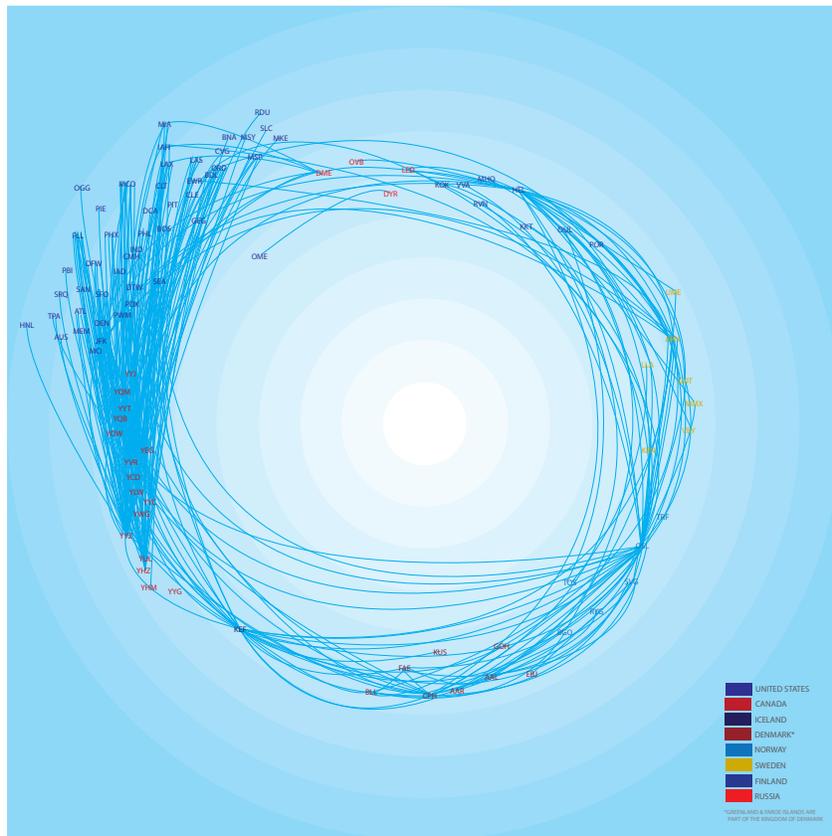


Art in the Public Realm

Oslo Project



Spring 2015

Center for the Advancement of Public Action
Bennington College

Art in the Public Realm
Oslo Project | *Spring 2015*

Through the experience of developing a site-specific, commissioned work of art for the U.S. Embassy in Oslo, Norway, students in this course will examine the definition, unique challenges, history, and implementation of public art. Over the course of the term, the class will conduct case studies of prior public art projects and explore the various dimensions of designing and implementing a site-specific project. How does the artist engage in the diplomatic arena? What are the implications of the arts as “soft diplomacy?” How do the social and political come into play when considering the cultural heritage of a country and how does an artist balance aesthetics with diplomacy and logistics? How are landscape, geology, and ecology considered when placing a work permanently?

Faculty: Jon Isherwood
Susan Sgorbati

Staff: Keegan Ead | *Video/Multimedia Editor*
Michael Stradley | *3D Technician*

Spring Students: Hannah Brookman
Emily Coning
Onur Fidangul
Mitra Haque
Timna Jahoda Kligler
Sarah Shames

Class Visitors: Sarah Tanguy | *Art in Embassies, U.S. State Department*
Welmoed Laanstra | *Art in Embassies, U.S. State Department*
Oceana Wilson | *Director of Library & Info. Services, Bennington College*
Lauren Ewing | *Public sculptor*
David Bond | *Faculty, Bennington College*
John Jannesson | *International Secretary of Norwegian Young Greens*
Ingrid Moe | *Cultural Officer, Royal Norwegian Consulate General, NY*
Randi Grov | *Norwegian curator*
John Amedeo | *Landscape architect*
Jana Winderen | *Norwegian sound artist*
Kristine Jaern Pilgaard | *KORO Norway*

**“Undulating motions of nonlinear progression lead
the heart in a journey of self reflection & sympathy to
the natural world.”**

- Emily Coning

a multiple non-linear progression

natural forms that respond

to

light and weather

mediated space for dialogue

perception of viewer/scale

kinetic/dynamic/movement

poetic view of landscape/text

shared environmental responsibility

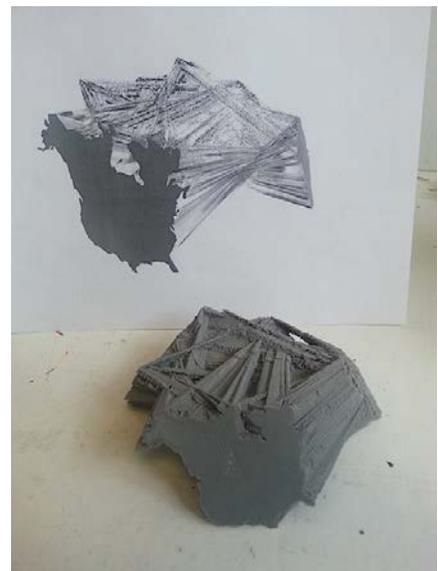
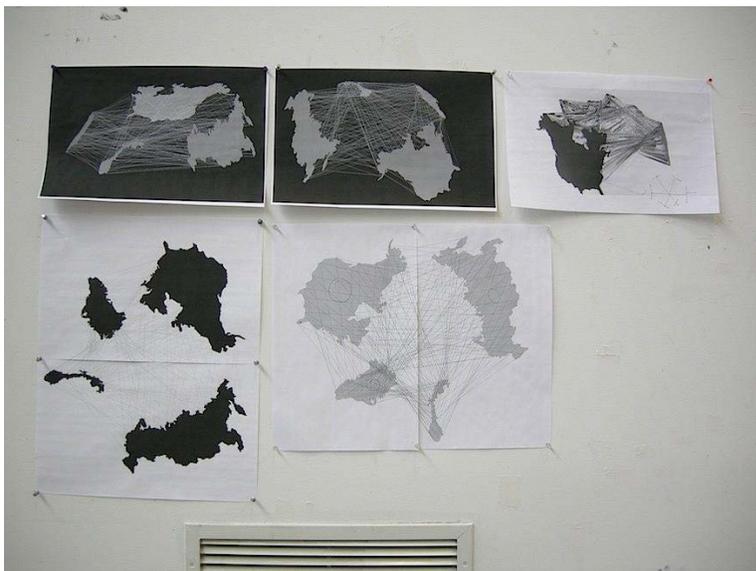
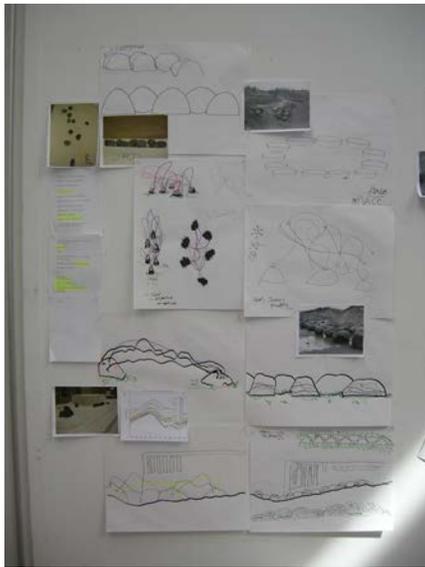
to fight for preservation and growth

U.S. and Norway shared space

of the Arctic/data

strength/modesty

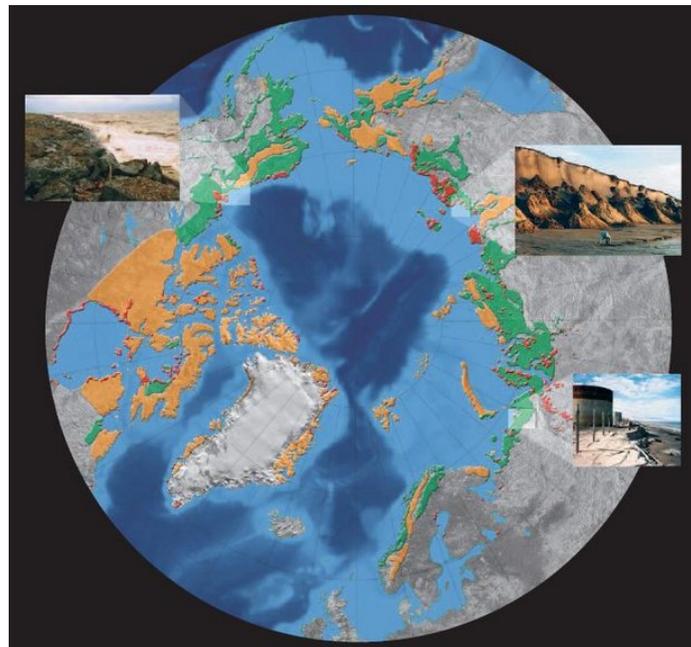
Jon Isherwood
Overview



Timna Jahoda Kligler

Sea Level Rise

The IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) Fifth Assessment reports that, “By the end of the 21st century, it is very likely that sea level will rise in more than about 95% of the ocean area. About 70% of the coastlines worldwide are projected to experience a sea level change within $\pm 20\%$ of the global mean...it is virtually certain that global mean sea level rise will continue for many centuries beyond 2100, with the amount of rise dependent on future emissions.” There is scientific consensus that sea level will rise between 52 and 98 cm (or 20 to 38 inches), because of a combination of volume increase, or ‘steric rise’, caused by thermal expansion and salinity change, and mass increase or ‘eustatic rise’ caused by glacial melt and increased runoff. Much of the Arctic coastline will be affected by changing sea level; low-lying coasts (red) will be submerged and vast stretches of unlithified and/or developed coastal areas will be at risk from resultant storm surges, weather events, and higher water lines. Unless oil and gas extraction and use are reduced, the global risk will only increase, but it remains most severe and pivotal in the Arctic itself.¹



<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/155930/>

¹ IPCC, 2013: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S.K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 1535 pp, doi:10.1017/CBO9781107415324.



Left: http://s.ngm.com/2013/09/rising-seas/gatefold/RS_Web_NA_15M_v3.jpg

Right: http://s.ngm.com/2013/09/rising-seas/gatefold/RS_Web_EU_8M_v3.jpg



Onur Fidangul
Oil and Gas

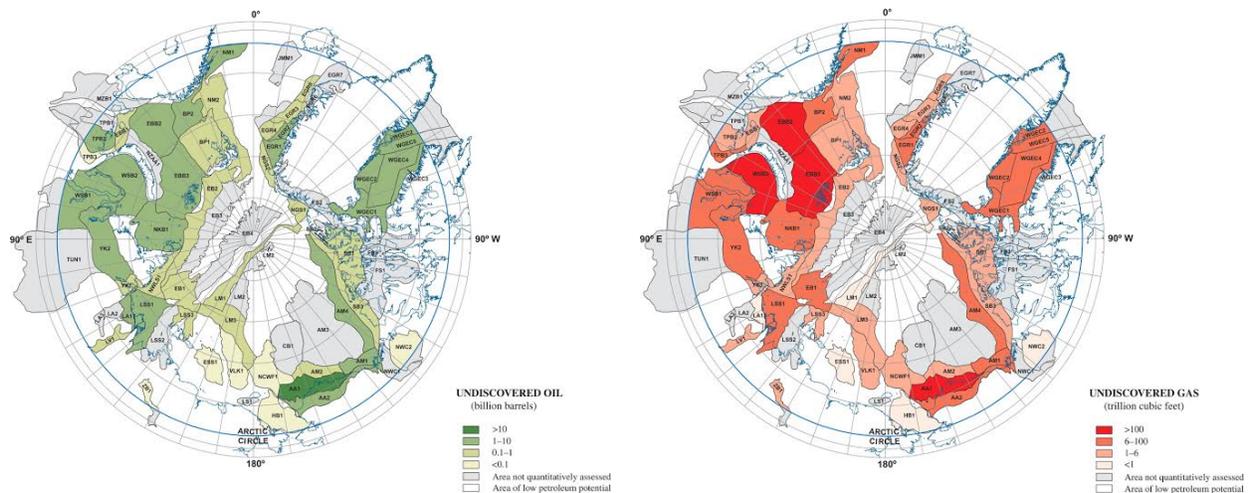
Home to a diversity of indigenous peoples and distinctive ecosystem, the Arctic became the symbolic instrument of tension between climate change and the fossil fuel industries. The Arctic is often called the world's refrigerator, reflecting the sun with the surface ice. Every year, scientists announce the new record minimum sea ice extent in the Arctic. On February 25, 2015, Arctic sea ice appeared to have reached its annual maximum extent, marking the beginning of the sea ice melt season. This year's maximum extent not only occurred early, it is also the lowest in the satellite record.² According to the U.S. Geological Survey assessment released in 2008, "The Arctic accounts for about 13 percent of the undiscovered oil, 30 percent of the undiscovered natural gas, and 20 percent of the undiscovered natural gas liquids in the world."³

² <http://nsidc.org/news/newsroom/arctic-sea-ice-maximum-reaches-lowest-extent-record>

³ <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1980#.VSKxe6Znkqg>

Ironically, as the ice melts and the drilling operations become easier due to climate change, oil companies move into the Arctic for drilling. It is a circular system: the more fossil fuels we burn, the more ice melts and oil/gas becomes available to drill; the more oil/gas becomes available, the more the ice melts. Last week, the Obama Administration approved Shell Oil Company's plan to drill in the Arctic. Other Arctic Council members have also extended their plans to extract oil from the Arctic. Despite this, the scientific journal *Nature's* analysis of our climate says that if we're going to avert disaster, we need to keep the Arctic's oil reserves in the ground.⁴

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/videos/old-ice-becoming-rare-arctic>



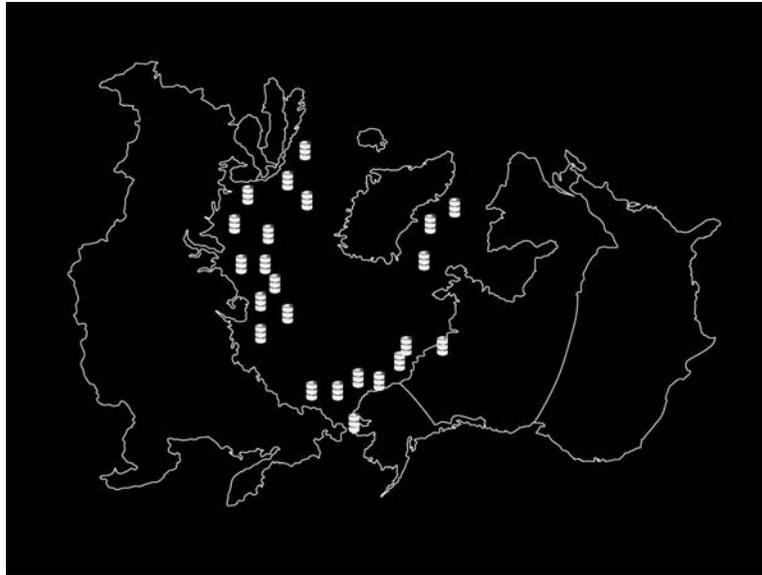
Maps showing the AUs of the CARA is color-coded for mean estimated undiscovered oil. Only areas north of the Arctic Circle are included in the estimates. AU labels are the same as in table S1. Black lines indicate AU boundaries.

Assessment of Undiscovered Oil and Gas in the Arctic. Donald L. Gautier, Kenneth J. Bird, Ronald R. Charpentier, Arthur Grantz, David W. Houseknecht, Timothy R. Klett, Thomas E. Moore, Janet K. Pitman, Christopher J. Schenk, John H. Schuenemeyer, Kai Sørensen, Marilyn E. Tennyson, Zenon C. Valin, and Craig J. Wandrey. *Science* 29 May 2009: 324 (5931), 1175-1179. [DOI:10.1126/science.1169467].



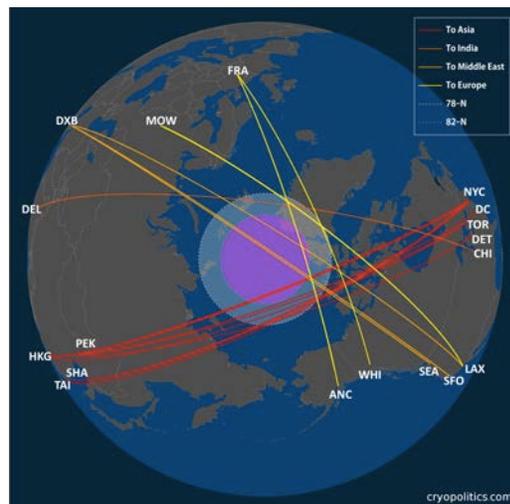
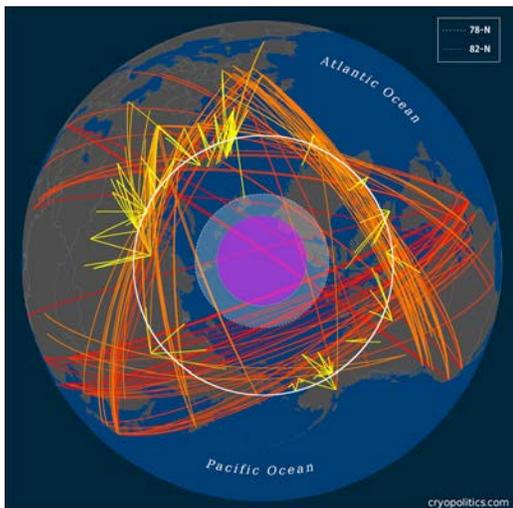
Black Ice. Dir. Maarten van Rouveroy van Nieuwaal. Perf. The Arctic 30. Journaymen Pictures, 2014. HD-DVD.

⁴ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/07/much-worlds-fossil-fuel-reserve-must-stay-buried-prevent-climate-change-study-says>



Sarah Shames
Flight Patterns

My research focuses on daily flights between Arctic Council members. Air travel is an important system of interconnections that touches on social, economic, environmental, and political dynamics. Flying over the Arctic, you can see very tangibly the effects of climate change while sitting in a machine that relies on fossil fuels to make its journey. Air travel is the main connector of our globalized world, enabling swift trade and communication. When mapping out the flights, certain patterns become strikingly visible, denoting lines of international cooperation and trade, as well as enmity and distance. The more intricate the connections become between these Arctic countries, the more the heavy use of fuel hastens the irreversible disappearance of the unique Arctic ecosystem. Clearly, a lot is happening literally and figuratively over our heads.



Left: <https://cryopolitics.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/crossarctic1.jpg?w=800&h=787>

Right: <https://cryopolitics.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/cross-polar-flights1.jpg?w=800&h=785>



Hannah Brookman/Mitra Haque

Native Populations

Of the nearly four million people living in the Arctic today, about 10 percent of this population is made up of indigenous people. Just as with indigenous groups all over the world, native people in the Arctic both adapt to the modern world while also maintaining traditional activities that have been a part of their cultures for centuries.⁵ The organizations of the indigenous peoples are represented in the Arctic Council as follows: the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) consists of people mainly of the Northeast of Canada. The Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) is also located in the Northwest of Canada, as is the Gwich'in Council International (GCI). The Aleut International Association (AIA) represents the string of islands off of Alaska's coast up to Russia. The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) includes people in almost half of Russia's land. Lastly, there is the Saami Council (SC), where people from Norway, Finland, Sweden, and a small part from Russia are represented. As stated on the Arctic Council website, "Humans have long been a part of the arctic system, shaping and being shaped by the local and regional environment. In the past few centuries, the influx of new arrivals has increased pressure on the arctic environment through rising fish and wildlife harvests and industrial development."⁶

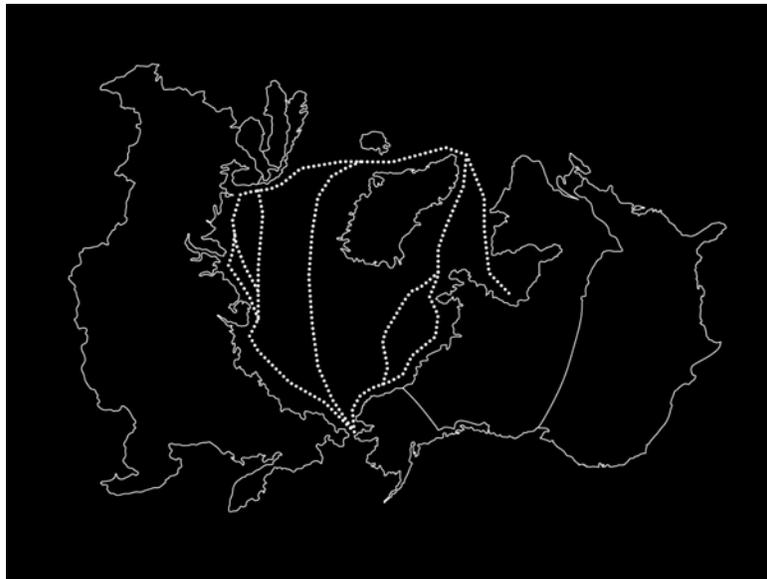
⁵ <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/environment-and-people/arctic-peoples/122-peoples-of-the-arctic>

⁶ Ibid.

combinations, fishing vessels, ferries, research vessels, and government and commercial icebreakers.⁷ All are increasing and expanding.



<https://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch1en/conc1en/polarroutes.html>



Emily Coning
Fisheries

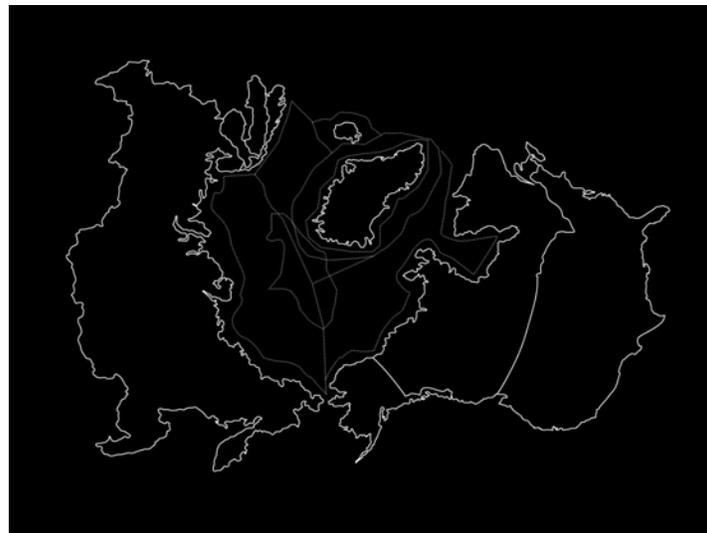
Exclusive economic zones are currently a major issue for the Arctic nations due to the region's abundance in necessary resources like fish and seals, and also for the rich deposits of oil that are becoming increasingly available. Countries that stand to make an economic gain through rights to Arctic territory are pressuring to have their boundaries exceeded beyond the 200 nautical mile rights granted to all nations. This has led to a complicated web of overlapping claimed

⁷ <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/environment-and-people/oceans/shipping>

territory and several regions with special negotiations, such as the one outlined in dark gray that is shared by Norway and Russia. Fishing in these regions can be a major economic concern, as for example the Joint-Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission reported a 2012 shared total quota or TAC (Total Allowable Catch) of between 700,000 to over 1 million tons for Atlantic Cod in the outlined treaty region. This compares to a TAC of 430,000 in 2000 and is indicative of the increasing demand for, and thus increased economic value of fish.⁸



<http://images.sciencedaily.com/2008/08/080805192723-large.jpg>

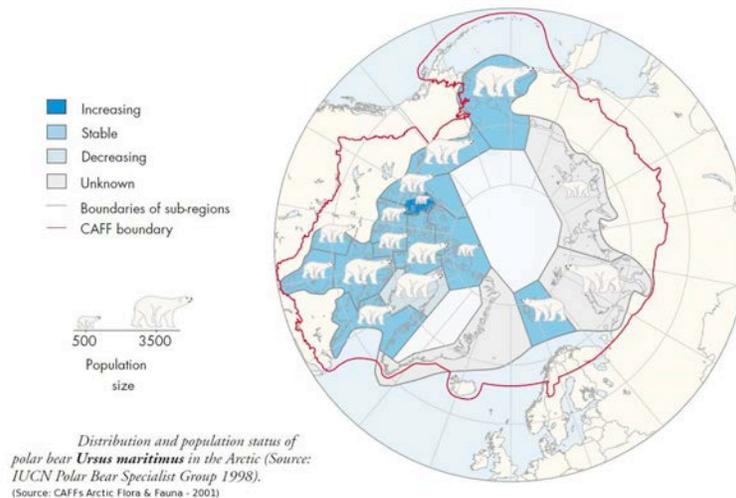


⁸ "Статистика по квотам 2000 - 2012 гг. По запасам, управляемым Россией и Норвегией" / "Kvotestatistikk 2000 - 2014. Bestander forvaltet av Norge og Russland," *Joint Fish*, accessed April 14, 2015, <http://www.jointfish.com/rus/STATISTIKA/KVOTY/Treska/> <http://www.jointfish.no/nno/STATISTIKK/KVOTER/TORSK>.

Polar Bears

Polar bears, easily thought of as the mascot of the Arctic, roam across the northern ice and ocean water, and verge into the land boundaries of several of the Arctic Council members. Their migrations are divided into several territories by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Polar Bear Specialist Group in order to monitor the changing population levels and to collect data on the various factors influencing the survival of the species. According to the IUCN website, polar bear populations can be affected by a variety of factors, including pollution, oil developments, over-harvest of seals that the bears rely on, tourism, and climate change.⁹ Additionally, the group reports that the fragile and unique Arctic ecosystem, including polar bears, is vulnerable to even slight changes in climate: "Because polar bears feed almost exclusively on ice-associated seals, changes in the sea ice that affect access to prey will have a negative effect on the bears. In particular, if more snow falls, polar bears are less successful at breaking into the birth lairs of ringed seals. If too little snow falls, ringed seal pups are born on the sea ice without a lair and this makes them very vulnerable to predation by polar bears and arctic fox."¹⁰

As seen on this map, according to the 1998 data, the largest population of polar bears occupies the space between Alaska and Russia, while according to the latest data, at least three regions are facing a population decline, while three others are considered to be at reduced levels compared to historical averages.

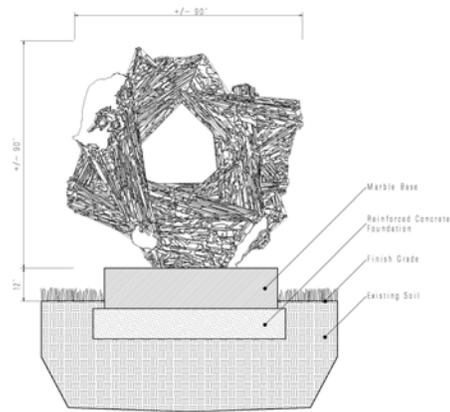


http://library.arcticportal.org/1350/1/CAFF_Map_No_22_Distribution_and_population_status_of_Polar_bear_in_the_Arctic_2001.JPG

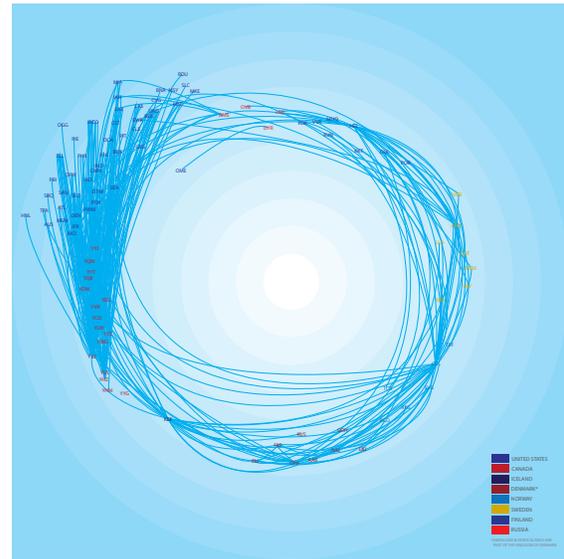
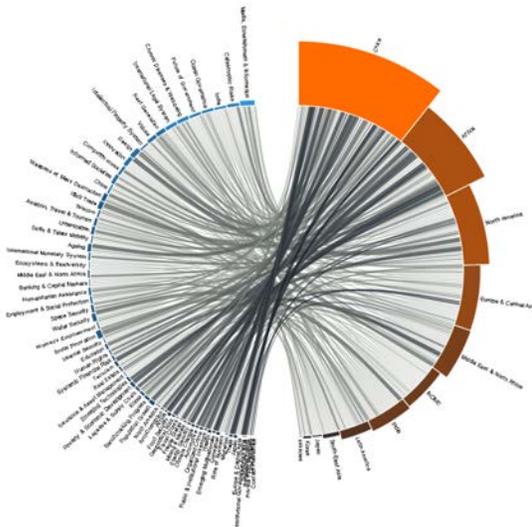
⁹ "Threats to polar bears," IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group, published January 07 2009, <http://pbsg.npolar.no/en/issues/threats/>

¹⁰ "Climate impacts on polar bears," IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group, published January 27 2009, <http://pbsg.npolar.no/en/issues/threats/climate-change.html>





Susan Sgorbati
Visual Complexity Graphics



Left: Jan Willem Tulp’s visualization of linkages between issues and countries during the World Economic Forum
<https://seeingcomplexity.wordpress.com/2011/03/13/why-visualize-data-we-dont-know-yet/>
 Right: Flight paths over the Arctic; visualization map generated by Bennington student, Sarah Shames.

Hannah Brookman
The Meadow

In addition to the sculpture by the entrance, we also propose to work with the landscape architect on the design of the meadow behind the embassy. In the meadow, we will represent the members of the Arctic Council with their chosen national flower. Just as each country does its part to contribute to the global community, each perennial flower will share its differing qualities with the rest of the garden, bringing many varieties of animals and insects to the meadow and boasting each blossom’s own range of color and scent. When Russia's chamomile

loses its color in the winter, Norway's heather will keep the meadow bright in the cold weather. These flowers will coexist in the meadow as individuals, tending to their own needs and maintaining their own growth cycles, while also functioning as a cohesive whole to complement the courtyard sculpture. This large-scale garden will be punctuated with boulders taken from a nearby quarry and distributed throughout the meadow, giving depth and structure to this field of interwoven flowers.

NATIONAL FLOWERS OF THE ARTIC COUNCIL MEMBERS



RUSSIA - Chamomile



SWEDEN - Twin Flower



NORWAY -
Purple
Heather



FINLAND - Lily-of-the-Valley



CANADA* - Purple Saxifrage



USA - Rose



ICELAND -
Mountain
Avens



GREENLAND -
Fireweed