

Northern Notes

The Newsletter of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association

IASSA

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The IASSA secretariat is located at the Stefansson Arctic Institute in the Borgir Research Building – the white building to the right

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FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARIAT

From the President

Warm greetings to you all from Akureyri, Iceland!

The IASSA secretariat has once again made a smooth transition, this time from Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland in Nuuk, to the Stefansson Arctic Institute located in Akureyri, Northern Iceland. Here at the Institute we welcome the opportunity to host the IASSA secretariat for the next couple of years and look forward to also hosting the next ICASS (International Congress of the Arctic Social Sciences) together with the University of Akureyri. ICASS VII is set to take place in Akureyri in 2011, probably at the juncture of May/June. We hope to see you all then!



Akureyri

I would like to start out by first acknowledging the excellent work of the team at the University of Greenland. Our former president, Yvon Csonka, did a tremendous job for our association. Together with the past IASSA Council, Yvon continued the important work to raise the profile, recognition and visibility of our association and the Arctic social sciences in international circles and took important steps to help meet IASSA objectives, including promoting and stimulating international cooperation and promoting communication and coordination with other related organizations. ICASS VI congress convener and past IASSA vice-president, Birger Poppel, together with the IASSA secretariat, put on an excellent ICASS VI where we all had an opportunity to share our research and begin to see the results of the IPY. On behalf of the association, I would also like to acknowledge the extremely valuable work of the Nuuk IASSA secretaries, all of whom did important work for our association: Najaraq Paniula, Inge Seiding, and Janus Chemnitz Kleist, as well as webmaster Klaus Georg Hansen. And last but not least, I would like to extend our

gratitude to outgoing members of the previous IASSA Council: Igor Krupnik, Galina Diatchkova, Patrik Lantto, and Heather Myers.

ICASS VI had been endorsed as part of the IPY Scientific Program, and became the main venue for showcasing and networking human and social science research during the IPY. As reported by Birger Poppel, a working group established by the IASSA general assembly of 2004 lobbied for inclusion of the social sciences in the IPY. This working group was very successful, and its lobbying was instrumental in making the social sciences a major element of the IPY (see report by Birger). The success of ICASS VI will be remembered by our association as a significant testimony to the wealth of research that went on or was initiated during the IPY process. On this note, I would like to acknowledge also the invaluable work of our social science representatives on the IPY Joint Committee; Igor Krupnik (past IASSA councilor) and Grete Hovelsrud (current councilor). Before this, Gérard Duhaime (former IASSA president) had also been instrumental in helping lay the important groundwork for the inclusion of social sciences in IPY, when he served on the ICSU IPY Planning Group (for Canada). In this issue of Northern Notes, Igor Krupnik brings us an update on the IPY 2007-2008 and the science breakthrough. Igor's update covers major developments in IPY activities during 2008 and addresses some of the key issues associated with its legacy in 2009 and beyond. As Igor writes, "In the five-plus years following the onset of planning for IPY we have witnessed a remarkable turn-around in the standing of social and human research in polar science." See report by Igor and a brief announcement of the Oslo IPY science conference in 2010 (www.ipy-osc.no).

Let me also take this opportunity to point to our official observer status with the Arctic Council. The Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council - marking the end of the Norwegian Chairmanship - will be held in Tromsø, Norway, on April 29, and I will represent IASSA at that meeting. Our association's observer status with the Arctic Council is but one example of our association's expanding role and profile. In connection with the Arctic Council, let me briefly mention our official participation in three current projects under the Arctic Council; SAON (Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks); the Arctic Council project on Maximizing the Legacy of IPY; and SWIPA (Climate Change and the Arctic Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic). Our association is a member of the Initiating Group of SAON. About 350 Arctic researchers, representatives of inter-governmental, national

and sub-national government agencies, representatives of indigenous peoples organizations, and residents of the Arctic have been part of this process. IASSA has been an active participant in SAON and some of us participated in one or more of the SAON workshops. The SAON report calls for better access to data to facilitate the IPY legacy. It is a process to “further multinational engagement in developing sustained and coordinated pan-Arctic observing and data sharing systems that serve societal needs, particularly related to environmental, social, economic and cultural issues” (see final SAON report at www.arcticobserving.org). Among the SAON recommendations is the establishment of an Arctic Observing Forum (AOF). At this point it is still uncertain what will happen to this and other SAON recommendations. Update reports on SAON can be found in earlier issues of Northern Notes.

IASSA also participates in the Arctic Council IPY Legacy project on “Maximizing the Legacy of the IPY”. This project is a scoping study to identify areas or activities for which the Arctic Council can play a role in facilitating the legacy of IPY. The project was endorsed by the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) in Kautokeino in November 2008, and is produced by a Contact Group composed of representatives from the Arctic Council member states and Permanent Participants’ organizations, as well as relevant international scientific organisations, including IASSA. I participated in a small workshop on this at the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2009 to draft a report to the SAOs of the Arctic Council. A more comprehensive scoping study will be completed prior to the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Tromsø on April 29.

The third Arctic Council project I wanted to briefly mention here is SWIPA. IASSA is a new member of the SWIPA Initiating Team. The project is a follow-up to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), and is coordinated by AMAP. It will compile and assess recent scientific information on changes in the Arctic cryosphere and their impacts on the ecosystem as well as the consequences of these changes on socio-economics and the health and lifestyles of people living in the Arctic. More detailed information is available from the AMAP website (<http://www.amap.no/>). The next SWIPA workshop will be held in Sweden at the end of May.

Let me also briefly mention the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). IASSA is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the annual

ASSW. The ASSW 2009 was held in Bergen on March 23-27. This year the ASSW included a science forum running three full days, with sessions and keynote addresses which included many contributions from the Arctic social sciences. The new structure of the ASSW stipulates that every other year the ASSW will include a science forum. During the ASSW in Bergen I participated on behalf of IASSA in the IASC science forum and the IASC Council meeting. The proposed new structure of IASC was presented during the special IASC science forum session on “IASC in Transition. Facing new Challenges in Arctic Science”. Its core new elements are the Scientific Standing Committees (SSCs) and Action Groups. The proposed SSCs are to identify and formulate science plans, act as scientific advisory boards to the IASC Council, and assist IASC in the implementation of its science mission (for more, please see IASC report on this at www.iasc.org). Of particular interest to IASSA is the proposed new structure which includes the establishment of five science committees of which one is a committee on the human & social system. The focus of this committee would be related to the ICARP II social science working group reports, including elaboration on the ICARP II science plans “Arctic Economies and Sustainable Development” and “Indigenous Peoples and Change in the Arctic”. IASC is inviting close collaboration with IASSA on this committee. This proposed new IASC structure, however, has not yet obtained final approval.

Further on the topic of our association's cooperation with IASC, let me briefly report to you on the signing of a letter of agreement (LoA) between IASSA and IASC which took place last year. At the executive session of the IASC council meeting held in Syktyvkar, Russia, March 28, during the ASSW 2008, the LoA (formulated and proposed jointly by IASC and IASSA) was introduced and then signed by IASC president, Kristjan Kristjansson, and IASSA president, Yvon Csonka. The LoA outlines the intent of IASC and IASSA to combine their efforts in selected fields and activities so as to raise the level of impact of both organizations in terms of making scientific advances and in advising policy makers (see contribution by IASC executive secretary, Volker Rachold, in this issue). A first agreement between IASSA and IASC was in fact signed back in 1995, and the new LoA builds on a relationship that has been strengthening in more recent years in particular in connection with the ICARP II process. It recognizes that there are many common interests between the two organizations in international and multi-disciplinary scientific

cooperation in the Arctic. It also recognizes that IASSA and IASC have worked together in the recent past and that increased cooperation between the two organizations will be of mutual benefit, including for example their cooperation in arranging scientific conferences, encouraging the development of integrated plans for scientific research, and advising policy makers.

Arctic social sciences continue to gain increased recognition. This is a positive trend which we experience both inside and outside the Arctic and in circles that have not traditionally been concerned with Arctic issues. One of many examples of this is the recent UNESCO international experts meeting 'Sustainable Development of the Arctic in the face of Global Climate Change: scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges' held in Monte Carlo on March 3-6, where the Arctic social sciences were participating as equal partners with the natural sciences to address the complex issues and challenges of global warming in relation to the natural, social and cultural landscapes of the Arctic and sub-Arctic. This was a meeting designed to bring together relevant bodies of scientific expertise, ethical frameworks and specialized educational and cultural perspectives. There were 50 or so participants including a few of us from IASSA. This meeting was a success not least because it succeeded in bringing together the various sciences, and indigenous peoples' representatives in one forum to discuss issues of joint interest and importance, while also addressing key issues of indigenous peoples, and many social and ethical concerns.

On the issue of expanding the profile and raising the recognition of Arctic social sciences I want to briefly draw your attention to the European Science Foundation's (ESF) call for input on EUROCORES themes 2009. The ESF is inviting proposals for themes for new programmes. This is an opportunity for our members to suggest ESF funding programmes, also for the Arctic social sciences – programmes that we need to see more of. The ESF is inviting well developed ideas (theme proposals) for the creation of new EUROCORES Programmes with the deadline of 29 May 2009. The programmes are in and across all scientific domains. See www.esf.org/eurocores and the brief ESF announcement in this issue of Northern Notes.

This wouldn't be a true "president's message" without a kind reminder to us all about the critical importance of IASSA membership dues. The association currently has about 500 paying members. Our membership database shows that several memberships have lapsed and also that we

continue to have a significant number of non-paying members. IASSA and the daily running of the organization and its secretariat rely on the financial support of membership fees.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Arctic social sciences, and membership is required to participate in the ICASS. Membership dues contribute towards secretariat costs and help support the representation of our association in various important activities and help us meet the objectives of IASSA, such as representation at the Arctic Council. Membership dues thus contribute to keeping IASSA an active organization on a day-to-day basis, and payment of dues is therefore of high importance to IASSA. Please visit the information on our membership payment structure at www.iassa.gl.



Joan in front of the Borgir Research Building where the Stefansson Arctic Institute and the IASSA Secretariat is located.

We look forward to introducing you to the new and renovated IASSA website soon which will be hosted by ArcticPortal - www.arcticportal.org. Please read more in the message from our new IASSA secretary Lára Ólafsdóttir.

Together with the new Council I look forward to continuing the important work and activities of our association, representing IASSA in international fora, and continuing the critical work to meet key IASSA objectives. No doubt, our association has enjoyed considerable growth in profile and increased demand for our input and collaboration at all levels. The expertise of IASSA and its members is increasingly being solicited. The Arctic social sciences have moved far to gain recognition and equal partner status in international fora and research policy circles. Looking back, and in assessing the achievements over the past several years, it is evident that the work of IASSA has been an important contributing factor in facilitating the broader inclusion of the Arctic social sciences, and the improved access to funding and research opportunities. In the time ahead I look forward to

working with the new council and our members to build on these achievements, and to continue the work of building a strong and internationally recognized association.

Joan Nymand Larsen



From the Secretary

Following the tradition, let me introduce myself: My name is Lára and I am the new secretary of IASSA. I was born in Akureyri where the IASSA Secretariat will be situated for the next couple of years, and I have lived here most of my life. The exceptions are the years when I studied at the University of Iceland in Reykjavík and when I lived in Stockholm, Sweden, for five years. I am very fond of my home town and cannot imagine myself living anywhere else in the future.

Akureyri is a town that I hope many of you will visit in 2011, when the ICASS VII conference will take place here. It is situated by Eyjafjörður fjord, surrounded by mountains reaching 1000-1500 m. The Arctic Circle is only 60 km north of Akureyri but still the climate is mild, with summer temperatures frequently around +15°C and winter temperatures that have increased the last years from average lows of around -5°C to close to 0°C.



With a population of about 17200, Akureyri is the second largest urban area outside the capital area of Reykjavík. It is a popular tourist destination and the centre of trade and services in northern Iceland. It is also a town of culture and education, with many galleries, museums, schools, a university, the world's most northerly botanic garden, one of Iceland's most popular swimming facilities, an 18-hole golf course, the best skiing area in the country, good hiking trails and free city bus. Our guests can choose between varied accommodation and an excellent range of restaurants, some of which specialise in local food. For more information on Akureyri visit <http://www.visitakureyri.is/en> and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akureyri>.

Although I have a BA degree (English and Swedish) and a teacher's certificate, teaching did not become my profession. I did try, but felt that teaching 13 year olds had too much to do with bringing up the kids and teaching them manners instead of teaching what the curriculum advised. So different office work is what I have been doing. In Stockholm I worked with stipends and

grants at the Swedish Institute, receiving students from all over the world who came to study in Swedish universities. Back home in Akureyri I worked for 12 years with customer service in Iceland's biggest wool factory. The wool business was really tough at the end of that time and fighting for its existence. When the factory went bankrupt in 1999 I was lucky to get the job as office manager at the Stefansson Arctic Institute.

Here I met quite a different world, the world of the circumpolar north, and learned about the North from many new and interesting angles. Among other things, I have worked with the Northern Research Forum and I have participated in several of the NRF open assemblies. In the year 2000 the Institute opened here in Akureyri an exhibition which subsequently travelled to different places in the North. The exhibition is called *The Friendly Arctic* and features a selection of anthropologist and explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson's photographs, manuscripts and publications, excerpts from his diaries, and other texts and items (our Institute bears the name of Vilhjalmur Stefansson). This exhibition is one of many projects I work on. Now we have a web version of the photographic part of the exhibition which I recommend you to visit: <http://thefriendlyarctic.svs.is>.

The Stefansson Arctic Institute (www.svs.is) was established in 1998 and operates under the auspices of the Icelandic Ministry for the Environment. The Institute - together with the IASSA secretariat - is situated on the 5th floor in the Borgir building (see photo on front page) on the University of Akureyri campus. The University with ca 1400 students has just celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The design of a new IASSA logo is among many tasks the new IASSA Secretariat has started working on. We have received suggestions which the council members are now reviewing and hopefully we will be able to present the logo when a new IASSA website will be launched, which will be soon. When we introduce the new website I will take over as webmaster. The new website will have a different look, with new links and content, and I hope that it will be frequently used by IASSA members as well as others.

As you may notice the layout of the newsletter is slightly changed. We are open for comments and suggestions! Numbering the issues, as we will do from now on, I am sure will make it easier for you and future readers to keep track. I also want to use the opportunity to urge you to use duplex printing if you print out the newsletter – we must remember our environmental responsibility!

I look forward to working with Joan and the IASSA Council and to meeting many of you, either in cyberspace or in person.

Lára Ólafsdóttir
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New IASSA Council Members

At the IASSA General Assembly on August 25, 2008 during the 6th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VI) in Nuuk, Greenland, a new IASSA Council was elected:



Joan Nymand Larsen, president
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Joan Nymand Larsen received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Manitoba in 2002 specializing in development and northern economies. She is senior scientist with the Stefansson Arctic Institute and holds a faculty position with the University of Akureyri, teaching economics and development in the Social and Economic Development Programme and the newly established graduate Polar Law programme. She was project manager and co-editor of the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) 2004, and is currently project leader of the follow-up project on Arctic Social Indicators (ASI), an IPY and Arctic Council endorsed project. Since the mid 90s her research has focused on northern economies, with emphasis on Greenland and the North Atlantic region, and the issues and challenges of global change, socio-economic development, and living conditions in the North. She leads the curriculum work for the UArctic graduate course development on Arctic Economies and Livelihoods in a Changing World in the UArctic Thematic Network on Global Change. Other current activities include her participation in the research consortium on the Political Economy of Northern Regional Development (POENOR) as well as the Icelandic-Canadian Network for Comparative Studies of the Cumulative Impacts of Arctic Climate Change (ICECAP). She also co-organizes the Northern Research Forum (NRF) theme-project group activities on Economies of the North.



Yvon Csonka, ex officio
(immediate past president)
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Yvon Csonka's current research interests include oral history, historical representations, and recent social change among Arctic indigenous peoples. He has conducted extensive field research in Nunavut, Chukotka, and Greenland. He holds a Ph.D. in social anthropology from Laval University (Québec, 1991), a DEA from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris (1986), and an MA from the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland, 1977). He presided IASSA from 2004 to 2008, while he was professor of anthropology at the University of Greenland. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the European Science Foundation EUROCORES programme BOREAS. He currently serves on the editorial boards of *Études/Inuit/Studies*, *Boréales*, *Acta Borealia*, *Northern Studies*, and *Polarforschung*. He is currently based at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, where he carries out research on family life conditions.



Grete Kaare Hovelsrud

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Grete Kaare Hovelsrud received her Ph.D. in anthropology from Brandeis University, Massachusetts, in 1997. Her Ph.D. work, with field work in East Greenland focused on the social and economic aspects of seal hunting, looking at how external NGOs have an impact on local, quite isolated communities in the north. She has more than 25 years experience in working and travelling in the Arctic on various projects in a number of disciplines (quaternary geology, reindeer ecology, marine geology and social anthropology). After six years as General Secretary to the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), she began her research on the consequences of climate change on local communities in the Arctic. Her current research focuses on the community adaptation and vulnerability to past, current and present adaptation and vulnerability to climatic, environmental, social, political and economic change. She co-leads, with Dr Barry Smit, Univ. of Guelph, Canada, the IPY Consortium CAVIAR

– Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in the Arctic Regions, with more the 26 case studies throughout the Arctic. She is also project leader for a number of other EU and Norwegian Research Council funded projects on the consequences of climate change in local communities and how these changes relate to national and international processes. Local involvement in climate change research is one of the distinctive features of Dr. Hovelsrud's research. Another is the fundamentally interdisciplinary approach she applies to all her projects, involving and collaborating with meteorologists, oceanographers and fisheries biologists.

She is a member of the IPY Joint Committee, a member of the IASSA (International Arctic Social Sciences Association) Council, and the Norwegian IPY National Committee. In wearing these hats she sees it as her responsibility that the social sciences always are included in major scientific efforts in the Arctic. She has been a dog musher, and is currently a skier and kayaker and would prefer to be travelling around in the Arctic over an office job.



Lene Kielsen Holm
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Lene Kielsen Holm received her masters degree from Ilisimatusarfik in Social and Cultural History in 2002. She is employed as Director for Research and Sustainable Development at Inuit Circumpolar Council, Greenland. She has been doing several research projects within the Arctic Council's Working Group for Sustainable Development, on gender and resource issues. She is currently working with a project called Sila-Inuk, which is an interview project on the hunters and fishermen's observations of changes, related to climate change in Greenland. She is also collaborating on an interdisciplinary and intercultural Sea Ice Knowledge and Use project, called Siku-Inuit-Hila, with partners in Alaska Canada and Greenland, both hunters and scientists. She is currently chair of the board for the Institute of Natural Resources in Greenland.



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Alexander King is lecturer of anthropology at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. His current research interests include oral narratives, language shift and revival, mythology and ritual, traditional dance, and grammatical description and typology among Siberian and North Pacific indigenous peoples. He received an M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Virginia (1996, 2000) and a B.A. in anthropology from Reed College (Oregon, 1991). His research has been primarily focused on northern Kamchatka, Russia, primarily among Koryak peoples, as well as others, investigating problems in linguistic anthropology. He is currently PI of an ESRC-funded project on indigenous dance groups in Alaska for comparison with material already collected in Kamchatka. He is editor of *Sibirica: Interdisciplinary Journal of Siberian Studies*, and serves on the review panel of the ESF EUROCORES programme EuroBABEL. He is author of a website on Koryak language and culture aimed at a general audience:
www.koryaks.net.



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Birger Poppel is Research Project Chief of the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland . His research interests include living conditions of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, the mixed market and harvest, herding based economies of the Arctic and the economic, social and demographic developments of the Circumpolar North. He is currently co-PI of an ESF BORAS project: Understanding Migration in the Circumpolar North (UMCN) ; co-team leader in the Arctic Council project: Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) ; co-PI of Political Economy of Northern Regional Development (PoENoRD) ; and he participates in the Arctic Council project: The Economy of the North (ECONOR). He received an MA in Economics from the University of Copenhagen (1978). He was the first head of Statistics Greenland and served as Chief Statistician from 1989-2004. He is chairman of the Greenland IPY Committee and a member of the IPY Data Sub Committee. He serves on the editorial board of *Social Indicator Research*. He is currently a member of the Board of Governors of Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland.



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Peter Schweitzer received his Ph.D. degree in social/cultural anthropology from the University of Vienna in 1990 and has since taught at universities in Alaska, Austria, and Russia. He is currently Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and, since 2007, Director of Alaska EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research). His regional areas of expertise are northeastern Siberia and northwestern Alaska and his topical interests include social organization, ethnohistory, hunter-gatherer studies, and history of anthropology. He is Project Leader of "Moved by the State: Perspectives on Relocation and Resettlement in the Circumpolar North (MOVE)," an IPY-endorsed European Science Foundation project within the BOREAS program.



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Florian Stammler holds a position as Senior Researcher in anthropology at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland, where he coordinates the anthropology research team. He is also an Institute Associate at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, UK, where he has worked between 2003 and 2005 as a post-doctoral research associate. He received his PhD from the Max-Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany, specialising in postsocialist transition studies on the example of Siberian Yamal reindeer herders. His publications are mainly on human-animal-environment relations, reindeer nomadism and the impact of the extractive industry on northern livelihoods - a topic he has been working on for 10 years. More recently he started working on relocation and sense of place among industrial migrants in the North and is the PI in the BOREAS project MOVE-INNOCOM that studies such migrants' relocation and settlement histories in Soviet and post-Soviet industrial northern cities. He has done extensive fieldwork in various regions of the North, with a special focus on West Siberia and European Russia.



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Anne Sudkamp is currently the Executive Officer of Alaska EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), a program funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and the state of Alaska to build research capacity in Alaska. Before stepping into this position, she was the Associate Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) /University of the Arctic Office for International Polar Year Education and Outreach, and before that the Executive Officer of IASSA. She opened the IASSA office at UAF when the secretariat arrived in 2001, led organization of ICASS V, was in charge of operations for the IASSA IPY Facilitation Initiative, and published the keynotes from ICASS V. She received an M.A. in Russian from Middlebury College in 1990 and she studied Anthropology and Education at the graduate level at UAF. Before she came to work for IASSA, she was editor of the Russian Far East News, a newsletter on business, economics and politics in this region, for almost a decade.

FEATURES

The Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, ICASS VI - Nuuk 2008 Arctic Social Sciences – Prospects for the International Polar Year 2007-2008 Era and Beyond

by Birger Poppel

The Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, ICASS VI, took place at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland in Nuuk from August 22-26, 2008.

The International Arctic Social Sciences Association, IASSA organizes these international conferences every three to four years, bringing together people from all over the world to share ideas about social science research in the Arctic. 375 participants, of whom some 300 travelled to Greenland from 22 different countries, attended this event.

Convening ICASS VI in the capital of Greenland, the only indigenous self-governing Arctic country, gave an opportunity not only to focus on research but also present different facets of the Greenlandic culture.

ICASS VI has been endorsed as part of the IPY Scientific Program, to be the main venue for showcasing and networking human and social science research during the Polar Year. The main goal of ICASS VI was to offer various venues for IPY scholars, other northern researchers, and local participants to analyze the progress of IPY 2007-2008 in social and human fields.

More than 250 researchers and other Arctic stakeholders presented papers within 44 sessions framed along eleven themes and research fields: *Sustainability and Climate Change; Economic Development; Politics, Justice and Governance; Living Conditions, Culture, Language, Literature and Media; Religion, History & Science; Health; Material Culture and Archaeology; Inclusive Research; Young Researchers; and IPY* focussing on aspects of human activities in the past and present including the many different forces for change the indigenous peoples, other Arctic residents and societies are facing.

The impact of climate change and how people and Arctic communities adapt to the changing climate was discussed in several sessions as well as in a town-hall meeting convened by IASSA and Inuit Circumpolar Council, ICC. IASSA finds it important that the focus was on a broad variety of factors for change impacting the living conditions of people in the Arctic and the development of Arctic societies: economic, social, political as well as cultural.

Following the traditions of Arctic social researchers to engage in the development of the Arctic and monitor the impacts on Arctic residents, the IASSA General Assembly at ICASS endorsed the creation of a working group on extractive industries in the Arctic (EIWG).

The third day of the congress was a special IPY day with plenary keynotes, a panel on the IPY-legacy and a Young Researcher's forum. The following day, a panel presented the large European Science Foundation research initiative "Histories from the North – environments, movements, narratives (EUROCORES BOREAS)", which was also very well represented in the sessions at the Congress.

For many international network projects, ICASS sessions offered the only chance for face-to-face discussions, as participants from many nations have limited contacts in the field and across the boundaries.

A major event like ICASS VI convened in the Arctic, where logistics is a constant challenge and

transportation costs often seem prohibitive, could not have taken place without generous support from a number of sponsors. The Greenland Home Rule Ministry of Education and Research established support in order for this congress to become the major contribution to IPY by Greenland. In doing so, it signalled the importance of human and social studies to people and societies in the Arctic, and it showcased the capacity building in education and research in the Arctic itself. Furthermore the grants from the European Science Foundation (ESF), the United States National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) have made it possible to support the participation of researchers that would otherwise not have been able to attend ICASS VI – e.g. young researchers, indigenous researchers and researchers from countries where funding for Arctic social science is particularly scarce.

During the Greenlandic term of office (2004-2008), several breakthroughs occurred for the Arctic social sciences, and the action of IASSA over the years was instrumental in bringing them about. The outcome of the ICARP II conference in 2005 was announced as a "paradigm shift". A work group set up by the IASSA general assembly of 2004 lobbied for inclusion of the social sciences in IPY, and it is due to the success of this action that social sciences became a major element of IPY, and that ICASS VI is a part of this program. In the same years, scientific assessments sponsored by the Arctic Council, (e.g. the Arctic Climate Impacts Assessment, ACIA, the Arctic Human Development Report, AHDR, 2004), provided groundwork for further elaborations, now being carried out e.g. as the Arctic Social Indicators project, ASI, and the upcoming workshop on "Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic" (VACCA). Other large international programs were set up in those years, such as the "Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic", SLiCA and BOREAS. In all, there was active participation of IASSA members.

One can truly say that the Arctic social sciences have gained recognition and equal partner status in many circles dealing with research and research policy in the Arctic. ICASS VI can be seen as a key component of maintaining the momentum created, and of planning the legacy of IPY and sustaining the Arctic observing networks (the ongoing SAON initiative) which are being created just now.

More information: www.icass.gl, www.iassa.gl and http://www.arctichost.net/ICASS_VI/ to see

all abstracts and the presentations IASSA has been allowed to publish.

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IPY 2007–2008: A Science Breakthrough and a Blink of an Eye

by Igor Krupnik

Barely five years ago, a short article “Fourth International Polar Year” published in the Fall 2003 issue of the *NoNo* Newsletter broadcasted to the IASSA community that “...planning is underway for a new large-scale international program in polar research ...named International Polar Year-4.” By late 2003, the preparation for IPY 2007–2008 was already going on for more than a year, though the arctic social science community has been mostly on its sidelines. It took literally a blink of time and seven more issues of the *Newsletter* filled with the IPY information and updates for this major international initiative to run its course. On February 25, 2009, a special ‘International Polar Year Ceremony’ at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva marked the official closure of the ‘observational period’ for IPY 2007–2008. The two major IPY co-sponsors, WMO and International Union for Sciences (ICSU) and their leaders, Dr. Michel Jarraud, WMO Secretary-General and Dr. Catherine Bréchnignac, ICSU President, congratulated thousands of IPY participants on their mission and praised their achievements. The two-co-sponsors jointly issued over 900 ‘Certificates of Appreciation’ to acknowledge the contribution of individual IPY scientists, program managers, educators, and local observers to the two-year multi-disciplinary program.

Of course, the IPY itself as a major international science and public venture will last at least for another year or two, including its several scheduled follow-up conferences (see below), professional meetings, and publications. Nonetheless, as its research and observation program is officially over, many believe that this once-in-a-lifetime international venture is now in its final stage, that is, in the assessment and synthesis of its results. This update covers major developments in IPY activities during 2008; it also addresses some of the issues associated with its legacy in 2009 and beyond.

IPY Social and Human Studies in 2008

IASSA officially joined the IPY 2007–2008 planning in summer 2004 following its two resolutions adopted at the ICASS-5 in Fairbanks in May 2004. IASSA’s entry into the IPY preparation process paved the way for establishing a special theme in the IPY science program focused on socio-cultural and human health issues, and on polar residents. Almost 60 proposals in social and human health studies were eventually submitted for evaluation to the IPY Joint Committee (JC). As of the most recent count (fall 2008), at least 30 of these proposals endorsed by the JC in 2005–2006 received full or partial funding and were operational by summer 2008. Several have been already completed. Those 30-some funded international ventures cover all fields of social and human research, with most of the projects focused on northern industrial development, human health, indigenous knowledge, community adaptations to climate change, language and cultural preservation, and the like (see Hovelsrud and Krupnik 2006). The IPY social and human science projects include participants from at least 16 countries (Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, UK, and the U.S.), as well as from major organizations of Arctic indigenous people in all circumpolar nations. To that list, we should add at least two dozen social/human initiatives that have been funded in certain countries—notably, in Canada, Russia, Sweden, and the U.S.—through their national IPY programs, beyond the JC review and endorsement process. When those *national* IPY projects are taken into account, the overall number of the IPY activities in the ‘People’ field is, perhaps, close to 55-60, with some other still unaccounted efforts in education, outreach, and public communication.

The year 2008/2009, the second in IPY 2007–2008 observation cycle marked the climax for many initiatives. This winter 2008/2009 will be the last official ‘IPY field season’ in both the Arctic and Antarctica. Nonetheless, several IPY studies will continue to run its course during 2009 and even in 2010, since many were funded after the official start of IPY in March 2007 and some activities may expand their lifetime through additional ‘post-IPY’ funding.

The year 2008 also witnessed a growing spectrum of various IPY-related symposia, conferences, and sessions. In July 2008, two major polar science organizations, the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) co-sponsored

major IPY-focused conference in St. Petersburg, Russia titled “Polar Research: Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year.” Over a thousand IPY researchers attended its numerous sessions in all polar disciplines, including *six* sessions focused on social/human projects in IPY 2007–2008 (see <http://www.scar-iasc-ipy2008.org/>). Yvon Csonka, then IASSA President, delivered a keynote paper, “*Polar societies and cultures in a changing world*”, at the conference's plenary day (July 8, 2008). Another major opportunity to elevate the profile of arctic social and human studies in IPY was the so-called ‘People's Day’ on September 24, 2008 (<http://www.ipy.org/index.php?/ipy/detail/people/>). That weeklong event, the sixth in the series of special ‘International Polar Days’ over the duration of IPY 2007–2008 opened to the public some 40 projects in social/human research, education, and science outreach, including links to project websites and related resources, and interviews with project leaders. At yet another major science gathering, the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in December 2008 in San Francisco many dozen papers, scores of public events, poster sessions, and invited lectures were focused on the IPY activities, primarily in geophysical disciplines but also in ocean sciences, education, and public outreach.

Last but not least, the social/human science footprint in IPY was boosted by the innumerable public events, such as scholarly talks, lectures, museum and art exhibitions, community workshops, roundtables, speaking tours, media coverage, websites, and the like. Several new partnerships have been forged and strengthened during 2008, thanks to IASSA's involvement in IPY, including our expanding collaboration with IASC; the new SAON (Sustainable Arctic Observing Network) initiative supported by the Arctic Council; the newly inaugurated SWIPA project (Climate Change and the Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic) also launched by the Arctic Council in cooperation with IASC, CliC (Climate and Cryosphere Project) and IPY, and the like.

These and similar activities are certain to continue for several years after the official ending of the IPY ‘observational period’ in March 2009. It will naturally lead to more follow-up publications and media stories. The IPY Publications Database that was launched in spring 2008 by the Arctic Institute of North America in Calgary, Canada; American Geological Institute in Alexandria, USA; and Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, UK, already lists 945 IPY-related

entries (as of October 2008). Many IPY scientists have started working on summary publications on their project research as special journal issues and collections of papers. The final tally of the social and human sciences' impact may not be known until 2010, if not a few years later, when the bulk of IPY-related publications and synthesis volumes will be published.

ICASS-6 as an IPY Event

The highest-profile event in the social science field in IPY during 2008 was certainly the 6th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS-6) in Nuuk, Greenland in August 2008. The Congress itself was an endorsed IPY project (IPY# 67); it took place in the peak of the IPY period and carried the official title, “Arctic Social Sciences: Prospects for the International Polar Year 2007-2008 Era and Beyond.” A substantial number of congress presentations with 50-some sessions organized in eleven themes was focused on IPY activities. Several IPY projects, such as the *Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Region* (CAVIAR, IPY #157), *Glocalization: Language, Literature and Media* (IPY #123), *Polar Stations and IPY History* (IPY #100), *Sea Ice Knowledge and Use* (SIKU, IPY #166), *Arctic Human Health Initiative* (AHHI, IPY #167), *Moved by the States* (MOVE, IPY #436), *Arctic Social Indicators* (ASI, IPY #462), and other held full-day overview sessions on their operations during the Congress days. The Congress' program also included several individual and plenary papers on IPY research, as well as the plenary roundtable called ‘IPY panel’ focused on the legacy of social and human science contribution to IPY 2007–2008.

Securing the Legacy of IPY 2007–2008

In five-plus years following the onset of planning for IPY we have witnessed a remarkable turnaround in the standing of social and human research in polar science. Being initially seen as marginal players among the geophysical and biological ‘heavy-weights,’ polar social scientists and Arctic residents are now regarded as highly valued partners. In the eyes of so many, the very presence of the social/human studies and polar residents in IPY 2007–2008 illustrates its innovative and modern face. During that transition, we helped successfully reshape the IPY science program and make it a truly multi-disciplinary enterprise. Compared to an almost ‘zero’ input in IPY-2 in 1932–1933 and in IGY in 1957–1958, the social/human studies now account for more than 20% of all scholarly activities in this IPY and, perhaps, a third of its public and educational efforts.

At its last meeting in Geneva in February 2009, the IPY Joint Committee has approved the proposal to produce a major 'summary report' on the IPY 2007–2008 operations by late 2010 or early 2011. The report will be written jointly by the members of the Joint Committee and some invited contributors. It will be structured along major IPY science themes and will also cover the history of the origination and planning for IPY; IPY data management, observational systems and networks; education and outreach activities; creation of a new generation of polar research as a result of IPY; and major IPY scholarly achievements and 'lessons learned.' It has been decided that a special section of the report will be dedicated to the 'People in Polar Regions,' with Grete Hovesrud and Igor Krupnik, two IASSA-nominated social scientists on the IPY Joint Committee acting as its lead authors. The preparation of the IPY 'summary report' will require securing detailed activity reports from individual IPY projects that is to be completed during 2009. We are to learn a lot about our common accomplishments in IPY when those project reports are delivered to the IPY office and analyzed by the JC writing team.

The short 12-page statement by the IPY Joint Committee, *The State of Polar Research* (http://216.70.123.96/images/uploads/IPY_State_of_Polar_Research_EN_web.pdf) released at the IPY 'closing ceremony' in Geneva on February 25, 2009 refers to seven major achievements 'towards an IPY legacy' that the Joint Committee views as the key long-lasting outcomes of IPY. These are: *(New) observational systems, facilities, and infrastructure; Scientific and political cooperation; Cross-disciplinary collaboration, synthesis and integration; (Main) reference data; New generation of trained polar scientists and engineers; Exceptional public interest and participation, and Engagement of Arctic residents and indigenous people.* As the JC Statement advocates, "For the first time in IPY/IGY history, physical, natural, social, and humanistic scientists, and local community-based experts, worked together under a common multi-disciplinary science program. This new form of cross-disciplinary collaboration is widely perceived as a lasting achievement of the IPY. It marks an extraordinary advance in our vision of the complexities of the polar regions and of the importance of synthesis, knowledge integration, and data sharing in the understanding of processes that affect our planet (p.10)."

With regard to the Arctic residents' engagement in IPY, the JC Statement argues that "...for the first time, Arctic residents and their organizations

acted as full partners, and leaders in international projects that involved scholars from many nations and disciplines, in research planning, data collection, management, analysis and outreach. The contributions by Arctic residents and integration of their observations and knowledge were key to the success of several IPY projects studying the dynamics of sea ice, weather; changes in habitat and wildlife distribution; sustainability of local economies; and public health and community well-being. This legacy of partnership has created a solid foundation for the engagement of Arctic residents and indigenous people in future large-scale science projects." These are very high bars, upon which our common contribution to IPY 2007–2008 will be judged and evaluated for decades to come.

We may refer to several other 'footprints' of social and human scientists' participation in this IPY that gradually became evident over the last few years. We were the first to argue for the need to document the 'IPY history,' that is, to collect the narratives, documents, and memoirs on the origination and early planning for IPY 2007–2008 and to summarize these materials for science historians and the next generations of polar students. We also advocated the effort to secure and preserve the IPY-related documentation and memorabilia, that is, the creation of the IPY archives, if not an 'IPY Museum.' Fortunately, it is already happening, with the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, UK taking the lead in archiving the IPY documentary and material legacy. I have started a small project on the 'oral history' of IPY 2007–2008 and Amanda Graham at the Yukon College in Whitehorse, Canada produced a detailed chronology (timeline) of IPY, starting from 2002 (<http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/ipy/planning>).

If we indeed view IPY 2007–2008 as something that happens once in a scientist's lifetime, a 'challenge of fifty years,' we may justly claim that Arctic social/human scientists were up to that challenge when they joined the planning and preparation efforts for IPY in 2003–2004. We may refer to our growing acceptance by the mainstream polar organizations; the opening of new funding sources for social research in Europe, Canada, and the U.S.; and the inception of many science initiatives operated jointly or primarily by the Arctic residents. Over these past years, we also witnessed a growing interest among many physical and natural scientists in the collaboration with polar residents, as well as in the themes and issues related to polar communities and methods of social and human research. That growing interest became evident in several large-scale

interdisciplinary initiatives of the past decade, like the International Conference for Arctic Research Planning (ICARP-2), Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC), Sustainable Arctic Observing Network (SAON), and the like. We now see many more sympathetic partners and fewer skeptics than we faced five years ago. IPY-based collaboration yielded a wide range of interaction with our colleagues in natural and physical sciences, including many cross-disciplinary efforts in the documentation of ecological knowledge, monitoring and responding to Arctic climate change. We should be pleased we did not 'miss the IPY boat' back in 2004.

Life after IPY

As the IPY field and observational activities will be gradually drawing to a close in 2009, the attention of the IPY scholarly community is to focus on the next major IPY event, the international Conference 'Polar Science – Global Impact' in June 2010. The conference will take place in Oslo, Norway; it will attract a few thousand IPY participants, scientists, science managers, writers, journalists, publishers, and educators. It is to mark the high point of international scholarly and public interest in IPY research, in its major achievements and legacies. The conference is organized by the Research Council of Norway and it has been endorsed by the IPY Joint Committee and two major IPY sponsors, International Union for Science (ICSU) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as well as by SCAR, IASC, the Arctic Council and other major players in polar science and policy-making. Over 120 session proposals have been already submitted to the conference's Steering Committee. The conference will be organized around five major science themes - *Linkages between polar regions and global systems; Past, present and future changes in polar regions; Polar ecosystems and biodiversity; Human dimensions: health, society, and resources; and New frontiers and directions in polar research* (<http://ipy-osc.no>).

The Conference's subcommittee for the theme on 'human dimensions,' that is, for the social and human research in IPY is chaired by Sverker Sörlin, polar science historian and the Head of the Swedish IPY committee. It also includes Daniela Haase from New Zealand (President of the Association of the Early Career Scientists, APEC); Louwrens Hacquebord from the Netherlands (former IASC Vice-President); Grete Hovelsrud (Norway) and Igor Krupnik (USA), two IASSA representatives on the IPY Joint

Committee; Joan Nymand Larsen from Iceland (IASSA President); Svein Mathiesen from Norway, co-chair of the EALAT project (Reindeer Herders Vulnerability Network Study, IPY# 339); and Nazune Menka, Native Alaskan graduate student in environmental technology management.

The Oslo conference program will be built 'bottom-up,' that is, by the self-proposed sessions, like at the IASSA Congresses (but unlike the earlier IPY Conference in St. Petersburg in July 2008). As, perhaps, the most widely attended gathering to be focused on IPY legacy, it offers our best chance to secure the social science's footprint in IPY 2007–2008 at the highest international level. Therefore, it is important that arctic social and human scientists do not to miss this opportunity to organize their thematic sessions, and to present the outcomes of their studies in full force. It is expected that the Oslo conference will initiate numerous publications, round-tables, scholarly reports, and media materials related to IPY.

The IPY planners are charting yet another major IPY-related conference to take place in spring 2012 in Canada. The Canadian event, unlike the conference in Oslo, will be focused primarily on public, educational, and political impact of IPY. The Canadian IPY Committee and other Canadian agencies have expressed their readiness to host such a major international meeting, time and venue yet to be determined. The calendar for the IPY-focused conferences and workshops during 2009–2012 is filling up quickly, with at least four major events scheduled in spring-summer 2009 only (see <http://calendar.arcus.org/upcomingevents.html>), including Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) in Bergen (late March 2009), Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Baltimore (April 2009), Reindeer Herders' Day in Salekhard, Russia (April 2009), and 14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Yellowknife, Canada (July 2009). The next ICASS-7 to be held in Iceland in 2011 will certainly feature numerous papers and sessions focused on IPY research in social and human field. Stay tuned for more IPY news to follow soon.

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Extractive Industry Working Group (EIWG)

by Florian Stammler

Editor's Note: Please note that the following proposed EIWG document has not yet been approved by the IASSA Council. Discussion of this document is on the agenda for the next council meeting. The IASSA Council invites comments from membership (iassa@svs.is).

Part 1: IASSA Extractive Industries Working Group (EIWG)

More and more social scientists in the Arctic work in areas where the extractive industry is increasingly active in exploring for or extracting mineral resources on territories that are also used by Arctic indigenous peoples. On the other hand, mineral resources in many cases form the backbone of northern regions' hopes for economic prosperity.

During the last ICASS congress, many participants felt that it is high time for our academic community to pool our knowledge, share our experience, and work together on the topic of extractive industries in the North. Piers Vitebsky from the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge therefore suggested that after the ICASS congress we set up a working group which will hopefully develop into a forum that will do justice to the IASSA mission of working for making our research relevant for the people in the North we work with.

We have had one meeting so far with 30 interested colleagues attending. Some of us continued to exchange ideas in emails afterwards and work on a draft charter, discussing a website, research agendas and updates, as well as our next meeting.

The charter that was circulated among those who were in the first email list is printed below. It gives you an overview of what the group is aiming for in general.

The next meeting of EIWG was held in conjunction with the Bodø Arctic Study Tour 2009 in March (http://www.hbwresources.com/bodo_arctictour_spring_2009.html). EIWG members Jessica Shadian, Emma Wilson, Mark Nuttall and Florian Stammler presented on their social science work related to extractive industries. During the Arctic Study Tour we also had a first meeting to begin to open a dialogue with industry.

Key points that came out of the meeting include:

- It appears to be very difficult for oil companies (and others) to understand

- (a) what social scientists do; and
- (b) the relevance of social science to oil and gas development

- Industry people admitted that companies are 'not there yet' on social issues (they understand 'environment' but not 'social')
- Those present appeared to like the idea of sharing experience with the mining sector, but have not done anything like that yet. Industry expressed potential interest in a cross-sectoral meeting if EIWG were to organise one.
- Potential interest in a series of dialogues in specific places on specific relevant topics with some common people attending all of them, and encouragement of cross-learning as well as localised learning
- Company Industry people suggested that EIWG contact OGP and IPIECA to make contact with the industry as a whole. The company people present at the meeting are on OGP working groups and task forces (Arctic/environment) and may be able to help make the links. They suggest IPIECA is possibly a better option (i.e. more open to discussing social issues).

The first point echoes again continued requests by industry-representatives for scientific / academic advice of our members pertaining to social and cultural impacts of extractive industry projects, and we believe that the establishment of the EIWG is a good step in this direction. However, by no means does this imply that we are pre-occupied with talking to industry. EIWG aims for dealing with requests and approaching ALL groups of stakeholders involved in the extraction of natural resources in the North.

We also invite all EIWG members to register at the IDASS (<http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/idass/>), where we have created a special keyword field "extractive industries" for indicating your interested in extractive industry research. As of February 1, 2009, not all of those interested in EIWG had signed up there. Out of this basic pool we shall further develop our own website as a section of the IASSA/IDASS website.

Any other questions concerning EIWG please direct to council member Florian Stammler ([fms36 \(at\) cam.ac.uk](mailto:fms36@cam.ac.uk)).

Part 2: Charter, IASSA Extractive Industries Working Group (EIWG)

The IASSA Extractive Industries Working Group (EIWG) conducted its first open meeting on 25th August 2008 at the ICASS VI in Nuuk, Greenland. After further email discussion among participants and with the IASSA Council, the following charter has been drafted for the group,

defining the functions of the working group and the ethics by which the group will be governed and guided.

Since then the charter and the proposed ethics have been preliminarily discussed by some IASSA council members as well as EIWG members, particularly the points as to how EIWG reacts to requests by non-scientific organisations for social science expertise in issues relating to extractive industry activity. We are aware that this issue is controversial, and have not reached final agreements here. We therefore open up the discussion to the IASSA membership. Comments can be sent to Florian Stammer.

Terms of reference

- In accordance with the IASSA general assembly's mandate and the IASSA council, the group accepts as an official name Extractive Industries Working Group (EIWG).
- The group consists of a core of members present at the first meeting, all of which are IASSA members. However, the group is open for new members, who are encouraged but not obliged to become IASSA members simultaneously.
- The working group refers to 'extractive industry' as any industrial activity with possibly significant footprint and relevance for inhabitants of the North, where resources are extracted from the land. This includes oil & gas development, mining, and also hydropower.
- The regional scope of the Working Group is 'the North', broadly defined along the lines of the expertise of IASSA members.

Proposed Goals of the Working Group

- To become a 'think tank' of cutting edge research and information on all social aspects of extractive industry activity in the North
- To contribute social science expertise to public documents, guidelines and legislation on extractive industry activity in the North
- To process and channel requests by intergovernmental organisations, indigenous people's organisations, industry, NGOs and states on topics relating to extractive industry activity in the North
- To develop initiatives for making social science expertise matter, to apply academic insights in extractive industry projects

Proposed Functions of the Working Group

1. Network of IASSA members conducting research relevant to extractive industries in the Arctic, and for members interested in the topic;
2. Clearing house of information relating to extractive industries in the Arctic, including: a) social science research (IASSA members and others); b) initiatives and materials from industry,

civil society organisations, government departments; etc.; c) exchange of relevant experience of members, including engagement with industry, NGOs, IGOs, managing industry funding, ethical questions, etc.; d) information about relevant meetings, e-lists, etc.

3. Catalyst of meetings and research activities, including: a) Supporting or encouraging working group meetings, e.g. alongside other meetings, to bring together members and discuss relevant topics; b) Supporting funding proposals – e.g. by encouraging collaboration between members, disseminating information on funding sources, engaging with potential funders, etc.; c) Identifying research needs and gaps; d) Facilitating information flow of "sub-groups" within the working group, e.g., collaborative research teams; e) Acting as a conduit for invitations and requests for research work and participation in relevant events.
4. Forum for engagement with external organisations, e.g. with industry associations, governmental and quasi-governmental structures, civil society organisations and programmes. This may include making official proposals or suggestions to external bodies or commenting on international programmes and policy developments (see below).

Proposed Ethics

1. All members agree to maintain the highest degree of academic independence and integrity in their activity related to the EIWG, comply with the IASSA "Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Research" and with other professional codes of ethics we feel obliged to (e.g. American Anthropological Association, UK Association of Social Anthropologists, and others), as well as to avoid any hint or appearance of bias or undue influence from powerful actors. In particular, all members agree to do their utmost to avoid potential harm to IASSA's reputation due to their position in contacts with non-academic external entities. IASSA and EIWG reserve the right to suspend the membership of individuals if such harm becomes evident.
2. The Working Group provides a network and access to certain forums and contacts; however as a general rule, working group members represent themselves at events and in contact with external organisations, unless otherwise agreed by the EIWG and the IASSA Council.
3. The Working Group does not take a position in relation to external entities, such as industry, government, civil society organizations. However, working group members may agree to make a collective recommendation to a certain entity after approval by the IASSA council or general assembly (see point 6), e.g. the Arctic Council.

4. The EIWG acknowledges and respects the fact that its members and the members of the broader IASSA community have diverse views and interests. It therefore does not attempt to represent the interests of its members or IASSA as a whole, or the local people that members work with. However, it does make efforts to create spaces for constructive dialogue between its members and other stakeholders.
5. EIWG members are free to have relations with external stakeholders on their own terms as individual scholars, but not as IASSA representatives (dialogue/affiliations/participation in meetings)
6. IASSA council approval is required before any use of the IASSA and the EIWG names in dealing with external requests and in relation to representation at meetings, recommendations or advice. This refers particularly to lobbying activities of members, be it on the side of industry, NGOs, indigenous peoples' organisations or governmental organisations.
7. The EIWG can play the role of a conduit of industry requests for research/consulting work, and encourage collaboration between members and/or between members and external organisations in relation to such consultancies, but the EIWG avoids carrying out consultancy work in the name of the working group or IASSA itself.
8. In its role as active partner in dialogue with non-academic entities, the EIWG can apply for funding and accept money from outside entities (e.g. by Arctic Council), but only after the members ratified such an endeavour [by majority, consensus, etc]. However, by no means will EIWG as a group engage in commercial activities helping particular entities (e.g. industrial companies) to make better profits.
9. Decisions are made within the working group by consensus after email discussion or conference calls, and coordination with the IASSA council if EIWG or IASSA figure beyond the personal involvement of members.

PART 3: Other News Relating To Extractive Industry

Representatives of research, reindeer herding, local authorities and industry contributed to a 'declaration of coexistence' between reindeer nomads and the oil and gas industry in the Russian North. The declaration is among the results of the Finnish Academy 'Ensino' research project at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, with Nenets reindeer herders and 'their' industry on both sides of the Ural mountains. An international workshop in December 2007 had brought together the above mentioned stakeholder groups, which contributed to the declaration. The compilers believe that the recommendations of the

declaration are valid far beyond the immediate case sites and deserve wide distribution.

The text has been commented by the most active members of the team and is also available in English and Russian at www.arcticcentre.org/ (see news list in English).

A foldable brochure of eight pages in both languages including photographs has been printed and will be dispatched to important interest groups and stakeholders in the regions as well as in the West. If you want to order a copy of the foldable 8 page poster, please write to Florian Stammler (fms36 (at) cam.ac.uk), indicating the postal address and the desired language.

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The Social Economy and Canada's North: Researching New Possibilities in Development

by Chris Southcott, Frances Abele,
 and David Natcher

Canada's northern communities have changed drastically over the past 100 years. Most have moved from an economy based almost entirely on harvesting the gifts of the land, to an economy profoundly shaped by the industrial exploitation of natural resources, to an uncertain future in a world increasingly dominated by a knowledge-based post-industrial culture. These changes have resulted in a tremendous amount of social and economic stress. Recent events have increased the likelihood of new challenges but some have also offered promise for these communities to become increasingly involved in finding solutions to these challenges. New forms of self-government offer the potential for political empowerment. Unfortunately, the movement towards economic empowerment in these communities has been less evident.

Despite the dominance of large-scale industrial resource exploitation, recent political trends have had an influence on some aspects of the northern Canadian economy. Demands for local input into new environmental and development decisions and the rise of new resource co-management arrangements have opened up a renewed interest

in looking at economic alternatives that serve to increase the involvement of these communities in their economies. A new approach that has emerged is linked to the “social economy”. The social economic perspective is an extension of what in the past has been termed community economic development. It seeks to offer, and legitimate, a third option to economic development that in the past has been pushed aside in favor of large-scale private sector resource development and state-based initiatives. It refers to a strategy to develop and enhance both the vitality and social and educational capital of Northern communities through organizations that are more directly controlled by the communities themselves. The social economy refers to those institutions in the community that are neither primarily profit-oriented nor state-driven. It refers to organizations whose primary purpose is to serve social goals in the community and whose structures are based on participatory democratic principles.

This note describes the establishment of a new network of researchers looking into the potential of social economic development in Canada's north. Research done by this network is concentrating on the ability of social economic organizations to deal with several key political economic characteristics that dominate the economies of northern communities.

The Social Economy

The term social economy is not widely used in Northern Canada. At the same time, the ideas and relationships that are the foundation of what others are now referring to as the social economy are prevalent throughout the North. There has been much work lately on developing a suitable definition of the social economy (Lévesque and Mendell, 2004). Chouinard and Fairbain (2002) have noted that, outside Quebec, the social economy is often referred to as community economic development. The central notion of both these terms is that they include economic activities that are not state-driven and not profit-driven. They include a large “third sector” that is often ignored (Quarter, 1992).

Although no single definition of the social economy exists, there is common agreement that social economy organization do not have as their primary purpose to obtain a return on capital. They are, by nature, part of a stakeholder economy, whose enterprises are created by and for those with common needs, and accountable to those they are meant to serve. They are generally managed in accordance with the principle of "one member, one vote". They are flexible and innovative and most are based on voluntary

participation, membership and commitment. In the North we take a broad approach, intending the definition to include traditional land-based activities, co-operatives, voluntary organizations, unions, and other organizations whose primary purpose is not for profit or for the state. (Bouchard et al, 2006)

The social economy is made up of organizations in the not-for-profit sector that seek to enhance the social, economic and environmental conditions of communities. They use the tools and some of the methods of business, on a not-for-profit basis, to provide social, cultural, economic, health and other services to communities. Types of social economy organization in Canada's north are retail and artistic co-operatives, indigenous rights organizations, recreational and cultural organizations, non-profit organizations, the voluntary sector, charities, foundations, credit unions, and other social enterprises. They operate in areas ranging from housing to communications and in areas such as recycling, home care, forestry, restaurants, catering, Aboriginal economic development and manufacturing. These enterprises are flexible and sustainable tools that allow communities to address objectives related to social and economic concerns while furthering goals of community participation and control.

The Social Economy and the Canadian North

The role and use of social economy organizations is unique in the North given the region's particular conditions. Historically the North has been characterized by two types of communities: resource-dependent communities dominated by settler societies and indigenous communities characterized by a mixed economy (Southcott, 2003). Bone has drawn our attention to a third type of community – the Service Sector community, in which the core economic activities are associated with the provision of services to the local population (Bone, 2003). Research on the impact of resource development in Northern communities has shown that a fundamental contradiction exists between the organizational principles of large scale resource exploitation enterprises and “the local social economy” of these communities (House, 1981). The impact of mega-projects on Northern indigenous communities has been an important issue in recent research (Bone, 2003). These projects are typically industrial in nature and affect the communities in varying ways. Research has indicated that the rapid introduction of fordist-style industrial relations and consumption patterns has conflicted with the traditional hunting and gathering economy and traditions. This conflict has led to serious situations of social instability

and the myriad of social problems that this instability brings (Chabot, 2004; Niezen, 1993; Stabler, 1990).

While these are all issues that underlie recent social research on communities in Canada's north, there are three characteristics that can be highlighted as having an important impact on the social economy sector in these communities. The first is the existence of a mixed economy in the region's indigenous communities. Communities rely not only on wages from labour but on the continued existence of subsistence hunting and fishing activities. The next characteristic is the continued importance of the state in Canada's north. A colonial culture combined with an economy dominated by 'fordist' logic and recent implementation of paternalistic welfare state policies has meant a strong role of the state in the northern economy. Finally, the dependence on large-scale resource exploitation found in northern resource dependent communities can also be seen to have an important impact on the formation of a social economy in the region.

The Mixed Economy

Researchers have noted that most indigenous communities in Canada's north can be characterized as having a mixed economy (Abele, 1997; Stabler and Howe, 1990). In this mixed economy, income-in-kind, from the land through traditional economic activities and cash income from wages and social transfers, are shared between community members. The unique aspect of the Northern mixed economy is the relative importance of subsistence activities. Abele makes the case that this mixed economy can only be maintained through state policy measures to regulate land use and to provide social transfers. In the current post-fordist climate the ability of the state to provide these measures is increasingly questioned and as such the mixed economies of these communities are threatened. Stabler and Howe have pointed to the impending crisis arising in the Northwest Territories due to the fiscal austerity of governments and the reduction of social transfers.

The mixed economy is also threatened by other things such as accelerating resource wage opportunities and destruction of habitat and wildlife patterns. Youth are being affected by increased exposure to new cultural ideas. Television, videos and the school system are challenging the ability of the mixed economy to adapt. Subsistence activities are being challenged by a desire to engage in other type of activities. These changes make it harder to keep the production from the land as an important part of northern indigenous economies.

Despite these challenges the traditional subsistence hunting and fishing economy continues to exist. It is viewed as important source of food when economic changes turn boom times to bust times. It also continues to exercise a cultural importance and an important part of the identity of these communities. Values characterizing subsistence hunting and fishing are still important basic values for the communities as a whole. These values include the importance of group cooperation and sharing. As such these values do serve as a potential source of encouragement for social economic sector development. The notions of utilitarian self-interest that characterize the private sector do not totally dominate the economic logic existing in indigenous communities. As such social economy organizations have the potential to be seen with a greater degree of legitimacy than in other types of communities. The continued presence of a mixed economy can therefore be seen as opening up opportunities for social economy development.

The mixed economy is not the social economy. There are important differences that research in the north needs to understand. The notions of non-profit activities or democratic decision-making central to the social economy are not central concepts to the mixed economy. The cooperative alternative democratic discourse that characterizes social economy organizations elsewhere in Canada are largely foreign voices in indigenous communities of Canada's north. As such the mixed economy also represents constraints on social economic development.

Many of the activities that dominate the mixed economy can be easily integrated into the social economic paradigm because they both go beyond simple utilitarian economic notions. Sahlins has argued that the traditional economy of indigenous societies can be considered part of the social economy in that much of its pre-capitalist values still play an important role in the region and act in contradiction to the profit-seeking values of contemporary "affluent" society (Sahlins, 1972). Other aspects of the mixed economy that do not fall under a strict capitalistic or state-based economic paradigm are more easily integrated into a social economy paradigm.

The State and the Social Economy in the North

The Canadian north has always been a colony to southern interests. Its historical development is profoundly marked by this fact (Coates, 1985). Despite current trends towards increased self-government, the Territorial North is still heavily dependent on the federal government for the provision of services and decision-making. Given this history, it is not surprising that all of the

people who live in the Territorial North rely upon publicly funded education, health care and social welfare.

This historic role of the state, first as a colonial power, then as the provider of common welfare state and modern services means that the northern social economy in the north had been affected by different forces than other regions of Canada. The state has been more directly involved in the development of services that are usually developed by social economy organizations. The most illustrative example of this is the role of the federal government in the development of consumer and producer co-operatives in the region (MacPherson, 2000). Paternalistic state policies, no matter how well intentioned, can be seen to have had an impact, sometimes positive but often negative, on the development of social economy organizations in the North.

Resource Dependence and the Social Economy

Historically speaking, communities in the Canadian North exist primarily for two reasons: to provide a homeland for the indigenous peoples of the region or to facilitate the exploitation of a natural resource by non-indigenous outside powers. While whaling and fur harvesting were the initial resources exploited by these outside interests, the creation of permanent communities of non-indigenous peoples was largely a creation of 20th century industrial needs. While the Yukon gold rush at the end of the 19th century has tended to create the image that Northern communities were created by individual adventurers using their entrepreneurial frontier spirit to exploit the Northern wilderness, the historical reality of development of non-indigenous communities in the North is one of the planning and construction of resource dependent communities designed by outside corporations in partnership with the federal government.

These communities were based primarily on mining. The dominance of one main industry means that there exists a high degree of “dependency” in these communities and, because of the cyclical nature of commodity production, they have a high degree of instability. The specific economic characteristics are: one dominant employer who is usually a large industrial corporation based outside the region, the industry is capital intensive and technologically intensive, jobs are primarily unskilled or semi-skilled “blue-collar” occupations, relatively high wages, few employment opportunities for women, a small retail sector, and a small service sector.

Demographically these communities are characterized by a highly mobile population, a

high degree of youth out-migration, a young population with fewer older people, more males than females, larger families, and greater ethnic diversity. The culture of these towns tend to be dominated by a high degree of dependency, a “wage-earner” culture (as opposed to a “stakeholder” culture), a male-dominated blue collar culture, lower levels of formal education, and a negative environment for women.

Sociologists such as Lucas and Himelfarb have shown these towns to be different than agricultural-based and fishing-based communities. (Himelfarb, 1982) According to Lucas, fishing towns, agricultural towns and tourist towns, while they may be resource-dependent, are not single industry communities. Such communities are made up of “small capitalists (and) entrepreneurs” who have a lifestyle which “differentiates them from the population of a community with a single industry base” (Lucas, 1971: 14)

These particular socio-economic conditions lead to a social economy that can be seen to differ from other types of communities. The absence of a stakeholder culture and the lack of economic empowerment can be seen to engender a lack of commitment to the community and a culture of dependence that can be seen to negatively affect the development of social economy organizations. Previous research has shown that other than recreationally-oriented organizations, there are few non-profit or voluntary organizations (Himelfarb, 1982).

Researching the Potential of the Social Economy in Northern Canada

A recent major grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada has provided funding for a Northern social sciences research network to study the potential for the development of the social economy in Northern Canada. The network, the Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada (SERNNOCa), is based at Yukon College with offices in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. It is primarily concerned with the communities in the three Territories as well as Nunavik and Labrador. The main objective is to create a network of university and college-based researchers and representatives of community-based organizations, operating as partners, to conduct research relevant to the social economy in Canada's North. In addition to the above, the overarching objectives of the program are: to support research, and help mobilize new knowledge, that will help develop social economy capacity in Northern communities; contribute to defining policies by evaluating government policies and programs applicable to the social

economy; improve the performance of organizations and enterprises in areas that are important to the social economy in Canada's North; demonstrate through, for example inventories, statistics, comparative analyses the actual and potential contribution of the social economy to the various sectors of the economy of Canada's North; contribute to a Northern perspective on debates relating to sustainable development; develop Northern Canada's international contribution to, and visibility in, areas relevant to the social economy; and ensure the development of research capacity and the training of Northern students in the area of the social economy through their participation in research projects and through the development of curricula.

By enhancing both the vitality and social and educational capital of Northern communities through organizations that are more directly controlled by the communities themselves researchers hope to find ways of using the social economy to better enable Northerners to face current social and economic challenges. Attempts to expand the social economy in the region's communities must first properly understand the unique characteristics of the region's economy. These characteristics offer both constraints and opportunities. Initial research funded by the network is therefore concentrated on the traditional economy of indigenous communities, the role of the state in economic development, and the impact of resource development in the North. How these characteristics impact social economic organizations must be properly understood in order for proper policies to be developed that stimulate the growth of the social economy in the region.

For more information on the Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada visit: <http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sermnoca>.

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International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

by Volker Rachold



A Letter of Agreement was signed between IASSA and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) at the IASC Council meeting held during the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) in Syktyvkar (Russia), 28 March 2008. The Letter of Agreement outlines the intent of the two organizations to combine their efforts in selected fields and activities so as to raise the level of impact of both organizations in terms of making scientific advances and in advising policy makers. Following a presentation by Joan Nymand Larsen (newly elected IASSA President, August 2008), the agreement was signed by the IASC President, Kristján Kristjánsson, and the then current IASSA President, Yvon Csonka.

At the ASSW 2008, IASC agreed on adopting a new organizational structure to reflect the progressively more integrative nature of today's polar science. The new structure includes Scientific Standing Committees and Action Groups as the core working elements of the new IASC. Thus, the most important change is a much larger opportunity for the 18 IASC member countries to participate in IASC activities, in particular in overall science planning as the Scientific Standing Committees will be populated with top scientists from all member countries and other Arctic science organizations as ex-officio representatives. To present this new structure to the arctic science community, IASC arrange a Science Forum at the ASSW 2009 in Bergen (Norway) on March 25.

In March 2009, the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB) will merge with IASC to form a fully integrated science organization for the Arctic. AOSB will join IASC as the Scientific Standing Committee (SSC) for the Marine System and will bring with it both the current membership and its structure. Both AOSB and IASC anticipate that

the merger will provide opportunities for the two organizations to better facilitate interdisciplinary research between fields and bring better visibility to the marine issues within IASC and to the global scientific community.

To illustrate the cooperation between IASC and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the two organizations collaborated on the SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference "Polar Research - Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year" in St. Petersburg (Russia), 8-11 July 2008. The conference has been a huge success. It was the largest polar conference to date, the first bipolar conference, and the first SCAR/IASC conference. This is a sign of the tremendous effect on the polar science community engendered by the IPY 2007-2008 with its bottom-up process of developing multinational interdisciplinary research programs.

Over the past months, IASC has been working towards strengthening its relationship with several polar and global organizations. At the SCAR/IASC IPY Conference, formal agreements with the following organizations were signed:

- Memorandum of Understanding between IASC, SCAR and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS);
- Letter of Agreement between IASC, SCAR and the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS);
- Memorandum of Understanding between IASC, SCAR and the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) on the co-sponsorship of the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Program.

During the last three years, the IASC Secretariat was hosted by the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat in Stockholm with the support of the Swedish Research Council. Starting in 2009, the Secretariat moved to Potsdam (Germany). For a five year period, the new IASC Secretariat will be hosted by the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) for Polar and Marine Research and co-financed by the German Science Foundation.

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The University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Global Change Joins Circumpolar Researchers into a Curriculum Work

by Kirsi Latola

The University of the Arctic (UArctic), a cooperative network of over 100 higher education and other organizations in the Circumpolar North, aims to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and northern communities through education and shared knowledge. From the combination of the members' perspectives and expertise springs interdisciplinary higher education that is relevant to the Circumpolar North and that recognizes the diversity of cultures and opinions within the vast region, including those of indigenous peoples. UArctic is supported by and collaborates with many international governmental and non-governmental bodies, such as the Arctic Council, the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the European Union, UNEP and the International Polar Year.

All UArctic activities are organized into the seven Strategic Areas: Undergraduate Education, Graduate Education, Thematic Networks, Knowledge and Dialogue, Mobility, Service to Members, and Organization. The Thematic Networks Strategic Area encourages institutional cooperation on subjects of shared interest among UArctic members. They aim at stimulating cooperation, sharing of resources, and are important tools for developing the stable relations among member institutions that form the backbone of UArctic activities. This includes student and faculty exchange, and joint curriculum and degree development as well as research.

By 2008 17 Thematic Networks have been endorsed, each one of them working either on education or research or both. Indigenous views are also included in their operation. The overarching thematic framework for the 2008-2013 strategy focuses on the wider implications of, and needs related to i) the adaptation to climate change: challenges for human society as well as nature, ii) the North as an energy region: economic, cultural, environmental, and technical opportunities, demands and impacts, and iii) building human capacity in the North: culturally relevant training and education for sustainable Northern communities.

The UArctic Thematic Network on Global Change in the Arctic directly responds to the climate change adaptation in a multidisciplinary manner. The network is not focusing only to the

climate change but wider to the global change and its impacts to humans and livelihoods, economy and health and other topical issues. The main objective of the network is to develop a new global change curriculum based on the gaps in ACIA and the web survey and questionnaire on the existing Global Change courses conducted in the UArctic member organizations in 2006. As a result of a survey over 600 Global change courses were found, which were classified, analyzed and presented in the Workshop in May 2006.

Based on the results, five multidisciplinary course outlines were developed with academic leaders supported by circumpolar teams. The new global change curriculum consists of the following courses:

Health, security and well-being in the North

(Lead: Prof. Arja Rautio, Centre for Arctic Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland)

Main themes of the course are global/climate change, family and gender issues, health and well-being, dietary factors – food change – effects on health, risk factors, inequality and violence, social and health status changes and, health prevention. Students will learn the current characteristics of health, security and well-being in the Circumpolar North and their backgrounds. They will understand future challenges of health, security and well-being in the Circumpolar North in the context of globalization, and have learned some means to deal with them and are motivated and capable to seek means to increase health, security and well-being.

Arctic Economies and Livelihoods in a Changing World

(Lead: Dr. Joan Nyman Larsen, Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland)

Course has five themes: Characteristics and challenges of Arctic economies in a time of global change; Arctic resources, ownership and control; Industrial development and the economy of the North; Economic instability, vulnerability and viability of the Arctic; and Global change and human development in the Arctic. Lessons will be applied to understanding and predicting the consequences of global change to the Arctic at different scales. Students will learn to assess and analyse problems and solutions to different potential problems and opportunities facing Arctic residents and their communities within the context of global change.

Institutional Dimensions of Global Change

(Lead: Prof. Alf Håkon Hoel, University of Tromsø, Norway)

Important areas of global change are in the realm of the environment (climate change, biodiversity loss), in the economic realm (increases in trade and investments), and the political in terms of

ideas for governance (democracy). The manifestations of global change raise issues of how these changes can be responded to and made subject to governance. International efforts to combat climate change and regulate the global economy are examples of this. In most cases, such impacts and institutional responses to them have great significance in the Arctic region. The course provides an overview of major trends in global change and discusses the institutional responses to change. Thereby students will develop an understanding of the way institutions (social, cultural, political, economic and legal) act as both agents of change in the Arctic and as ways of strengthening the resilience of social-ecological systems.

Global Change Technology, methodology, and analysis (Lead: Prof. John Moore, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland)

This interdisciplinary course focuses not on the scientific knowledge of global change research, but rather on the basis for that knowledge. We will discuss the measurement of the most important parameters in atmospheric, terrestrial ecology, marine and cryospheric environments. The students will learn the potential and limitations of instruments and computational methods used to analyze past, monitor on-going, and predict global change. They will also learn how to access the basic tools and data that are being continuously updated by the large international infrastructure networks. The course will equip students with the knowledge needed to better partake in the debate on global change and appropriate responses.

Adaptation to Global Change in the Arctic

(Lead: Prof. Svein Mathiesen, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry & Sámi University College, Norway).

The aim is to provide students with the understanding of effects of climate variability and change on society and nature, and to what extent institutions and governance constrain, or create opportunities to cope with and to adapt to the effects of global change in the Arctic. Adaptation could be defined as adjustment in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts. The students will learn to recognize that the ability to adapt to change is based on knowledge embodied in the language, local institutions rural or not and the actions of individual persons and their local experience.

Four of the courses are on-line courses at the Master's level. The format of each course is very interactive and includes different types of videos and audios, articles and other reading material.

Students will work on assignments both individually and in groups. One of the courses, Global Change Technology, Methodology, and Analysis, is a field course, which is the best way to teach e.g. the different technologies in measuring or monitoring climate change. The first field course will be held at Toolik field station, in Alaska, USA.

The work of the teams is nearly finished and the new curriculum was launched at the Arctic Science Summit Week in March 2009, in Bergen, Norway.

To learn more about UArctic and Thematic Networks, visit www.uarctic.org/thematic.

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The Northern Research Forum: Promoting Open Discussions and Implementing the Interplay between Science and Politics
by Lassi Heininen



The 5th Open Assembly of the Northern Research Forum (NRF), *Seeking Balance in a Changing North*, was held in Anchorage, Alaska, in September 2008. The Assembly focused on key matters and dynamics of northern environments, politics and economics such as: how to (re)define more equal, post-colonial interrelations between the North and the rest of the globe; what kind of leadership is needed in the age of uncertainty; and how to draw a holistic picture of the changing geopolitics of the North. Behind these discussions are two recent environmental, geo-economic and geopolitical changes in the circumpolar North. First, the transformation from the confrontation of the Cold War period into a wide international cooperation in the 1990s was a significant change in circumpolar geopolitics and international relations, which meant an increased political stability within the region, devolution of power, and an intentional “mobilization” of non-state actors in policy formation creating a wide and dynamic institutional landscape. Second, at the early-21st century another significant and rapid geopolitical change is occurring in the North through globalization and growing global, economic and political interests toward the region, and consequently, the strategic importance of the North and its energy security is growing in world politics, too.

The achievements and outcomes of the 5th NRF Open Assembly include, first, recognizing the growing desire for an open, lively and inter-active dialogue, and satisfying the need for such open discussion which was particularly evident in the highly successful Roundtable Session on the Arctic Council and multilateral cooperation with Senior Arctic Officials and Permanent Participants; second, the NRF Open Meeting program design was improved or further developed with the introduction of Breakout Sessions that included open discussions with and among experts on specific northern issues; third, as a new NRF activity, the five NRF Theme Project Groups; fourth, the twenty participating NRF Young Researchers did as speakers and experts do an excellent job of presenting their research projects and findings and by acting as rapporteurs; and finally, it was widely acknowledged that this NRF event was valuable in view of a current age of global climate uncertainty, an age which requests a new kind of leadership.

In general, the discussions and dialogues in the NRF Open Assemblies are open, democratic and lively with a method for “real-world problem-solving”. Particularly, they highlight the roles of research in both society and the international community, and thus implement the interplay between politics and science, which is much needed but not so much used in political decision-making. This is on the one hand based on the mission of the NRF, which is to provide a platform for an effective dialogue among members of the research community and a wide range of stakeholders, to facilitate research relevant to issues on the contemporary Northern agenda, and to engage researchers, the policy community and other stakeholders to discuss, assess and report on research results and application”. On the other hand, the Northern Research Forum has certain fundamental aims such as “Dialogue-building” for problem-solving and confidence-building, and “Stage-building” as to create a new, wider kind platform for seeking fresh thinking and bold new ideas from the leading minds across the North and the constant implementation of the interplay between politics and science. For example, the 6th NRF Open Assembly in 2010 will focus broadly on the multifarious significance of Ice (see notice below).

Moreover, there is “Inter-sectoriality” for crossing borders between different sectors, and other borders of our modern cultural, political, legal and administrative systems in each society as well as the entire global / international community. Finally, there is a call for forums that may serve

as a multi-functional and interdisciplinary platform and workshop (without academic departments), stemming from the perception of many scholars that “science is more than labs – it's the people, it's the environment” and that the clustering of talented people is needed for building and promoting both human capital and social capital. Thus composed education and career training, which the NRF started in cooperation with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), is particularly valuable for young researchers, who are potentially becoming professional researchers or experts in her/his field(s).

In addition to the biennial Open Assemblies there are other activities organized and coordinated by the NRF, for example (1) Theme-workshops that lead up to or follow Open Assemblies, such as the symposium *Northern Dimensions – Expanding Circumpolar Cooperation*, held in Brussels in June 2004; (2) NRF Town Hall meetings on human development and impacts of climate change in the Arctic, such as the Calotte Academy in 2005 and the Alaska Forum on the Environment in Anchorage in 2006; (3) various sub-forums which the NRF organizes or promotes in collaboration with other actors, such as the annual Calotte Academy in Finland, Norway and Russia, and the seminar *Politics of the Eurasian Arctic - National interests & international challenges*, held in Oslo in June 2008; (4) NRF Network of Experts consisting of interested individuals, especially the NRF Young Researchers; and, as the newest activity, (5) NRF Theme Project Groups (see below) focusing on relevant northern issues, and acting as an epistemic community in their field(s) by gathering expertise from academia, political activity, administration, business and civil society. These groups are open to those who are interested in participating in their work. All of the activities described above promote and contribute to the NRF Open Assemblies and the NRF as a process.

The 6th NRF Open Assembly – *Our Ice Dependent World*

The 6th Open Assembly of the Northern Research Forum, entitled *Our Ice Dependent World*, will take place in the last week of October 2010 in Oslo, Norway. The main theme of this Open Assembly is the significance of Ice and its importance in the circumpolar North, and subsequently its importance for the entire earth and humankind. The main theme includes several integrated sub-themes representing different perspectives for viewing the subject of natural ice and evaluating its importance. The sub-themes cover the interface of nature and society, humanity and communities, knowledge and

education, international law and governance, economics, and geopolitics.

The 6th Open Assembly is being organized by the international Northern Research Forum together with the Host Planning Committee in Norway. For more information, please visit the NRF website (www.nrf.is) or to contact Ocean Futures' director, Jan Magne Markussen (jan-magne.markussen@ocean-futures.com), who coordinates the preparations for the event in Oslo.

NRF Theme Project Groups

The NRF Theme Project Groups were launched at the 5th Open Assembly in Anchorage, in September 2008 and will begin their work in the spring of 2009. Focusing respectively on Legal and Political Issues, Economies in the North, Energy Issues, Northern Sea Routes, and Climate Change - Northern Security, these five groups consist of experts covering both relevant northern issues and global themes such as legal and political issues, economics, energy, transportation, climate change and security. Expertise in the groups comes from academia, political activity, administration, business and civil society, and hence, these groups can be interpreted as acting as an epistemic community in their field(s). The main purpose of the NRF Theme Project Groups is to enhance the expertise of NRF in the periods between the biennial NRF Open Assemblies. Consequently, their first target is to promote the preparation of, and feed the discussions and dialogues in the 6th NRF Open Assembly.

The five Theme Project Groups and their Co-coordinators are:

- 1) Legal and Political Issues – Polar Law Program Director Natalia Loukacheva (natalial@unak.is) and Rector Thorsteinn Gunnarsson (rector@unak.is), University of Akureyri, Iceland;
- 2) Economies in the North – Dr. Joan Nymand Larsen, Stefansson Arctic Institute and University of Akureyri, Iceland (jnl@svs.is), Professor Lee Huskey, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA (aflh@uaa.alaska.edu) and Executive Director Steven Bigras, Canadian Polar Commission, Canada (bigrass@polarcom.gc.ca);
- 3) Energy Issues – Academic Director Björn Gunnarsson, School of Renewable Energy Science, Iceland (bjorn.gunnarsson@res.is) and Arctic Scientist Peter Johnson, Canada (peterj@uottawa.ca);
- 4) Northern Sea Routes – Professor Nikita Lomagin, St. Petersburg State University, Russia (lomagin2@gmail.com), Willy Östregren, Ocean Futures, Norway (willy.ostregren@ocean-futures.com) and Director Lawson Brigham, Alaska Office of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, USA (usarc@acsalaska.net);
- 5)

Climate Change - Northern Security/ies – Chairperson Patricia Cochran, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Alaska, USA (pcochran@aknsc.org), Assistant Professor Susan A. Crate, George Mason University, USA (scrate1@gmu.edu) and Senior Scientist and Adjunct Professor Lassi Heininen, University of Lapland, Finland (lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi).

The Theme Project Groups are open to those who are interested in participating in their work and ready to contribute. The NRF Secretariat will respond to any questions or proposals from potential new participants. Questions and proposals can also be directed to a co-coordinator of a particular Theme Project Group.

For further information about the Northern Research Forum, including its mission, activities, Steering Committee, Honorary Board and Secretariat, please visit www.nrf.is.

Lassi Heininen
Chairman of the NRF Steering Committee
lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi

IASSA, NRF, and APECS Collaboration

by Amy L. Wiita, Lassi Heininen
and Jenny Baeseman

The Northern Research Forum (NRF) and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) collaborated to combine their individual proposals to the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) to present a joint Early Career Scientist Workshop at the International Congress of Arctic Social Scientists (ICASS) in Nuuk, Greenland. The workshop was co-organized by the NRF and APECS and took place August 25 and 26, 2008. It addressed the key challenges and opportunities NRF Young Researchers and APECS members face, and showed a way forward for organizations like APECS and the NRF to improve dialogue in the circumpolar North enabling the polar community to better reach their goals. The wonderful diversity of early career scientists, from experience to skills to projects, presents a challenge for organizations to meet the diverse needs of the next generation of polar researchers. Improved funding, communication, mentorship, and networks were all identified as key parts of a strategy to help polar early career scientists succeed.

Workshop participants identified communication as an important focus for early career scientists and noted effective communication would extend

to data sharing and management. They advised that data should be considered very broadly and all types, e.g., quantitative, qualitative, traditional, academic, and informational, should be considered and shared. Furthermore, data sharing for regional interests and information, such as fieldwork logistics, was mentioned as being valuable to many scientists. Technologies such as social networking websites, voice-over-IP, and list serves were discussed as key tools to bring scientists together from across distances and disciplines. The role of early career scientists in the larger arenas of community outreach and policy was also discussed. Roles such as those developed through connections with the International Polar Year program as well as outreach activities and non-academic careers illustrated the valuable contributions of early career scientists to various arenas.

Workshops like this joint NRF/APECS effort at ICASS are valuable forums for identifying the challenges to early career scientists and shaping the responses of organizations like APECS and the NRF to speed the success of our work and people.

NRF and APECS Collaboration at the NRF 5th Open Assembly

The Northern Research Forum held its fifth Open Assembly “Seeking Balance in a Changing North” in Anchorage, Alaska on September 24-27, 2008. The NRF funded, through a competitive process, twenty NRF Young Researchers (YRs) from throughout the Circumpolar North to participate in the 2008 Assembly.

The NRF Young Researchers took part in a variety of activities starting with pre-assembly workshops that included team-building activities and an APECS/NRF joint career development workshop. The career development workshop featured six mentors representing the United States, Latvia, Canada, and Finland. They spoke with the NRF YRs about opportunities available through organizations such as APECS and the NRF and offered their experiences with pursuing careers in the public sector, building relationships between academics and local communities, and Native perspectives on science and how this affects career development of Native and non-Native Early Career Scientists. The speakers also discussed how to pursue your own research interests while engaging the research issues that matter to the local communities you work with and funding agencies. The YRs and panelists engaged in lively dialogue discussing many questions on the topics presented and beyond.

The NRF YRs participated in various events and sessions throughout the Assembly. Evening events, an excursion to a local community, and open assembly dialogue with dignitaries, policy makers, community leaders, and scientists gave the YRs opportunities to converse with a wide variety of people. The numerous sessions at the Assembly provided the NRF YRs with an opportunity to present their own research as well as discuss critical issues, problems, and opportunities facing circumpolar peoples at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Northern Research Forum 6th Open Assembly: Our Ice Dependent World

The Open Assembly of the Northern Research Forum entitled Our Ice Dependent World will take place in the last week of October, 2010 in Oslo, Norway. The main theme of the Open Assembly is the significance of polar ice and its importance in the circumpolar north and subsequently its importance for the entire earth and humankind. The main theme includes several integrated sub-themes representing different perspectives for viewing the subject of natural ice and evaluating its importance. The sub themes cover the interface of nature and society, humanity and communities, knowledge and education, international law and governance, economics, and geopolitics. The Northern Research Forum Steering Committee and Secretariat together with the Host Planning Committee of the NRF Open Assembly in Oslo are organizing the Open Assembly.

Young Researchers will continue to play a critical role in the NRF through their activities in the 6th NRF Open Assembly. NRF open assemblies are an important way to train young researchers to implement the social relevance of science and promote the interplay between politics and science. One of the main objectives of the NRF is to promote young researchers as leaders. We invite them to present their research projects and findings and to engage in dialogue with senior scientists and other professionals and experts as well as representatives of various stakeholder groups and the public. Twenty to twenty-five young researchers, (defined as recent PhD recipients or PhD candidates) will be selected (based on applications) to receive funding to attend the NRF Open Assembly.

Pre-conference activities will include career development and team building activities planned in cooperation with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the University of the Arctic. Contributing to developing young leaders through participatory training that emphasizes an implementation of the social

relevance of science and the interplay between science and policy is valuable in this climate of global uncertainty; an age which requires a new kind of leadership.

For more information about the Northern Research Forum visit www.nrf.is or contact the NRF secretariat at nrf@unak.is.

About the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) grew out of the 4th International Polar Year (IPY-4) 2007-08. IPY-4 occurred at a time of increasing scientific and public interest in the polar regions, centered on global climate change, and through enhanced scientific understanding, media attention, primary and secondary school (K-12) educational programs, and public literacy campaigns connected with climate change. Research and Educational Outreach activities of IPY-4 sought to improve both our understanding and our communication of all aspects of the Polar Regions and their broader global connections.

Present-day environmental, ecological, social and geopolitical changes in the Polar Regions are expected to continue and become even more pressing. Fully understanding them and their global connections and impacts, will require innovative, transformative, international and interdisciplinary polar research. The need to stimulate and nurture the next generation of researchers is crucial to achieving these goals. An important objective of IPY is to ensure a legacy of continued polar research and literacy by encouraging the development of the next generation of researchers and educators with interests in the Polar Regions and the broader Cryosphere. APECS was founded as a response to these needs and as a legacy of the IPY -4 Project 168, the International Youth Steering Committee.

APECS Mission Statement

APECS is an international and interdisciplinary organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early faculty members, educators and others with interests in Polar Regions and the wider cryosphere. Our aims are to stimulate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations, and develop effective future leaders in polar research, education and outreach. We seek to achieve these aims by:

- Facilitating international and interdisciplinary networking to share ideas and experiences and to develop new research directions and collaborations;
- Providing opportunities for professional career development; and

- Promoting education and outreach as an integral component of polar research and to stimulate future generations of polar researchers.

APECS Goals and Objectives

APECS' goals include creating opportunities for the development of innovative, international, and interdisciplinary collaborations among current early career polar researchers as well as recruiting, retaining and promoting the next generation of polar enthusiasts. Specifically we aim to:

- Create a network of polar researchers across disciplines and national boundaries to meet, share ideas and experiences, and develop new research directions and collaborations
- Provide the opportunity for career development for both traditional and alternative polar and cryosphere professions
- Promote education and outreach as an integral component of polar research and to stimulate future generations of polar researchers

What Does APECS Do?

We are an active group of over 1200 young researchers from around the globe, working together to accomplish our goal through the following activities:

- Providing opportunities for early career researchers to work with senior researchers on polar science planning activities and developing mentoring relationships
- Hosting career development workshops, networking and round table sessions at national and international meetings together with senior mentors
- Maintaining a website with current job opportunities, upcoming polar events, a discussion forum for idea exchange, photo gallery and recent cryosphere journal publications and popular press articles
- Distributing a newsletter with new information from the website, other opportunities and career development advice from international senior researchers
- Working with polar institutions, organizations and projects to share resources to develop a Polar Career Development Guide
- Providing access to education and outreach materials generated by early career researchers that can be used for teaching polar science to a variety of age groups, concentrating on building up resources for use in tertiary education
- Recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions to polar science by early career researchers
- Remaining flexible in adapting new programs and initiatives to meet our members needs

For more information about the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists visit <http://apecs.is>. or contact Dr. Jenny Baeseman, Director – APECS at jbaeseman@gmail.com.

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New Emphasis on Social Sciences within the APECS

by Rosa Rut Thorisdottir

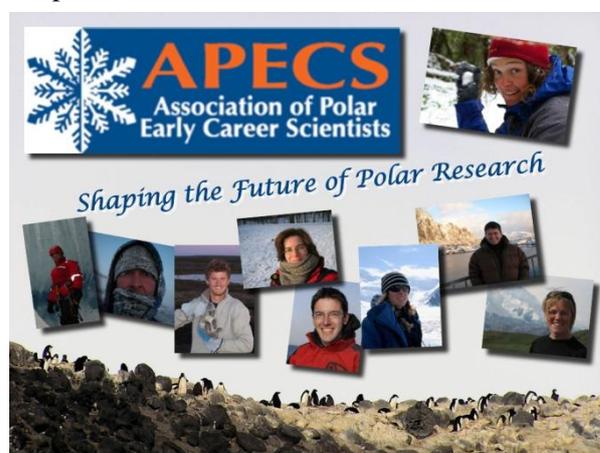
APECS, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists', has recently engaged new discipline coordinators to its organization, thereof visual anthropologist Rosa Rut Thorisdottir as the discipline coordinator for Social Sciences.

APECS is an international and interdisciplinary association founded to facilitate networking amongst undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty members, educators and others with interests in Polar Regions. Its intention is to help early career scientists share their ideas and experiences as well as to develop new research directions and collaborations.

The associations' main aim is to stimulate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations, promote opportunities for professional career development and stimulate future generations of polar researchers. As a new discipline coordinator, Rosa would like to help stimulate communication and give young Arctic Social Scientists the opportunity to hold a stronger voice within the general discourse, and among other things, to tackle some of the communication mismatches existing between social and natural scientists working in the Arctic by promoting Arctic Social Sciences and contributing as much

as possible to make them visible within the APECS community and beyond!

On the renowned debate of sustainable development within the Arctic discourse, Nielson et al. already pointed out during the first Northern Research Forum in Akureyri, Iceland, in 2000 that if environmental changes are caused by social and economic structures and institutions, then the solutions to the problems should also be sought in these same institutions, rather than through the environmental factors themselves. They laid emphasis on the idea of sustainable development as a human centred concept. This is also to remind us that it is not only about polar bears but that Arctic Sciences should first and foremost be focusing on long-term viability, sustainability and welfare of human societies as well as their adaptation to environment and resources.



APECS aims to stimulate current and future generations of Polar Researchers, by particularly giving opportunities to Northern Social Scientists to become more visible and effective in executing interdisciplinary polar research. To become part of the APECS team log-on to the APECS web site <http://apecs.is>. Or if you wish to pass messages to young arctic researchers within the Social Sciences contact Rosa at rosa.thoris@gmail.com.

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PhD Candidate in Visual Anthropology,
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CONFERENCES

14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health. Securing the IPY Legacy: From Research to Action

Yellowknife, NT Canada
11-16 July 2009
www.icch2009.com

The health and wellness of northern peoples are the focus of the International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH), the world's premier circumpolar health event. Hosted every three years by the International Union for Circumpolar Health, the 14th ICCH will take place in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada from July 11 to 16, 2009. It will follow the conclusion of International Polar Year (IPY) making it an ideal vehicle for sharing IPY findings as well as health-related research throughout the circumpolar regions.

The exciting scientific programme is expected to bring 750 health care leaders, decision-makers, and researchers from all over the world to Yellowknife. Hundreds of papers and posters will be presented in a variety of topic areas. Dynamic keynote speakers, poster sessions, and networking events will round out the programme.

ICCH14 will be co-hosted and organized by the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health in association with the Arctic Health Research Network – NT. This event was last held in Canada in 1990 and in Yellowknife in 1974.

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2009

Contact Information

c/o Arctic Health Research Network – NT
PO Box 11050, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3X7
Canada
Tel: +1 867 873 9337 Fax: +1 867 873 9338
Email: info@icch2009.com Web:
www.icch2009.com

12th North Atlantic Fisheries History Conference

Norfolk, Virginia, USA
19-22 August 2009
www.hull.ac.uk/nafha

Conferences of the North Atlantic Fisheries History Association (NAFHA) are held every two years. Following the highly successful meeting

held in Bergen in September 2007, the 12th NAFHA Conference will be held from August 19th-22nd 2009 in Norfolk, VA (USA). This meeting is designed to stimulate scholarly exchange between researchers at all levels (from graduate students to senior scientists) and all disciplines which relate to the long-term development of fishing activity and its impact on the marine environment. The focus of the conference will be on: Fisheries Management in a Historical Perspective.

For further information please contact: Dr. Ingo Heidbrink, Associate Professor Dept. of History, 8046 Batten Arts and Letters Building - Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529 (USA) tel. 757-683-3656 or -3949, fax. 757-683-5644, mail: iheidbri@odu.edu.

International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference

Oslo, Norway
8-10 June 2010
www.ipy-osc.no

The IPY Oslo Science Conference will:

- demonstrate, strengthen, and extend IPY's remarkable accomplishments in science and outreach
- represent an essential opportunity to display and explore the full breadth and implications of IPY activities
- emphasize the breadth and global impact of polar research during IPY
- highlight the extraordinary interdisciplinary and multinational efforts in research and in communication of research to the public.

Links to Arctic calendars

<http://new.arcticportal.org>
<http://www.uarctic.org>
<http://arctic-council.org>
<http://calendar.arcus.org>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESF Call for EUROCORES Themes 2009

The ESF is inviting well developed ideas (theme proposals) for the creation of new EUROCORES Programmes with the deadline of 29 May 2009 (noon CET).

What is a Theme Proposal?

EUROCORES Themes are "bottom-up" proposals for the creation of new collaborative research programmes dealing with broad and complex topics which are best addressed through multinational cooperation. Through its annual call for theme proposals, ESF solicits new ideas

from the scientific community with a view of creating large-scale European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) programmes in and across all scientific domains. More information on the EUROCORES Scheme, the online application guidelines and details of the call can be consulted at www.esf.org/eurocores.

Please do not hesitate to disseminate information on this opportunity within your scientific communities and networks as widely as you can. If you are interested in receiving updates on other ESF calls, latest news and other information in the social sciences, please sign up to our social science mailing list by clicking [here](#) or via www.esf.org/research-areas/social-sciences/news.

Sarah Moore
Junior Science Officer for the Social Sciences
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Email: smoore@esf.org Web: www.esf.org

UArctic Institute for Applied Circumpolar Policy

by Lee McDavid

Dartmouth College and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, in association with Urbana University, have established the University of the Arctic Institute for Applied Circumpolar Policy, housed at the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. The mission of the Institute is to promote discussion and analysis of critical issues facing the region and its people and to provide appropriate educational opportunities and policy-oriented advice as northern peoples face the challenges resulting from climate change.

The Institute will initially focus on two objectives. The first is to raise public and private understanding of the policy implications resulting from circumpolar climate change and its human dimensions. The Institute will sponsor a series of annual conferences on aspects of climate change requiring policy attention. Topics could include social and political responses to climate change, international policies critical to the Circumpolar nations such as Law of the Sea, transportation issues in the north, resource extraction and sovereignty, and migratory pollutants and their effects on ecosystems and human health. These conferences will bring together representatives of governments, the academy, non-governmental groups, and indigenous peoples to discuss these issues, identify and prioritize the policy related research requirements, and help develop the

agendas for governments to address pressing policy issues.

The Institute also will offer executive training and education to increase northern capacity to respond to the human dimensions of climate change. In collaboration with the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, the Institute plans to conduct entrepreneurial educational programs for those whose livelihoods and way-of-life are altered by environmental change and more generally for the economic development of indigenous enterprises.

Lee McDavid
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Polar Law Program

by Natalia Loukacheva

The University of Akureyri is offering the “first of its kind in the world” international graduate Master's programs in Polar law: www.polarlaw.is.

Polar law describes the legal regimes applicable to the Arctic and Antarctica. Emphasis is placed on areas of international and domestic law concerning the Polar Regions. Issues of human rights law, environmental law, the law of the sea, the law of sustainable development and natural resources are addressed, including questions of sovereignty and boundary disputes on land and sea; the rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples; self-government and good governance; security; climate change; economies and business development; resource claims and biodiversity in the Polar Regions.

The Master's programs are designed both for lawyers (leading to the LL.M. degree -90 ECTS) and non-lawyers (leading to the M.A. degree -120 ECTS); there is also an option of a Diploma in Polar Law Studies at the undergraduate level (60 ECTS). Graduates will be able to seek work in the public and private sectors; with different levels of government (nationally and globally), with international and regional organizations; with academic institutions and non-governmental organizations; and with national and transnational corporations to promote the interests of the Polar Regions and their inhabitants. Intensive courses are taught by the leading international academic experts and practitioners in the field of Polar Law.

The University of Akureyri is located in Northern Iceland in attractive natural surroundings: www.english.unak.is. Further information can be obtained from Dr.

Natalia Loukacheva, Director, Polar Law Program
natalial@unak.is.

Natalia Loukacheva
Director, Polar Law Program, University of
Akureyri, Iceland
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International Association of Circumpolar Sociocultural Issues (IACSI)

by Enrique del Acebo Ibáñez

What is the IACSI?

IACSI is an international scientific association devoted to the study of different socio-cultural aspects related to the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The Association is integrated mainly by scholars from Social Sciences, Anthropology and Humanities, and also from individuals with different backgrounds but interested in these perspectives and themes. As a new association which looks for integration and cooperation, we are also looking for new members in both circumpolar regions.

What are we after?

Assuming the importance that the socio-cultural approach has for a holistic understanding of the circumpolar phenomenon, we have also considered the need to study the "circumpolar theme" in its bi-polar dimension: the Arctic and the Antarctica, in order to look for convergences and divergences under the debates "local/global", "North/South", "development/sustainability", and also looking for the production and transference of knowledge. In this sense, we privilege scientific investigation with reference to:

- Local Communities in Extreme Environments
- Social Problems and Human Well-being
- Participation and Community Attachment
- Habitat and Identity
- Minorities and Native people
- Migration
- Environment and Sustainable Development

What do we do?

- Generate scientific and academic projects bound up with circumpolar socio-cultural issues.
- Organize once a year an international seminar on the circumpolar socio-cultural issues.
- Organize cultural events, such as Films and Documentary Festivals related to these issues.
- Support academically the Arctic & Antarctic - International Journal of Circumpolar Socio-Cultural Issues. It is published annually.
- Encourage relationships and academic collaboration between Universities and Research

Centres sited in one or both circumpolar regions.

- Promote international workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- Contribute and award prizes to investigations, and activities concerning to solve problems in one or both circumpolar regions.
- Establish nets with national and international institutions, associations and NGOs linked to the matters which are the interest of the IACSI.

The Journal

According to the aims and goals of the International Association of Circumpolar Socio-Cultural Issues (IACSI), and the interchange of ideas, strategies and scientific projects since 2001 between scientists from Social Sciences, Anthropology and Humanities from Finland, Argentina, Iceland, Canada, Norway and United Kingdom, a new annually published peer-reviewed journal is launched.

During these last years different ideas were interchanged in terms of concrete aspects of this Journal between the Circumpolar Studies Program of the Universidad del Salvador (Argentina), the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of Jyväskylä (Finland), the Thule Institute of the University of Oulu (Finland), the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Iceland (Iceland), and the Foundation for High Studies on Antarctica and Extreme Environments (FAE, Argentina).

Editors

Responsible Editor:

Enrique del Acebo Ibáñez
Universidad del Salvador (Argentina)

Co-Editors:

Helgi Gunnlaugsson, University of Iceland (Iceland); Miikka Pyykkönen, University of Jyväskylä (Finland); Daniel Chartier, University of Québec-Montréal (Canada), and Jarkko Saarinen, University of Oulu (Finland).

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Notes for contributors

a) Submission of Papers

Authors should submit an electronic copy of their paper in Word format file with the final version of the manuscript by e-mail by attached file to the responsible Editor and the co-Editors:

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 Daniel Chartier: chartier.daniel@uqam.ca, Helgi Gunnlaugsson: helgigun@hi.is
 Miikka Pyykkönen: miipyyk@yfi.jyu.fi, Jarkko Saarinen: jarkko.saarinen@oulu.fi

Submission of a paper implies that it has not been published previously, that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and that if accepted it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the publisher.

b) Manuscript Preparation

General: Manuscripts should not exceed 35 pages (including references and illustrations), and must be typewritten, double-spaced with wide margins on one side of white paper. The corresponding author should be identified (include a Fax number and E-mail address). Full postal addresses must be given for all co-authors. The Editors reserve the right to adjust style to certain standards of uniformity. A cover page should give the title of the manuscript, the author's name, position, institutional affiliation and complete address, telephone, fax and/or E-mail numbers. An acknowledgement may also be included on the cover page if so desired. The title but not the author's name should appear on the first page of the text.

Abstracts: An abstract of not more than 120 words and a list of up to 10 keywords should accompany each copy of the manuscript.

Text: Follow this order when typing manuscripts: Title, Authors, Affiliations, Abstract, Keywords, Main text, Acknowledgements, Appendix, References, Vitae, Figure Captions and then Tables. Do not import the Figures or Tables into your text, but supply them as separate files. The corresponding author should be identified with an asterisk and footnote. All other footnotes (except for table footnotes) should be identified with superscript Arabic numbers.

References: All publications cited in the text should be presented in a list of references following the text of the manuscript. In the text refer to the author's name (without initials) and year of publication. For more than three authors, use the first three authors followed by et al. The list of references should be arranged alphabetically by author's names. Journal titles or books are not italicized or underlined.

Illustrations: All illustrations should be provided in camera-ready form, suitable for reproduction (which may include reduction) without retouching. Photographs, charts and diagrams are all to be referred to as "Figure(s)" and should be numbered consecutively in the order to which they are referred. They should accompany the manuscript, but should not be included within the text. All illustrations should be clearly marked on the back with the figure number and the author's name. All figures are to have a caption. Captions should be supplied on a separate sheet.

Photographs: Original photographs must be supplied as they are to be reproduced (e.g. black and white or colour). If necessary, a scale should be marked on the photograph. Please note that photocopies of photographs are not acceptable.

Tables: Tables should be numbered consecutively and given a suitable caption and each table typed on a separate sheet. Footnotes to tables should be typed below the table and should be referred to by superscript lowercase letters. No vertical rules should be used. Tables should not duplicate results presented elsewhere in the manuscript (e.g. in graphs).

c) Electronic Submission

Please specify what software was used, including which release, and what computer was used (IBM compatible PC or Apple Macintosh). Always keep a backup copy of the electronic file for reference

and safety. Send text-files in Microsoft Word (.doc) file form, or as .rtf-files.

d) Copyright

Authors are required to assign copyright to "A&A IJCSCI", subject to retaining their right to reuse the material in other publication written or edited by themselves, and to be published at least one year after initial publication in the Journal.

e) Book Reviews

We welcome book-reviews of academic or non-academic books concerning circumpolar socio-cultural issues. Book-reviews should not exceed three pages, and must be typewritten, double-spaced with wide margins on A4 paper. In addition to information about the writer of review (name, title and institutional affiliation) review should include full information about the reviewed book: Author(s), name, publisher, place of publishing and the number of pages.

f) Other Contents

Articles, notes, information about international conferences and seminars, and items of general circumpolar interest are also published.

Enrique del Acebo Ibáñez
President of the International Association of Circumpolar Sociocultural Issues (IACSI) and Responsible Editor of "Arctic & Antarctic - The International Journal on Circumpolar Sociocultural Issues"
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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Schamanen Sibiriens: Magier – Mittler – Heiler

Exhibition catalogue in German
Editor: Erich Kasten
Publisher: Dietrich Reimer Verlag Berlin, 2009
255 pages, 346 color photos,
24,5 x 29 cm, hard cover
ISBN: 978-3-496-02812-3

This book accompanies the exhibition "Shamans of Siberia" shown at the Linden State Museum of Ethnology in Stuttgart, Germany from December 13, 2008 to June 28, 2009 and mounted in cooperation with the Russian Museum of Ethnography in Saint Petersburg.

The exhibition and the various articles of the book – in German language – present and discuss the main concepts of the shamanic worldview and ritual practice as well as prominent spatial and

temporal variations. This dynamic approach aims to place historical representations of shaman's ritual regalia from museum collections into contemporary contexts, as these serve indigenous artists and others to revitalize and to preserve their culture heritage.

Contributors to this volume are: U. Bohnet, T. Bulgakova, V. Charitonova, T. DeGraaf, M. Dürr, M. Fedorova, J. Findeisen, D. Funk, V. Gorbacheva, R. Hamayon, I. Karapetova, E. Kasten, M. Mandelstam Balzer, T. Miller, M. Oppitz, E. Romanova, S. Romanova, I. Schneider, T. Sem, L. Strecker, K. Solov'eva, A. Znamenski.

Inuvik in Pictures: 1958-2009

ISBN: 1425144630

48 pages, with full colour pictures throughout

Inuvik: A History, 1958-2009

ISBN: 1425159737

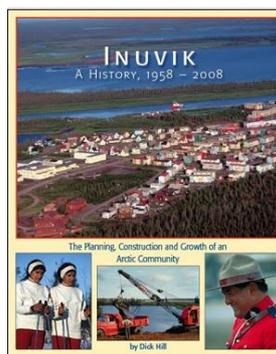
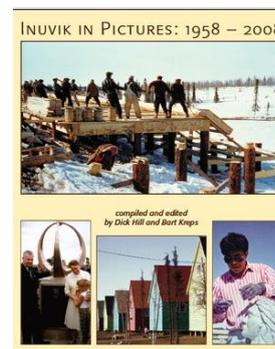
241 pages, with selection of photos, maps and illustrations in black and white.

Author: Dick Hill

Editor/designer: Bart Kreps

Publisher: Trafford Publishing

The books are published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the official naming of Inuvik in 1958. These books provide the most complete account available of the planning, construction and growth of Canada's first planned arctic community. The story begins in the early 1950s when the decision was made to build a new town on the Mackenzie Delta, as the centre of regional government and a base for resource development. Inuvik's fortunes have often been buffeted by far-away political decisions and marked trends. But as the town enters the 21st century, its diverse peoples have built not only roads, houses and schools, but a rich and vibrant community.



Both books are written by Dick Hill. Mr. Hill moved to Inuvik with his family in 1963 and spent 33 years there. He served as director of the Inuvik Research Laboratory and was the Town's first Mayor. He was active in the Chamber of

Commerce, the Territorial Experimental Ski Training program, the University of Canada North and the Western Arctic Tourism Association. On retiring, he donated his substantial collection of northern books to the Inuvik Centennial Library.

Russia's Northern Regions on the Edge: Communities, Industries and Populations from Murmansk to Magadan

Editors: Vesa Rautio and Markku Tykkyläinen

Publisher: Kikimora Publications

233 pages

ISBN: 9789521040979

Readers seeking to make sense of the evolutionary economic and human geography of Russia's northern regions in the aftermath of the Soviet-era's "extensive", planned-economy development regime will find in Russia's Northern Regions on the Edge many valuable ideas for building a new conceptual framework.

The book's central focus on communities provides a logical foundation, for it is these northern settlements that provide the spatial context within which institutions and actors in Russia's natural resource-based economy must adjust to a new global economic landscape. Major facets of the livability and viability of these communities are skillfully addressed by the chapter authors, whose contributions combine topical expertise with on-site interviews, surveys, and participant observation. One is introduced to such disparate yet important issues as the divergent demographic and economic outcomes of outwardly similar resource towns as transition unfolds; the motivations and concerns of their residents and workers, including those commuting hundreds of miles to shift work in remote Siberian oil fields, how one company town has imaginatively broken the mold by tapping a largely unused, nontraditional labor pool to diversify its industrial profile; and how proximity to international borders may enhance some community futures due to the potential of energy corridors and transportation clusters.

Polar Research Special Edition

Polar Research 28 (1) April 2009

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell

ISSN: 0800-0395, online 1751-8369

www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118495134/home

The Norwegian Polar Institute has announced the availability of a new issue of Polar Research. The volume is a special edition on change impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability in the Arctic. Editors

are James Ford and Chris Furgal. The special edition features the following manuscripts:

- Climate impacts, adaptation and vulnerability in the Arctic: James D. Ford and Chris Furgal
- Community Collaboration and Climate Change Research in the Canadian Arctic: Tristan Pearce et al.
- Arctic climate change discourse: the contrasting politics of research agendas in the West and Russia: Bruce Forbes and Florian Stammer
- Community clusters in wildlife and environmental management: using TEK and community involvement to improve co-management in an era of rapid environmental change: Martha Dowsley
- The role of governance in community adaptation to climate change: E. Carina H. Keskitalo, Antonina A. Kulyasova
- A reindeer herder's perspective on caribou, weather and socio-economic change on the Seward Peninsula, Alaska: Kumi Rattenbury et al.
- Canadian Inuit subsistence and ecological instability - if the climate changes, must the Inuit? George Wenzel
- Vulnerability and adaptation to climate-related fire impacts in rural and urban interior Alaska: Sarah Trainor et al.
- Demographic and environmental conditions are uncoupled in the social-ecological system of the Pribilof Islands: Henry Huntington et al.
- From good to eat to good to watch: whale watching, adaptation and change in Icelandic fishing communities: Niels Einarsson

ON THE WEB

Arctic Portal

www.arcticportal.org

by Halldor Johannsson

The Arctic Portal provides a comprehensive gateway to the Arctic on the internet, increasing co-operation between both public and private parties across the Arctic and granting exposure to Arctic related information.



The Arctic Portal includes features such as: News from around the Arctic; information on the Arctic Council and its Working Groups; sections on science, People and Business; a document and project database; up coming events; links; multimedia material including web casts, virtual conferences and videos; interactive mapping; webcams and weather in the Arctic; acronyms interpretation and much more.

The Arctic Portal is led by Iceland's Senior Arctic Official Ragnar Baldursson in consultation and co-operation with other members of the Arctic Council and its Working Groups, Permanent Participants, the Northern Forum, UArctic, The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, IASC and others.

Websites on the Portal

Through the Arctic Portal some important partners have established their web presence. These include: APECS – Association of Polar Early Career Scientists; IASC - International Arctic Science Committee; ICR - The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry; CBMP – The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program; AMSA – Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment; NRF – the Northern Research Forum, IPA – International Permafrost Association, CAFF – Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, PAME – Preservation of Arctic Marine Environment and last but not least, IASSA, the latest valuable partner to the Arctic Portal.

IPY Legacy

The Arctic Portal, which is an endorsed IPY-Project nr 388, sees IPY and IPY legacy as an important focus. The Arctic Portal has been a venue for IPY activities and IPY projects and their findings. As a result the Arctic Portal will maintain focus on IPY and its legacy by providing an interactive instrument for follow-up IPY-activities, education and outreach. An agreement has been made with the IPY International Programme Office on permanently hosting www.ipy.org on the Portal.

Special Events on the Portal

Web-casting is becoming an important venue for communicating special events to the wider audience. The Arctic Portal has facilitated numerous important events over the past years which are now virtually available on the Portal for the generations to come.

Next Development Phases Include:

- Tools will be further developed to post and present interactive data with emphasis on IPY legacy, the Arctic Council and Arctic Portal partners, making them accessible and visible throughout and thus aiding their scope of education and outreach.
- A “Virtual Classroom” for Education and Outreach in the Arctic, focusing on interactive communication, Web-casting, Internet based Conferencing and interactive graphical tools.
- An Arctic Language and Community Square, to support the maintenance, resilience and continued usage of lesser used languages in the Arctic and the preservation of Arctic cultures. It includes forums, news, images, pod casts, sound, music,

poetry, film and other social networking tools available on the internet.

- An Virtual Chamber of Commerce for promoting business and tourism in the Arctic regions.

The Arctic Portal welcomes the co-operation with IASSA.

Halldor Johannsson
Executive manager, Teikn Design, Akureyri,
Iceland
halldor@teikn.is

Qanuqtuurniq – Finding the Balance.

TV Series on Inuit Wellness
www.naho.ca/inuit/e/TVseries/

Qanuqtuurniq - Finding the Balance will bring health information, stories about successful Inuit community health projects and interesting research to TV screens and the Web across northern regions in Canada, Alaska and Greenland in May 2009. *Qanuqtuurniq - Finding the Balance* is a live, interactive series on Inuit wellness. It will feature three episodes, each dealing with key wellness issues for Inuit: youth's coping skills and ability to endure; men's emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual health; and good maternity care.

The television series is an International Polar Year outreach project. It is being co-ordinated by the Inuit Tuttarvingat, the Inuit-specific unit of the National Aboriginal Health Organization. It involves a project team of health promotion experts, researchers, Inuit organizations, community members, and northern broadcasters, as well as several working groups that are helping to develop the content.

A main objective of this television series is to adapt and test a “communications for change” model for exchanging knowledge from different perspectives on several wellness issues of concern to Inuit.

It will be broadcast in the Inuit language, with English subtitles, on APTN-North in May 2009 and will also be webcast live on several sites, including the National Inuit Youth Council.

The International Directory of Arctic Social Scientists Online

<http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/IDASS/index.aspx>

Stand up and be counted! The International Directory of Arctic Social Scientists is now online. Check out the current participants at the

University of Lapland, Finland's website and enter your own information to be included in an upcoming publication of the International Directory of Arctic Social Scientists. Similar to Ernest Tiger Burch's paper directory from the mid-1990s, the online directory is searchable and updatable, and there is no cost to participate or for the paper version of the directory. The new directory is sponsored by IASSA, the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, the Greenland Home Rule Administration, the Arctic Institute of North America, the Sami Center of Umea University, the Scott Polar Research Institute, the Barents Centre of the Humanities in Russia, and the U.S. National Science Foundation. Any information you submit is protected according to international and national laws, and entries will be screened by the Arctic Centre's webmaster before they are posted to the web. For more information, contact Dr. Robert Wheelersburg (wheelersburg@etown.edu), who will shortly be in touch with ICASS IV participants by email to join the directory. halldor@teikn.is

Many Strong Voices

<http://www.manystrongvoices.org>

Arctic Voices Join 'Many Strong Voices' for Tackling Climate Change By the Many Strong Voices Team (For further information, contact Ilan Kelman through <http://www.ilankelman.org>)

Within the wide range of environmental changes that have affected the Arctic over past centuries, contemporary climate change is starting to take its toll. New and creative efforts are continuing to determine how to deal with this long-term disaster and its spin-off effects. One research and action project, Many Strong Voices, joins coastal communities from around the Arctic and from the 51 Small Island Developing States (SIDS, <http://www.sidsnet.org>) in recognition of the similar vulnerabilities to climate change that both regions experience.

Many Strong Voices, launched in December 2005 by the United Nations Environment Programme, brings together Arctic and SIDS participants to share and enhance knowledge and expertise about, and to collaboratively devise strategic solutions to, climate change challenges. Those involved include researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and those with subsistence livelihoods. The aims are to:

1. Develop capacity to strengthen the role of the two regions in negotiations on reducing greenhouse gases and on climate change

adaptation.

2. Raise awareness about the effects and vulnerabilities of climate change in these regions.
3. Increase understanding of knowledge, needs, and solutions, including through research.
4. Motivate action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts.

One prominent strand is designing a research programme that will explore the assessment of climate change vulnerability and adaptation. This research builds on and draws lessons from experiences with community-based research and assessment work undertaken both within and beyond the Arctic and SIDS and is currently focused on using that work to assess vulnerability and adaptation for the SIDS.

The project's focus, though, remains on catalysing local action. While external and top-down interventions and exchanges are useful for supporting local action, the most effective manner of reducing vulnerability and living with climate change is through community-based initiatives grounded on solid experience and knowledge, especially local knowledge.



Senja island in Norway's Arctic (Photo: Ilan Kelman)

One important theme has been recognising that climate change is just one challenge and opportunity amongst many others facing the Arctic and SIDS. Other ongoing concerns include rapid rural-to-urban migration, the potential loss of languages and cultures, gender and minority inequities, erosion of local knowledge and experiences, manipulation by richer governments and corporations, and unsustainable natural resource extraction. These multiple factors must be considered simultaneously to ensure that tackling one problem, such as climate change, does not create or exacerbate other problems emerging from the myriad of social and environmental challenges which Arctic peoples have dealt with over the past centuries.

Many Strong Voices provides the grounding, inspiration, impetus, and opportunity to build and

maintain community-based processes that contribute to enhanced ability and actions to reduce vulnerability and to contribute to sustainability. With such comprehensiveness, cooperation, and exchange, Many Strong Voices - involving many strong Arctic voices - will be heard, locally and globally, leading to positive action for positive change.

EXHIBITIONS

Shamans of Siberia – Magicians, Intermediaries, Healers

Linden State Museum of Ethnology, Stuttgart, Germany

December 13, 2008 – June 28, 2009

(in cooperation with the Russian Museum of Ethnography, Saint Petersburg)

Shamans of Siberia – Magicians, Intermediaries, Healers is the result of a collaboration lasting several years between the Linden State Museum of Ethnology, one of Europe's oldest ethnographic museums, and the Russian Museum of Ethnography in Saint Petersburg. Curated by Erich Kasten, it is among the largest and most comprehensive exhibitions ever mounted on the subject. It features films, photographs, full-scale models of nomadic dwellings, and hundreds of artifacts including nearly 200 rare objects from the collections of the Russian Museum of Ethnography, many of them never before seen in western Europe. Instead of taking a static approach to shamanism as a historical phenomenon, particular attention is given to the dynamic features of shamanic worldviews, their openness to religious concepts of other peoples with whom shamans came in contact, and the consequent transformations and variations.



An important goal of the exhibition is to inform the museum visitor about non-western concepts of dealing with nature and the supernatural, whose representatives had to be consulted and treated in a respectful way. Early explorers and scientists viewed Siberian shamans against the background of the respective *Zeitgeist* of their own cultures, and many continue to do so even today. Western observers first dismissed shamanic concepts as irrational beliefs during the Enlightenment, then viewed them in romantic transfiguration, and eventually – during the past 50 years – used them

as an ideological tool for growing criticism of western civilization. But how can we do justice to the phenomenon of shamanism from the point of view of the peoples of Siberia, for whom it has been an important part of their cultural identity? In the long wake of *perestroika* they are still seeking new ideological orientations and striving to reconnect to traditional worldviews. In contrast to a certain arbitrariness by which almost any kind of spirituality is often seen today as shamanic, this exhibition aims to show the particular historical and regional contexts from which shamanic worldviews and ritual practices evolved, within which they have been embedded in Siberia, and what shamanism can mean to people there today and in the future.

The overarching theme linking shamanic worldviews with traditional concepts of human relations with nature runs throughout the exhibition. The first section of the exhibition provides examples of particular natural environments of Siberia, establishes the historical and geographical context, and introduces the special character of sacred objects that are shown. In the next hall, overall concepts of human relations with nature and ritual interaction are explained by the examples of two different seasonal reconciliation feasts, the Yhyakh of the Sakha and the O-lo-lo of the Koryak (Nymylans). Specific shamanic concepts dealing with unexpected crisis situations are closely identified and demonstrated by regalia. Beautifully conserved sacred objects are shown side-by-side with archival photographs of them in their original contexts. Object installations focus on important themes such as becoming a shaman, shamanic cosmology, and the role of spirit helpers in traveling and communicating with the worlds beyond. After examples of earlier syncretisms and the disconnected transmission of shamanic knowledge due to anti-shamanic campaigns in the Soviet era, the Czech photographer Stanislav Krupar presents images of revitalized shamanic performances in Tuva in a slide show, while recordings of modern shamanistic rock music can be heard at a listening station.

As the shamanic ritual was crucial for the shaman's success, he or she had to be an excellent performer in front of the members of the community. Instead of showing (fake) scenarios of "real" shamanic séances that might only work in the proper natural environment of Siberia, a unique multimedia installation creates an interpretive experience through old and new technology. "The Shaman's Journey," created by anthropologist and media artist Thomas Ross Miller (Curatorial Consulting, New York) with the assistance of video producer Craig Campbell

(Metafactory Studio, Edmonton), is a distinct aural and visual environment within the larger exhibition. Through video projections, special lighting, and 360-degree sound, the visitor navigates a passage between the twilight evocation of birds and animals and the deep night chanting and drumming of shamanic ceremony. Winter landscape photography by Hiroki Takakura surrounds the space of one room, while another is enveloped by fluorescent reproductions of paintings by Chukchi and Koryak natives, representing the cosmos and the spirit beings encountered by shamans along their paths. Century-old wax-cylinder recordings, contemporary field and studio recordings, and the atmospheric sounds of earth's magnetic field play continuously over 25 independent sound channels, creating an ever-shifting soundscape. Films include a slide show of rare early photographs and a wide-screen montage drawing on petroglyphs, landscapes, and pure color to produce synaesthesia effects. This interlude suggests a transformation of consciousness corresponding to situations which might have been experienced and felt by attendants of shamans' ceremonies in Siberia in the past.

The main exhibition hall, covering two floors, shows particular shamans' personalities, sometimes with short sketches of their life histories, from numerous regions of Siberia. A Nanai artist now residing in Germany has elaborated the fish-skin clothing tradition of the Amur River peoples into a modern art style with a shaman's dress from that material and carved wooden art figures based on those used in shamanic rituals. Shamanic motifs in the walrus tusk art of Chukotka, from the first half of the 20th century, lead to recent work by Kamchatkan artists who continue this tradition in reindeer horn carvings. Here there is particular focus on the range and specialization of shamans of distinct Siberian peoples. Displays of art, artifacts, photographs, archival audio, and contemporary video depict particular variations in shamanic concepts, corresponding ritual dress and regalia, and different functions and tasks of the shaman.

Another focus is how traditional shamanic views persist in the present, transforming into artistic and other realms in Siberia and the west. Siberian children's drawings reflect how the young generation perceives shamans today. Educational activities for the many groups of schoolchildren who visit the museum are designed to give them a better understanding of shamanism and important ideas for our common future. A special program complements the exhibition with music and dance

performances by artists from Siberia, film events, workshops, and lectures. In the last hall, modern artists show objects, video installations, and paintings inspired by shamanistic themes. The organizers were particularly delighted to be able to initiate, in addition to the cooperation between museums, this promising collaboration including artists from Saint Petersburg and Berlin. Visitors to the exhibition see how young artists in Siberia are becoming increasingly interested in their own cultural heritage, using shamanic motifs and themes in their work, while young artists in the west draw inspiration from supernatural concepts of indigenous peoples elsewhere. They enter into a creative dialogue among different cultures and the spiritual worlds that the shamans mastered.

The organizers hope this exhibition may help people in the west, and perhaps even in Siberia, to rediscover and gain renewed confidence in this important cultural heritage amidst the difficulties of rapidly transforming cultures and communities.

For more information please see:

www.lindenmuseum.de

Exhibition catalogue (in German): See NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Visit
The Friendly Arctic
 web exhibition
<http://thefriendlyarctic.svs.is>

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

PhD Defence

Guy Bordin guybordin@skynet.be has successfully defended his PhD in Anthropology on December 9, 2008, at the Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense (former Paris X-Nanterre) with the following subject: "La nuit inuit. Vécu et représentations de la nuit chez les Inuit du nord de la Terre de Baffin (Nunavut, Arctique canadien)" (The Inuit night. Experiences and representations of the night among Northern Baffin Inuit (Nunavut, Arctic Canada)).

Abstract

The objectives of this work are to describe the daily night of the Inuit living in Northern Baffin Island (Nunavut, Arctic Canada), to allow a reading and understanding of the Inuit' own points of view on nocturnal space-time, and hence to try to grasp and analyse the singularities of this night at the level of both experiences and representations. As often as possible, comparative data emanating from other cultural areas has been included.

An emphasis is put on language and the spoken word, which permeates through all of the

research, fitting it into an ethnolinguistic approach.

Structured in three parts, the work presents first the nocturnal framework: Arctic night, day-to-day night, cosmogonies, notions of darkness and light. Then the night experience is analysed while in the state of wakefulness: influences and properties attributed to the night relating to birth, disease and death, to travelling and hunting, to rituals, ceremonies and festivals, and to fear. Finally the night experience is considered in the state of sleep: ethnography of sleep, dream experiences, sketching of a theory of sleep. These analyses, carried out diachronically, highlight the complementarities and continuums which characterize the night/day and darkness/light pairings, which do not match the binary or dualistic schemes that are our own and that Inuit thought tends to reject.

Beyond its specificity to the Inuit, this work is also a contribution to a comparative and multidisciplinary reflection, started several years ago at the University Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, on what could be an anthropology of the night.



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