

# Northern Notes

The Newsletter of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)

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## From the President

In this issue, you will find seven short articles that deal with various facets of human and social science involvement in the preparation of the soon-to-begin International Polar Year 2007–2008. They testify to the prominent place human phenomena, and the disciplines that study them, are taking within this massive endeavor. This breakthrough is the result of the collective effort of many colleagues, among whom the ad hoc IASSA-IPY working group plays a leading role—first and foremost Igor Krupnik, chair of this group, member of the IPY Joint Committee, and guest editor of this special section on IPY developments.

Beside this vigorous IPY preparation process, two other major international venues of importance to Arctic social sciences are currently close to implementation. BOREAS, an international research funding scheme initiated by the European Science Foundation, that promotes fundamental

research in the humanities in the North (see *Northern Notes* Spring/Summer 2005), should soon announce which projects will be funded; these are scheduled to start within months. And the priority research themes refined at the second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning last fall (see *Northern Notes* Fall/Winter 2005-06), will probably be distilled into a few well-focused projects whose implementation should also begin in the near future. Both these processes are fully coordinated with IPY; we will come back to them in future issues. The new “Arctic Social Indicators” project, a follow up to the *Arctic Human Development Report*, is presented below.

Our upcoming Congress, ICASS VI, to take place in Nuuk in late August 2008, will be open to all human and social scientists, as usual, but IPY, BOREAS and ICARP project leaders, especially, should have a close look at the second conference

announcement below: please contact the congress organizers in the near future about the plans you might have to convene your research network in Nuuk.

Best wishes for the summer season!

Yvon Csonka

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### *From the Secretary*

For those of you who have been wondering who the no-longer- -so-new secretary is, here is a little introduction: My name is Inge Seiding. I am 29 years old, married and the mother of two boys, age 1 and 6. I am also an MA student at Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland at the Department of Cultural and Social History. I will be finishing my studies in the spring of 2007, writing my MA thesis on the colonial historiography about Greenland by Finn Gad, applying critical discourse analysis to the subject of the representation of Greenlanders. My main interests are recent history and modern literature, especially with a focus on postcolonial theory, and the philosophical foundations of different kinds of historiography.

Come October, I will have been with IASSA for a year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for the kindness and understanding that is always present whenever I am in contact with you. It is a great privilege and joy to be working for IASSA, and the inspiring and always pleasant interaction with members from all over the world makes the job an even greater and giving experience.

The past fall and winter offered many opportunities for me to become familiar with IASSA and the many facets of my new job. In November I was fortunate to be able to participate in the IASSA council meeting in Copenhagen, where I met the other councillors and thus also, and maybe most importantly for me, the former executive officer from Fairbanks, Alaska, Anne Sudkamp. Anne has been an invaluable help in the

transition phase between secretariats, and also to me as a new secretary, many months after the transition took place. The importance and value of Anne's support cannot be stressed enough. Thanks!

In January the first newsletter in my time as secretary was issued. The Fall/Winter 05/06 newsletter issue also marked another step into the "electronic era" for IASSA, being the first electronic-only (almost) newsletter. Only members without internet access and libraries, organizations etc. received a printed copy. All members with e-mail address now receive a PDF-version via e-mail.

The secretariat received only positive feedback on the electronic version, and I assume that this means that no one experienced any trouble with the PDF-file. Please remember that comments and suggestions regarding the newsletter, both concerning content and form, are more than welcome!

I will end this by wishing you all a warm and wonderful summer wherever you are in the world! I will be out of office from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 14, but IASSA.Net will be up and running throughout the entire summer break.

Summer Greetings!

Inge Seiding  
IASSA Secretary

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### *Second Announcement*

**The Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VI) will take place in Nuuk, Greenland, during the last week of August, 2008**

Although ICASS VI is a little more than two years ahead, we encourage everyone to contribute your ideas and thoughts about themes of special interest for sessions and workshops at the Congress. Please send a mail to [iassa@ilisimatusarfik.gl](mailto:iassa@ilisimatusarfik.gl).

More information about the organisation of ICASS VI, including deadlines, practical matters and funding opportunities will be provided in the next issue of this Newsletter.

For the time being, though, we are happy to inform our North American colleagues that a direct

connection between Baltimore and Greenland is planned to start in the summer of 2007. This, definitely, will make the travelling part of participating in ICASS VI easier—if not cheaper.

### **First call for sessions to IPY and other research project leaders planning to attend ICASS VI**

ICASS VI has already been endorsed as an International Polar Year (IPY) activity by the IPY joint Committee. As it will take place in the second half of the Polar Year, this congress will offer various venues for IPY scholars, other northern researchers, and local participants to analyze the progress of IPY 2007-2008 in social, human, and related fields. This includes special project sessions, discussion panels, plenary presentations, invited talks by the leading IPY scientists and

representatives of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, public meetings. Sessions and panels at the ICASS VI will be framed along major IPY research fields and initiatives, with broad international and interdisciplinary participation. For many international network projects, ICASS sessions will offer the only chance for face-to-face discussions, as participants from many countries and regions may have limited contacts in the field and across the boundaries. Special efforts will be made to ensure the presence of as many project collaborators from arctic communities, as possible.

We have already received information from several IPY-projects, BOREAS and other project leaders that they plan to arrange special project sessions, discussion panels and workshops at ICASS VI.

***We kindly urge all project leaders planning to arrange workshops etc. to inform the organisers, by sending a mail to [iassa@ilisimatusearfik.gl](mailto:iassa@ilisimatusearfik.gl) no later than September 15, about:***

- *the planned activity and expected title of the session;*
- *the expected number of participants;*
- *whether you have secured, or will apply for funding for such a meeting: how many participants does this funding cover?*
- *whether you foresee problems obtaining travel funding for all participants of your group.*

The reason for this question is – apart from our goal to do the utmost to make everything work – that the IASSA leadership plans to co-ordinate funding efforts if possible and expedient. It is

therefore very important for us to know your plans as early as possible.

Birger Poppel  
Convener of ICASS VI

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## ***IPY 2007-2008: Nine Months and Counting***

By Igor Krupnik

This short article is the latest in the series of recent briefs to the IASSA community on the preparation for the International Polar Year 2007–2008 (IPY; see *Northern Notes* Fall 2003; Fall 2004; Spring-Summer 2005; Fall-Winter 2005-2006). It provides an update on the status of IPY-related activities, particularly in the social and human science fields, for the last six months: from December 2005 and up to June 2006.

From its very inception, the IPY 2007–2008 has been always seen as a ‘multi-task’ operation. Its many individual ventures and interfaces come as products of numerous overlapping activities in four major fields that may be labelled ‘science,’ ‘funding,’ ‘organization,’ and ‘public efforts.’ Each of those fields is a multi-component structure

in itself. For example, ‘science’ under IPY is a combination of themes, ideas, proposals, scientists, field researchers, writings, science plans, interdisciplinary linkages, and much more. Similarly, the IPY ‘funding’ comes as a combination of various, often quite independent financial streams, such as research funds, support funds, networking funds, operational funds, short-term/long-term funds, education and outreach funds, and so on. Some resources may be quite sustainable and even abundant, whereas others may be scarce or totally missing at the same time. Such a complexity of the emerging ‘IPY system’ may be visualized very much like a textbook model of an ecosystem, with its nodes of cross-cutting and overlapping linkages, and various

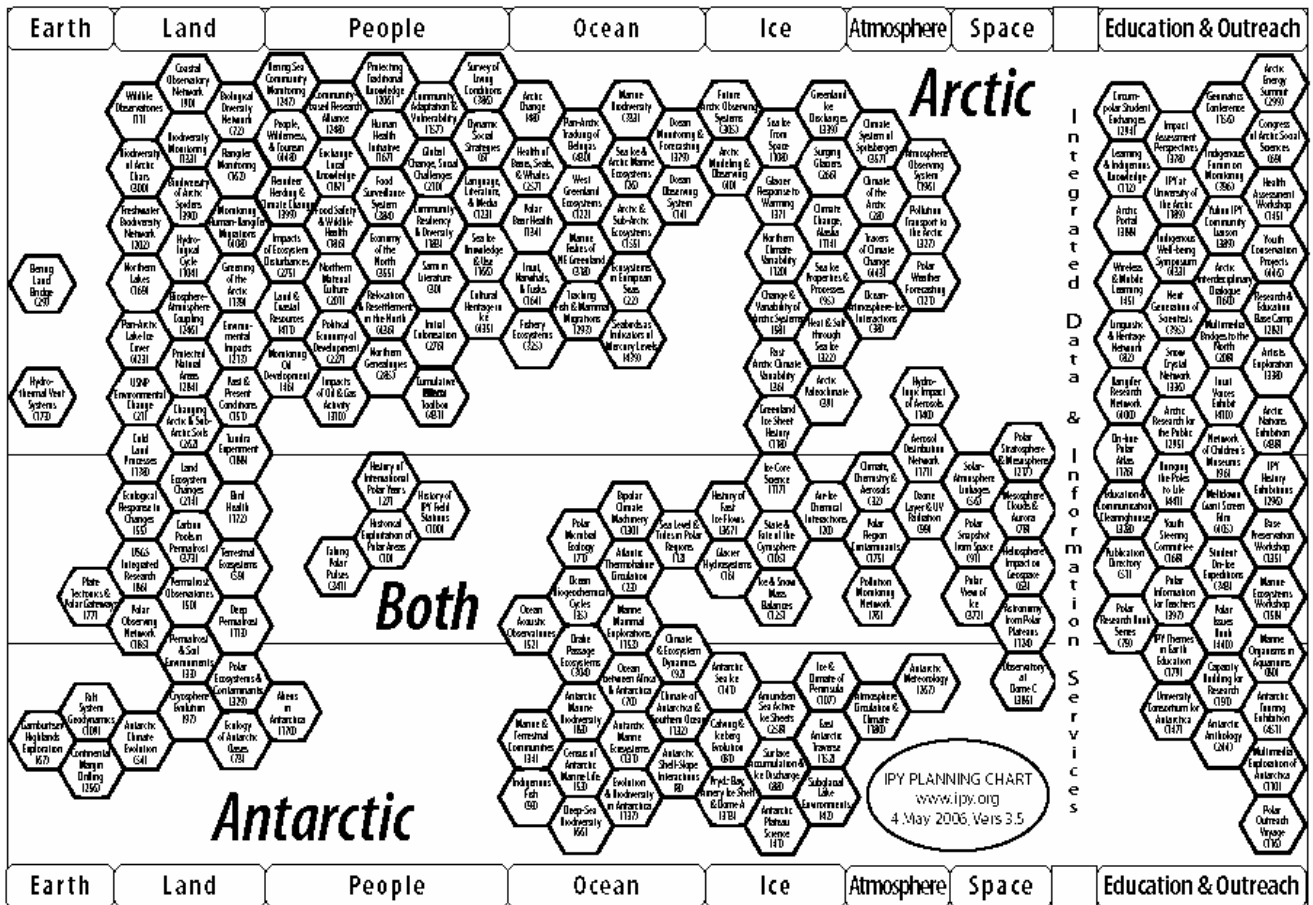
levels of interaction. Future IPY historians may find this parallel with the ecosystem model illuminating; to today's IPY planners and participants it takes much effort to navigate through these many facets of such a huge international enterprise.

Over the last few years, each of the four fields—science, funding, organization, and public efforts—took precedence during a certain stage in the overall process of building the IPY 'system.' The opening years of 2003 and 2004 were the prime time to build the science foundation for IPY 2007–2008 and for its overall organizational structure. Major scientific documents, *A Framework for the International Polar Year 2007–2008*, and *A Vision for the International Polar Year 2007–2008*, have been produced in 2004 by the IPY Planning Group and the U.S. National IPY Committee respectively. In both documents, social and human topics were featured quite extensively. Funding for IPY was hardly a critical limiting factor at that early stage and the discussions about future public efforts were all but insignificant. The year 2005 emerged as a transitional period, when the search for funds to support the proposed IPY science and field operations became quite urgent. It also marked the initial build-up of the IPY education and outreach activities. In this sense, the year 2006 has opened a new stage. Many in the IPY community believe that the overall success of IPY 2007–2008 will be critically determined by the amount of funds provided by the funding agencies in 2006 (and beyond) to support our science. The year 2006, particularly its second half, will be also crucial in marshalling a broad public support for IPY and in making preparations for its opening events in March 2007.

Still, *science* issues clearly dominated the IPY agenda during the first few months of the year 2006, as scores of scientists were still writing their so-called 'full coordination proposals' (or 'initiatives') for the IPY Programme Office (IPO). Many more worked on their science grant applications, as national funding agencies in various countries—such as Canada, U.S., Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Russia, and others—issued their proposal solicitations and allocated funds for the IPY-related research in 2007–2008 (see below). From its side, the international polar science community clearly

demonstrated a great enthusiasm for IPY, at least as far as the amount of proposals and of participating scientists is concerned. By January 30, 2006, the IPO received over 200 new 'coordination proposals'; that brought the overall number of 'coordination initiatives' in science, data management, education and outreach submitted to the IPO to almost 450. The latest set of proposals was duly reviewed by the members of the JC and posted on the IPY website at [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org). Altogether, some 220 'full coordination proposals' have been endorsed by the JC in three rounds of evaluation in August 2005, October 2005, and February 2006. Taken together, they account for some 50,000 participating scientists, data and project managers, educators, students, engineers, technicians and media specialists from more than 60 nations.

At its latest meeting in April 2006 in Cambridge, UK, the Joint Committee endorsed the final list of about 220 'coordination initiatives' recommended for implementation during the years of 2007–2009 and beyond. The new proposals were also added to the now-famous 'IPY planning chart' which is widely known as the 'honey-comb chart' (illustrated p. 5, and also on [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org)). It gives us great pleasure to see the IPY science growing and also to point out that the final chart lists over 30 proposals in the field of social and human studies ('people'). This turned out to be more than in any other thematic field of IPY operations, such as 'earth,' 'land,' 'ocean,' 'ice,' 'atmosphere,' and 'space.' There are scores more in other related fields, including almost 30 proposals for education and outreach efforts, of which many are also dealing with social, cultural, and/or indigenous issues (see more detailed analysis in the following article by Grete Hovelsrud). Several proposals have been submitted by indigenous northern researchers and institutions, who are also active collaborators in many other (over 20) IPY initiatives in social science, education and outreach environmental and wildlife research. By its very active participation in the submission process in 2005 and 2006, arctic social scientists and northern residents made it absolutely clear that this IPY, unlike its three predecessors, is going to have a very prominent human presence and a strong societal face.



By now, the evaluation process for prospective IPY ‘coordination initiatives’ is all but over, although the JC and IPO will continue to process additional submissions on an individual basis. Any new prospective applicants will be asked first and foremost to look for affiliation with, or within the existing IPY initiatives, and also to prove their strong linkages to other IPY efforts. From their side, the IPO and JC would like to encourage science and education/outreach project teams that already received the IPY endorsement to be supportive towards, and inclusive of the new ventures. Whereas the main ‘design’ for the IPY 2007–2008 is mostly in place by now, many more new initiatives may emerge in the next several months or during the years of IPY research, education and public activities, and even during the processing and publishing the IPY records, after main field operations are completed in 2009.

There was hardly any resting time for the IPY scientists in the first half of 2006, as many went straight from their ‘coordination initiatives’ to research grant applications to the national funding agencies. Now, *funding* has become the key issue in the IPY process, as spring 2006 marked the peak of the research funding applications for the prospective IPY participants in Canada, U.S.,

Norway, Netherlands, and other countries. By late 2005 and early 2006, several nations have announced their budget pledges for the national IPY efforts; in addition, more funds will be available from the European Science Foundation and other multinational agencies Evaluation of the national proposals submitted during the spring of 2006 will extend over the summer months of 2006. Hopefully, within the next few months the first IPY-related projects will receive their operational funds, so that the science teams may launch preparations for fieldwork in 2007.

Differences in the level of funding and in the range of opportunities in each participating nation are sure to make a big impact upon the scope of IPY operations, both nationally and internationally. The earliest indicator will be the rate of *proposal application success* for the first round of IPY grant submissions in spring-summer 2006. As of this writing, Norway will probably have the highest level of application success, as our Norwegian colleagues may expect about 40-45% of their proposals to be funded out of the current Norwegian IPY allocation of 400M NOK (about 50M USD). Canada may be a close second, with its expected success rate of 30-40%, thanks to its funding pledge of 150M CAD for IPY-related

research and educational programs. The 7M EUR allocation for the IPY program in the Netherlands may materialize in 20-25% proposal success for Dutch scholars. These may be true 'success stories' of the IPY funding. Scientists from other countries may experience more difficulties in having their proposals funded because of tight resources. U.S. IPY solicitation in late 2005 through the National Science Foundation offered \$12M for IPY projects in 2006. The resulting proposal success rate may be 5-10% or even lower, though more money for US IPY activities is expected to come in the next fiscal year 2007. Germany (25M EUR in announced IPY funding) and Australia (AUD 42M) will direct their main funds primarily in logistics to support scientists working in Antarctica and in upgrading the existing polar stations. Support for new research projects has, thus, to come from other sources, such as international, EU, or even private funds. Many national budgets for IPY activities are still in a very preliminary stage; they may eventually change pending local budgetary and political restraints or new opportunities. Russia is a good example, with its recently announced allocation of the equivalent of 12M USD for IPY science research that may well be followed by additional funding for logistics and field operations. Other nations such as France, Sweden, and Spain, are soon to announce funding for their national IPY efforts (all cited figures represent preliminary data available to the IPY Programme Office by spring 2006).

As much as the funding is essential to advance the IPY science during the years 2007–2009, it now becomes even more critical in supporting the IPY *organizational structure* and in launching *public efforts* in education and outreach. So far, the two key elements of the IPY organizational system, the international Joint Committee (JC) and the IPY Programme Office (IPO) in Cambridge, have secured sustainable funding for the years of IPY operations, thanks to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) based in Geneva and the UK Natural Environment Research Council in Cambridge, respectively. The IPY organizational system, however, includes several additional elements these days, such as three international Sub-Committees—on Data Management, Observations, and Education and Outreach—that have been established in 2005. Of these, only the Data Management sub-committee has some small operational funding and was able to hold its first full meeting in Cambridge in March 2006. The other two sub-committees so far have no funds and have been operating primarily via online

communication and partial committee meetings at major international conferences. This is no small matter for the arctic social science community, as each sub-committee has to develop policies and recommendations relevant to our efforts and to our interactions with local communities across the North.

Things may be even more precarious for other emerging elements of the IPY organizational structure. There is now an active IPY 'Youth Steering Committee,' a self-generated group, with current membership from Canada, US, New Zealand, UK, Russia, Portugal, Belgium, and other nations—and no funds. The purpose of this new group is to stimulate the participation of young scholars and students in the IPY efforts, which is listed as one of the key goals in every IPY-related statement ('next generation of scholars and leaders'). Also, few of the national IPY committees have operational funds to support even small permanent offices for their national activities. The few lucky ones, like those in Canada, Norway, or Sweden, have enjoyed a great boost in their preparedness, both in the science and public relations field. National IPY offices of sort may eventually emerge in several other countries (Russia, China, Germany, and US are the most likely candidates), as pressure is building up to bring additional people and resources to IPY, both nationally and internationally.

This drive will become even more urgent in the next few months, as scientists, public groups, and international agencies will start their preparations for the 'launching events' for IPY 2007-2008 in March 2007. At its last full meeting in April 2006, the IPY Joint Committee allocated substantial time and effort to this discussion. Some nations already have plans or ideas for certain *public events* associated with the launch of IPY in March 2007; many more made no announcements and may have nothing on their drawing board for the moment. Again, availability (or lack) of funds will be a critical factor. A few trial events have demonstrated a great public interest in IPY preparations; many more people are to be fascinated by the IPY ventures when and if they become open to the public. So far, the recommendation from the JC and from its Education and Outreach Sub-Committee (that is in charge of all public planning) is to encourage national IPY committees to develop their launch events as their national or collaborative venues. The UK IPY committee, for example, has already experimented with its 'pre-launch' event on March 14, 2006, as a rehearsal to the main launching

venture on March 1, 2007. The Education and Outreach sub-committee is currently compiling a list of national events that may be brought together under a common 'umbrella' format that will offer continuous TV coverage across many participating nations—very much like the New Year or the Millennium celebration.

Some events in March 2007 will be held jointly or will be associated with the appropriately scheduled major international meetings. For example, the next Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) will take place in March 2007 at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, the place of the first ICARP meeting of 1995. It will almost certainly be formatted as the IPY launch event for the US scholars and many international participants. The two IPY 'parents,' the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Council for Sciences (ICSU) are planning a special joint celebration for IPY, with a joint statement and a press release on March 1, 2007. The Arctic Council, to be chaired by Norway from January 2007, will certainly organize its own opening event for the IPY, although its contours are still unclear. Last but not least, there are some plans for a joint EU public opening for IPY 2007–2008 in March 2007, to be held simultaneously in

Germany, France, and several other EU nations. Again, it is still unclear, which agency is to take the leading role in the preparation for such an event, which will be addressed primarily to the media and general public.

Those and other issues will be discussed at the next meeting of the IPY Joint Committee to be held in September 2006. By that time, we'll be barely five months away from the beginning of IPY 2007–2008 and major elements of the IPY system should be in place to ensure the success of our venture. We'll continue to brief the arctic social science community and the IASSA Newsletter readers on the ongoing preparations for IPY (see other articles in this issue). To keep you up-to-date, IASSA will perform a major upgrade of its special IPY webpage at [www.iassa.gl](http://www.iassa.gl) and will bring more reports from the national IPY committees and from individual IPY participants. Stay connected!

**Igor Krupnik** is a research anthropologist at the Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. He is a member of the IPY Joint Committee, as well as a member of the IASSA Council.

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## *IPY 2007-2008 and the Social Sciences: A Preliminary Analysis*

By Grete K. Hovelsrud and Jennifer Helgeson

This article is an attempt to briefly summarize the social science proposals submitted to the Joint Committee (JC) for International Polar Year 2007–2008 (IPY) for endorsement as IPY 'initiatives' between June 2005 and January 2006. It provides an overview of the general research interests and concerns of the Arctic social science community. It is written in the spirit of the great effort put forth by the social sciences and with the hope that this spirit will be carried through to the funding agencies and towards actual research.

Of course, the full scope and shape of the social and human science research activities during IPY 2007–2008 are to be known only when and if the projects are funded for implementation by the respective national funding agencies. Also, JC is yet to draft a more detailed IPY 'science implementation plan' to replace the so-called 'honeycomb project chart' (illustrated p. 5; see *Northern Notes* Spring-Summer 2005; Fall-Winter

2005–2006, and Igor Krupnik's article in this issue for more background information and updates on the IPY process). Nevertheless, our analysis reveals the strong connecting interests among researchers in different countries. It is now broadly recognized how significantly the remote polar regions effect the Earth's climate and ultimately global environment, ecosystems, and human society.

The upcoming IPY offers many possibilities for linking researchers internationally, across science disciplines, and in a stronger capacity than before. IPY will also act as a great venue for synthesis of the ever increasing body of scientific knowledge and data in many fields. Of those that are crucial to the advance of polar social and human sciences, the area of human relations to the environment is the one that needs the most intensive disciplinary collaboration, in order to identify and to

understand the key linkages between the two general fields and so many players.

Social and cultural issues have always been an implicit component of the IPY activities (particularly in the first IPY of 1882–1883); however, this coming IPY is the first such venue, in which social and human studies are included directly and explicitly among the planned research initiatives. To this end, a special research theme was added to the IPY 2007-08 science program, ‘to investigate the cultural, historical, and social processes that shape the sustainability of circumpolar human societies, and to identify their unique contributions to global cultural diversity and citizenship’ (see *Northern Notes* Fall-Winter 2005-2006). It is expected that such a new level of partnership among physical, natural, and social sciences will lead to a better understanding of climatic, environmental and societal challenges in the Arctic, Antarctica, and on the global scale as well.

Overall, some 50 social and human science proposals (IPY ‘initiatives’) have been endorsed for implementation by JC and are now under consideration by the various funding agencies. They advance collaborative efforts by researchers and agencies from 25 countries, with scientists from 14 nations acting as project leaders. The nations participating in IPY 2007–2008 social and human science initiatives are as diverse as Australia, Indonesia, and South Africa—besides the usual cohort of northern/Arctic countries and nations with traditionally strong polar programs (such as UK, Germany, France, Poland, and other). Such interest by non-polar nations in IPY 2007–2008 demonstrates the ever-increasing acknowledgement of the crucial role polar regions play in the global system. In addition, many humanistic aspects embedded in the proposals addressing polar social science issues are cross-cutting, because modern challenges to the societal network and development are applicable to other regions.

Six IPY themes have been developed around the principles of inclusion, complexity, and ethics in an attempt to allow for a variety of project foci in the wide sphere of activities. Underlying the research themes is a concentration on change in the polar regions and related systems—global, physical, and/or social—through time. The majority of project proposals address more than one of six themes outlined as the main fields for IPY 2007–2008 (see [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org)).

The majority of proposals that consider personal interviews as a research method have a strong

focus on linking the individual to the social, cultural, and natural environments as a manner of understanding the development of group dynamics over time. This type of analysis is especially useful in the projects that actively seek to link historical scientific data concerning the change in environment and resources to induced changes in the lifestyle of Arctic peoples. Past IPY research has resulted in a wealth of database information concerning many natural phenomena linked to earth sciences, such as temperature and other atmospheric indicators; ocean, ice, and, atmospheric circulation, and the like. It is an important aim of many proposed studies in IPY 2007–2008 to determine some established patterns in these earth science indicators and subsequently to link them to human health readings.

The proposals employ a variety of methods in order to determine measurements for social science indicators that may not have been accounted for in the past studies and have not been on the list of earlier IPY efforts. One suggestion is to look at interactions that took place within and between field stations on the human level as symbols of nations’ political, diplomatic, and economic ambitions. Such a method makes a better use of funding than plans that specifically request the establishment of new field stations as standard research entities that simply imply serving a limited geographical area.

Comparison of many indicators to be recorded during the IPY years, such as water quality and food safety, with local interviews and review of past firsthand accounts (i.e. journals and earlier testimonies) will allow a more thorough understanding of indigenous beliefs, attitudes, and local interpretations of environmental phenomena. To this point, projects that stress understanding of intergenerational issues, or perspectives set a strong context for short and long-term changes in the social and socio-economic spheres of arctic communities. In the realms of gender and generational issues, there are six major topics identified in several of the IPY socio-cultural proposals: change in resource use; change in values; change in community dynamics; shift in income patterns; new risks and stresses related to the development process; and youth versus seniors’ perspectives towards socio-economic and cultural development. Taken together, those topics address human security in the form of economic benefits but also security of indigenous cultures as such. This is true particularly in the area of energy concerns and technological approaches of northern



groups in response to oil exploration and gas development.

A number of proposals look closely at some aspects of health and related concerns as a means to gain insight into other issues or as a venue to be explored in-depth and subsequently to be linked to other fields. Proposals stressing human health commonly take animal health or food safety into consideration, usually as a method to determine possible new threats to human health. Many proposed studies demonstrate significant depth in their approach to human health in the North; for instance, a single project concerning human health also encompasses broad research as applicable to the humanity in general, for example, regarding concerns about cancer and obesity. It then expands to explore direct linkages of those health stresses to environmental changes. Societal issues are often linked to behavioral health issues as means to track changes through history and to illustrate the importance of changes in the pan-Arctic social and scholarly systems.

The majority of the social and human science proposals endorsed for implementation during the IPY years illustrate that creating a favorable context for individual research depends very much upon cooperation between social scientists and their counterparts in physical sciences. It is important that our colleagues in other disciplines also understand the need for exchange and interplay between their fields and the more humanistic concerns, such as economic, health, and community wellbeing. Speaking across the disciplinary lines, communicating with our colleagues in physical sciences, and even promptly informing them on our results is known to have a very positive effect on the ways they conduct their own research and even on the nature of topics they select for their research efforts.

The linkages developed between many subfields in social/human studies expand widely, because many social systems are inclusive. Strategies suggested to tackle this complexity of social and human systems vary widely among the endorsed IPY proposals. A seemingly narrow topic (for example, the depiction of the Sámi people and culture in literature) has been linked to the significance of culture and inter-group communication, in order to achieve sustainable development. Other proposals are strongly focused on direct connections with the so-called “hard” science indicators and historical data. ‘Wellbeing’ is also a popular term that many of the IPY proposals strive to explore. For instance, focused research on media in the Arctic could lead

to alterations in the methodology of many development and preservation projects. Perceptions of local people can be just as important, if not more so, in work that strives to create social change that may/will have positive impact in other fields.

Many socio-cultural and environmental proposals endorsed for IPY demonstrate an implicit concern for human wellbeing as linked to the earth and climate changes; those studies also have significant potential for understanding animal and earth systems. For instance, investigating the potential for environmental tourism links the attitudes of Arctic rural residents with projected impacts of such development on wildlife and the natural flora. Modelling those links using computer programming techniques should provide information about possible outcomes, some of which may indicate that tourism development is often a vehicle to maintain sustainability.

Sustainability, legacy-building, and applicability for future are inherent to many of the proposed IPY studies in social sciences. Creating extensive and multidisciplinary databases to store the data collected through the IPY projects will be a significant step in the overall research development and for arctic social studies, in particular. As a precursor to the studies of the present-day situation, many of the proposals recognize the value of cataloguing past phenomena related to climate conditions as well as to changes in health, education, and lifestyle. Photography and videography are widely accepted as crucial means to collect data on the current conditions, especially during personal interviews of polar residents. Cross-cataloguing research findings on computer-based platforms will allow a wide circumpolar dissemination that the IPY 2007–2008 strives to achieve by making results accessible among researchers, the public, and in some cases, even school groups. Such web-linking of information will be truly international, because it is suggested that the information concerning local environments be made available in local languages, as well as in English and Russian, in addition to others.

The combination of documented past events and current conditions can be used as a basis for models that project future outcomes via modern computer modelling techniques. Such methods truly link the Arctic and Antarctic regions as “resource frontiers” and duly strive to explain sustainability impacts of extractive energy development and rural and renewable power, among others.

It is widely hoped that many social and human science proposals presented for IPY 2007–2008 will be instrumental in determining the best adaptation and mitigation strategies by coupling indigenous knowledge and perspectives with the earth science data. This is an important goal in many realms that directly affect the environment and indigenous ways of life, such as green stewardship and/or oil exploration activities. Key information concerning sustainable economic development and accelerated socio-cultural changes towards is to be collected during the IPY years. This will hopefully help re-evaluate some of the past databases, so that the earlier information is re-examined upon the new principles of international and interdisciplinary cooperation, with a special focus on collaboration with indigenous peoples and northern residents. This IPY is designed to put the circumpolar community, humans and environment alike, as a part of the global system, whereas in the past the crucial role of polar regions and their residents in the global development was often overlooked.

Last but not least, IPY 2007–2008 continues to provide arctic social science community with

unique opportunities to form partnerships. Under IPY agenda, social and human scientists are *supposed* to work in interdisciplinary settings and to conduct comparative studies of the current social, cultural, economic, and political conditions and how those are linked to broader environmental challenges. Even though the IPY funding process is still ongoing and the final scope of the IPY social/human science effort is yet to be determined, partnerships are being formed and clusters of related projects are actively developed. The IPY Joint Committee and the IPY Secretariat will continue to assist researchers in finding suitable partners and projects that can be linked in a productive way. Stay tuned for the next round of IPY 2007–2008 social science discussions.

**Grete K. Hovelsrud**, a social anthropologist, is Research Director at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO) in Oslo, Norway. She is a member of the IPY Joint Committee.

**Jennifer Helgeson** is a Fulbright Scholar in Norway.

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## *IASSA Updates the Membership and the Mission of its IPY 'Liaison Team'*

By Igor Krupnik

At its last meeting in November 2005, the IASSA Council reviewed the activities of the special IASSA-IPY 'task-group' established by IASSA in May 2004. That group of some 20 members was created at the 5<sup>th</sup> ICASS in Fairbanks, in order to facilitate the participation of arctic social scholars and northern residents in the forthcoming International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 (see the two previous issues of *Northern Notes*). Back in spring 2004, many social scientists were concerned that the new IPY could develop into just another geophysical mega-venture, an analog to the International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957–1958, with but token references to 'human aspects,' or human 'dimensions' of polar environmental studies. Hence, the new IASSA-IPY task group was charged to raise the profile of social and human issues in IPY 2007-2008; to create a special field or theme for social and human research under the new IPY; and to bring more social scientists and northern residents to IPY projects and activities.

All of these tasks were successfully accomplished during 2004-2005. A special theme focused on socio-cultural and human issues was established under the IPY 2007–2008 international program; and many national IPY programs now feature social and human topics prominently. Social scholars and northern residents are currently serving on more than a dozen national IPY committees. Grete Hovelsrud and Igor Krupnik represent social and human sciences on the Joint Committee (JC), the main steering body for IPY 2007-08. This high level of participation is the most visible evidence of our successful efforts in advancing 'human agenda' in IPY 2007–2008.

The IASSA Council commended the members of the original IASSA-IPY 'task group' on their contribution and expressed its deep appreciation of their service on behalf of the polar social science community. The Council also decided to update the mission and the membership of the group, so that it addresses the new realities of the IPY implementation process. The new team is to be

composed of social scientists from various countries, who serve as members of their respective national IPY committees. As such, it will act as a link ('liaison') between IASSA and several national IPY committees, as well as among the national IPY committees with substantial social and human science activities in their respective countries. The team's main task will be, first and foremost, to exchange information coming from the national committees and also from the Joint Committee that is pertinent to social and human studies in IPY 2007-2008. It may also operate as a sort of a 'collective voice' for social/human scientists and northern communities participating in IPY in their communication with the IPY Program Office and the Joint Committee, as well as the most appropriate body to offer advice to polar scholars and local agencies interested in IPY program.

The new team was officially inaugurated in May 2006. The list of its members includes: Grete K. Hovelsrud (Norwegian IPY Committee, also member of the Joint Committee), Rasmus Ole Rasmussen (Danish IPY Committee), Birger Poppel (Greenlandic IPY Committee), Karla Jessen Williamson (Canadian IPY Committee), Lawrence Hamilton (US Polar Research Board/IPY Committee), Michael Bravo (UK IPY

Committee), Sverker Sörlin (Chair, Swedish IPY Committee), Louwrens Hacquebord (Dutch IPY Committee), Jón Haukur Ingimundarson (Icelandic IPY Committee), Monica Tennberg (liaison to Finnish IPY Secretariat). Igor Krupnik (IPY JC, [krupniki@si.edu](mailto:krupniki@si.edu)) serves as the coordinator of the new IASSA-IPY 'liaison' team. The list of members is open and we expect several more colleagues from other countries (Russia, Germany, France, Bulgaria, Poland, Italy, and other) to join our team. The new IASSA-IPY 'liaison team' is supposed to work until the next ICASS-6 meeting in Greenland in 2008, when its activities will be again reviewed by the IASSA Council.

The IASSA Council also agreed to host a special IPY-related webpage to be developed by the new team as a part of the IASSA website at [www.iassa.gi](http://www.iassa.gi). The webpage will feature major international developments, news from the IPY Program Office in Cambridge, UK, and reports from national IPY committees on the status of their IPY-related efforts. Two of the recently received 'updates'—on the Danish and Finnish national IPY activities—are presented below. We hope to have more reports from the national committees when the updated IASSA-IPY webpage will be launched later this summer.

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## *IPY Activities in Finland*

By Monica Tennberg

Extensive discussions between the Finnish polar science community and national research funding agencies have been held in the last couple of years with regard to the prospective Finnish contributions to the IPY 2007-2008 program. According to the current information, nine Finnish-led IPY projects have been endorsed by the IPY Joint Committee; there are also 77 international IPY projects in which Finnish researchers take active part.

Of the Finnish-led projects, LICHEN: The Linguistic and Cultural Heritage Electronic Network (IPY #82, Lisa Lena Opas-Hänninen, PI); CIGSAC: The Capability of International Governance Systems in the Arctic to Contribute to the Mitigation of Climate Change and Adjust to its Consequences (IPY #316, Timo Koivurova); and ANTLER Network (IPY #400, Florian Stammer)

have a strong social/human science focus. On top, 14 Finnish-led proposals have been submitted earlier in 2005, at the level of Expression of Interest (EoI's).

As one of its IPY contributions, the Academy of Finland will organize a workshop in 2007 to discuss the state and development of Finnish polar research. Also, several of the Finnish Ministries--Ministry of the Environment, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Trade and Industry, Transport and Communications--have agreed upon a joint support for the Finnish project coordination and information dissemination about the IPY in Finland. In general, national support for the Finnish IPY projects has been quite modest. No special IPY research program by the Academy of Finland has materialized so far.

The Finnish National Board on Scientific Polar Research represents nationally the institutes

participating in IPY, and in different international IPY organisations. The responsibilities of the Finnish IPY coordination secretariat are shared by Thule Institute, University of Oulu in Oulu (contact person: Ms. Pirjo Taskinen, at [pirjo.taskinen@oulu.fi](mailto:pirjo.taskinen@oulu.fi)) and by the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland in Rovaniemi (contact person Mr. Riku Lavia, at [riku.lavia@ulapland.fi](mailto:riku.lavia@ulapland.fi)). The Arctic Centre's information service also

maintains Finland's IPY website at <http://www.ipy-finland.fi/> where more information can be found on the Finnish IPY activities.

**Monica Tennberg**, a political scientist, is a Research Professor with the Arctic Sustainable Development research group at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland.

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## *Report from the Danish IPY Committee*

By Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

With the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007–2008 just around the corner, it is quite clear that the interest in IPY among the polar science community in Denmark and Greenland is steadily increasing. Altogether, more than 200 scientists from Denmark, Greenland and Faroe Islands are involved in the 50 IPY research proposals led or initiated by scientists from Denmark, Greenland and Faroe Islands, and which have been endorsed for implementation by the IPY Joint Committee. Several of the projects have been merged so that as of today there are 24 projects, involving a total of 884 scientists from other nations, 16 led from Denmark, 7 from Greenland and 1 from Faroe Islands. A total of nine IPY initiatives led by Denmark or Greenland have their main focus on social/human science issues. Three projects led by Denmark involves a total of 28 researchers from both Denmark and Greenland plus a large number of international contacts, while 6 led by Greenland involves a total of 18 researchers – also in a mixture of researchers from both Greenland and Denmark, and involving a large number of international contacts; all of them are truly innovative, cross-disciplinary, and aimed at opening new research fields.

If all projects are to be fully funded they would require a total of 350 million DKK, which is close to 60 million US\$. The funding situation for the IPY projects in Denmark is, nevertheless, quite uncertain for the time being. So far, Denmark has committed a total of 16 million DKK in new money, 10 million for research projects in Greenland, and 5 million for logistics, equivalent to 2.5 million USD, both available in 2007-2008 for researchers from as well Greenland as Denmark; out of this, a major portion will be used to fund natural and physical science projects.

Recently, the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation announced that ‘polar research’ has been given the status of ‘visionary discipline,’ together with five other fields of Danish research activities. Consequently, Danish IPY research proposals will now have the opportunity to compete for additional 80 million DKK (about 12.5 million USD) reserved in 2006-7 by the Danish Councils for Independent Research for those six ‘visionary disciplines.’ The applications for this new IPY funding are due September 1, 2006 (see more details on the Danish IPY website at [www.dpc.dk/IPY](http://www.dpc.dk/IPY)), and in advance 15 million DKK (~2.5 million USD) has been reserved for IPY projects. This new opportunity comes on top of the yet-unknown additional IPY funding that is expected to come through the Danish Fiscal Bill for 2007 (the first edition of the 2007 bill will be released in August 2006). In spite of those positive signs, the funding for the Danish IPY activities is still substantially behind, both in regard to its timing and the overall volume. In Greenland the Home Rule Government is aware of the importance of the IPY activities, and has promised to come up with funding for project activities, but it is still to see how much will be reality.

Funding uncertainties notwithstanding several Danish IPY ‘start-up’ initiatives have been launched in recent months. Of these, a workshop on ‘regional development’ that was held in Nuuk in late May 2006 deserves special attention. It was funded by the Greenland Home Rule Government and brought together a total of 28 social scientists from the Nordic Countries, as well as several stakeholders from Greenland. The workshop also featured three Danish-led IPY initiatives: “Global Change - Social Challenges” (Rasmus Ole

Rasmussen, IPY #210); “The Political Economy of Northern Development” (Gorm Winther, IPY #227) and “Communication and Democracy in the Arctic” (Klaus Georg Hansen, IPY #272). The Nuuk workshop offered an excellent venue to exchange data and research results among social scientists and local stakeholders in the regional development process. It was also a timely opportunity to strengthen links among various IPY research teams – something that, hopefully, will

improve collaboration and increase funding prospects whenever they appear.

**Rasmus Ole Rasmussen**, a geographer, is an Associate Professor with NORS, North Atlantic Regional Studies at Roskilde University, Denmark and a member of the Danish National IPY Committee

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## *Social/Human Science Efforts under the German IPY Programme*

By Joachim Otto Habeck

As of 2005, among several dozen ‘expressions of intent’ (EoI) submitted by German scientists for research projects during IPY 2007–2008, there were five proposals in social sciences (EoI’s #1, 5, 23, 66, 420), one in history (#26), and one that partially concerns human geography (#282) – see the EoI database at [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org).

The following clustering of the EoI’s into ‘full proposals’ (‘coordination initiatives’) was a rather complex process. Some of the original EoI’s were eventually dropped and did not make it to the full proposal status. Altogether, out of 18 ‘full proposals’ endorsed by the IPY Joint Committee that have lead investigators based in Germany, two are in the social and human science field:

*Changing Trends in Polar Research as Reflected in the History of the International Polar Years* (IPY #27, Cornelia Lüdecke) and *Social-Science Migrating Field Station: Monitoring the Human-Rangifer Link by Following Herd Migration* (IPY #408 Yulian Konstantinov and J. Otto Habeck).

The latter project, with an acronym NOMAD, combines two previous EoI’s (##66 and 420). It will be funded by the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and, possibly, by some other organisations. The main task in terms of logistics is the establishment of a mobile monitoring station (basically, a reindeer herders’ tent with IT equipment and web-based data transmission) on the herding grounds in Kola Peninsula. This station will serve as a base for different research activities with the Human-Rangifer relationship as the prime focus. Principal investigator is Dr. Yulian Konstantinov. He has recently visited Kola Peninsula with the aim to prepare fieldwork logistics. At a forthcoming project workshop scheduled for late July 2006, project participants will discuss further implementation and activities of the station. Max Planck Institute for Social

Anthropology will facilitate project data analysis and storage.

NOMAD is designed as an integrated project of ANTLER (IPY #400, short title: Rangifer Research Network), which deals with the social significance of reindeer herding and hunting, mainly in the Eurasian North. This IPY ‘education and outreach’ activity will operate as a network of integrated and/or associated projects. Lead contact is Dr. Florian Stammler (currently in Rovaniemi, Finland; formerly with the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany); I serve as the second contact.

As of January 2006, the two Germany-led social/human-science proposals have a planned financial volume of approx. Euro 300,000. As of now, the funding situation is unclear, notwithstanding preliminary assent of financial contributions by several scientific organisations. In addition to institutional funds, approx. 60 million Euros are required in order to cover the expenses for all German participations in IPY activities.

The German IPY Committee, consisting of 15 people, had its most recent meeting on May 8, 2006. Main points of discussion were ‘education and outreach’ and the national opening ceremony/presentation of IPY 2007–2008 on March 1, 2007. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 9, 2006.

For further information on the German IPY activities please contact Joachim Otto Habeck, Siberian Studies Centre at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology at [habeck@eth.mpg.de](mailto:habeck@eth.mpg.de) or visit [www.eth.mpg.de](http://www.eth.mpg.de).

**Joachim Otto Habeck**, a social anthropologist, is Coordinator at the Siberian Studies Centre at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany and a member of the German IPY Committee.

## *"Glocalization": Language, Literature and Media among Inuit and Saami People*

By Karen Langgård

“*Glocalization*’ – *Language, Literature and Media*” is a collaborative research initiative that is to explore the function, importance, and evolution of indigenous forms of expression across the Arctic, as a part of the IPY 2007–2008 program (IPY #123). The project aims at comparative studies in language, literature and media in circumpolar communities in the past and present, also considering local aspirations for their future use. Further parts of the project will investigate how Western genres/concepts have been imported and appropriated and how they are now developing in a “glocalizing” context.

Local non-state-bearing languages found in the Arctic, such as various versions of Inuit and Saami languages, are used in various degrees, but are all crucial for ethnic identity and its various expressions in communication, media, literature, and more. The question of general sustainable development in the local regions of the Arctic also includes the question of sustainable development of intellectual culture and language competence. The ‘glocalization’ as a new term covering both ‘globalization’ and ‘localization,’ is the process whereby the impact of global cultural trends is seen as partly opposed by local tendencies. Even in the most remote settings one finds the co-presence and interplay of both universalizing and particularizing tendencies. The question is how exactly globalization takes place. How much impact do local cultural, media and language policies have on the development? Who are the decision-makers formally as well as informally?

Local surveys under the proposed project will take place in Yupik, Aleut, Inuit, and Saami communities in Russia, Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Norway and Finland. Special efforts will be made to include “peripheral” communities, and those underrepresented in the current literature. Targeted communities/regions include: Chukotka Yupik (Siberia); Central Alaskan Yup’ik area, Iñupiaq area, Aleutian Islands and St. Lawrence Island (Alaska); towns and villages in Greenland and Labrador and the Netsilik dialect area (Canada); areas in Northern Norway and Northern Finland. Some sub-projects will also include control groups outside the circumpolar region.

Research activity will be organized in four main areas: socio-/anthropological linguistics, applied linguistics, literature and media studies.

1. *Socio-/Anthropological Linguistics: Language Policy and Planning.* A team of researchers will conduct complementary projects investigating community attitudes and aspirations regarding Arctic languages and their futures. A shared questionnaire will provide baseline data for pan-arctic comparisons. Projects will use a variety of qualitative research methods as well, including semi-directed interviews. An important component will be (indigenous) student-driven case studies of their home communities. Also to be addressed are the factors contributing to the vitality of particular speech varieties as well as existing grassroots initiatives to promote them. This study is placed in the context of literature dealing with community-level language planning and language revitalization projects. One expected outcome is the development of a plan for facilitating local language policy and planning. More broadly, research under this theme will contribute to a better understanding of the symbolic and practical significance of languages in Arctic communities.

2. *Applied Linguistics: Computer Assisted Linguistics.* A second component of the project will investigate the application of computer-assisted linguistics to the Inuit language. An expected outcome is enhancing availability of an Inuit language inventory for all public institutions, locally, regionally and internationally. The project has the further potential of being used as a role model for other indigenous language situations where one language is utilized and administered by several nation states.

3. *Literature: From Oral Tradition to Rap.* The third component is a comparative study of the rise and development of literature throughout the Arctic area. Texts will be seen as sources of the interpretation of cultural encounters and changes. Diachronic aspects include research on the writing down of the oral tradition and the development of modern oral narration. From a postcolonial (cultural) translational perspective, research will also consider the emergence and expansion of newspapers, magazines and other literature, including song lyrics. Among others, one practical outcome of the study will be the development of teaching materials.

4. *Media: Citizenship, Consumerism and Media in Globalized Societies.* The final component is the study of culture, identity and media in globalized societies. Based on a presumption that the

globalisation process has created fragmentation, disembodiment and an overall homogenisation, media researchers from Greenland, Canada, Alaska, Saamies in Norway, and Faeroe Islands (using Sweden and Denmark as a control group) propose an overall holistic study of the relationship of global and local identities among young people as to their use of new media. Collaboration between research teams will favor more holistic analyses of processes of identity construction, language preservation, and promulgation of local intellectual culture. Important outcomes include capacity building at the local level (especially graduate student training); development of a pan-arctic research team; and mechanisms for sharing information between communities and nations.

The project will leave a legacy via reports, articles and anthologies – and some computer-assisted linguistic tools.

The project research team will include indigenous as well as non-indigenous researchers from Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Alaska, and Canada. Together, these researchers cover the following disciplines: anthropology, communications, (cross-) cultural studies, education, linguistics, literature, media studies, and regional studies. Community,

government, and university researchers are collaborating together, as are senior researchers with their more junior counterparts. Student researchers will be involved in all levels of the research.

Through media, town hall meetings and the like, contact will be made to the local populations. Reports will be published in formats to be comprehensible not just to peer researchers but also to interested lay readers and local communities. In these ways, researchers will attempt to make the entire research process – from research design to data collection to reporting – open to local populations.

Further information on the project can be found at [www.dpc.dk](http://www.dpc.dk) under IPY #123 and at [www.ilisimatusarfik.gl/IPY](http://www.ilisimatusarfik.gl/IPY), which will be regularly updated during the project. For more information please contact Karen Langgård, Department of Language, Literature and Media, Ilisimatusarfik University of Greenland at [kala@ilisimatusarfik.gl](mailto:kala@ilisimatusarfik.gl) and/or Lawrence D. Kaplan, Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks at [ffldk@uaf.edu](mailto:ffldk@uaf.edu).

**Karen Langgård** is an Associate Professor at Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland.

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## *New Project: Arctic Social Indicators*

By Joan Nymand Larsen

The Arctic Social Indicator (ASI) project – a follow-up to the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR), and led by Joan Nymand Larsen, Stefansson Arctic Institute, and Peter Schweitzer, University of Alaska Fairbanks – is a new initiative with a goal to devise social indicators of human development in the Arctic. In March, 2006, ASI was welcomed as a new project by the Sustainable Development working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council at its meeting in Salekhard, Russia.

A meeting to discuss the concept and idea of Arctic social indicators and the feasibility of establishing an indicator working group took place at the International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) in Copenhagen in November 12, 2005. The outcome of this meeting, which included broad representation from the Arctic social science community, was the unanimous support for the importance and feasibility of an indicator working group. Subsequent to this, a

secretariat was established at the Stefansson Arctic Institute in Akureyri, Iceland, and a working group was formed which over the next couple of years will be working on the task of constructing a set of clearly defined indicators suitable for measuring change in terms of human development in the Arctic region.

As follow-up to the AHDR, the goal of the ASI project is to devise a limited set of indicators that reflect key aspects of human development in the Arctic, that are tractable in terms of measurement, and that can be monitored over time at a reasonable cost in terms of labour and material resources. The AHDR, which was completed and launched in November 2004, offers a snapshot of the Arctic region at a particular point in time – the early years of the 21st century – and as such can be used as a baseline or a starting point from which to measure changes over time in the state of human development in the circumpolar world. The

AHDR, however, does not present a suite of quantifiable indicators suitable for use on the part of those seeking to monitor or track changes in human development in the Arctic. ASI will be working towards filling this gap. The ASI project will start out with an examination of fate control, cultural integrity, and contact with nature in order to determine whether we can create usable indicators of these facets of human development, and then move on to looking at indicators more broadly.

The first out of an estimated three workshops will take place in Akureyri, Iceland, in September 2006, involving approximately 25 participants. The goal is to have the set of indicators completed in time for presentation and discussion at the 2008 ICASS conference. The final report on Arctic social indicators will be directed at a broad audience, including the science community,

inhabitants of the Arctic, policymakers at all levels, and the Arctic Council and its SDWG.

Funding for this project has been and will be received from the Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Cooperation Programme, the US National Science Foundation, the University of Alaska, and the Stefansson Arctic Institute.

For additional information please contact: Joan Nymand Larsen, ASI secretariat at the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Borgir, Nordurslod, 600 Akureyri, Iceland.

Tel: +354 460 8984, E-mail: jnl@unak.is

More information about ASI will soon be available on the homepage of the Stefansson Arctic Institute, [www.svs.is](http://www.svs.is)

*Joan Nymand Larsen*, an economist, is a senior scientist at Stefansson Arctic Institute at the University of Akureyri, Iceland

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## *Report on the Fourth International School on Legal Anthropology: Participatory Democracy, Moscow, November 3-5, 2005*

By Natalia Novikova

The IV International School on Participatory Democracy chose as its central theme the most challenging problems of aboriginal participation in political life, their representation in legislative bodies, in administration, self-government and co-management of resources on the territories inhabited by northern indigenous peoples practicing traditional nature management.

Special attention was paid to customary law of northern indigenous peoples and interaction between positive and customary law to protect Constitutional rights of Northern indigenous peoples. This topic has become particularly relevant in view of the intensifying industrial development of traditional aboriginal lands used by those peoples to carry out traditional economic activities, with the development of oil and gas deposits being at the centre of this process. Other factors that have contributed to the importance of this topic include deteriorating ecological situation in the North, and problems with application of general democratic mechanisms of people's power within the context of the situation of the indigenous peoples, since they represent a numerically small group of the population. The lectures dealt with these issues within the context

of international law as well as Russia's and Canada's national and customary law. The Russian interns have found the Canadian experience in this area particularly valuable.

The Russian Federation has developed a certain legal base to deal with these problems, but many of them have not been fully resolved. Besides, there is often a gap between actual practice and the existing legislation. In 2004 federal legislation on northern indigenous peoples underwent significant changes. This is why legal education of the interns was particularly relevant.

A number of lectures were delivered to help representatives of indigenous peoples and their organizations enhance their understanding of the current situation. A role-playing game provided the interns with an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge that they had acquired.

The School on Legal Anthropology was organized by the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Northern Indigenous Peoples' Support Centre (NIPSC) – The Russian Indigenous Training Centre (RITC)



School materials were published in the book *Law in the Mirror of Life*. Legal Anthropology Studies. Moscow, 2006, 400 p.  
For more information go to: [www.jurant.ru](http://www.jurant.ru)

*Natalia Novikova* is Project Manager and Leading Researcher of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Science

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## ***News from Members***

### ***Arctic Anthropology Book Wins the Kiriyaama Prize***

The 2006 Kiriyaama Prize for non-fiction has been awarded to Piers Vitebsky for his book "The reindeer people: Living with animals and spirits in Siberia" (published in the UK as "Reindeer people...").

The Kiriyaama Prize is awarded annually for an outstanding book on the region of the Pacific Rim and South Asia (see [kiriyaamapize.org](http://kiriyaamapize.org) and [waterbridgereview.org](http://waterbridgereview.org)). One prize is awarded for non-fiction and one for fiction. The 2006 winner for fiction was Luis Alberto Urrea for "The hummingbird's daughter", set in Mexico.

Previous Kiriyaama winners include Suketu Mehta for "Maximum city: Bombay lost and found", Nadeem Aslam for "Maps for lost lovers", and Michael Ondaatje for "Anil's ghost". This is the first time the prize has been awarded to a work concerning the Arctic.

Extract from an interview with the Chair of the panel of judges:

To all of us this was clearly an important seminal work on a little-known area and community, but told in a non-academic, exceptionally readable way. We felt that Vitebsky was really breaking new ground here. We were also taken with the broader significance of this work—the story of how a small, traditional group such as the Eveny has had to cope with tremendous historical forces far beyond their control but affecting them deeply. In their case it was first the imposition of Soviet rule which fundamentally uprooted their traditional way of life, then the collapse of the Soviet Union which left them again in sharply changed circumstances that may now threaten their very existence as a community. We felt that Vitebsky caught this idea perfectly, through the fascinating personal stories of his hosts and his own perceptive observations during years of painstaking research in such a far-off and forbidding land. This book really does fulfil the mission of the Prize: It greatly

increases understanding, in an exciting and appealing way.

*Piers Vitebsky*, Head of Anthropology and Russian Northern Studies at the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge, UK.

## ***News from Kamchatka***

By Victoria Churikova and Peter Bekkerov

On May 2, 2006, Maria Dybovskaya, professor and researcher (anthropology and linguistics) from Poland, visited Kamchatka and spent several days doing research at local museums and having meetings with indigenous people in remote villages. Her grandfather, Benedykt Dybovsky (1833-1930), was a political convict during the period of the Russian Empire and was exiled to Kamchatka. He became a very famous and very positive figure for the people of Kamchatka. Maria had a purpose with meeting living language speakers (Itelmens, Koryaks, Evens) and getting acquainted with their culture and traditional way of life. She also needed to find some rare documents at the archives of the local museums.

This event was preceded by a business meeting between Maria Dybovskaya, Peter Bekkerov, the Chief of the Union of Itelmen Families and Victoria Churikova in Fairbanks two years ago during ICASS V.

Staying in Kamchatka, Maria lived with Peter's family and he organized several meetings at the museums and other places for her.

Maria gave her book "Kamchatka and her aboriginal people in photos, texts and exhibits" as a present. Some old photos by Benedykt Dybovsky are extremely interesting to the modern and even

young aboriginals. They may find their relatives or very familiar faces.

We hope to see Maria again in Kamchatka very soon in September, during the national feast "ALHALALAY".

This year the Union of Itelmen Families is also planning to host a representative of the National Commission of UNESCO in Russia V.V.Sakharov, organized by Novosibirsk State University. During the visit the guests will visit forest grounds given for the purpose of traditional occupations, tourism, scientific research and ethno-tourism by the Itelmen Community "VITA". We will inform you about this visit later.

A disastrous earthquake happened in April in the North of Kamchatka and Koryak okrug. Fortunately, the region is nearly not inhabited. Still several villages suffered. The rest of the population wishes to be moved.

*Peter Bekkerov*, Chief of the Union of Itelmen Families

*Victoria Churikova*, Union of Itelmen Families, manager and educator, [vikochka@gorodok.net](mailto:vikochka@gorodok.net)

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## ***Conferences and Meetings***

### **August 7-11 2006**

#### **10th NAFHA Conference**

Bremerhaven (Germany)

The North Atlantic Fisheries History Association (NAFHA) and the German Maritime Museum (Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum / DSM)

The conference will be part of the scientific programme accompanying the special exhibition Fish-Fingers at the German Maritime Museum during summer 2006.

Therefore a special focus of the conference will be on the industrialization of the fisheries and fish industry in the North-Atlantic area during the 20th century.

Other topics will be:

- Fisheries limits and conflicts
- Labour migration
- Globalization of fisheries and fish industry
- Consumer habits
- Fishermen's religion and superstition

As the conference is dedicated to be a forum for all scholars dealing with fisheries history there will be a specialized session on global fisheries history aspects organized in cooperation with the Global Fisheries History Network (GFHN).

In addition there will be a young researcher's session. Meetings of the NAFHA Editorial Committee, NAFHA Steering Committee will be part of the programme as well as a General Assembly of NAFHA. Excursions to the fisheries harbour of Bremerhaven and fish-processing plants will complete the programme. Conference fee is

100 Euros and will cover the conference materials, excursions, the conference dinner and coffee breaks. (A limited number of exemptions and/or reductions for the conference fee will be available, for further details or to apply for an exemption or reduction please contact the local organizers.)

A draft programme of the conference will be available in May 2006 and spread out with the second invitation together with detailed information on accommodation and travel arrangements.

Registration for the conference will stay open until the end of June.

To register for the conference please contact Britta Steffens of the local organizing committee ([steffens@dsm.de](mailto:steffens@dsm.de)).

Conference language will be English.

Head of the local organizing committee of the 10th NAFHA Conference Bremerhaven 2006

PhD Dr. Ingo Heidbrink

e-mail: [heidbrink@dsm.de](mailto:heidbrink@dsm.de)

German Maritime Museum

Hans Scharoun Platz 1,

D-27568 Bremerhaven,

Germany

phone: +49 471 48207 16

fax: +49 471 48207 55

### **September 20-24<sup>th</sup> 2006**

#### **THE VIEW FROM HERE**

History and Ecology of the

North Atlantic Region

NABO Conference

Archaeology Laboratories

Séminaire de Québec  
3, rue de la Vieille-Université, Québec (Canada)

The North Atlantic has one of the world's most rapidly-changing climate regimes and has been the backdrop of cultural interactions and migrations on regional and intercontinental scales over thousands of years.

The conference will showcase current research regarding the archaeology, anthropology and environmental history of the North Atlantic, and will deal with subjects ranging from the disappearance of the Dorset, the Viking migrations and the development of the commercial cod and whale fisheries, to the latest ice core research. The conference will include contributions from Inuit participants regarding the impacts of modern climate change on their communities, and from researchers and their students working in the region. Together, these participants will weave together the threads of a very complex story that is of critical importance for understanding the repercussions of global change in the modern world.

Provisional Session Titles:

- 1 Physical Landscape Change during the Holocene
- 2 Dynamics of Small Scale Societies
- 3 The North Atlantic Climate System
- 4 Colonisation of Landscapes and Anthropogenic Change in Northern Landscapes
- 5 Economic Decision-Making in the Context of Instability
- 6 Geoarchaeological Research
- 7 Early World Systems and Multinationals of the North Atlantic: Tales of Fish, Furs and Whales

Web site: [www.celat.ulaval.ca/theviewfromhere/](http://www.celat.ulaval.ca/theviewfromhere/)

E-mail: [viewfromhere@celat.ulaval.ca](mailto:viewfromhere@celat.ulaval.ca)

Mailing address: The View From Here  
CELAT

Faculté des lettres,

Université Laval, Québec

Québec, Canada, G1K 7P4

Phone: (418)-656-2131 Ext: 7238

Fax: (418)-656-7911

### **October 5-8**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting of the Northern  
Research Forum (NRF) 2006**

Oulu and Tornio (Finland) and Haparanda and  
Luleå (Sweden)

See announcement in previous issue of *Northern  
Notes*, or go to: [www.nrf.is](http://www.nrf.is)

### **October 26-28, 2006**

**15<sup>th</sup> International Inuit Studies Conference**

**Orality in the XXIst Century**

**Inuit discourse and practices**

Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France

222 rue de l'Université 75343 Paris cedex 07

Organizing Committee:

Michèle THERRIEN, National Institute for  
Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO)

Nicole TERSIS, National Center for Scientific  
Research (CNRS)

Béatrice COLLIGNON, University Paris 1  
(Panthéon-Sorbonne)

Contact: Secretary of the conference

[gwenaele.guigon@inalco.fr](mailto:gwenaele.guigon@inalco.fr)

### **January 21-26 2007**

**Arctic Frontiers**

Tromsø, Norway

The first annual Arctic Frontiers conference will take place in Tromsø, Norway, on 21-26 January 2007 and will be hosted by the University of Tromsø. This conference will provide an up-to-date view of the state of the arctic environment and developing economic and political trends at the beginning of the International Polar Year period in 2007.

During part one of the conference, invited keynote speakers will provide a review of the current status of arctic science; introduce current social, economic, and political issues; and identify challenges facing these disciplines in the coming years.

Part two will be a scientific conference focusing on arctic marine ecosystems and the potential impacts of environmental change on their structure and functions. Findings will be presented from three international research programmes focused on the European Arctic. These talks will be supplemented by invited and submitted presentations that will extend these findings across the pan-arctic region.

For further information, please go to:

<http://www.arctic-frontiers.com>

### **February 21-24, 2007**

**Remote Regions/Northern Development  
Sessions**

**Western Regional Science Association 46th Annual Meeting**  
Newport Beach, California

Call for Papers

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, 1 November 2006.

Further meeting information is available online at:  
<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~plane/wrsa.html>

The forty-sixth annual meeting of the Western Regional Science Association (WRSA) will be held in Newport Beach, California, beginning on Wednesday, 21 February 2007 with a special opening session and reception. Paper sessions are scheduled for 22-24 February.

The WRSA meeting includes a series of remote regions/northern development sessions to accommodate social scientists who have a special interest in research on economic, social, political, and cultural issues in remote, sparsely settled regions in the circumpolar north and elsewhere. In the past, researchers from Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, Micronesia, Israel, Russia, and the coterminous United States have presented papers.

The remote regions/northern development sessions are in their twenty-fourth year. Organizers are again issuing a general call for papers from economists, political scientists, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, planners, and others involved in research in northern and other remote regions.

General topics include the analysis and discussion of economic, political, and social-cultural change in remote and sparsely settled regions. Examples of specific topics include: the consequences of new

technology; the effects of government expenditures; the conditions for success or failure of development projects; relations between the subsistence and market economies; regional benefits and costs of development; economic integration and cultural preservation; community development; changing social patterns; and Native sovereignty and federalism. While papers on any topic consistent with the general theme are welcomed, organizers encourage papers addressing two particular topics:

- migration in northern and remote regions, and
- institutional change and resource governance in northern and remote regions.

Organizers also welcome special sessions and are particularly interested in sessions which address a particular theme from the perspective of a number of countries or regions. Please contact Lee Huskey if you are interested in organizing such a session.

Send or e-mail a copy of your paper by Wednesday, 1 November 2006 to:

Professor Lee Huskey  
Department of Economics  
College of Business and Public Policy  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska, USA 99508  
E-mail: [aflh@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:aflh@uaa.alaska.edu)

Information about association membership, registration, hotel reservations, and related matters will be sent to those who respond to this call.

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## ***New Books, Dissertations & Film***

### ***Gender and violence in Greenland***

Edited by Mariekathrine Poppel  
Atuagkat Publishing, Nuuk, Greenland, 2006  
353 pp, ISBN 8790133536, DKK 248  
Order from the Atuagkat bookstore at  
[www.atuagkat.gl](http://www.atuagkat.gl)

*This publication is in Greenlandic and Danish*

The book contains 13 articles from different disciplines and professionals in both Greenlandic and Danish from the seminar "Gender and Violence" which took place in Nuuk in 2002.

The book focuses on 4 main themes:

- Domestic violence
- The family during social, cultural and economic change
- Legislation and administration
- Prevention of violence

The seminar was financially supported by "Nordic Council of Ministers Gender and Violence – a Nordic Research Programme 2000-2004" and "National Lotto Funds" from the Greenlandic Home Rule Government.

The publication of the book has been financially supported by The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland (KVUG) and The Home Rule Government Research Fund has supported the editing and translation.

*Knowing Places: The Inuinnait, Landscapes, and the Environment.*

By Béatrice Collignon

Translated by Linna Weber Müller-Wille.

Circumpolar Research Series, No. 10, Edmonton, Alberta: Canadian Circumpolar

Institute Press, 2006

xiv + 304p., 31 maps, figs., &

illustrations; appendices; Inuinnait summary

ISSN 0838-133X ISBN 1-896445-33-0.

Price: CAD 40

Orders: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/polar/>

Knowing Places: The Inuinnait, Landscapes, and the Environment deals with the geographic knowledge of Inuit of the central Canadian Arctic, and explores the importance of the land in the construction of identity. Inuinnait geographic knowledge is organized around three central concepts: relativity, connectivity and subjectivity, that also organize the social structure, and the Inuinnait language. It is a knowledge in action, best described as a holistic "wisdom of the land". It involves a mix of practical skills such as orientation and meteorology, and of oral tradition: stories and place names told and remembered. Learning is accomplished through observation and experience, and by careful attention to numerous stories. Place names describe features as seen and understood by specific people, in specific contexts and experiences related to life and travels on the land. Along with the stories of Inuit epics and family tales, they transform the wide expanses of the physical landscapes into 'memoryscapes' inhabited by human beings, animals, and spirits of all kinds. The book is organized into five chapters and two appendixes. An introduction is followed by a vignette, which depicts daily life in the early 1990s. Chapter one gives a historical overview of Inuinnait social structure and seasonal movements throughout the 20th century. The second chapter identifies the various elements that comprise Inuinnait geographic knowledge. Chapter three is dedicated to the interpretation of the 1,007 Inuinnait place names collected by the author in the early 1990s. Chapter four describes the framework that organizes the Inuinnait geographic knowledge system and its dynamic. An Epilogue

provides insights into the outcome of the research. Two appendixes complete the book; a lexicon of place-names and their English translation, and a detailed presentation of the scientific context and research methodology. The analysis also relies on twenty-six original maps and diagrams.

*Менталитет северян в контексте циркумполярной цивилизации (The Mentality of Northerners in the Context of Circumpolar Civilization)*

By Alexei Pudov and Anatoly Novikov

Yakut State University Publishing, Sakha, Yakutia, 2005, 178 pp

ISBN 5-7513-0697-x

For further information contact Alexei Merzlotsky: alexei\_m@yahoo.com

Fax: 7-4112-357813

*This publication is in Russian.*

*Reindeer Management in Northernmost Europe: Linking Practical and Scientific Knowledge in Social-Ecological Systems*

Edited By: B.C. Forbes, M. Bolter, L. Müller-Wille, J. Hukkinen, F. Müller,

N. Gunsley, and Y. Konstantinov

Springer/Praxis Publishing (Volume 184 of the Ecological Studies Series)

ISBN: 3-540-26087-0

Price: 134 Euro

The book is available online at:

<http://www.springer.com/west/home/generic/search/results?SGWID=4-40109-22-52088092-0>

The management of reindeer herds in northernmost Europe has been dramatically altered by changes in the environment, largely the result of human activities. This volume investigates the conditions upon which human-reindeer relations have been based, as well as those necessary for future reindeer management. It consists of three parts:

I: Herders and Reindeer: The Cultural and Socioeconomic Dynamics of Human-Animal Relations

II: Reindeer Herding: Effects on Soils, Soil Biota, and Vegetation

III: Integrative Models for Reindeer Management: The Interface Between Social and Natural Sciences

The results of process-oriented field and laboratory studies by scientists are efficaciously supported by those from research involving herders and their

experience-based knowledge. In Northern Fennoscandia and Northwest Russia the issue is not just the conservation of the natural environment of reindeer, but also the survival of the Sami, the northern indigenous people who herd them.

This book is written for researchers and environmental managers.

*Reindeer Nomads Meet the Market: Culture, Property and Globalisation at the 'End of the Land'.*

By Florian Stammer

Lit Publishers, Muenster, Berlin, 2006

378 pp

Distributed in continental Europe by: Lit Verlag at <http://www.litverlag.de/isbn/3-8258-8046-x>

Distributed in the UK by: Global Book Marketing at <http://www.globalbookmarketing.co.uk>

Distributed in North America by: Transaction Publishers at <http://www.transactionpub.com>

Or contact the author: [fms36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fms36@cam.ac.uk)

Price: 29.90 Euro

Pastoral nomads are often idealised for their independence, pride and freedom. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the reindeer herds of the Yamal-Nenets District have become the largest in the world and Nenets herders are renowned throughout the circumpolar world as self-reliant, independent pastoralists. Stammer meticulously analyses relations between these reindeer nomads and their social, political and natural environments, exploring continuities and changes in their concepts of property and territory, as well as in their engagement with the developing market economy. Their high social adaptability is combined with a sense of belonging to their animals and their land by living out the nomadic *nenet iIngana*, or 'real lifestyle'. Refuting essentialist notions of Nenets culture, the author explores the dialogue between reindeer nomads and the surrounding world and shows how global processes and concepts such as culture, property and market are expressed in local practices. He demonstrates how reindeer nomads move freely between subsistence and commodity production; state-owned and private reindeer; animism, communism, and market relations; and territorial defence and cooperative knowledge of the land. This study makes an original and significant contribution to wider debates about nomadic pastoralism and to anthropological studies of trade, barter, property and territoriality.

Florian Stammer was a founding member of the Siberia Project Group at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle. He received his PhD-degree in 2004 from the Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg. After working for two years as a research associate in the Scott Polar Institute at the University of Cambridge, in 2005 he joined the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi as a senior researcher in anthropology.

*TERRA ULTIMA. A Short History of Finnish Lapland.*

By Maria Lähteenmäki

Otava, Helsinki 2006. 151 p.

Price: 34 Euro

ISBN-13: 978-951-1-21099-3

See: <http://www.otava.fi>

Finnish Lapland has a history that is multicultural, exotic and marked by its Arctic location. *TERRA ULTIMA* takes the reader on a journey through the centuries from the times of "the witches of the north" to the birth of Finnish Lapland, from the lands of the nomadic Saami reindeer herders to the villages of the pioneer settlers, the logging camps and the frontier lands.

The journey of European explorers, the gold rush, the strong German presence during the Second World War and the recent rise of tourist hotels in the fells are all landmarks in this history. Artistic and cultural influences from Europe, wars between the great powers and fluctuations in the global economy have likewise left own marks on the history of Finnish Lapland.

*Tanana and Chandalar: The Alaskan Field Journals of Robert A. McKennan*

Edited by Craig Mischler and William Simeone

The University of Alaska Press & University of Calgary Press, 2006

255 pp, ISBN-13: 978-1-889963-77-8, ISBN-10: 1-889963-77-1

Phone orders may be placed toll-free in the U.S. at (888) 252-6657. The book may also be ordered via the web at [www.uaf.edu/uapress](http://www.uaf.edu/uapress). In Canada it can be ordered toll free at (877) 864-8477 or via

[www.ucalgary.ca/ucpress](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ucpress)

Hardcover, with b&w photos and color illustrations, maps, bibliography, and index, and retails for USD 45/ CAD 44.95

Born and raised in Helena, Montana, Dr.

McKenna (1903-1981) attended Mercersburg

Academy and was a graduate of Dartmouth College (B.A., 1925) and Harvard University (Ph.D., 1933). McKennan had a distinguished teaching career at Dartmouth for nearly four decades and was the co-founder, with Elmer Harp, of the Department of Anthropology. He was one of the very first professional anthropologists to do ethnographic fieldwork in Alaska, and his daily journals, originally composed as letters to his wife and parents, offer detailed insights into his methods of working in isolated Athabaskan Indian communities during the period from 1929-1933. Students of cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, and ethnohistory will discover that editors Craig Mishler and William Simeone have themselves followed in McKennan's footsteps to the Upper Tanana and Gwich'in villages where he worked, providing an extended introduction, a biographical sketch, and extensive annotations to contextualize his journals. Well-illustrated with photo portraits of McKennan's many key respondents and the wealth of colorful beadwork he collected, *Tanana and Chandalar* will have general appeal to readers interested in Native American Studies and the history of anthropology, as well as those with specific interests in Alaskan ethnohistory and the northern Dene.

## **Film**

### ***Sustainable Self-Employment among the Sámi: Why Do They Stay in a Low-Profit Business?***

A new documentary available from Leo Dana at [leo.dana@canterbury.ac](mailto:leo.dana@canterbury.ac)

Pastoralism is still the occupation of choice for many Sámi, the indigenous people of northern Europe. They forego high incomes in the city, in order to enjoy their traditional lifestyles. Why Do Sámi people stay in a low-profit business? This half-hour documentary, filmed in Finland and Norway, explains culture, tradition, subsistence and change among Sámi reindeer-herders. The film is 30 minutes in colour, available PAL, NTSC and DVD. It was produced and filmed in Finland and in Norway, during June reindeer roundup, by Leo Dana and Teresa Dana, researched with the co-operation of Ludger Muller-Wille of McGill University and the help of the Sami Parliament and the Sami people as well as the technical support of the Studio at the CCH.

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## ***On the Web***

### ***Conservation Hunting in the North***

Hosted by the Canadian Circumpolar Institute, University of Alberta. The website is available at: <http://www.ualberta.ca/polar/conservationhunting>. Conservation hunting is a form of regulated hunting contributing to conservation of local wildlife populations and providing social and economic benefits to involved local communities. The Conservation Hunting (CH) website aims to provide information on current research and discussion regarding the concepts, background, scope and outcome of CH, particularly in the Canadian North, but also elsewhere. This website provides information on multidisciplinary research on CH being carried out by researchers at the Canadian Circumpolar Institute and their research partners and collaborators in the North and at other research centres. This website is maintained as an interactive tool, inviting feedback and reports from others involved and/or interested in CH activities, in order to contribute to research, conservation, and sustainable development initiatives more

particularly in northern regions. We invite input from all CH stakeholders, including researchers in various disciplines, wildlife managers, co-managers, policy advisers, hunters, outfitters, and conservationists.

Further information can be obtained by contacting: Dr. Milton Freeman at [milton.freeman@ualberta.ca](mailto:milton.freeman@ualberta.ca) or Dr. Kashif Sheikh at [kashif.sheikh@ualberta.ca](mailto:kashif.sheikh@ualberta.ca) of the Canadian Circumpolar Institute.

### ***New IPY Website launched by the NSF***

The National Science Foundation has launched a portal website to provide the general public and members of the news media with easy access to news releases, classroom resources, listings of museum and gallery exhibits, and catalogues of video and still images and other materials produced or supported by the federal government as part of the U.S. contribution to the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008.

The site, at [www.us-ipy.gov](http://www.us-ipy.gov) includes information on the IPY for a general audience as well as basic

information for scientists interested in obtaining IPY funding from the U.S. government. New content will be continually added to the comprehensive site.

### ***New Database Available Documentary Films from the Barents Region***

The database is available online at:  
<http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/afbare/index.asp>  
For further information about the Arctic Documentary Films at Risk in Barents Region Project, please go to:  
<http://www.arcticcentre.org/?deptid=18849>  
The Arctic Documentary Films at Risk in Barents Region Project (Afbare) has launched a database on arctic documentary films, which is available online at:

<http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/afbare/index.asp>

The database contains information on approximately 35,000 documentary films from the Barents region, mainly from Murmansk Oblast, Arkhangelsk region, and Finnish Lapland.

Information in the database is mainly in English, but authors and original titles are also listed in Russian and Finnish accordingly.

Detailed information, including scene-by-scene descriptions and previews, is available for more than 1,000 digitized films. Films are from the collections of TV Murman, TV Pomorye Archangelsk, and YLE Finland.

The Afbare project surveys and digitizes old documentary films in the Barents region and priority is given to films dealing with arctic indigenous people, arctic nature, society, and exploration.

### ***Second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II): The Arctic System in a Changing World Conference Proceedings***

The PDF-version of the conference proceedings is available since March 2006 at [www.icarp.dk](http://www.icarp.dk)

### ***Snowchange Conference Report and Recommendations***

Northern Indigenous Views on Climate Change and Ecology.

The much-anticipated Snowchange 2005 Conference Report, "Stories of the Raven", is out now! It is available as a PDF File on [www.snowchange.org](http://www.snowchange.org) . (Update May 8th 2006:

Added corrections and updated version, titled "May 2006") See also the recommendations from the Snowchange 2005 Conference on the website.

Winner of the prestigious Worldwide Fund for Nature 2002 'Panda Prize' for best national ecological project, SnowChange was started in late 2000 to document and work with local and Indigenous communities of the Northern regions. In 2001, a partnership was established with the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment to provide case studies from Finland and Russia to the Chapter 3 of ACIA: Indigenous perspectives.

Aim of this project was to document and work with local communities and Indigenous peoples to present their findings of climate and ecological change in a way that would offer a viewpoint that empowers the local people of the changing Arctic.

As well, a strong educational element was included to introduce students of the mainstream societies of Russia, Finland, Iceland, Canada and Alaska to the values, ethics, lifestyles and knowledge of the Indigenous societies of the North.

Students worked with reindeer herders, fishermen and hunters in the circumpolar regions to collect the Indigenous observations of change. The results were released in a groundbreaking publication *Snowscapes, Dreamscapes* in Helsinki, Finland in June 2004.

Overall the Sámi and other local participants have a clear message of the changes taking place; in the past 20 years there has been a significant new phase in the weather and natural cycles. The Sámi have traditional knowledge building on generations of people living in close relationship with the sub-arctic ecosystem.

The scientific priority of Snowchange is currently in the following areas of the North:

- The Saami territories of Finland, Russia, Sweden and Norway
- Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, Russian Federation
- Savo, North Karelia and Kainuu, Finland
- Iceland and Faroe Islands
- British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Canada
- Alaska, USA

In addition to the operations in all Arctic countries (United States / Alaska, Canada, Iceland, Greenland and Faroe Islands (Denmark), Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russian Federation) Snowchange has partners in Bolivia, Nepal, Ghana and New Zealand. In all of our member regions there is a large network of community people to whom we owe our daily thanks for making



Snowchange possible. As well, several NGOs and other organisations such as the International WWF Arctic Programme have been and are key allies with our work.

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### *IASSA Membership/membership renewal*

Join or renew via the online form on [www.iassa.gl](http://www.iassa.gl) under the link “Membership Services” or contact the Secretariat directly (see front page for further details). Payments can be made with VISA/MasterCard, check or bank transfer.  
Membership fees (3 year memberships):  
Associate: 400 DKK  
Full: 800 DKK

### *Change of address, e-mail etc.*

Update you contact info via the online form on [www.iassa.gl](http://www.iassa.gl) under the link “Membership Services” or contact the Secretariat directly (see front page for further details). If you subscribe to IASSA.Net and your e-mail address changes, please remember to notify the Secretary or change your e-mail address via the IASSA.Net info page on <https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/mailman/listinfo/iassa.net>