

THE CENTRE FOR THE NORTH

AUGUST 2026

We're back after quite a busy summer! In July, the Department of Art History were awarded an **AHRC Doctoral Focal Award** in art history, visual arts and creative practice on the theme **North-Sea Heritage in Transitions**. A partnership with RGU and UHI Orkney and Shetland, this a national centre for excellence seeks to foster investment in collaborative doctoral training with a direct route to shaping regional cultural regeneration. Cohort 1 are currently being recruited, with two further cohorts being advertised over the next two years!

Well done also to Geosciences' Rachel Oien, Bartosz Kurjanski and University of Edinburgh's Lizzie Orr's on their recent NEIF grant **Reconstructing Peripheral Glacier Dynamics in Scandinavia: Implications for Ice Sheet Retreat and Paleoclimate Change**. Their aim, amongst other things is to establish the first absolute chronological framework for low-elevation moraine sequences and improve understanding of peripheral glacier activity during the final stages of Scandinavian Ice Sheet retreat and the early Holocene, using recently collected samples from Lofoten Islands, Norway.

Earlier this summer, we also **welcomed new external Board members**, Dr Izzy Crawford, Associate Dean for Research, Aberdeen Business School RGU, and Thematic Network Lead for COIL@UArctic and Conor Savage, Former Vice-President, Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), and incoming Chair, Arctic Youth Network '26-28.

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

We hope to hear from you soon!

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

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

UArctic Congress & Anthropology Collaborations

In addition to attending the 13th East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies in May 2026, a large number of scholars both senior and early career researchers gathered in Torshavn for the UArctic Assembly. Turkhan Ajaloghlu reported on the challenges of his fieldwork with indigenous Dukha herders in Mongolia. Laura Goyheneux presented in two panels on her work in



Northern Alberta on the mitigation of pollution from mining uranium. David Anderson participated in a panel session on local community whaling in the circumpolar North. The Congress was the largest event held in the Faroes with 100s of parallel sessions from climate change to ECRs and geo-politics. Indigenous Fellows and STEM oriented UArctic Chairs were welcomed. Centre for the North board members Izzy Crawford and Alöna Roitershtein (RGU) were also in attendance, with Alöna taking on a new role as RGU UArctic Lead.



The recent IT failure at the British Library endangered an archive of digitised photographs of Siberian indigenous peoples originally collected in 2006. UArctic Chair David Anderson worked to restore 4000 labels to the photographs which now will be republished on a newly designed website. David was also appointed visiting fellow at

the Centre for Northeast Asian Studies at Tohoku University for the term 2025-2026. The CNEAS has a large group of scholars working in Siberia and Mongolia. During his appointment he lead on the topic of Conflict Studies Relating to Indigenous Peoples.

Coast-R Network Funding

Coast-R Network funded eight new projects to strengthen coastal resilience, including *Listening to North Sea Coastal Communities in Transition* led by Rebecca Macklin. This project aims to examine how environmental and energy transitions are reshaping ecocultural heritage in Yell (Shetland) and Torry (Aberdeen) and how communities can navigate arising opportunities and pressures.

New Publications ::

Journal Articles

Geoscience's **Riccardo Sordi** co-authored two new publications in Journal of the International Association of Sedimentologists: *A Triassic chronostratigraphic and palaeogeographic framework for the Utsira High area, northern North Sea: Reconstructing a basin-scale drainage divide*. Read [here](#). In Journal of Sedimentary Research, *Triassic stratigraphy of the northern North Sea: new paleogeographic reconstructions of the Triassic basin*. Read [here](#).

Three of the latest 'Third Pole' articles coauthored by Geoscience's Lydia Sam and Anshuman Bhardwaj on **glacial lake bathymetry** can be read [here](#). Machine learning-based automated landslide detection/mapping [here](#) and **rising snow line altitudes of the Himalayan glaciers** [here](#).

Early medieval long cist cemetery in Angus, Lochhead Quarry was the focus of a recent project that led to critical debate around the ethics of destructive sampling of human remains and a paper newly published by a recently graduated University PhD student Lucy Koster with L. J., Britton, K., Curtis, N., Czére, O., Dittmar, J. M., Booth, T., Girdland-Flink, L. (2026) in World Archaeology, *Giving and taking: negotiating responsible sampling for aDNA and multi-isotope analysis in practice*. Read [here](#).

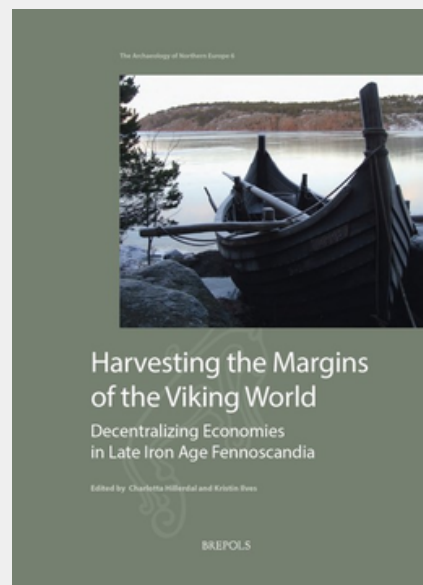
Geosciences folks published with colleagues from Dundee, Durham, Sheffield & Cambridge in the Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology. **The first paper to present detailed, integrated analysis of pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs from a sediment core from the Isle of Mull**. Edwards, K.J., Innes, J.B., Schofield, J.E., Sugden, H. and Blackford, J. 2026. *Exploring Holocene non-pollen palynomorph data from the Isle of Mull, Scottish Inner Hebrides: ecological harmonisation and taphonomic complexity*. Read [here](#).

Is the Stone of Destiny Real or Fake? University's Dr Elisabeth Niklasson published article *Spectral Authenticity and the Fate of the Stone of Destiny in Heritage & Society* with S Foster from Stirling University. Read [here](#).

The University's Rachel P. Oien and Bartosz Kurjański's recent paper in Quaternary International *Cirque morphology in relation to ice-sheet retreat in central West Greenland and Disko Island (Qeqertarsuaq)*. Looks at the **first regional-scale inventory/morphometric analysis of 527 cirques across central West Greenland and Disko Island**, using ArcticDEM data to see inferred patterns of Greenland Ice Sheet retreat. Read [here](#).

New Publications :: Books & Edited Collections

New book just out *Harvesting the Margins of the Viking World: Decentralizing Economies in Late Iron Age Fennoscandia*. Edited by University's Charlotta Hillerdal and Uppsala's Kristin Ilves. This volume collectively challenges traditional focus on agricultural areas in Scandinavia by highlighting the importance of 'northern peripheries' - forests, coastal zones and inland trade networks - for economic/social developments in the Viking Age. Published by **Brepols - Harvesting the Margins of the Viking World**.



Art History's Isabelle Gapp co-edited the latest issue of the journal *Art History* on the subject of *Crossings in Polar Art History: South and North, Historical and Contemporary*. Isabelle also co-wrote the introduction, which can be read [here](#), and co-wrote a paper with Nora Hoegh and Lauren Rawlins on *Glacial Fractures: An Environmental Art History of Sioqqap Sermia (Frederikshåb Isblink), Kalaallit Nunaat*. In addition, Isabelle's had a book review "Across the Arctic threshold: Climate change and exploitation in the frozen north," published in the June 12 issue of the *Times Literary Supplement*, [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Arctic Circle Assembly 2026 Call for travel support applications (up to £1,500.)** to attend Reykjavik, 8-10 October 2026. **Apply by deadline 28 August 2026, 16:00 UK Time.**
- **ArcticNet's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)**, Halifax, Nova Scotia 7-10 December 2026. **Deadline for abstract/poster submission 28 August, 23.59 Eastern Time.**
- **Arctic Office's Supporting Impactful UK Arctic Science Engagement 2026.** **Grant deadline 11 September 2026, 16:00 UK Time** (up to £30,000) pertinent to Arctic Council Working Groups.

- **FCDO & UK Arctic Office's UK-Arctic Partnerships for Security, Resilience, and Innovation 2026-2027** seeks research proposals connected to prototype/technology development addressing arctic security/resilience challenges before: **18 September 2026, 16:00 UK Time** (up to £50,000. or under).
- **Friends of Aberdeen University Library** invite applications from PGR students/supervisors for 2026/27 Bursary awards of £4,000. **Apply by 30 September 2026** using University's Library, Museum or Special Collections material.
- **Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) Representative for Antarctic Science Board/Journal sought**. New opportunity for APECS members - details to circulate soon.
- **Celtic Crescent AHRC-funded PhD**, multilingual consortium to deliver 20 fully funded PhDs over 4 cohorts. Details, FAQs, assessment criteria here: [SharePoint page](#) Queries to Prof. Michelle Macleod m.macleod@abdn.ac.uk. **Deadline 2 October 2026 by 16:00** for expressions of interest form/team details. Send proposal [here](#).
- **Arctic Frontiers Emerging Leaders Programme 2027**, Norway from 28 January - 4 February 2027. **Applications close 5 October 2026**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **North-East Scotland Ecology Network (NESEN) Science Day**, James Hutton Institute, Craigiebuckler 6 October 2026. **Abstract/presentation/poster call deadline 4 September 2026**. Free, register [here](#).
- **International Glaciological Society British Branch - Aberdeen**. **7-8 September 2026**. The Aberdeen Climate and Cryosphere Group will be hosting the next IGSSB meeting. This annual gathering of UK-based glaciologists is usually a lively affair with 100+ participants expected to attend. Speak to William Harcourt for more information.
- **UK Arctic Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences for IPY5** - Workshops for different events in/on Cambridge 11 September. Aberdeen 16 September & online 18 September. **Register by 28 August 2026**. Speak to Isabelle Gapp for more information.

- **Arctic Circle Assembly**, Reykjavik, Iceland on 8-10 October 2026. Register by **10 September 23:59 UK Time**.
- **The Centre for the North Research Notes with Izzy Crawford**. Join us for the first Research Notes event of the new academic year. **Friday 25 September, from 12-1pm**, Interdisciplinary Lounge.
- **Atlantic Plastics 2026** 3rd International Symposium on Marine Plastic Pollution Arctic to the Antarctic, Reykjavik, Iceland, 20-22 October. **Registration ends 12 October 2026**. Draft programme out soon #AtlanticPlastics2026
- **Arctic Science Summit Week** (ASSW) 2027, Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan from 11-20 April 2027. Application for on-site only, hybrid or online space deadline 16 October 2026. First programme draft ready December 2026. Feel free to get in touch with Isabelle Gapp, as she is an IASC Social and Human Working Group rep. for the UK.
- **Arctic Youth Conference 2027** Nuuk, Greenland 26-28 February. Submission/ideas deadline 15 August 2026.

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!

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