

Introducing *Emerging Voices*

Tiia Manninen

Since 2012, the Arctic Yearbook has served as a platform for independent analysis of Circumpolar politics and governance. Over the past decade, the context in which Arctic knowledge is produced has changed rapidly. Climate change is accelerating, major powers are becoming more confrontational, people have less room to express dissent in some countries, and information is increasingly shaped by technology, reshaping not only the subjects we study, but also who is able to speak about them. In this environment, we must also challenge the exclusions and assumptions built into the academic systems that determine who is recognised as a credible contributor, and who is not.

For many emerging scholars, including myself, the experience of entering this space is shaped as much by informal thresholds as by formal ones. Networks, institutional affiliation, publication norms, internal language codes, and confidence often matter as much as the sophistication of insight. These dynamics are not unique to Arctic studies, but they carry particular weight here, where the people most affected by environmental and political change are often the least visible in expert forums. When knowledge flows only from established institutions back to each other, it risks becoming disconnected from the communities and lived realities it seeks to understand, neglecting other knowledge systems, too, in the process.

The *Emerging Voices* section is a new addition to the Arctic Yearbook, and was created as a deliberate intervention into this pattern. This year, it felt especially important to recognise and formalise something we have always believed: that research cultures are healthier when the door is open early, not only after accumulated scholarly credentials. We wanted to design a space where early-stage researchers, graduate students, practitioners, community-based authors, and early-career policymakers could contribute without feeling the need to perform authority. To support this goal, we reduced the procedural formality of the peer review process, foregrounded clarity over jargon, and prioritised contributions shaped by reflection, practice, and proximity to the issues at hand.

Tiia Manninen is the Communications Manager of Arctic Yearbook

The inaugural collection is diverse, and its authors write from policy programmes, research stations, environmental institutes, and lived experience. Thematically, they explore Ireland's rising presence in Arctic collaboration, Portugal's uncertain policy identity, the political and economic framing of NORAD modernisation, the place of climate-vulnerable regions in global development systems, the emotional and ethical dimensions of security, and the discomfort and possibility of working in uncertainty. Although varied in content, these contributions re-examine familiar narratives in Arctic debate.

As an open-access, independent publication, Arctic Yearbook is well placed to hold space for these conversations. The Arctic today is a site of transboundary cooperation, strategic competition, and environmental crisis. It is also a site where knowledge production is increasingly shaped by economic asymmetries, international political agendas, technological systems that prioritise speed and volume over meaning, and importantly, by growing interdisciplinarity and interface between scientific and Indigenous knowledge. In this landscape, broadening participation is not a gesture of generosity for us, but a necessary step to ensure that Arctic scholarship remains grounded and intellectually alive. *Emerging Voices* is a way of nourishing our mission, and we hope these contributions speak to readers both as analyses of Arctic realities and also as an invitation to reimagine who gets to articulate them.