

ÞJÓÐMINJASAFN ÍSLANDS/NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

9.–10. maí 2014

A place in the world

Iceland in the imperial system and the construction of a North-Atlantic region

DENMARK AND THE
NEW NORTH ATLANTIC

THE JÓN SIGURÐSSON
PROFESSORSHIP



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND



INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
CENTRE FOR ARCTIC POLICY STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

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A Place in the World. Iceland in the Imperial System and the Construction of a North Atlantic Region

Program for 9-10 May
National Museum of Iceland

The international research network "Denmark and the New North Atlantic" brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars - network members and other invited scholars - for exploring the cultural and historical relations that have influenced Icelandic national narratives in a regional context. The symposium addresses this mental and historical landscape in an interdisciplinary forum, with special focus on the position of Iceland in the imperial world order and the Danish realm as well as the development of an understanding of the North Atlantic as a culturally and politically constructed region from the nineteenth century and till the present. Focus will be on Iceland's shifting status and relations within the region with reference to post-, crypto-, and neo-colonial insights and outlooks as well as referring to the role of nationalism in shaping historical understandings and changing perceptions of the region's interrelations and Iceland's place in the world.

Friday May 9 - National Museum of Iceland

15:00-16:45 Uffe Østergaard (Copenhagen Business School), keynote speaker: *Legacies of Empire in the present Danish nation state*
Guðmundur Hálfðanarson (University of Iceland), keynote speaker: *Iceland: A Province, Colony or Dependency?*

Saturday May 10 - National Museum of Iceland

- 10:00-12:15 Sverrir Jakobsson: *The Medieval Nordic Commonwealth and the „Danish Tongue“*
Jón Yngvi Jóhannsson: *Representing Iceland. National identity and Pan Scandinavianism in Gunnar Gunnarsson's political writings*
Sumarliði Ísleifsson: *The ambivalence of Iceland*
Ann-Sofie N. Gremaud: *Fabulous Iceland – a place next to Neverland?*
- 12:15-13:15 Lunch
- 13:15-15:15 Íris Ellenberger: *Danish immigrants in the republic of Iceland. Colonial history, cultural heritage and assimilation.*
Katla Kjartansdóttir: *Playing the Icelander: obscure heritage and exotic images of the North within Norden*
Ólafur Rastrick: *Placing Iceland on the Anthropometric Map: National Character, Physical Features and the Allure of Numbers*
Kristín Loftsdóttir: *"Innocent babble": Affective Identities and Racialization in Iceland*
- 15:15- 16:00 Coffee
- 16:00-17:00 Kristinn Schram: *Northwest-bound: making and mobilising a "West-Nordic Arctic"*
Valur Ingimundarson: *Narrating a "New Frontier": Arctic Identities and Icelandic Foreign Policy in the 21st Century*
- 17:00-17:45 Kirsten Thisted (University of Copenhagen), keynote speaker: *Building a "home" for the region. The role of Nordatlantens Brygge (The North Atlantic House in Copenhagen) in the construction of the New Nordic North-Atlantic.*
- 17.45 Reception