



Northern Dimension Future Forum 2020

NORTHERN DIMENSION FUTURE FORUM

”We are in it together” – Enhancing regional knowledge exchange to combat COVID-19

SPEAKERS

Pasi Pohjola

Pasi Pohjola is a Director of Steering Unit in the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. During the pandemic, he has been in charge of the COVID-19 activities in the Ministry. Prior to joining the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs, Pohjola has worked for the Finnish National Institute for Health and Wellbeing as a Senior Researcher and a Development Manager and has a background in academia.

Dr. Maris Jesse

Dr. Maris Jesse is a Deputy Secretary General in the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs managing the areas of health system development, medicine and the public health. She has held leadership positions on the Estonian health scene being the former director of the Institute for Health Development and the former head of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund.

Irène Nilsson Carlsson

Irène Nilsson Carlsson is a Senior Public Health Adviser in the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden. She coordinates the support to transform the Swedish primary health care system towards a better integrated, person-centred and health-oriented health care system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been involved in prevention, management and control of COVID-19 especially among elderly people.

Gerit Pfuhl

Since 2018, Gerit Pfuhl has been a Professor in Cognitive Sciences at UiT The Arctic University of Norway. She possesses a PhD in cognitive neuroscience from NTNU, Trondheim, and is interested in rationality – from the perspective of evolutionary roots (comparative research) and how we reason (cognitive modelling) to boosting rationality.

Professor Oxana Drapkina

Since 2017, Professor Oxana Drapkina has worked as a Director in the National Medical Research Centre for Therapy and Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation. She has previously worked in the Moscow Medical Academy and as First Deputy Director on science and medicine in the National Medical Research Centre for Therapy and Preventive Medicine. Prof. Drapkina successfully combines continuous clinical practice with scientific work. In 2020, she was awarded the title of the Honoured Doctor of the Russian Federation by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Björn Trolldal

Björn Trolldal is a researcher at the Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and other Drugs (CAN). In his work, he has focused on alcohol consumption, alcohol related violence and prevention.

Guðrún Jóhanna Benediktsdóttir

Guðrún is an occupational therapist in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the National University Hospital of Iceland. Since 2017, she has worked as a project manager at the hospital overseeing other occupational therapists. Moreover, Guðrún is a licensed trainer in PEERS, Social Behavior for Children and Young Adults. She has managed over 40 courses in PEERS, thereof, 10 online courses during the COVID-19 crisis. Alongside her career as an occupational therapist, Guðrún is a Davis-dyslexia trainer and has founded her own company in this field, which still operates to date.

Soffía Erla Einarsdóttir

Soffía Erla has worked as a project manager at the Department of Child- and Adolescent Psychiatry at The National University Hospital of Iceland since 2018. From 2015 to 2020 Soffía Erla also worked as an IPS specialist at Stuðlar, an emergency placement facility for children and youth. The facility is a part of the Government Agency for Child Protection and provides treatment and support for children and youth with behavioural- and substance problems. Before joining Stuðlar, Soffía worked in the field of vocational rehabilitation, first at the Social Services in Reykjanesbær municipality, and then for the Icelandic Vocational Rehabilitation fund (VIRK), and then as a division manager at the vocational rehabilitation division at Efling trade-union, one of the largest unions in Iceland with 27.000 members which covers all areas of labour in Reykjavík and its suburbs.