



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Visions of the Arctic Future

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# Overview



## Purpose

- Use new evidence base with story-based futures to write about the Future Arctic.
- Computational text analysis can cast a very wide net.
- Reveal *under-discussed* futures for the Arctic.

## Approach

- New evidence base: LDA
- Develop new method to connect this to storytelling



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## Creating an 'Arctic Future' news corpus

- Circumpolar news sources
- Google search-based effort
- English-language only
- N = 2,058 articles

NUNATSIAQ NEWS



ARCTICTODAY

The Arctic Sounder

CBC

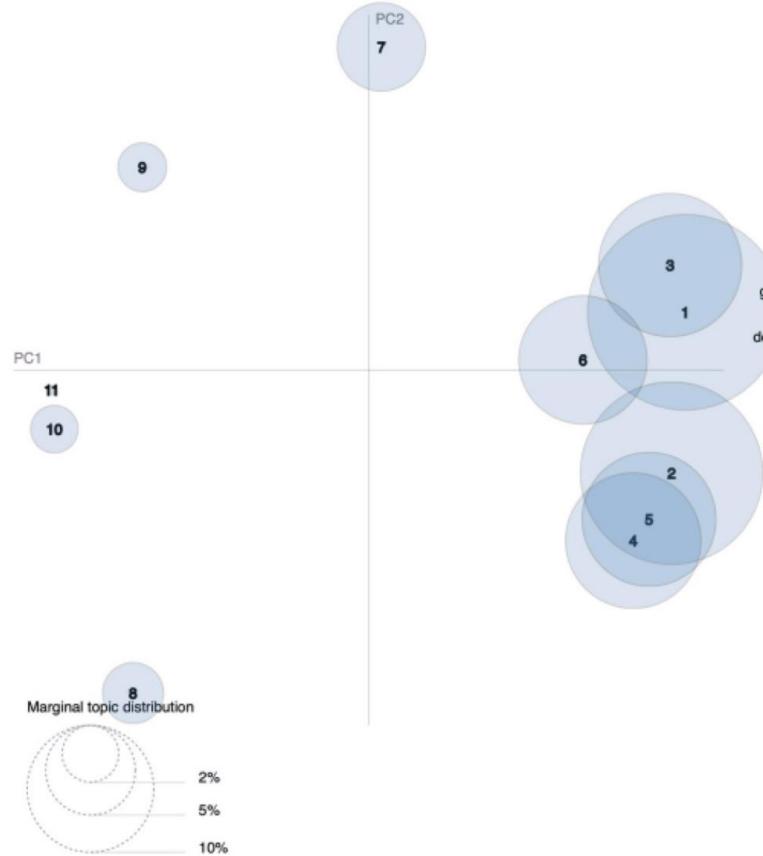
The Barents Observer

The Moscow Times  
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

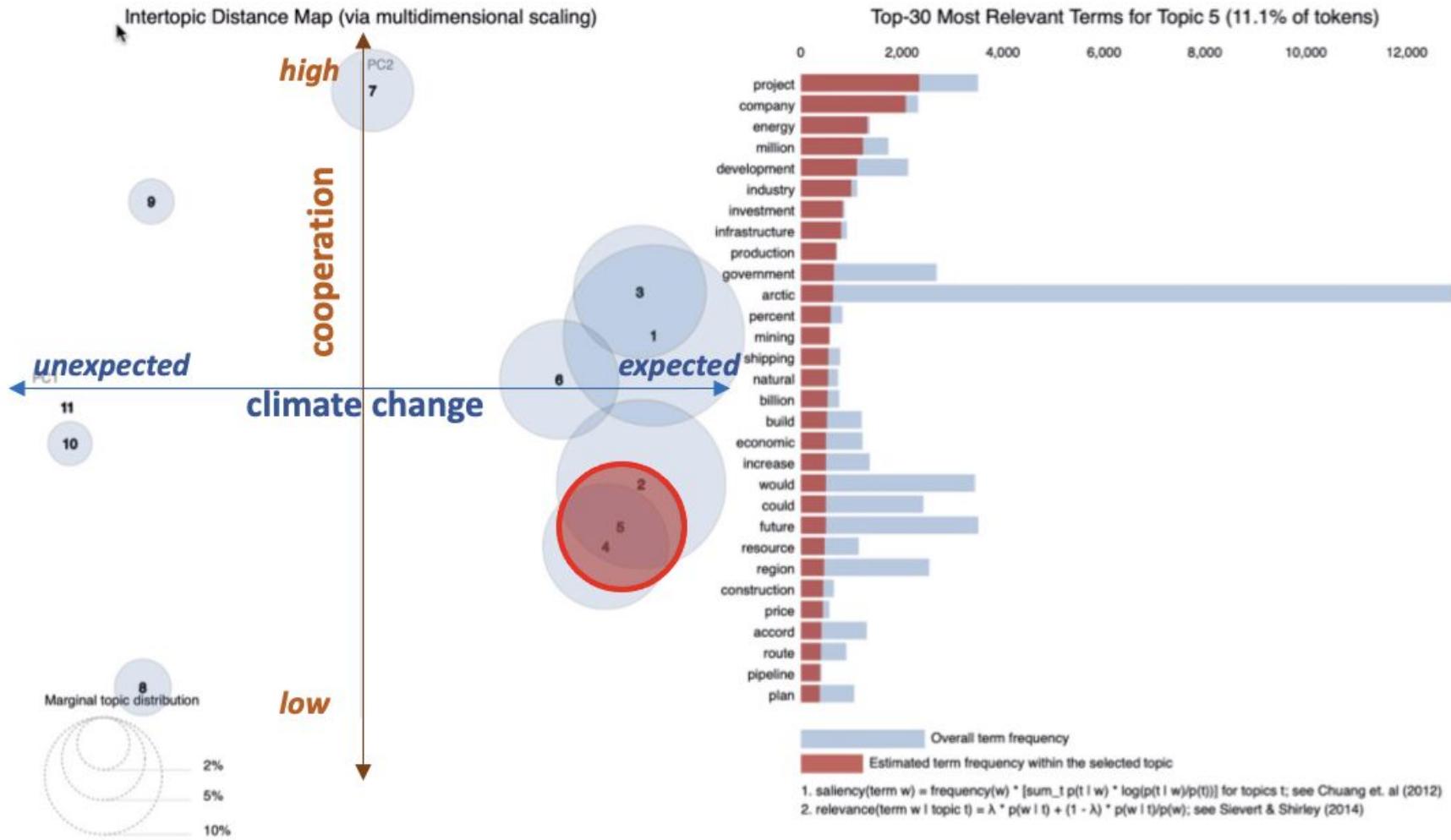


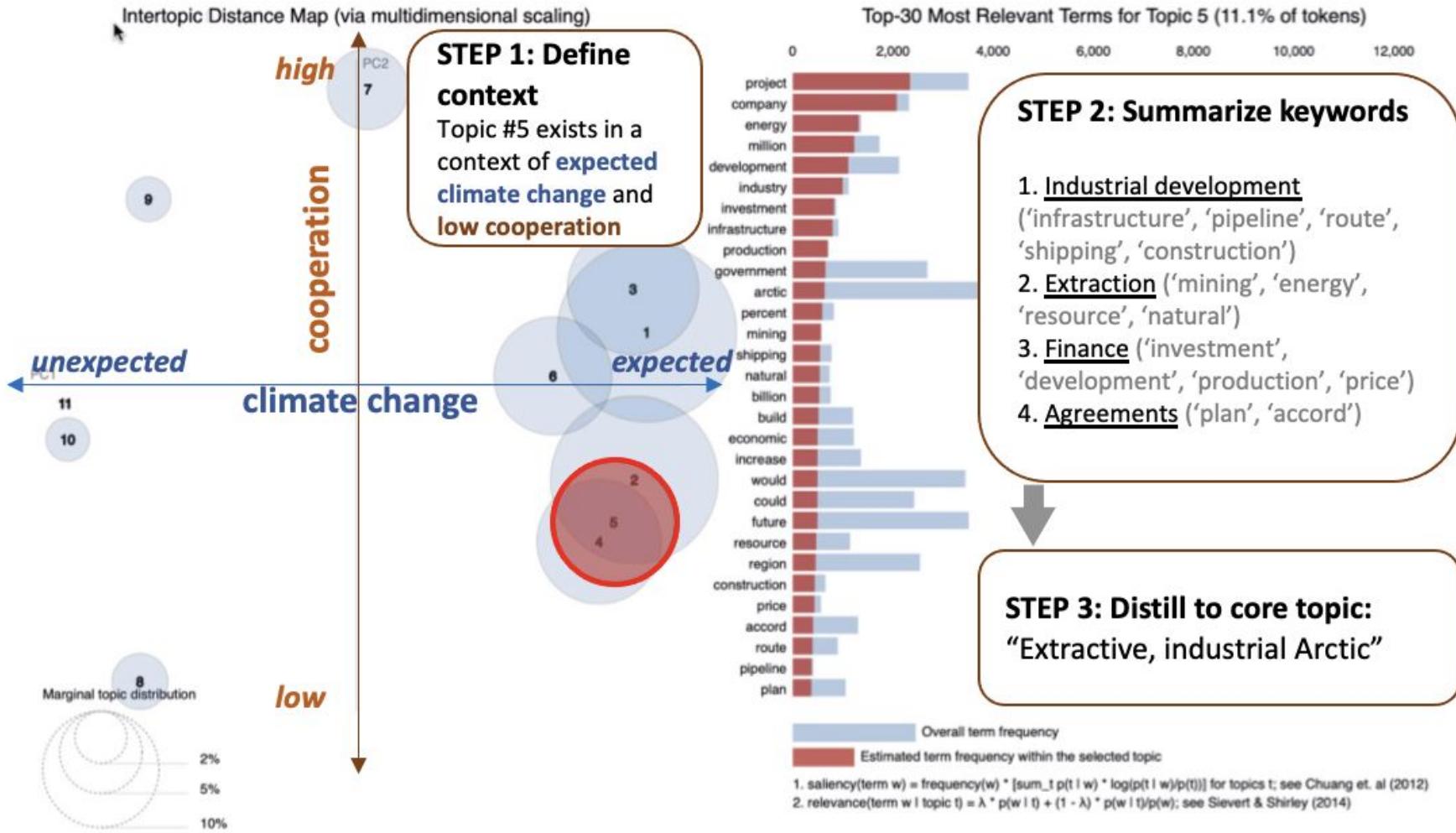
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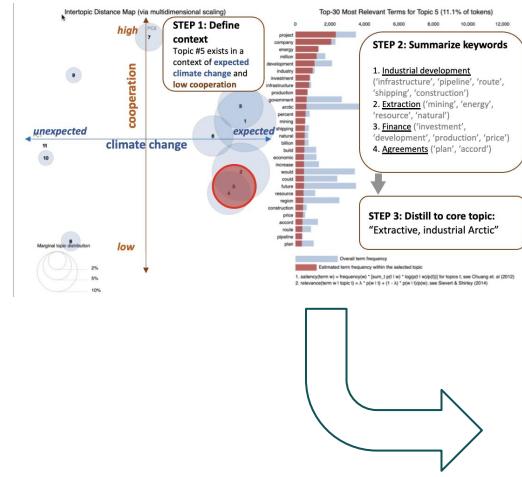
Intertopic Distance Map (via multidimensional scaling)



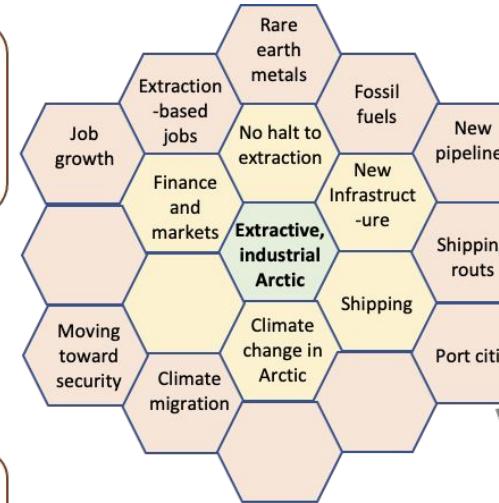
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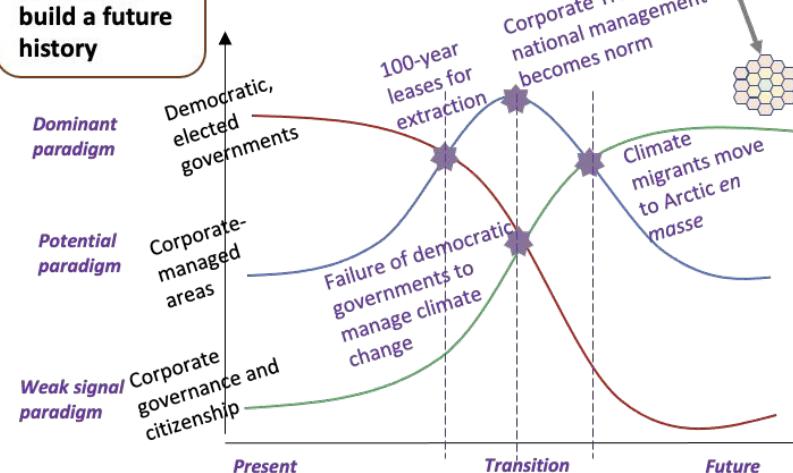




### STEP 4: Explore future of this topic (based on keywords)



### STEP 5: Use 3-horizons to build a future history



- ### STEP 6: Probe reality
- Climate policies did not stop industrial extraction  
 • Society is going full tilt on extractive, industrial, Arctic development  
 • Little action on climate means profound migration and societal unrest  
 • Possible failure of governments

### STEP 7: Push toward ridiculous



- Violent corporate take-overs are commonplace
- Corporate citizenship replaces democratic citizenship.
  - Extractive industrial "nations"
  - Rights are limited
- Indentured service for climate migrants as pathway to corporate citizenship



# A Migrant Contract - Excerpts

*"I think we're almost there." said Esther "Maybe just another day or two."*  
*Misha smiled. This was their daily game. Walk 15 miles through the*  
*wilderness of northern Canada, and speculate about their unknown*  
*destination."*

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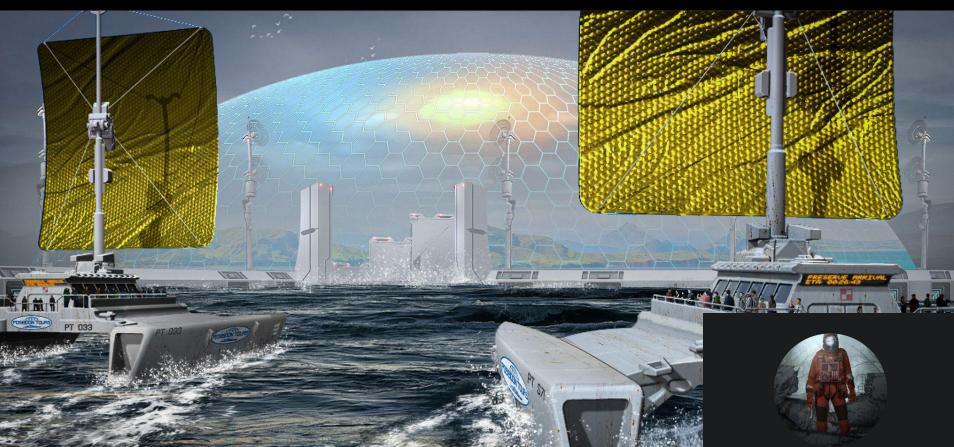
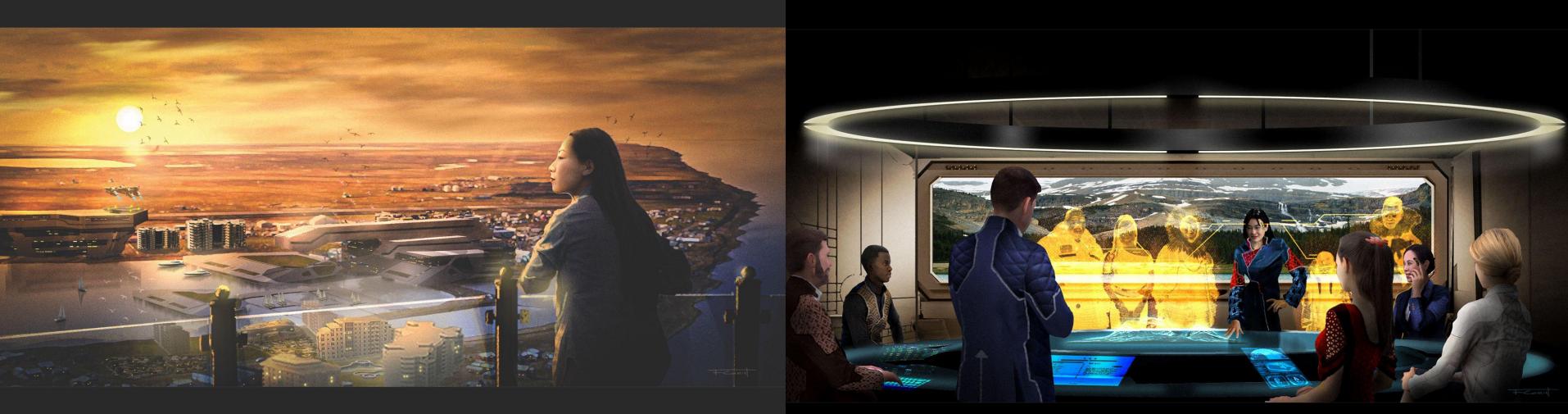
# A Migrant Contract - Excerpts

*“They each took a seat, facing away from one another, and carefully placed their arms in the armrests. Misha began the activation sequence, and she could feel a part of her mind go elsewhere. She closed her own eyes, and heard the gentle, metallic snik as the swarms enclosed in her sleeves woke up and began seeking promising signatures in the rock. She remembered the explanation from her trainer that the swarm intelligence wasn't actually inside her head, it was just leveraging the raw power of the human brain to perform complex computations. But it still felt like the swarm was in her mind.”*

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# Thanks



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