Calotte Academy 2027

"The Role and Values of Science for Stability and Governance in the Global Arctic"

24–31 January 2027

2nd Call for Participation & Papers

The Calotte Academy 2027, with the theme "The Role and Values of Science for Stability and Governance in the Global Arctic," is planned to take place from 24 to 31 January 2027 in several destinations in the European Arctic and Sápmi.

The plan is to take the participants on an exciting journey through the European Arctic—including the northernmost parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden, as well as Sápmi—to facilitate an open dialogue informed by the experience of local and regional realities, perspectives, and the expertise of the people and societies facing the 2020s.

The one-week Academy entails a full program spread between morning and afternoon sessions combined with excursions, cultural activities, and rounds of a thematic Role Play Game (RPG).

The symposium is regularly relocated by bus from place to place, where local co-organizers host sessions to have meaningful discussions over different aspects of the main theme. This establishes the core of the traveling nature of Calotte Academy, which is characterized by the fact that every day and every distinct destination sparks discussion over something new, while also allowing to explore the region's unique nature, local cultures, and the everyday life of people of the European Arctic and Sápmi—honoring the true North—as well as by the significance of traveling, coexisting, and discussing with others within a dense period.

Theme

The theme of the Calotte Academy 2027, "The Role and Values of Science for Stability and Governance in the Global Arctic," is very relevant and timely. It is intentionally broad, in order to invite contributions from a wide range of disciplines, expertise, and approaches from different points of view and from different parts of the globe.

Firstly, the theme is inspired by the Arctic region's role as part and parcel of global political, economic, technological, environmental, and societal change. The concept of the 'Global Arctic' not only recognizes the regional impact of globalization and climate change but also the implications and drivers of a globalized Arctic (Heininen & Finger 2018). It highlights the importance of Arctic climate, in particular the melting of sea ice and glaciers, for the global environment and sustainability. Second, it is inspired by the consequences of a disorderly world facing mounting multi-crises and controversial realities: the climate crisis vis-à-vis constant warfare, great power rivalries, as well as a lack of confidence. This indicates an antagonism between the 'militarization' and 'environmentalization' of societies in state policies, transboundary relations, and the media.

Furthermore, the theme raises the observation that global multi-crises are not only geopolitical and ecological, but also crises of knowledge and information production, intelligence, science, as well as of politics and decision-making. Tensions in world politics also reflect those between competing epistemologies—strategic vis-à-vis scientific intelligence, Indigenous knowledge, algorithmic prediction, and human cognitive limits. Similarly, the promise of increasing efficiency through high technology such as geoengineering or AI to reduce human resource consumption for a more sustainable future is leading to the paradox of a growing energy demand to power data centers—including in outer space—and other technology hubs. All this underlines the complex relationships between different disciplines and fields as well as understandings of technology, knowledge, intelligence and research. Here, science plays a key role in general, and in particular in governance, when trying to manage global environmental challenges about intertwined problems.

Finally, the multiple points of view towards the theme, as well as its multidimensional and complex relationships, make science important for governance, interdisciplinary environmental management, and exploration in and about the Global Arctic. Thus, we invite early-career and senior researchers, other experts and policymakers working on / from the Arctic in fields as varied as (but not limited to) Anthropology, Education, Environmental Sciences, Geography, History, Indigenous Studies, International Relations / Political Sciences, Law, Media Studies, Philosophy, or Social Sciences.

Route

The (tentative) route of the 2027 Calotte Academy consists of scientific, policy-oriented sessions and visits in the following destinations in the European Arctic and Sápmi: Rovaniemi, Oulu, Hetta, and Inari / Ivalo (in Finland), Luleå and Kiruna (in Sweden), Bodø, and Kautokeino (in Norway).

The eight-day journey will start in Oulu / Rovaniemi with a dinner on Sunday evening and a workshop at the University of Oulu on the next day. It will continue to Luleå (Sweden) with sessions at the Luleå Technical University. Then, the Academy will relocate to Kiruna (Sweden).

The next two destinations are in Norway: Bodø, with sessions at Nord University, and Kautokeino, with sessions at EALÁT (University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry)—where traditional Sámi food might be served.

The next days will be spent in Hetta (Finland) with sessions at the Enontekiö town hall and at the airport; and in Inari, the Sámi capital in Finland, with sessions at the Inari town hall and visits to the Sámi museum SIIDA and the UTAC car & tire testing site.

The last stop before the end will be in Rovaniemi, with sessions at the University of Lapland.

Methods

The Calotte Academy method is defined by the dualism of mobility and dialogue: Experiencing several destinations and encountering the expertise of local people allows for an open—academic, scientific, and policy-oriented—dialogue. This twofold approach is participatory by nature and inspired by the principles of inclusivity, as well as by freedom of science and freedom of expression (Nordic Trade Unions 2024; see also Heininen 2024).

The 'mobility by nature' idea leans on confidence on personal sensory experiences of the realities (of a region, its peoples, and societies) as a learning principle. People are embodied beings and therefore seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and sensing in every way enhance and localize thought and learning, as well as assists gaining a sense of the reality of a region and community (Varela et al. 1993). As a result, the participants overcome not only state and physical boundaries between different areas (e.g., reindeer herding, conservation/protection, mining, tourism, military), but also non-territorial borders/boundaries erected between disciplines (Östreng 2010), livelihoods, seasons, or mental maps.

While substance is most important, in practical terms structure and methods matter. Hence, every Calotte Academy is organized and structured in a way that ensures an open discussion that aims for a real dialogue, and in which the participants "approach the dialogue with an open mind… [and realize] the potential of dialogues" (Gadamer 1992). Accordingly, dialogue is built on a participatory approach and a sense of community, as well as on the faith that when gathering knowledgeable people which are open-minded, they listen and think, talk and share ideas, as well as reconsider and build upon others' arguments.

As a result, a dialogue with an open-ended nature and as a cumulative process is achievable when participants are "committed to inclusivity, … engaged with each other's arguments, … focused on issue domain, … embraced [to] the open-ended nature of the dialogue" (Kornprobst 2009), and "have had patience and allocate time enough" (Heininen 2015).

At the Calotte Academy, this is implemented by structuring the sessions in such a way that the presentation of each participant (maximum 15 minutes), based on the participants' research and expertise, will be followed by a lively discussion (including questions, comments, answers) for at least of the same time allocated (minimum 15 minutes). This is a fundamental precondition, though not always applied in Academia, to have "the potential of dialogues" being materialized.

Finally, this approach is particularly important in turbulent times of world politics (in disorder) with great power rivalry, increased tension, lack of tolerance and confidence, especially when facing the climate crisis. Whereas the traditional scientific world leans much on disciplinary and classroom methods in research, teaching or when reviewing grant applications, this kind of unorthodox and interdisciplinary method with a flexible format is increasingly favored and supported by, as well as supportive for, active researchers and other professionals. Unsurprisingly, this approach has also potential to bring unexpected perspectives and results.

Applications

This 2nd Call for Participation & Papers is destined to early career researchers (PhD candidates, post-docs, advanced master's students) and established researchers from different academic backgrounds, as well as other experts & policymakers, to participate in and present their work at the Academy—with the fundamental principle that each participant are expected to present their work.

The new deadline for applications is on **9 November 2026**. Each application should include an abstract of approximately 250–350 words, a (short) bio / CV including (PhD / MA) study status, and a (short) list of publications. Applications are to be submitted online at https://calotte-academy.com/apply.

The registration fee for participation is €575, covering transportation (by bus, during the event), shared accommodation, conference materials as well as breakfasts and some meals during the eight days of the traveling symposium. The fee is to be paid for in two installments: the first, of €375, is to be paid for two months before the start of the trip, and the second, of €200, is to be paid for at the beginning of the journey. Staying in a single room will incur an additional cost of circa €350.

The trip will go ahead if the minimum number of participants required is met.

About Calotte Academy

The Calotte Academy is an international and interdisciplinary academic symposium which uses to travel throughout several destinations and crossing several borders in the European Arctic and Sápmi. It is designed to promote interdisciplinary research, expertise and brainstorming, as well as implement the interplay between science, politics and business. It does this by bringing early-career and senior researchers, other experts and professionals, from different fields, regions and countries, together to discover and implement new findings, methods, and applications.

It is an experimental "School of Dialogue", with an idea to share knowledge and foster academic and policy-oriented dialogue among members of the research community, and a wide range of other stakeholders, locally, regionally, internationally and globally.

All in all, the Calotte Academy, organized annually since 1991, is a perfect platform for early-career scientists (PhD candidates, post-docs, advanced master's students) and established researchers with different academic disciplinary backgrounds, as well as for other experts and policymakers from different knowledge backgrounds, to actively participate, discuss, and present their work. Furthermore, it promotes and implements the interplay between science, politics and business, and

that between senior & young researchers, to educate, mentor and train experts in Northern/Arctic and Global Studies.

For more information, feel free to consult the Final Reports of previous academies on the Calotte Academy website: https://calotte-academy.com/final-reports and in the *Arctic Yearbook* editions: https://arcticyearbook.com/.

Co-organizers

The Calotte Academy 2027 is co-organized by the University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security and the Northern Policy Society, in cooperation with Arctic Portal (Iceland), the Department of Media Studies at Stockholm University, the ETS Institute at Luleå Technical University, the Faculty of Law at the University of Lapland, the High North Center at Nord University, the International Center for Reindeer Herding Husbandry (EALÁT), the Trent University (Ontario, Canada), and the VERA Centre of Russian and Border Studies at the University of Eastern Finland (tbc).

For more information

For more information, you can contact Prof. Lassi Heininen (lassi.heininen@arcticpolitics.com), Prof. Laura Junka-Aikio (laura.junka-aikio@ulapland.fi) and the Calotte Academy co-coordinators: PhD Candidates Tom Gabriel Royer (troyer@ulapland.fi) and Zhanna Anshukova (anshukovazhanna@gmail.com) at the University of Lapland; Eleni Kavvatha (eleni.kavvatha@uclouvain.be) at the UCLouvain – Saint Louis University of Brussels; and M.A. Tatiana Anderson (tatiana.petrova.lpf@gmail.com) of the Northern Policy Society.

https://calotte-academy.com

Route of the Calotte Academy 2027

24–31 January 2027