

ASSW 2024: Social & Human Working Group (SHWG) summary

Prepared by Dr Ingrid A. Medby (Ingrid.medby@newcastle.ac.uk) and Prof. James D. Ford (j.ford2@leeds.ac.uk), April 2024.

The Social & Human Working Group (SHWG) met on Friday 22nd March in Edinburgh and online.

Following last year's election of a new **Steering Group**, at the ASSW 2023 in Vienna, the meeting's Chair was Catherine Chambers (Iceland) and Vice-Chair Ingrid Medby (UK); and participating online were Vice-Chair Barbora Halašková (Czech Republic), Secretary Anna Varfolomeeva, and Past Chair Susan Chatwood (USA). This was Barbora's final meeting in the role, and at the end of the meeting an election was held whereby Monika Szkarlat (Poland) was chosen as a new Vice-Chair.

The group hosted two open sessions (10:30-12:30 and 13:30-15:30), and a closed session (16:00-18:00); both were hybrid.

- **Fellows:** This year the WG welcomed three new Fellows: Charlotte Gehrke (Norway), Elena Adasheva-Klein (USA), and Anita Lafferty (Canada).
- **Projects:** Some previous SHWG-funded activities and projects were briefly presented during the open session, including "Arctic PASSION-APECS Sharing Circle for early career scientists and Arctic youth" (Lisa Grosfeld); "Exploring fishers knowledge and opinions in emerging Arctic crab fisheries: An Icelandic case study" (Catherine Chambers); the SHWG Podcast Initiative (Seira Duncan); and "Towards Sustainable Infrastructure: Environmental, Technological, and Societal Impacts of Development in the Arctic" (Olga Povoroznyuk).
- Other SHWG-relevant activities were also presented to the group during the open sessions.
- **Indigenous Standing Committee:** The agenda included a mention of the new IASC Standing Committee on Indigenous Involvement; however, the inaugural meeting of the committee would take place the following day, on 23rd March. It was therefore noted that this will be of key interest and importance to all IASC WGs and wider work, and that the SHWG will seek to engage further with this once it is fully up and running.
- **ICARP IV:** Andrey Petrov (Past Chair, USA) provided further updates and insights on the ICARP (International Conference on Arctic Research Planning) IV process, following Gerlis Fugmann's introduction during the ASSW opening session. The seven Research Priority Teams (RPTs) welcome a broad range of inputs and submissions leading up to next year's ASSW 2025 in Boulder, Colorado. Most of the RPTs were meeting during the ASSW, and hosted open sessions also for those not formally involved in any team to contribute. The SHWG may consider how it best can contribute as a group, if relevant, and a further meeting to discuss this will likely need to be organised later this year. The ICARP-process will also feed into further SHWG strategic priorities to be revisited upon its completion.
- **Funding:** The closed session focused on this year's funding applications submitted to SHWG, both exclusively and as cross-cutting WG projects. In total, four SHWG-only and nine cross-cutting projects had been assessed in advance by SHWG members, and were discussed during the meeting. Following discussions at last year's ASSW, the reviewing guidelines, communication, and workflow have been improved. This year the process was facilitated by these discussions and the organisation by the WG Secretary in advance of the meeting.