

## **The gendered interactions between the global and the local: today's challenges in the Arctic**

This keynote panel takes as its departure point the claim that gender and intersectional interrogations of both politics, policy, and the ways in which research is conducted is important to better understanding the Arctic as a whole and planning for the future.

Interest in the Arctic, both as a circumpolar and Nordic region, has been steadily increasing. Since the 1990s both policy and science have demonstrated that the Arctic is an area facing multiple common challenges that require intergovernmental cooperation. It is also increasingly clear that issues ranging from global climate change, to traditional geopolitics to the wellbeing of indigenous and other local communities can no longer be treated as individual and isolated from each other, but are intimately connected. These connections are illustrated by, for example: northern communities directly interacting with the powerplay of geopolitics (such as Tromsø, Norway providing safe harbour to US nuclear powered submarines); the tensions felt by and within indigenous communities as national economic and environmental security pressures dominate (illustrated by the resistance to wind power on traditional Samí herding lands); and the ongoing impacts of global neoliberalism on the welfare of individuals and communities, experienced differently depending on gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, and age. The simplistic divide between international, national, and local is no longer adequate to understanding the important linkages taking place within current trends. The ways in which the Arctic is understood, and by whom, demands more attention.

This panel will highlight the ways in which gender and intersectional research has been increasingly influential both in scientific analyses as well as policy on the Arctic – to initiate a discussion on where feminist and gender research should concentrate the effort in arctic questions in the years to come.

**Responsible:** Centre for Women's and Gender Research, UiT Arctic University of Norway

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### **Panelists**

Anna-Lill Drugge, PhD, works as a teacher and researcher at the unit of Sami Studies, the Department of Language Studies at Umeå University and currently holds a guest-position as associate professor at the Centre for Women's and Gender Research and Centre for Sami Studies at the Arctic University of Norway, in which she is coordinating the project "Gender in Sápmi" (2021-2023). Her research interest has mainly been focused on issues in relation to gender studies, media studies, Indigenous research ethics and education.

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv is Professor in Peace and Conflict Studies, specializing in Security Studies, at the UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Hoogensen Gjørsv's research examines tensions between state, societal and human security, focusing on hybrid threats and warfare, civil-military interaction (out of area operations, and Norwegian defence), and

security in the Arctic. She addresses performances of civilian agency, drawing upon intersectional approaches to better understand agency, “everyday” security, and implications for peace and war. She currently leads the project NATO funded Resilient Civilians project examining civilian agency in population-centric and hybrid warfare scenarios; is partner and core theme leader for EU-HYBNET, a European network of researchers and practitioners focused on the mitigation of hybrid threats, as well as a partner with the RCN funded THREAT DEFUSER project examining how language is manipulated for the purposes of disinformation. Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv leads The Grey Zone research group: <https://uit.no/research/thegreyzone>

Ann Therese Lotherington is Professor at the Center for Women's and Gender Research at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Teacher Education, UiT The Arctic University of Norway. She has broad social science experience, including gender research, from commissioned research and university teaching and research. In her research she explores ways we can live together despite differences in age, gender, ability, nationality, ethnicity, and / or other differentiating mechanisms. Currently she focuses on people who have developed brain failure in adulthood, often in the form of a dementia, and asks how everyday life can be organized to ensure their potential contributions to social development are actualized and their citizenship maintained. She does this by investigating inter-action and intra-action through creative processes and artistic activity. The methodological approach is qualitative art-based research. Theoretically she apply sociological perspectives such as Science and Technology Studies (STS), material feminist theory and citizenship theory.