ICECHANGE

The project *Reflections of Change: The Natural World in Literary and Historical Sources from Iceland ca. AD 800 to 1800* (ICECHANGE) is funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and is led by SAI's Astrid Ogilvie. The project draws on Iceland's rich literary tradition which includes a wealth of written works encompassing many genres. ICECHANGE undertakes a systematic analysis of weather, climate and other environmental information in historiographic, literary and normative documents from the early medieval period to ca. 1800. Project foci include climate reconstructions as well as analyses of land use and resource systems. ICECHANGE is connected with major international initiatives concerning Arctic environmental and climate research.
- www.svs.is/en/projects/icechange