

Editorial

The latest issue of the *Journal of Northern Studies* was published in March 2022. The reason for the extended pause in publication is two-fold. First, we had to look for new funding for the journal. Since its foundation in 2007, the *Journal of Northern Studies* has been financed by Umeå University and the Royal Skyttean Society. In 2021, however, the funding from Umeå University was (temporarily) discontinued, while the support from the Society remained. At about the same time, the idea of a joint scientific journal arose within the Arctic Five, a collaboration and knowledge hub involving five Nordic universities—Luleå University of Technology and Umeå University in Sweden, the University of Lapland and the University of Oulu in Finland, and UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Eventually, in 2022, the Rectors' Council of the five universities decided to jointly co-finance the *Journal of Northern Studies* together with the Royal Skyttean Society. Within the Arctic Five, an editorial team was set up with the object of engaging in the journal and assisting in the editorial process. The new editorial team consists of representatives of all five universities: Professor Dag Avango of Luleå University of Technology, Professor Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørøv and Professor Torjer Olsen of UiT The Arctic University of Norway, PhD Francis Joy of the University of Lapland, Professor Eva Pongracz and Professor Arja Rautio of the University of Oulu, Professor Peter Sköld of Umeå University, and the president of the Royal Skyttean Society, Professor Erland Mårald. Being a part of the Arctic Five community is a great asset to the journal, as it gives us access to the extensive competence on northern issues of all the universities involved. We are most grateful for the confidence shown in the journal, and we intend to live up to the expectations.

Second, we began to develop an entirely new website for the journal on Open Journal Systems (OJS), an open-source platform for online academic publications. This entailed more work than expected, but with the help of our excellent librarians Jan Eklöf and Marika Lundqvist at Umeå University Library, we have now reached the point when we are ready to continue our publication with two issues per year.

The present issue contains only one peer-reviewed article, but it is certainly a most topical one, dealing with grassroot level cross-border cooperation between Russia and Norway in the north during the years before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and how it was impacted by the changed geopolitical situation, particularly after 2014. In addition to this article, we also present eight ongoing PhD projects from the Arctic Graduate School with a Focus on Sustainable Development at Umeå University. They all represent future research, some of which will hopefully be published in forthcoming issues of the *Journal of Northern Studies*. As usual, we also have an extensive reviews section, this time comprising fifteen book reviews. We hope you will enjoy this issue.

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