



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2017 – 2018

# Arctic Speaker Series

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## The Changing Nature of Arctic Research Institutions in the Early Cold War

**Date:** Wednesday,  
November 29, 2017

**Time:**  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Location:** University of Calgary;  
Science B 148

Institutions play a central role in the production of knowledge, and in the maintenance of cultures that facilitate that production. We argue that the study of research institutes can be used as a window into the changing nature of science and politics. We study the evolution of four distinct but comparable Arctic research institutes during the early Cold War: the bi-national Arctic Institute of North America (AINA, US-Canadian), the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI, UK), the Norwegian Polar Institute (NP) (Norway) and the Arctic Research Institute (ARI, USSR). What can the evolution of these institutes tell us about how individual states regarded Arctic research? By focusing on these institutes, we show how the relationship between the state, individual scientists and these institutes as nodes in an international network, were negotiated during the early Cold War.



**Biography:** Lize-Marié van der Watt researches histories of polar pasts and polar futures, with a focus on the intersection between the environment, science, cultural heritage and critical geopolitics in the Arctic and Antarctica. Her current focus is a project on comparative histories of Arctic scientific institutions during the Cold War, in which the Arctic Institute of North America plays a big role. She is a researcher at the Division for History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden.

This event is **free and open to the public**

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