

Peace in Our Time? Future Security and Geopolitics in the North Atlantic and Arctic Region

Conference at the University of the Faroe Islands

April the 7th, 2022

- What are the implications of the growing military presence in the Arctic and North Atlantic region?
- What factors are shaping the transition of the Arctic as a low-tension region to a high-tension region?
- How does growing great power rivalry in the high North affect sovereign states and non-sovereign territories in the area?
- To what extent can Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark contribute to the preservation of security and stability in a new geopolitical reality?
- How does the war in Ukraine affect geopolitics in the Arctic and North Atlantic region?
- And how should small states and microstates navigate in a period shaped by war, uncertainty and instability?

These and other pressing issues will be addressed on April the 7th, 2022 at a public conference co-organized by the University of the Faroe Islands, the Royal Danish Defense College and the high level group of officials, established in preparation for the next Danish Defense Agreement. The conference will take place from 10 am to 12.45 pm Greenwich Time where leading international experts from the Nordic countries and the United Kingdom will discuss pressing political challenges in the Arctic and North Atlantic region.

Zoom registration

Attendees outside the Faroe Islands can join the conference on zoom by registering here:

https://setur.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TgmXewRkS4227eSxE7IjzQ

Conference Program:

10.00-10.05

Welcome: Magni Mohr, Pro-Rector of the University of the Faroe Islands.

10.05-10.15

Introduction: The World Ahead: Security and geopolitics from 2022-2035.

Michael Zilmer-Johns, previous Danish ambassador to NATO and chairman of the high level group of national officials, established in preparation for the next Danish Defense Agreement.

Panel 1

10.15-11.00

Great Power Politics in the 21st Century: The panel will examine the geostrategic significance of the North Atlantic with regard to regional security developments and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

10.15-10.25: Caroline Kennedy-Pipe, Professor of War Studies, Loughborough University.

10.25-10.35: Björn Bjarnason, Previous Icelandic Minister of Justice and Culture, author of the report *Nordic Foreign and Security Policy* (2020) initiated by the Nordic foreign ministers.

10.35-10.45: Lin Alexandra Mortensgaard, Center for Military Studies, Research Assistant, University of Copenhagen.

10.45-11.00: Questions and comments.

Coffee Break

11.00-11.15

Panel 2

11.15-11.45

The North Atlantic Region and Arctic Security: The panel will examine challenges and opportunities for small states and non-sovereign territories in the North Atlantic region in the wake of a new geopolitical reality.

11.15-11.25: Jeppe Strandsbjerg, Associate Professor, Center for Arctic Security Studies.

11.25-11.35: Lassi Heininen, Professor and editor of *The Arctic Yearbook*, University of Lapland.

11.35-11.45: Questions and comments.

Coffee Break

11.45-12.00

Panel 3

12.00-12.45

The Faroe Islands, Security and Foreign Policy: The panel will examine the implications of the global and regional security developments for the Faroe Islands.

12.00-12.10: Esben Salling Larsen, Major and Lecturer, The Royal Danish Defense College.

12.10-12.20: Halla Nolsøe Poulsen, Faroese Representative in Reykjavik, Iceland.

12.20-12.30: Heini í Skorini, Associate Professor, University of the Faroe Islands.

12.30-12.45: Questions and comments.

Moderators:

Annemarie Peen Rodt, Associate Professor, Head of Section for Strategy, The Royal Danish Defense College

Henrik Gram Pedersen, Major and Head of the Center for Arctic Security Studies, The Royal Danish Defense College