



7th Nordic Challenges Conference
22-24 May 2024
University of Iceland, Reykjavík

Uncertain Futures: Nordic (In-)Securities, New Geopolitics and Societal Ruptures

11:00–12:00 **Registration** Veröld

12:00–14:00 **Opening** V–Auditorium

Welcome Remarks

Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of the EDDA Research Center

Opening Address

Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, President of Iceland

Network Overview

Peter G. Stadius, Project Leader of ReNEW

Keynote Lecture

Julia Suárez-Krabbe (Roskilde University)

Human Rights, Development, and Coloniality: A Global Outlook

Chair: Giti Chandra (University of Iceland)

14:00–14:30 **Coffee Break** Veröld

Parallel Sessions

Veröld (V)

14:45–16:15 **Book Panel** V–Auditorium

Cooperation and Confrontation: Nordic Experiences of Civil Society since 1800

Chair: Ruth Hemstad (National Library of Norway and the University of Oslo)

Sunniva Engh (University of Oslo), Ruth Hemstad (National Library of Norway and the University of Oslo), and Mads Mordhorst (Copenhagen Business School)

Editors' Introduction

Margrét Gunnarsdóttir (National Archive of Iceland)
Ideas of Enlightenment vs. Old Norse Heritage: Experiences of Civil Society in Iceland during the First Decades of the 19th Century

Peter Stadius (University of Helsinki)

State Civil Servants and Voluntary Nordic Cooperation: The Nordic Federation of Public Administration, 1919–1952

Mads Mordhorst (Copenhagen Business School)
Hybridity and Blurred Borders between Market and Civil Society: The Case of Danish Cooperatives, Savings Banks, and Corporations

Sunniva Engh (University of Oslo)
The Scandinavian Red Cross Societies in the Nordic Countries and Beyond

Comments: Norbert Götz (Södertörn University)

14:45–16:15 **Panel 1a**

V-007

**Cultural Influence and Popular Geopolitics:
The Role of Media, Sport, and Other “Non-Traditional”
Diplomatic Actors in Informing Northern European
and International Order**

Chair: Vitaly Kazakov (University of Iceland)

Rósa Magnúsdóttir (University of Iceland)

**Cultural Relations and the Russo-Ukrainian War:
Cases from the United States and Iceland**

Vitaly Kazakov (University of Iceland)

**Sports Mega-Events and their Political Memory: Political
Significances of France 2016, Russia 2018, and Pan-European
2020 Football Championships as Recalled by Icelanders**

J Simon Rofe (University of Leeds)

**Utilisation of the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games
as a Tool of Sports Diplomacy and Its Political Significance**

Balazs Ujvari (European Commission)

**Media Engagement and Public Awareness of Humanitarian Crises
and Civil Protection Measures: A Practitioner’s Experience**

14:45–16:15 **Roundtable**

V-008

**First Results: Citizens’ Perspectives on Four Grand
Societal Challenges in Four Nordic Countries, the United States,
United Kingdom, South Korea, Poland, and Germany**

Moderators: Caroline de la Porte and Zhen Im
(Copenhagen Business School)

Commentators: Irma Erlingsdóttir (University of Iceland)
Mary Hilson (Aarhus University)
Johan Strang (University of Helsinki)

16:30–18:00 **Wine Reception**

Veröld

Parallel Sessions9:00–10:30 **Panel 2a** HT-101**Radical Activism in Theory and Praxis****Chair:** Johan Strang (University of Helsinki)Mikael Lyngaas (University of Oslo)
Scandinavian-American Socialism, 1880–1920Pontus Järvtad (University of Iceland)
**Nordic Anti-fascism against the Greek Junta (1967–1974):
Norwegian Attempts to Unify the Greek Democratic Opposition**Armando Garcia (University of Iceland)
**Friends of Humanity in the X-Men '97 The Animated Series (2024):
An Allegory of Global White Supremacy, Racialized Subjects, and
Hidden Transcripts**Jeremias Schledorn (University of Iceland)
**Not about Facts but Emotions? Political Polarization
as a Problem of Redescription**9:00–10:30 **Panel 2b** HT-103**Gender and Sexual Exceptionalism in Norden****Chair:** Ulla Manns (Södertörn University)Elena Lindholm (Umeå University)
**The Myth of Nordic Women's Sexual Exceptionalism
in 20th Century Spain**Kirill Polkov (Södertörn University)
Swedish Sexual Exceptionalism and the Russian OtherUlla Manns (Södertörn University)
**Gender Exceptionalism and the Memory of
Women's Suffrage in Sweden**9:00–10:30 **Panel 2c** HT-104**Framing Social Identities: Refugees, Diasporas,
and LGBTQ Rights****Chair:** Linda Sólveigar- og Guðmunds (University of Iceland)Tuire Liimatainen (Migration Institute of Finland)
**Nation within and beyond: Constructing Diaspora
and National in the Finnish Diaspora Policy**Oksana Pchapska (Polish Academy of Science)
**Refugee Narratives: Manipulation, Media, and the Dynamics
of Information Warfare in Contemporary Conflict Zones**Katharina Kehl (Lund University)
**A Rainbow Flag Worth Defending? LGBTQ Rights
and the Re-Territorialization of Swedish Defense**Giti Chandra (University of Iceland)
**"Let's Meet over Coffee in the Boksala":
Mapping Decoloniality at the University of Iceland**

10:30–10:45 **Coffee Break**

Háskólatorg

Parallel Sessions

11:00–12:30 **Panel 3a**

V-007

The Culture of Social Organizing and Identity Narratives

Chair: Mary Hilson (Aarhus University)

Eirik Sundvall and Byron Rom Jensen (University of Oslo)
**“The Lumber Business”: The Nordic Dimension
of the AFL-FTUC’s International Work, 1945–1955**

Sami Koskelainen (University of Helsinki)
**Away with Ideology, in with Efficiency:
Football Club Fusions and Finland in the 1990s**

Stefanie Steinbeck and Mads Mordhorst
(Copenhagen Business School)
**Constructing and Comprehending “Norden”:
Museum Objects as Catalysts for Critical Reflection
on Materiality and Identity Narratives**

Martin Johansson (Södertörn University)
**Journeys to Lost Lands: Finland, Estonia, Scania and Norway as
Interwar Experiences of Danishness and Swedishness Abroad**

11:00–12:30 **Panel 3b**

V-008

**Arctic Transnational Encounters:
Geostrategic and Cultural Ambitions**

Chair: Valur Ingimundarson (University of Iceland)

Anna Karlsdóttir (University of Iceland)
**The Quest for Rare Earth Minerals (REE) in the Nordic Arctic:
The Cases of Greenland and Sweden**

Egill Þór Niélsson (University of Iceland)
The Role of Science Diplomacy in China-Nordic Arctic Relations

Yeonji Ghim (University of Iceland)
**South Korea’s Northern Strategic Ambition:
The Northeast Asian Cooperation as a Gateway to the Arctic**

Valur Ingimundarson (University of Iceland)
**Embellished Arctic Promise: The Politics of Iceland’s
Status-Seeking and Nation Branding**

11:00–12:30	<p>Panel 3c</p> <p>Gendered Workplace Relations: Interactions and Harassment Online and on Site, and Ways to Create a Gender Equitable Work Environment</p> <p>Chair: Katrín Ólafsdóttir (University of Iceland)</p> <p>Finnborg S. Steinþórsdóttir and Gyða M. Pétursdóttir (University of Iceland) Increased Prevalence and Changes in Sexual Harassment within the Icelandic Police: Resistances to Maintain Gendered Workplace Hierarchies?</p> <p>Laufey Axelsdóttir, Finnborg S. Steinþórsdóttir, and Gyða M. Pétursdóttir (University of Iceland) The Potential and Hindrances of Preventive Strategies to Combat Sexual Harassment within the Icelandic Police</p> <p>Annadís Gręta Rúðólfsdóttir, Gyða M. Pétursdóttir, and Katrín Ólafsdóttir (University of Iceland) The GEiO Research Project: Investigating the Role of Gender in Online Work Meetings across Four Nations</p> <p>Katrín Ólafsdóttir, Gyða M. Pétursdóttir, and Annadís Gręta Rúðólfsdóttir (University of Iceland) The Role of Gender in Online Work Meetings: Results from the Icelandic Context</p>	<u>HT-101</u>
12:30–13:15	Lunch	<u>Veröld</u>
13:30–14:30	<p>Keynote Lecture</p> <p>Sergei Medvedev (Charles University) The War in Ukraine as Part of World War III</p> <p>Chair: Jón Ólafsson (University of Iceland)</p>	<u>V-Auditorium</u>
14:30–14:45	Coffee Break	<u>Veröld</u>
	<u>Parallel Sessions</u>	
15:00–16:30	<p>Roundtable</p> <p>What Is the Purpose of Nordic Co-Operation? Nordic Added Value between Tradition and Reform</p> <p>Moderator: Peter Stadius (University of Helsinki)</p> <p>Frederik Forrai Ørskov (University of Helsinki) Tuire Liimatainen (University of Helsinki) Hasan Akintug (University of Helsinki) Essi Turva (University of Helsinki) Emilia Berg (University of Helsinki)</p> <p>Commentators: Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Icelandic Minister for Nordic Co-Operation, and Sabina Westerholm, Director of the Nordic House, Reykjavík</p>	<u>V-Auditorium</u>

15:00–16:30 **Panel 4a** V-007

The Revival of Nordic Civil Defense in Times of War

Chair: Valur Ingimundarson (University of Iceland)

Betina Slagnes (University of Oslo)

Emergency Service Workers' Will to Defend in Extreme Crises

Peter Bennesved, Jenny Ingemarsdóttir, and Anna McWilliams
(Swedish Defence Research Agency)

The Strategic Culture(s) of Nordic Civil Defence

15:00–16:30 **Panel 4b** V-008

**Queer Refugees in “Queer Utopias”:
Inclusion and Exclusion in Northern Europe**

Chair: Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir (University of Iceland)

Linda Sólveigar- og Guðmunds (University of Iceland)

**SOGIE Refugees in Iceland: In-between Spaces
of Inclusion and Exclusion**

Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir (University of Iceland)
**Working with Queer Refugees in a Queer Utopia:
Narratives of Professionals in Systems of Social Support**

Alexandra Dögg Steinþórsdóttir (University of Iceland)

**The Ideal Refugee: A Study of the Status
of LGBTQ Refugees in Iceland**

Árdís K. Ingvars (University of Iceland)

Event(ual) Queer Crafting of Dublin Regulated SOGIE Refugees

15:00–16:30 **Panel 4c** HT-101

**Transforming and Protecting the Icelandic Highlands:
Challenges of Democratic Engagement about Nature
Conservation and Ecological Restoration**

Chair: Jón Ólafsson (University of Iceland)

Jón Ólafsson (University of Iceland)

**Control and Inclusion: Doubts and Distrust of Public Engagement
Processes as an Expression of Distrust toward Government**

Marissa Pinal (University of Iceland)

**Polarizing Issues in the Discussion of Ecological Restoration
in the Icelandic Highlands**

Hans Welling (University of Iceland)

**The Land Use Game: Pros and Cons of Gamifying
Democratic Engagement Processes**

Ben Francis Roberts (University of Iceland)

**Presenting Geographic Data in Meaningful Ways:
A Map for Success**

19:00–21:00 **Conference Dinner** La Primavera Restaurant, Harpa, Austurbakki 2

Winners of Early Career Paper Prize

Parallel Sessions

9:00–10:30 **Book Panel** HT-104

Handbook on Nordic Cooperation: A Discussion

Ruth Hemstad (National Library of Norway and the University of Oslo) and Peter Stadius (University of Helsinki)
Editors' Introduction

Byron Rom-Jensen (University of Oslo)
Nordic Financial Cooperation and the Nordic Investment Bank

Ruth Hemstad (National Library of Norway and the University of Oslo)
Pragmatic Scandinavianism and Early Nordic Cooperation

Mary Hilson (Aarhus University)
The Nordic Consumer Co-Operative Movement

Peter Stadius (University of Helsinki)
Nordic 20th Century Cooperation Practices before the Nordic Council

9:00–10:30 **Panel 5a** HT-101

Ukraine's Role in Rethinking Concepts and Developing New Frameworks for Times of Uncertainty

Chair: Olena Shevtsova (Södertörn University)

Olena Shevtsova (Södertörn University)
Towards Stakeholder: Partnership Theory in Public Administration

Oleksandra Keudel (Kyiv School of Economics)
Theorizing Democratic Resilience in an Armed Conflict: The Role of Local Self-Government in Withstanding the Russian Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

Anastasiia Chupis (Zaporizhzhia National University and Södertörn University) and Alyona Hurkivska (Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Södertörn University)
Information as a Weapon of New Generation War: The Ukrainian Front

Alyona Hurkivska (Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Södertörn University)
Political Reality in a Post-Truth Situation: Substantive and Operational Features

Olena Shevtsova (Södertörn University)
Decision-Making in Times of Uncertainty: The Role of Hybrid Distributed Leadership in Ukraine's Public Sector

9:00–10:30 **Panel 5b** HT-103

Social and Cultural Ruptures and the National Common Good

Chair: Norbert Götz (Södertörn University)

Heidi Haggrén (University of Helsinki)

Caring for the Nation: National Common Good in the Collective Interest Organization of Finnish Nurses

Giovanni Za (University of Naples – L’Orientale)

The Problem with Periphery: Narratives of Conflict and Social Rupture in Modern Urban Swedish Context

Anna Karlsdóttir (University of Iceland)

Ship-ohoj! Gender and the Maritime Sector – Chauvinism or Charm?

Ieva Reine (Uppsala University) and

Halldór S. Guðmundsson (University of Iceland)

Intergenerational Solidarity in the Baltic States and Nordic Countries: Adapting to Uncertain Futures

10:30–10:45 **Coffee Break** Háskólatorg

Parallel Sessions

11:00–12:15 **Panel 6a** HT-101

Arctic Geographic, Social, and Cultural Imaginaries

Chair: Elena Lindholm (Umeå University)

Anna Karlsdóttir (University of Iceland)

Sense-Making, Place Attachment, and Extended Networks in the Arctic (Semper Arctic)

Yu Ma (The Tianjin Juilliard School)

Decoding Greenland: An Analytic Discourse on Environmental Communication, Human Rights, and Indigenous Representation in Global Documentaries

Chenru Xue (University of Turku)

Reconstructing Arctic as Gamescape: Memory and Historical Narratives in “Arctico” and “Never Alone”

11:00–12:15 **Panel 6b** V-007

Nordic Cooperation, Democratic Reconfigurations, and Public Trust

Chair: Jón Ólafsson (University of Iceland)

Johan Strang (University of Helsinki)

Neoliberalism and the Judicialization of Nordic Democracy

Hasan Akintug (University of Helsinki)

Åland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands in Nordic Cooperation after the Åland Document of 2007: Time for Change?

Sóllilja Bjarnadóttir (University of Iceland)

Trusting the Green Transition: Public Attitudes Towards Just Transition in the European Context

11:00–12:15 Panel 6c V-008

**Framing National Rights, Indigenous Representation,
and Ideologies of Development**

Chair: Pontus Järvstad (University of Iceland)

Gunnar Marel Hinriksson (Technical College of Industry, Iceland)
**Truth Is the First Casualty in Politics: On Jón Sigurðsson's
Creative Historical Interpretation of the History of Absolutism
in his Arguments for Icelandic Autonomy**

Sofia Wiklund (Umeå University)
**“From I-land to U-land”: Meaning Makings of Knowledge Transfer
in Early Swedish Literature on Aid Work**

Armando Garcia (University of Iceland)
**“Woman at War” through a Postcolonial Lens: A Blueprint
for Social Critique and Political Imaginaries**

12:15–12:50 Lunch Veröld

13:00–13:30 Closing of Conference V-Auditorium



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