

## Amsterdam Aurora Biannual - Plenary 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

### Interviewer

#### **Nana de Graaff, Associate Professor, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**



Dr. Nana de Graaff is Associate Professor in Political Science and International Relations at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. She is also Director of Studies for the BSc and MSc Political Science at this department and Programme director of the Graduate School of Social Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She is Chair of the EU COST Action 18215 China in Europe Research Network. She was a Honorary Fellow (2016-2017), at the Department of International Politics, City University of London and is boardmember of the Dutch Political Science Association (NKWP, Nederlandse Kring voor de Wetenschap der Politiek) since 2015.

### Interviewees

#### **Prof. Jón Atli Benediktsson, President and Rector, University of Iceland**



Jón Atli Benediktsson is the President and Rector of the University of Iceland. From 2009 to 2015 he was the Pro Rector of Science and Academic Affairs. He has been Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Iceland since 1991. Dr. Benediktsson received the Cand.Sci. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, in 1984, and the M.S.E.E. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, in 1987 and 1990, respectively. His research interests are in remote sensing, biomedical analysis of signals, pattern recognition, image processing, and signal processing, and he has published extensively in those fields. Dr. Benediktsson is a Highly Cited Researcher (since 2018). He was the 2011-2012 President of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS). He was Editor in Chief of the IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing (TGRS) from 2003 to 2008 and is serving on many editorial boards. Dr. Benediktsson is a co-founder of the biomedical start-up company Oxymap ([www.oxymap.com](http://www.oxymap.com)). He is a Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of SPIE. Dr. Benediktsson has received many awards for his research. He is on the Aurora Board.

#### **Prof. Neil Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia**

Neil Ward is Deputy Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and is the strategic lead for all educational and student-related activity at the University. UEA has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its student experience and holds a 'Gold' rating in the UK's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

Neil joined UEA in 2008 as Executive Dean of Social Sciences. He was appointed DVC in 2014. He began his academic career at University College London. He is a human geographer, specialising in rural and regional development, has held chairs at the University of Leeds and Newcastle, and was



Director of Newcastle University's Centre for Rural Economy from 2004 to 2008. He has also worked for periods on secondment to the Prime Minister's Performance and Innovation Unit in the Cabinet Office and as an advisor to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Neil is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is also UEA's executive lead on internationalisation. He chairs the Aurora Vice Presidents for Education Group.

**Prof. Dr. Karen van Oudenhoven – Van der Zee, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Chief Diversity Officer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**

Prof. Dr. Karen van der Zee is professor of organizational psychology (PhD, University of Groningen, 1996) with a specific interest in diversity management in an organizational context. She concurrently is dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and holds a chair in Intercultural Competency at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Moreover, as the Chief Diversity Officer she is responsible for the diversity policy of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her research interests cover intercultural competencies, social identity processes and organizational climate factors that have an impact on intercultural effectiveness of individuals and teams in organizations. She consulted organizations such as the Rijksmuseum and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Welfare on their diversity policies.



**Dr. Tavis Potts, Senior Lecturer in environmental geography and Director of the MSc in Environmental Partnership Management, University of Aberdeen**



Dr Tavis Potts is a Senior Lecturer in environmental geography and Director of the MSc in Environmental Partnership Management at the University of Aberdeen. Dr Potts interests include marine protected areas and marine resource governance; the political economy of ecosystem services; public perceptions of marine

environments; green consumerism and eco-labelling and the emergence of the blue (low carbon) economy.

**Elísabet Brynjarsdóttir, Student President**

Elísabet Brynjarsdóttir has served as the student president of Aurora since May 2018. She has finished a bachelor degree in nursing from the University of Iceland (UI) and is currently working as a nurse for the Icelandic Red Cross in a harm reduction program along with her duties for Aurora. As a student at UI, Elísabet was the co-founder, and later president, of a student mental health organization called Hugrún. Student mental health has therefore always been a topic of great importance to her. Elísabet attends Aurora board meetings and general council meetings on behalf of students. She chairs student council meetings once a month where student priorities within Aurora are discussed and oversees all student engagement within Aurora.

