

# THE CENTRE FOR THE NORTH

DECEMBER 2025

## Happy Holidays from The Centre for the North!

As 2025 draws to a close we want to reflect on this past year and share with you some of our plans for 2026! The summer was busy for us, we hosted a Relaunch Event and Research Showcase to coincide with the SIEF conference on the Old Aberdeen Campus. More than 60 people attended and research from across five schools was showcased. Our thanks to everyone who joined us that evening and to the School of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Institute for helping make this event happen.

We also awarded two Research and Dissemination Support Awards! Congratulations to Rebecca Macklin (LLMVC), who attended the symposium *Visuality and Extraction* at Durham University, and Tanya Argounova-Low (Social Science), who attended the *8th International Symposium on Arctic Research (ISAR-8)* in Tokyo, Japan. In November, Bastian Jansen from Norwegian Energy Ministry visited campus to discuss offshore wind, law and policy; and Professor Clare Bond and others secured £1million of funding for the Aberdeen Geothermal Feasibility Pilot.

To mark **our 25th anniversary** as a research theme and centre at the University of Aberdeen, in 2026, we will be organising a series of events. We are introducing a **Works in Progress Series** (see below for more details); we are partnering with the George Washington Wilson Centre for an event on **Many Norths** on 8 May; and we will be organising and supporting several other events across the University.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of The Centre for The North.

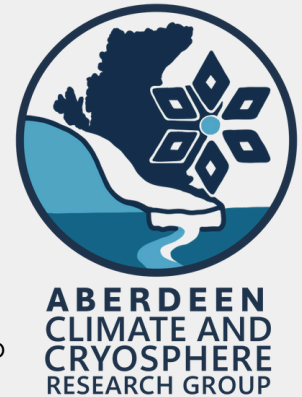
Wishing you a wonderful winter break and a Happy New Year!

*Dr Isabelle Gapp and Dr Rob Wishart (on behalf of The Centre for the North)*

# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## Climate and Cryosphere Research Group

It's been a busy few months for Aberdeen's Climate and Cryosphere Research Group! They welcomed five new funded PhD students to what is already one of the largest cryosphere groups in the UK; Tryggvi Unnsteinsson published [the first paper](#) from his PhD in *Nature Communications* this August; and affiliated PhD student Trine Nordkvelle (University of Oslo) organised a successful workshop on art history and the environment last month.



Over the summer, PhD student Kora Ross, along with Matteo Spagnolo, Brice Rea, and her U.S. project partners (USGS, Yosemite, and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks), completed a six-week field season in California's Sierra Nevada. She sampled over 20 lateglacial moraines in the most breathtaking landscape, in order to geochronologically constrain their ages using cosmogenic nuclide exposure dating. Over the course of the trip, Kora hiked over 400 km on foot, gained a total of 12 km in elevation, and carried around 55 kg of granite samples out of the backcountry.

As seen in this month's featured photograph, PhD student Anna Ranger, Brice Rea, William Harcourt, and William Spicer (St Andrew's) went to Svalbard in August to conduct 2 weeks of fieldwork in Borebukta, Isfjorden. The fieldwork was overall a success with lots of data collected, despite the significant challenges encountered with the contaminated fuel supply significantly limiting boat availability and subsequently access to the main field site. A few months later, in October, Will Harcourt and Postdoc Morag Fotheringham visited Svalbard again, this time to meet with stakeholders who will be the potential end-users of the Svalbard Cryosphere Digital Twin. Meetings were arranged with tourist companies, UNIS, logistics providers and Search and Rescue teams, with many useful insights. Will & Morag also conducted fieldwork at the actively surging Borebreen glacier, ~3 hour boat ride from Longyearbyen.

### **Advertising two new PhD opportunities (deadline: Jan 14, 2026)**

QUARTILES DLA: [Development and application of land-surface temperature index glacio-hydrological model.](#)

QUARTILES DLA: [Shifting Sands: marine geomorphology, palaeolandscapes and sediment mobility for energy transition.](#)

## Visual Cultures of the Circumpolar North Series - Part V

### New Research in Arctic Pasts

The *Visual Cultures of the Circumpolar North* series run by Isabelle Gapp (Art History) for the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE), concluded its *fifth* installment earlier this month! Co-edited with historian of science Sarah Pickman, Part V featured 11 posts from doctoral students and early career researchers to take stock of where the field of Arctic visual studies is today. How did we arrive at this moment? What directions are our colleagues taking with their research? Where might we be headed together? What is driving this continuing, strong interest in the Arctic across environmental and visual history, and the humanities more broadly? You can read all of the posts from this and other parts [here](#) and you can listen to Sarah and Isabelle in conversation with NiCHE Editor-in-Chief Jessica DeWitt [here](#).

### New Student Publication ::

#### Yoko Tawada's deliciously strange fiction

PhD student Ines Kirschner (LLMVC) has recently published a paper in the journal *Green Letters* on "Surrealist Becomings: Evolution, Extinction, and Climate Change in Yoko Tawada's *Memoirs of a Polar Bear*." You can access the full paper [here](#).

### New issue of *Education in the North* ::

#### Arctic Futures: innovations in education for social justice and sustainability - Vol 32 (3)

The latest issue of the Aberdeen-based journal *Education in the North* has **just been published!** With a focus on the Arctic, as the editors write in the editorial: the "research articles and features underline the importance of teacher education to move beyond technical skills to embrace cultural, ecological, and ethical dimensions of teaching to address challenges and leverage opportunities."

## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Call for IASC Cross-Cutting and Working Group Proposals 2026**. The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is now accepting proposals for consideration until **5 January 2026 at 13:00 GMT**.

- **UArctic Congress Abstract Submissions** - Deadline extended: 15 January 2026. Taking place in the Faroe Islands in May 2026, this year's theme is: Healthy Humans and Oceans in the Arctic. The list of sessions that are open for abstract submissions, including session descriptions, is available on [the call pages](#). Student rates are available and scholarships will be announced in due course.
- **Research Leadership Scheme – Caledonian Research Fund, Building Scotland's Green Future (Cohort 1)** - Deadline 22 January 2026, 12 noon. \*NOT OPEN CALL instead contact University Research Officer (only 3 nominations per institution) Call opens 27 October.
- **2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges**. Complete the survey if you are interested by 9 February 2026.
- **Applications for the Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge 2026 are now open**. Step 1 deadline: 13 February 2026. The [Monaco Ocean Protection Challenge](#) is an international business plan pitching competition for students, fresh graduate & young entrepreneurs showcasing new business concepts with a measurable, positive impact on the ocean.
- **The High North Dialogue Academy**. Applications due by 22 February 2026. The HND Academy is a one-week seminar for young (18-40) ambitious future leaders with a particular interest in Arctic societies.
- **Inter-Nord issue 25 (2026)**. Manuscripts by 31 March 2026. Scientific articles, creative writing, interviews, book reviews, and other writings about the Arctic.
- **UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector roster creation of experts**. potentially to work in areas related to UNESCO's science mandate. No deadline. [Submit interest online](#).
- **IPY-5 Project Endorsement**. A system of project endorsements will highlight and connect initiatives that contribute to IPY-5 from 2026 onwards. Spring 2026.
- **European Polar Board - Open Call Invitation to Support and Sign** for resolute, long-term funding instrument for polar research (2028-2034).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Centre for the North Works in Progress Series.** 1-2pm, 20 January 2026, [Interdisciplinary Lounge](#). In this first event, Isabelle Gapp will share her ongoing research with the Inuit artist community in Kinngait, Nunavut. No preparatory reading required. All are welcome.
- **StoriedPlace Knowledge Exchange Café.** 2-3pm, 22 January 2026. An online space run by RGU, for academics/practitioners keen on ethical, sustainable and place-conscious storytelling.
- **Arctic Frontiers 2026.** 2-5 February 2026, Tromso, Norway. Five Big Picture (plenary) sessions on Arctic State of Affairs; Space to Collaborate; Building up the Arctic; Ebb & Flow of Economies and Stories from the Coast.
- **A Multi-Disciplinary Arctic Sea Ice Workshop. Register Now!** 19 February 2026, Sir Duncan Rice Library. Co-organised by Isabelle Gapp and Sarah Cooley (DukeU).
- **Essential Scots-Polish Dictionary: Bridging Cultural and Linguistic Gaps.** 6.30-8pm, 19 February 2026. MacRobert Building, MR051.
- **The Scottish Arctic Network (ScAN) AGM and Scottish Arctic Conference. Save the Date!** 5-6 March 2026, St Andrews.
- **ARCPaC: Arctic Research Community - Past Changes for Future.** 26-29 May 2026, Aarhus, Denmark. The first annual conference of ARCPaC is organised by Aarhus University (AU) and Geological Survey of Greenland and Denmark (GEUS).
- **International Glaciological Society British Branch - Aberdeen. Save the Date:** 7-8 September 2026. The Aberdeen Climate and Cryosphere Group will be hosting the next IGSBB meeting. This annual gathering of UK-based glaciologists is usually a lively affair with 100+ participants expected to attend. Stay tuned for more details.

If you would like to see your research/project/event, published paper, blog, podcast, exhibition, photos or fieldwork etc. featured on The Centre for the North website and newsletter please get in touch!

**KEEP IN TOUCH:** [THE CENTRE FOR THE NORTH](mailto:thenorth@abdn.ac.uk)

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