

Reports

Íslenska þjóðfélagið (Icelandic Society)

Conferences in Iceland

An annual social-sciences conference examining Iceland from a comparative perspective. The conference is organized by different social-sciences faculties at universities outside the Reykjavík capital region and typically convenes in April–May. The venue rotates among towns and university centres beyond the capital area.

Recent and forthcoming meetings:

- 31 May–1 June 2023 — Akureyri, North Iceland.
- 24–25 May 2024 — Borgarnes, West Iceland.
- 23–24 May 2025 — Hólar in Hjaltadalur, Northwest Iceland.
- 16–17 April 2026 (scheduled) — Höfn in Hornafjörður, Southeast Iceland.

The conference included the following presentations 2023-2025, among others:

Magnússon, M.Á., (2025). Between sovereignty and integration: Iceland's long road to the EU. Presented at Icelandic Society May 24, at the University of Hólar.

Ólafsdóttir, G.Á., (2025). *Þorskur og þjóðfélag* (Cod and society). Presented at Icelandic Society at the University in Hólar May 23.

Gunnlaugsson, H., (2025). Brot eða breik frá fangelsi: Strok úr íslenskum fangelum í alþjóðlegu samhengi (Prison escapes in Iceland in comparative perspective). Presented at Icelandic Society at the University in Hólar Hjaltadal, May 23.

Gunnlaugsson, H., (2024). Bjórbannið sáluga (1915-1989): Ys og þys út af engu? (Beer ban what was all the fuss about?). Presented at Icelandic Society organized by Bifröst University in Borgarnes, May 24.

Hoffmann, L.W., Wojtyńska, A., Sigmarsdóttir, D., (2024). Where are we meeting? The role of cultural institutions in creating community in rural areas of Iceland. Presented at Icelandic Society organized by Bifröst University in Borgarnes, May 24.

Kristinsson, K., (2023). Ageism in the Icelandic Labor Market. Presented at the Icelandic Society conference organized by University of Akureyri, June 2.

Gunnlaugsson, H., (2023). Réttarfélagsfræðileg greining á uppruna löggjafar um áfengi og kannabisefni: Dómar Hæstaréttar í hundrað ár. (Sociological analysis of alcohol and cannabis legislations: Supreme Court decisions in 100 years). Presented at the Icelandic Society conference organized by University of Akureyri, June 2.

***Frændafundur* (Cousin Reunion)**

Conference in Iceland and the Faroe Islands (29-31 May 2025)

The Kinsmen's Meeting is the name of a research collaboration between the University of Iceland and the Faroe Islands Knowledge Centre.

The history of the collaboration goes back at least three decades, when the first collaboration agreement between the two universities was signed and the conference series *Frændafundur* was established. The name *Frændafundur* was chosen to emphasize the special ties that exist between Iceland and the Faroe Islands, but the word *Frændafundur* (Cousin Reunion) is good and valid in both Icelandic and Faroese.

Since the first Kinsmen's Conference in 1992, the conference has been held every three years, alternating between Iceland and the Faroe Islands, with the last Kinsmen's Conference being held in Þórshöfn in the Faroe Islands on 29-31 May 2025.

Humanities have long been a major focus at the fraternity meetings, but the goal is for the conference to best reflect the diverse research being conducted in different fields of study at the University of Iceland and at the Center for Knowledge.

Increased research cooperation between Iceland and the Faroe Islands is important for both countries. From an Icelandic perspective, there are many interesting things about the Faroe Islands, whether you look at the country's nature, society, history, culture or language. There are many things in common with the two countries but also many things that separate them. For example, the Faroe Islands are still in a state union with Denmark and do not have full control over all their affairs, such as law enforcement and the legal system. Then the country has one electoral district (as of the 2008 elections) and personal votes determine which individuals get into parliament.

Among others, the following presentations have been given at this conference, in 2022 and 2025:

Gunnlaugsson, H. (2022). Crime and punishment in four Nordic island nations: Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Åland islands. Presented at *Frændafundur* 11 at University of Iceland in Reykjavík August 17.

Schram, K., (2022). Performances of identity through tradition. Presented at *Frændafundur* at University of Iceland August 16.

Gunnlaugsson, H. (2025). Attitudes of Icelanders toward crime and punishment: A public cry for tougher sentencing practices? Presented at *Frændafundur* in Torshavn, Faroe Islands May 29.

Holm, A.E. and Hoffmann, L.W., (2025). 'Guardians of the Language': Language ideologies and migrants' Language learning experiences in Iceland and the Faroe Islands. Presented at *Frændafundur* in Torshavn, Faroe Islands May 29.

Breiðfjörð, H., (2025). Travel stories, kindred nations, and sustainability. Presented at *Frændafundur* in Torshavn, Faroe Islands May 30.