Dear affiliated researchers,

I hope that the Christmas holiday was comfortable, and that you are now full of energy for a productive 2015. The end of 2014 was intensive with several conferences and workshops. In late November Arcum arranged the international conference Extractive Industries & Indigenous Peoples with 40 participants from 13 countries. We were also invited to the 1st Spanish Symposium on the Arctic Region in Madrid, a distinct indication of the Arctic interest from countries outside the area.

At the end of the year Arcum delivered the activity report for evaluation of the centre. We express eight goals, and concluded that there had been a positive fulfillment on each one of them. The goals were:

- An eminent home environment
- Strong research
- A leading international position
- Driving force nationally
- Collaboration on several levels
- Good visibility
- An attractive meeting place
- Increased value

We also reported a great number of activities that not include the ordinary work at Arcum. There is a pressure and high expectations on an extensive engagement in many areas. This is of course a very good sign, but at the same time it is frustrating not to be able to meet the demand to full extent. As illustrated by the figure below we have not been so much involved in educational efforts, and our own research opportunities are already mortgaged by research projects we have funding for. Nevertheless, we strive for adding new projects to the agenda, and are happy that so many of you contribute. But the lobby processes to the EU and a constructive approach to Horizon 2020, a possible partnership in the Chinese-Nordic Arctic Research Centre collaboration, an extensive cooperation with UiT – Arctic University of Norway (especially the Arctic Frontiers conference) and an improved strategic collaboration with SLU and LTU are all great challenges to our work load.
It is, however, pleasing and encouraging that Umeå University will request 20 million SEK annually for the establishment of a national Arctic research centre here. We know that a positive outcome is difficult to achieve, but we feel that we have presented really good arguments.

**Joint transportation to Arctic health conference in Oulu**

In June 8-12, 2015, Arcum offers free joint transportation to the 16th International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH 16) in Oulu, Finland for affiliated researchers at Umeå University.

The conference focus on human health and well-being in the Arctic and northern areas. It is open for everyone interested in Arctic issues, especially scientists, researchers, health care professionals, policy analysts, government agency representatives and community leaders. Deadline for abstract submission is **31st January, 2015**.


If you are interested to join the joint transportation from Umeå to Oulu, Monday June 8th, at 10.00 am (detailed schedule will be set later), please register at [http://goo.gl/forms/7nAlq5D81g](http://goo.gl/forms/7nAlq5D81g)

For further details, contact Lena Nilsson [lena.nilsson@umu.se](mailto:lena.nilsson@umu.se).
Arcum Lunch Seminars Spring 2015

During the Spring 2015 Arcum will continue to present seminars that highlights the Arctic. Researchers from different areas, film makers, and policy makers will be invited to address current issues. With few exceptions, the seminar will be held the first Thursday in each month. For more information on each seminar see attached invitations.

Lunch Seminar February 5th, 12.00 – 13.00 at Universitetsklubben

Carina Keskiitalo, Professor of Political Science at the Department of Social and Economic Geography, Umeå University, presents a large ongoing research programme New governance for sustainable development in the North.

Since we offer a light lunch, please register for the seminar by sending an e-mail to lena.nilsson@umu.se, no later than February 2.

Lunch Seminar March 5, 12.00-13.00 at Universitetsklubben.

This seminar is dedicated to the film Polar eufori, introduced by Prof. Heidi Hansson, Department of Language Studies at Umeå University.

Since we offer a light lunch we kindly ask you to register for the seminar, no later than Monday, March 2, by sending an e-mail to gabriella.nordin@umu.se.

Lunch Seminar June 4, 12.00-13.00 at Universitetsklubben.

For this seminar we have collected information about Arcums’ recent activities, summing up the first half of 2015. The director of Arcum Peter Sköld will also inform about forthcoming international conferences and workshops with Arctic or northern themes and upcoming Umeå workshops.

Since the IASSA (International Arctic Social Sciences Association) secreatairy is now up and running in Arcums’ regime we will take the opportunity to inform about the latest news in the organisation. Furthermore there will also be an opportunity to discuss the up-coming IASSA triennial meeting; ICASS IX 2017.

Since we offer a light lunch we kindly ask you to register for the seminar, no later than Monday June 1, by sending an e-mail to gabriella.nordin@umu.se.

Upcoming conferences and workshops

Down below you will find a selection of upcoming conferences with an Arctic/northern theme. Please visit Arcums' website for more information on each conference as well as a more extended event list.

New Narratives of the Postcolonial Arctic May 27-29, 2015


The IGU Conference will take place at the main campus of Moscow State University in Moscow, 17-21 August 2015.


2nd Polar Climate and Environmental Change in the Last Millennium

The second international conference on Polar Climate and Environmental Change in the Last Millennium, will be held in Torun, Poland, from August 24-26, 2015.


DUE NORTH: Next Generation Arctic Research & Leadership, November 5-8, 2015 in Calgary, Alberta Canada.