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**Ilisimatusarfik** Grønlands Universitet **University of Greenland**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, AUTONOMY, EMPOWERMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

**18th Polar Law Symposium 2025**

**Nuuk Greenland**

**22nd-24th October 2025**

**Deadline for Abstracts: 30 April 2025  
Notification of Acceptance/Revision/Rejection: 30 June 2025**

**Submit Proposals to:** [**18pls@uni.gl**](mailto:18pls@uni.gl)

**About the 18th Polar Law Symposium**

The 18th Polar Law Symposium will be held in Nuuk, Greenland, on 22nd – 24th October 2025. It is jointly organized by Ilisimatusarfik (the University of Greenland) and the University of Akureyri, Iceland. The Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, Finland, the University of Akureyri, Iceland, and the University of Arctic and its Arctic Law Thematic Network are supporting organisations of the Polar Law Symposia.

**Theme of the 18th Polar Law Symposium**

The overarching theme of the symposium, *Indigenous Rights, Autonomy, Empowerment and Environment*, encourages attention to unresolved and emerging issues in polar law as well as Greenland’s unique legal, constitutional, political, and historical positions. During the Arctic Council chairship of the Kingdom of Denmark 2025-27, Greenland will be at the heart of Arctic geopolitics. In the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, global tensions put increasing pressure on the Antarctic Treaty System and efforts to protect the vulnerable environment while ensuring that the continent remains a zone of peace and science. The emerging discourse of the ‘Third Pole,’ now included in the Arctic Council’s work, the BBNJ Agreement, and competing visions on governance of the international deep seabed - a ‘Fourth Pole’ - point to the importance of further internationalizing polar law scholarship. The organisers have identified six, broad sub-themes with suggestions for topics for panels and presentations:

* Decolonisation of the Polar regions
* The Arctic Council under the Kingdom of Denmark Chairmanship
* Telling history “through our own eyes”
* Private Law and Industries in the Polar Regions
* Environmental Law in the Polar Regions
* Global Polar Law

**Call for Proposals**

The organisers welcome proposals as follows:

* Entire sessions (45-60 minutes).   
  This the most flexible format as the proposers can decide how to use the time, for example, in a traditional seminar with 3-4 presenters, plus Q&A; a roundtable or panel discussion; a conversation with experts, etc.
* Standard paper presentations (15-20 minutes).  
  A prepared lecture of 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes of audience Q&A.   
  The organisers will arrange accepted papers into panels.
* Extended lecture or workshop (45 minutes).  
  A prepared lecture of 30 minutes with an additional 15 minutes of audience Q&A.

Submissions should indicate clearly the type of contribution proposed and which sub-theme(s) are most relevant. Proposers are free to suggest other formats.

Submissions are welcomed from researchers, Indigenous leaders, policy-makers and shapers, and business spokespersons at all career stages.

The organisers may suggest modifications of submissions, for example, a shorter or longer contribution, or the merger of one of more session proposals.

Please use the **form below** to submit your proposal.

For more information regarding the symposium, please see the [18th Polar Law Symposium website](https://uk.uni.gl/events/2025/october/indigenous-rights-autonomy-empowerment-environment/).

**18th Polar Law Symposium: Proposal Submission   
DUE: 30th April 2025  
SEND TO:** [**18pls@uni.gl**](mailto:18pls@uni.gl)

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| --- | --- |
| Submitter name |  |
| Submitter email |  |
| Submitter affiliation & country |  |
| Proposal Title |  |
| Type | *Select from the list:*  entire session, standard paper, extended lecture/workshop, other (please specify) |
| Pertinent sub-theme(s) | *Select from the list:*  Decolonisation of the Polar regions  The Arctic Council under the Kingdom of Denmark Chairmanship  Telling history “through our own eyes”  Private Law and Industries in the Polar Regions  Environmental Law in the Polar Regions  Global Polar Law |
| Proposal Abstract (max 200 words) |  |
| Speaker name |  |
| Speaker mail |  |
| Speaker affiliation and country |  |
| Title | *If different from proposal title* |
| Abstract (max 200 words) | *If different from proposal abstract* |
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| Speaker affiliation |  |
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| Speaker affiliation |  |
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| Abstract (max 200 words) | *If different from proposal abstract* |
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| Any other relevant information, including special requirements, equipment, room set-up preferences |  |