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Research | Forskning > Article | Artikel

### **Environmental Governance through the Arctic Council: the Arctic Council as Initiator of Norms of International Environmental Law**

In this paper, Professor Johnstone explores the potential for the Arctic Council to initiate norms of international environmental law. The hypothesis to be explored is whether the Arctic Council can be equally or even more effective by developing non-binding standards in the Arctic as it can by pursuing 'hard law', for example, through binding treaty agreements. Challenges facing the Arctic Council as an institution in establishing binding norms will be discussed, including international and domestic political barriers to treaty-making and the difficulties of opening binding instruments to States outside of the Arctic. On the other hand, the vulnerability of non-binding standards to political wind-changes means that non-binding standards may not be sufficient to protect the Arctic environment and there may still be a role for treaty-based norms.

**Forfatter:** Rachael Lorna Johnstone    **Type:** Article | Artikel    **Årstal:** 2016    **Emner:** International environmental law; Arctic Council    **Titel på tidsskrift:** Journal of International Cooperation Studies  
**Volume på tidsskrift:** 24(1)

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### **Little Italy: Seeking a Niche in Arctic International Relations**

In December 2015, The Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation published *Verso una strategia italiana per l'artico* (Towards an Italian Strategy for the Arctic). In this article, the authors explain and evaluate the document in light of Italy's connections to and interests in the Arctic, the Kiruna rules for observers at the Arctic Council, and the Arctic policies of other observers. They conclude that the intended audience for *Verso una strategia* is the Arctic States. Therefore, the document emphasises relevant Italian scientific efforts and promotes Italy's oil and gas industry while downplaying the rights of indigenous peoples and avoiding issues of controversy. Publication of the document as a work in progress indicates the ministry's willingness to listen to feedback and adapt its approaches as it develops a more comprehensive and nuanced strategy.

**Forfatter:** Rachael Lorna Johnstone; Federica Scarpa    **Type:** Article | Artikel    **Årstal:** 2016    **Emner:** Arctic Council; Observer states; Italy    **Titel på tidsskrift:** Nordicum-Mediterraneum    **Volume på tidsskrift:** 11

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Working paper/preprint | Working paper/arbejdspapir/preprint

### **Environmental Governance through the Arctic Council: the Arctic Council as Initiator of Norms of International Environmental Law**

Explores the role of the Arctic Council in developing environmental law in the Arctic Region.

**Forfatter:** Rachael Lorna Johnstone    **Type:** Working paper/preprint | Working paper/arbejdspapir/preprint  
**Årstal:** 2016    **Emner:** Environmental governance; Arctic Council; Arctic    **Udgiver:** PCRC Working Paper Series    **Udgivelsesland:** Japan

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