

CALL FOR PAPERS



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Early Stage Researchers Event

“Youth Visions on Arctic Sustainability”

Wednesday 14 June 2023

Part of the JUSTNORTH General Assembly (14-16 June 2023)

Hosted by the [JUSTNORTH](#) project

Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)

Deadline for abstracts submission: 8 May 2023

From fossil fuel and mineral extraction to transport or tourism, the Arctic is experiencing a marked increase in human activity. Although this situation has been accompanied by an unprecedented increase in economic prosperity, it also leads to the emergence of significant environmental and social challenges.

Global climate change has launched intense speculation on Arctic resources. In the push for the green transition, decisions about economic development are usually made through utilitarian ethical principles – the greatest good for the greatest number. The viability of economic development is based on technical feasibility and profitability, with little regard for questions of whether the decisions are ethically right or wrong for people and the environment of the Arctic. While sustainable development is a popular buzzword for policy, there are significant practice and policy gaps in existing Arctic economic activities – which have resulted in development that is unsustainable. This means decision-making processes for a sustainable future must change and decisions must be made differently.

This need for change is nonetheless confronted with the social, economic and environmental complexities of the Arctic region, and more concretely with the diverging perspectives of Arctic stakeholders and rightsholders over the nature of said complexities. Ideas and values of sustainability, development, justice, needs, rights, environment, culture, or benefit may –

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and do – vary across the different Arctic actors (Indigenous peoples, local communities, business actors, states, NGOs, etc.). In order to chart a pathway towards a commonly agreed Arctic sustainable development, the acknowledgement and reconciliation of these various ethics and value systems must be made central. Among other things, determining the viability of economic activities in the Arctic also needs to take into account issues of justice (in its different forms and understandings: procedural, distributive, intergenerational, reparative, etc.); the provision and protection of ecosystem services; or the respect and maintenance of traditional livelihoods and Indigenous rights.

How to promote and ensure justice as well as social and environmental sustainability in the deployment of economic activities in the Arctic?

We call for papers that address this general question from a youth perspective. Papers are expected to be short, innovative, and refreshing reflections on the issues mentioned above. They can either explicitly address them in relation to the particular challenges or opportunities faced by the youth in the Arctic context, or simply be reflections articulated by young Arctic and European scholars and students (Early Stage Researchers). We encourage papers that generate innovative ideas on Arctic sustainability and illuminate potential new paths for action while considering and respecting the plurality of perspectives and value systems that exist amongst the Arctic stakeholders. Papers should be clearly focused on one particular thematic that can include the following:

- The current and potential place, role and impact of youth participation in Arctic ***decision-making processes***
- The relations between ***gender*** and sustainability issues
- The question of ***intergenerational justice*** in the context of Arctic development
- The interplay between ***Indigenous peoples***, Arctic development and Arctic sustainability
- Any of the economic sectors analysed by JUSTNORTH: ***transport*** (private and/or public; road, railway, maritime); ***energy*** (renewable and non-renewable); ***tourism***; ***resources extraction*** (mining, oil, gas); ***fisheries***; ***social development***; ***traditional economies and livelihoods***.

Instructions for prospective participants

The event is designed as a space for Early Stage Researchers interested in Arctic issues of social and environmental sustainability to collaboratively reflect on the challenges faced by the region and on how to devise possible solutions. For the purpose of this event, Early Stage Researchers are understood to be undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as postgraduate researchers who are in the first 4 years of their post-PhD career.

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Prospective participants are invited to email **abstracts of 300-500 words** describing the topic they will address in their paper, together with a short **biography/motivational presentation of 200 words max** (state your university affiliation, current studies or position, and explain your interest in Arctic affairs or your research interests, your motivation to work in/on the Arctic). These documents should be sent to both belenreq@ucm.es and valclave@ucm.es by **8 May 2023**. Selected applicants will be notified by **15 May 2023**.

Full and polished papers are not expected to be shared for the event. On the day of the event, selected participants will be given 5-10 minutes to present their initial ideas and/or draft. These presentations will be followed by discussion and by a **workshop** in which participants will have the opportunity to work with leading researchers from the JUSTNORTH team to develop and polish their papers. **Final papers will subsequently be collected in a collective publication.** The event will thus be an opportunity to network with people with similar interests and concerns, as well as to refine their ideas into a publication through collaborative work with more established researchers. As a basis and potential inspiration for the composition of the ESR papers, and to ensure consistency with JUSTNORTH's work, participants can consult the JUSTNORTH [Policy Briefs](#) and [Economic Briefs](#).

The ESR event is part of a three-day conference organised by the [JUSTNORTH](#) - Toward Just, Ethical and Sustainable Arctic Economies, Environments and Societies research project, funded by the H2020 Societal Challenges programme. The ESR event and its outcomes will be part of JUSTNORTH's co-production strategy towards the development of recommendations to the European Union. The conference will be hosted by one of the project's partner universities, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). For information about the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and how to get to its different venues, see <https://www.ucm.es/english/campuses>.

ESRs who participate in the ESR event are welcome to stay for the following day, which will be focused on conversations with Arctic stakeholders. **Travel funds** for up to 500€ per person (depending on origin countries) will be made available. Additionally, **accommodation can be provided** for participating ESRs for up to 3 nights in one of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid's [halls of residence](#).

Any questions should be directed to belenreq@ucm.es and valclave@ucm.es.



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