

Major projects at UiT – the Arctic University of Norway

1. Arctic Voices in Art and Literature in the Long 19th Century

Funded by the RCN's programme Young Research Talents, *Arctic Voices in Art and Literature in the Long 19th Century* is a humanities-based project consisting of international scholars. The project attempts a daring rewriting of dominant Polar history by foregrounding the stories of those who were on the receiving end of European and American imperialism. We bring together and analyse instances of Indigenous agency, self-representation, and animal presence contained in visual and textual sources from the period 1789-1914.

Website: <https://www.arcticvoices.space/>

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2. The Nansen Legacy Program

The *Nansen Legacy* is the collective answer of the Norwegian research community to the outstanding changes witnessed in the Barents Sea and the Arctic as a whole. The *Nansen Legacy* constitutes an integrated Arctic perspective on climate and ecosystem change, from physical processes to living resources, and from understanding the past to predicting the future. The project runs from 2018-2023, involves about 200 scientists from ten Norwegian research institutions with Arctic marine expertise, and collaborate internationally.

Website: www.nansenlegacy.org

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3. The Arctic Resilience Accelerator

The *Arctic Resilience Accelerator* (ARA) is a new strategic initiative under development between the UiT the Arctic University of Norway and other universities. The aim of ARA is to turn the challenge of adapting to climate change into an opportunity and to deliver impact by enhancing resilience and adaptive capacities of Arctic communities. In order to achieve that, ARA will span between academia, society, and business to create knowledge, provide education, foster innovation and mobilize investments. In correspondence with the goals of Agenda 2030, its primary focus are food systems, energy systems, and human health and well-being in the Arctic, as well as interconnections between those systems.

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4. Deep Impact

At any given moment, half of the Earth's surface is in darkness. While darkness prevails, biological processes regulated by the sun have generally been assumed to cease. But darkness is also the preferred 'habitat' for the many nocturnal organisms that remain active at night. For many of these, the moon, stars and aurora borealis may provide important cues to guide behaviours and interaction with other organisms. This is not the least true for the Arctic polar night. Unfortunately, with a changing climate and increased human activities in the Arctic, these natural light sources will in many places be more or less

invisible due to the much stronger illumination from artificial light. This project explore the potential effects of artificial light on organisms that remain active in one of the last undisturbed and pristine dark habitats on the planet – the Arctic polar night.

Websites: <https://www.mare-incognitum.no> and <https://prosjektbanken.forskningsradet.no/#/project/NFR/300333/Sprak=en>

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5. Centre for Integrated Remote Sensing and Forecasting for Arctic Operations (CIRFA)

CIRFA is a Centre for Research-based Innovation (SFI) hosted by the Department of Physics and Technology at UiT The Arctic University of Tromsø. The ambition of CIRFA is to be an internationally leading knowledge hub for research, innovation and development in Arctic surveillance technologies, with leading expertise in disciplines such as remote sensing, signal and image processing, radar technology, drone technology, numerical modeling, and data assimilation. The centre runs from 2015 to 2023, and it involves collaboration with a broad range of national and international research partners and user partners, spanning the range from universities to commercial enterprises.

Website: <https://cirfa.uit.no>

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6. Centre for Arctic Gas Hydrate, Environment and Climate (CAGE)

CAGE is a Centre of Excellence (SFF) hosted by the Department of Geosciences at UiT The Arctic University of Norway. The main goal of CAGE is to study methane release from gas hydrates beneath the Arctic Ocean in an effort to unveil potential impacts on marine environments and global climate systems. The centre runs from 2013 to 2023, and it involves collaboration with scientists in Europe, Russia, and North America.

Website: <https://cage.uit.no>

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7. ARCTIC_BBNJ II: Nearly 2,8 million square kilometres of the AO are located in areas beyond the national jurisdiction (ABNJ) of the coastal states and are subject to a new treaty being negotiated at the United Nations (UN) under the Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) on marine biodiversity in ABNJ (BBNJ treaty). Taking the BBNJ treaty negotiations as a starting point, the project will analyse the opportunities for AO governance with a view to protecting biodiversity, particularly through marine protected areas (MPAs) and ecosystem-based management (EBM). Various options for the outcome of the negotiations will be assessed against the existing AO governance regimes.

Website: www.uit.no/lawofthesea

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8. SIRAW - Regulating shipping in Russian Arctic Waters: Between international law, national interests and geopolitics (funded by RCN/UiT the Arctic University of Norway).

The objective of SIRAW is to analyse how Russian legislation on shipping in its Arctic waters is influenced by and is influencing international law. This entails investigating

the status and trends in development and implementation of the Russian Arctic shipping regulations. Furthermore, SIRAW will investigate how other states react (and will react) to the Russian policy and practice in regulating shipping in its Arctic waters. Following up on these two themes, the project will conclude by investigating whether and how the Russian practice in regulating shipping in its Arctic waters is influencing the relevant international legal and political processes.

Website: www.uit.no/lawofthesea

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9. SECURE – Novel Marine Resources for Food Security and Food Safety

To develop knowledge enabling sustainable food security and safety by a multidisciplinary approach based on novel marine low trophic level resources. Elaboration of regulations regarding harvesting of species from the lower end of the food web and the need of developing a sound regulatory framework that enables sustainable harvest as well as novel food products of marine resources. The nutritional impact on human health combined with development of a new technology (PET/MR) to measure atherosclerosis, and how this is impacted by the microbiota, by non-destructive measurements will enable refinement in research on animals and it will permit reduction of animals needed. Ranking of nutritional scores combined with sustainability will increase awareness of this important approach.

The nutritional impact on human health, the sustainability measured as GHG emission and the development of a legal framework for novel products

Website: <https://uit.no/research/seafood/project?pid=667623>

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