

Preface

There is a lengthening history underpinning the development of the work and network of scholars presented in this volume. The first seed for studies of justice and the Arctic was inadvertently planted by Professor Sverker Sörlin at the June 2017 Ninth International Congress on Arctic Social Science (ICASS IX) in Umeå, Sweden, while speaking in a panel discussion on *Past Theories/Future Theories? A Round Table on 'Theory' and Arctic Social Science and Humanities*. In this discussion, the question was posed 'Is there a theory of justice on the Arctic?' As it turns out, there was not one then and we have not arrived at one in this volume either. However, there is now a small body of work on justice and the Arctic.

With the Arctic situated at the crossroads of colonial legacies, geopolitics, resource extraction, sustainable development, evolving governance and, in fact, many other global concerns such as climate change, pollution and ocean acidification – just to name a few – it behoves that the issues of justice and injustice be brought to the fore. Currently, many states are facing a reckoning with past practices of exploitation and marginalization that frame the context for the injustices of today. Yet despite these contestations for recognition, the need to adjust the distribution of harms and benefits and to improve decision-making procedures that affect communities, resources, economies and environments of the Arctic, there is little indication that the necessary change is on the horizon.

It is hoped that this work will accelerate scholarship and have an impact on decision making in the Arctic, and we are hopeful that change is on the way – not least due to growing interest in the united themes of the Arctic and justice. For example, all of this has been made possible by a number of funding organizations that have made generous provisions in supporting this conversation and research on Arctic justice. This includes funding for several workshops from the Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace and Justice and the International Arctic Science Committee, a network grant from the Centre for Integrated Research on Culture and Society at Uppsala University (funding both workshops and the open-access conditions of this volume), and finally, several chapters were made possible through research financing from the EU Commission's Horizon 2020 programme JUSTNORTH

project (Grant Agreement 869327). The editors have also been generously supported by Michael Shirley in the copy-editing of this volume.

The question of 'Is there a theory of justice on the Arctic?' remains for various reasons, unanswered. However, the contributions in this volume certainly begin to signal what might need to be considered if such a theory is to be conceived.

The lengthy work of framing and understanding justice (and injustice) in and for the Arctic has begun. It is up to you to carry it forward into the future.

Corine Wood-Donnelly
Bodø, Norway