

## Editorial

The last International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) Newsletter was distributed widely to members and interested people over a year ago. Since then IASSA has emerged as a viable proposition and strong organization for arctic social scientists. We are sending this newsletter to everyone on our mailing list. Future newsletters will only be sent to paid-up members. We also encourage members to contact us with suggestions and information for the newsletter.

In October 1992, IASSA held its first major public event, the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS I) in conjunction with the 8th Inuit Studies Conference (ISC 8). More than 480 people from 16 countries came to Université Laval at Ste-Foy, Québec, Canada, to join both meetings at which 350 papers were given. Major funding was obtained from Canadian sources supporting more than 100 participants in their travels, in particular northern indigenous researchers and Russian scientists.

The sound financial situation of ICASS I allowed IASSA to start its own occasional publication series *Topics in Arctic Social Sciences* (ISSN 1021-5891). The first volume *Social Sciences in the North* (ISBN 2-921438-01-1), containing four keynotes and other materials, should reach all ICASS participants and IASSA members later this year. Furthermore, two issues of *Études/Inuit/Studies*, featuring contributions to ISC 8 and ICASS I, can be financed. Other papers have been submitted to major journals or are being published in separate compendia such as the Finnish and some Sámi contributions. The secretariat welcomes any information on publications based on ICASS I.

IASSA was founded in August 1990; by late 1992, 200 people had joined, and, with numbers rising, considerable organizational arrangements are required. The IASSA council (1990-92) met formally for the first time shortly before ICASS I. It accepted the offer of the Arctic Centre (University of Lapland, Rovaniemi) to host the secretariat for the next five years; by May 1993 all materials and a customized database (with 700 addresses) had been transferred from the Department of Geography (McGill University, Montréal) with Michael Pretes (secretary) and Monica Tennberg (treasurer) now looking after IASSA's affairs from just below the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi.

During ICASS I the Second General Assembly, with 83 members present, was held. It passed changes to the by-laws, considered policy issues, and elected a new council (1992-95). The new council met on 31 October 1992 in Ste-Foy and on 8 May 1993 in Rovaniemi to consider further plans.

At its meetings, council discussed major policy issues such as (a) relations with northern aboriginal

research communities, (b) a code of ethical principles in research with a particular focus on the situation in the northern regions of the Russian Federation, and (c) relations with other scientific bodies such as the International Arctic Science Committee. The council will meet again on 11-12 December 1993 at the Nordic Sámi Institute (NSI) in Kautokeino, Norway, at the occasion of the *Second International Circumpolar Workshop on Knowing is Governing: Traditional Knowledge and Self-Government of Aboriginal Northern Societies* (8-10 December 1993) under the auspices of NSI, the Northern Studies Program (McGill University), and IASSA. Members wishing to place items on the council's agenda should contact any council member or the secretariat in advance of the meeting.

Preparations have begun for ICASS II under the theme "*Unity and Diversity in Arctic Societies*." We are exploring possibilities to hold the congress in northern Europe in 1995. Members are encouraged to get involved by submitting ideas for the program (papers, workshops, exhibits, excursions, etc.) to us. More information about ICASS II and the first announcement will appear in the next IASSA Newsletter.

News of IASSA's establishment has reached many arctic social scientists within and outside the Circumpolar North. The support and recognition, received since 1990 and at ICASS I, are very encouraging and indicate that IASSA has responded well to the need for more communication and cooperation among the social scientists working in interdisciplinary arctic research. The council is ready to meet this challenge with the support of all members.

Rovaniemi, 11 May 1993

Ludger Müller-Wille, Chair  
Susanne Dybbroe, Vice-Chair

## IASSA Publications

*Social Sciences in the North 1992 Les Sciences sociales au nord. Abstracts/Résumés. First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences/Premier Congrès international des Sciences sociales arctiques.* Edited by Ludger Müller-Wille. Ste-Foy: GÉTIC, 1992. 72 pp.

*Social Sciences in the North.* Peter Ernerk, Pekka Aikio, Phoebe Nahanni, Ernest S. Burch, Jr. Keynotes Presented at ICASS I. Edited by Louis-Jacques Dorais and Ludger Müller-Wille. (*Topics in Arctic Social Sciences 1*). Québec: GÉTIC, Université Laval, 1993. 145 pp.

Publications are available from the IASSA Secretariat.

## The Arctic Centre

The Arctic Centre is a separate institute of the University of Lapland. It was founded in 1989, and presently has four main functions: research, exhibitions, information services, and education. The centre is housed in two buildings near the centre of the city of Rovaniemi. The exhibition department and administration are housed in the new *Arktikum* building, a glass building that lies partly underground. The rest of the centre's staff is located in rented premises while awaiting the construction of another building attached to the *Arktikum*.

The Arctic Centre is governed by an executive board and a director, who oversee the basic functioning of the centre. The centre also has an international scientific advisory committee, which advises the centre on international issues and helps build connections to the international research community. At present approximately 25 people are employed at the Arctic Centre.

The Arctic Centre's research department is small but growing. Currently only four researchers are working at the centre, but by the end of 1993 that number will have more than doubled. Three of the researchers are conducting biological research, and only one is in the social sciences. The Arctic Centre has established global change as its principal research thrust.

The exhibition department of the Arctic Centre plans and maintains the science centre, which opened to the public in December 1992 and is located in the *Arktikum*. The science centre is a museum that presents life and environment in the Circumpolar North through a series of displays. It is designed to educate the public about northern conditions and has already had a substantial number of visitors.

The data and information services department maintains two small libraries, provides access to databases (both on-line and through CD-ROM) and assists with inquiries from researchers and the public. The centre also maintains its own databases, containing information on Finnish researchers and on international arctic research institutes, and is collecting information on cold climate research in Finland and in the Kola Peninsula of Russia.

The educational component of the Arctic Centre is built around the Arctic Studies Program, a year-long course that introduces undergraduate students to arctic natural and social sciences. Students complete a course that involves both classroom work and field excursions, and receive credit through their home university or through the University of Lapland.

More information about the Arctic Centre can be obtained from the IASSA Secretariat.

## The University of Lapland

The University of Lapland was founded in 1979 in Rovaniemi. Its role encompasses basic and post-graduate degrees, adult education, and research and service to the community. Apart from its national task of providing teaching and academic research, the University of Lapland is an important factor in the development of northern Finland. Research into the special conditions of the region is carried out at the university, and the majority of the students come from northern parts of the country and most of them remain there after completing their studies.

The University of Lapland comprises four faculties. Faculties of law and education are the oldest; they were founded in 1979. The faculty of education offers a teacher training program and a degree in educational administration, planning, and research. The faculty of law is the ranking centre nationally for teaching and research in legal informatics. The faculty of social sciences was founded in 1982. There are two degree programs in this faculty: one in social work and another in economics and business administration. The faculty of visual arts was founded in 1990. The first class will graduate as art teachers. Faculty offerings will expand with degree programs in visual communications and industrial design. In 1992-93 there were about 1800 undergraduate students at the University of Lapland: 500 in the faculty of education, 700 in the faculty of law, 500 in the faculty of social sciences, and 100 in the faculty of visual arts. There are also about 200 postgraduate students. The Continuing Education Centre has about 4000 students (part-time). There are about 400 people working at the university of which about 170 are teaching personnel.

Most of the facilities and activities of the university are situated in the main university building just outside the centre of Rovaniemi. The faculty of visual arts, the Continuing Education Centre, and the Arctic Centre have their own facilities in other parts of Rovaniemi. The new main university building was completed in 1992.

More information about the University of Lapland can be obtained from the IASSA Secretariat.

## IASSA Council 1992-1995

**Pekka Aikio** (Nordic Sámi Institute, P.O. Box 220, N-9520 Kautokeino, Norway). The Director of the Nordic Sámi Institute and President of the Finnish Sámi Parliament, he also conducts research on reindeer biology, impacts of development on Sámi culture, and reindeer herding and Sámi society.

**Yelena N. Andreeva** (Laboratory of Arctic Studies, Institute of Systems Analysis, Russian Academy

of Sciences, 60-let Oktyabria 9, 117312 Moscow, Russia). She is a senior researcher investigating social and economic change in the Russian North, the impact of resource development, and legal and administrative mechanisms in the North.

**Noel Broadbent** (Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20550, USA). He is the director of the Arctic Social Science Program at the Office of Polar Programs. He was formerly the director of the Centre for Arctic Cultural Research at Umeå University in Sweden, and has conducted research on northern cultural history, health, and archaeology.

**Richard Caulfield** (College of Rural Alaska, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775, USA). An assistant professor of rural development, he specializes in natural resource anthropology, co-management regimes and aboriginal subsistence in Alaska and Greenland, and marine mammals use.

**Susanne Dybbroe** (Vice-Chair) (Department of Social Anthropology, Århus University, Moesgård, DK-8270 Højberg, Denmark). She is a social anthropologist with interests in gender development and identity and anthropological theory. Her regional interest is primarily in Greenland, Canada, and the North Atlantic region.

**Igor I. Krupnik** (Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, USA). He is a visiting fellow at the Smithsonian Institution and a fellow at the Institute of Ethnology in Moscow. His latest anthropological work has examined native whalers and reindeer herders in northern Eurasia.

**Henry Minde** (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Tromsø, P.O. Box 1040, N-9037 Tromsø, Norway). He is an associate professor of history, specializing in Sámi history, Sámi legal history, and indigenous rights in general. He has studied the cooperative organization of the slate industry and the effects of this industry on local political activity.

**Finn Breinholt Larsen** (Centre for North Atlantic Studies, Århus University, Finlandsgade 26, DK-8210 Århus N, Denmark). He is a political scientist examining the modern judicial system in Greenland. He has also conducted research on the impact of alcohol and violence in Greenlandic society.

**Ludger Müller-Wille** (Chair) (Department of Geography, McGill University, 805 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3A 2K6). He is an associate professor and trained in the fields of ethnology and social anthropology. His work has focused on socio-economic change among Sámi, Dene, and Inuit, and also on place names surveys in Nunavik and Nunavut.

**Michael Pretes** (Secretary) (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, P.O. Box 122, SF-96101 Rovaniemi, Finland). He is a research fellow of the Arctic Centre and also a research associate of the Arctic Institute of

North America in Calgary, Canada. His research focuses on natural resource management, political economy, and tourism.

**Bernard Saladin d'Anglure** (Adjunct Member) (Département d'anthropologie, Université Laval, Cité Universitaire, Ste-Foy, Québec, Canada G1K 7P4).

**Vigdís Stordahl** (P.O. Box 181, N-9730 Karasjok, Norway). She is a researcher at the Regional Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Tromsø (Karasjok Clinic) and the former curator of the Karasjok Sámi Museum. She has also been a visiting researcher in Greenland, Denmark, and Canada.

**Monica Tennberg** (Treasurer) (Department of Governmental and International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland, P.O. Box 122, SF-96101 Rovaniemi, Finland). She is a research assistant and lecturer in international relations, and conducts research on international politics, relations between environment and security, and gender studies.

**Nikolai B. Vakhtin** (Institute of Linguistic Research, Russian Academy of Sciences, Tuchkov per. 9, 199053 St. Petersburg, Russia). He is a senior researcher specializing in Eskimo-Aleut syntax, the socio-linguistic situation in the Russian North, and the problems of northern minorities.

## Book Reviews

Future issues of the IASSA Newsletter will contain reviews of books relevant to arctic social sciences. If you are willing to review books, suggest titles, or can submit copies of books for review, please contact the secretariat.

## Members' News

One of the primary functions of the IASSA Newsletter is to provide a forum for members to exchange information about their work and interests. We invite you to submit items of interest, such as news of your recent publications, lectures, courses taught, conferences attended, research needs and interests, and so forth.

**Yvon Csonka** (54 Fbg de l'hôpital, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland) has recently published "The Jean Gabus Collection from the Caribou Inuit in an Ethnohistorical Perspective" (1992, *Inter-Nord* 19), and "Expansion et famines chez les Inuit Caribous: le scénario et ses interprétations" (1992, *Anthropologie et sociétés* 16:2). He was also awarded the Prix d'excellence de la meilleure thèse de doctorat 1991-92 from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Université Laval, Québec. **Louis-Jacques Dorais** (Département d'anthropologie, Université Laval, Ste-Foy, Québec,



Canada G1K 7P4) announces the publication of his new book *From Magic Words to Word Processing: A History of the Inuit Language* (Iqaluit, 1993). He also teaches courses in Inuktitut and is conducting research on the role of language in defining contemporary Inuit identity. Paul Samson (International Academy of the Environment, 4 Chemin de Conches, CH-1231 Conches/Geneva, Switzerland) is a co-founder of ICE-Geneva, a non-governmental organization working on cryospheric issues, including the Arctic. He is also writing a PhD thesis on "Treading On Thin Ice: The Politics of Global Environmental Change and the Arctic Region." Edmund Q.S. Searles (Department of Anthropology DH-05, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA) taught a course on "Peoples of the Circumpolar North" and has received a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research in Iqaluit, NWT, Canada. James Toppin (Box 2585, Whitehouse, OH 43571, USA) is a translator from Russian to English. He has translated many works in the fields of oceanography, environmental and public health, energy resources, and medicine. He is now looking for social science works to translate, and would appreciate suggestions for titles or proposals from authors or researchers. Nikolai Vakhtin (Institute of Linguistic Research, Russian Academy of Sciences, Tuchkov per. 9, 199053 St. Petersburg, Russia) has just published a book, *Native Peoples of the Russian North* (London: Minority Rights Group, 1992) and seeks information from anyone doing research on the Veps people in the Russian-Finnish border region. He would also like to know of any courses offered in the language and ethnology of the Veps and Ingermanland people. Linda Finn Yarborough (Chugach National Forest, 201 E. 9th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, USA) presented a paper on the prehistoric use of cetaceans in the northern Gulf of Alaska at the 20th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, 1992. She has also been awarded a Sigma Xi grant to conduct research on the prehistoric subsistence of the Chugach Eskimo at Prince William Sound, Alaska.

### Origin of IASSA

IASSA was founded in 1990 in Fairbanks, Alaska, at a meeting held in conjunction with the 7th Inuit Studies Conference. The creation of IASSA follows the suggestion, made at the Conference on Coordination of Research in the Arctic held in Leningrad in 1988, to establish an international association to represent Arctic social scientists. From its founding in 1990 until 1992, IASSA's secretariat was housed at the Department of Geography, McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

### Objectives

The Arctic is defined as all arctic and sub-arctic regions of the world. The social sciences encompass disciplines relating to behavioural, psychological, cultural, anthropological, archaeological, linguistic, historical, social, legal, economic, environmental, and political subjects as well as health, education, the arts and humanities, and related subjects.

The objectives are:

- to promote and stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international arctic research;
- to promote communication and coordination with other research organizations;
- to promote the active collection, exchange, dissemination, and archiving of scientific information in the arctic social sciences;
- to increase public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results;
- to promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and northern people;
- to promote the development of research and educational partnerships with northern people;
- to facilitate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate education in the North;
- to adopt a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic.

### Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in arctic social sciences. Membership fees for one year are USD 20 or FIM 100, for two years USD 35 or FIM 175, and for three years USD 50 or FIM 250. Membership is by calendar year. Membership in IASSA is required to participate in IASSA meetings. Special rates are available for members residing in countries without convertible currencies. Inquiries and payment should be directed to the IASSA Secretariat.

### Electronic Mail

The IASSA Secretariat encourages communication through electronic mail. Eventually we hope to establish an e-mail bulletin board, and perhaps make the IASSA Newsletter available in electronic form. The e-mail address of the secretariat is: mpretes@roisrv.urova.fi