IASSA welcomes new Secretariat

IASSA Secretariat moves to the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, USA

The new locations of the IASSA Secretariat and ICASS X represent a unique collaborative effort between two institutions in the United States and Russia. From September 2017 to August 2020 the IASSA Secretariat will be housed at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Cedar Falls, USA, while ICASS X in 2020 will be hosted by the Northern (Arctic) Federal University (NARFU) in Arkhangelsk, Russia.

The University of Northern Iowa is an emerging hub of Arctic social sciences in the USA: the Arctic, Remote and Cold Territories Interdisciplinary Center (ARCTICenter) was established at the University in 2015 to recognize the rapid growth of Arctic research on campus. It now manages >$3 million in projects and serves as a home for two NSF Arctic social sciences research coordination networks (Arctic-FROST and Arctic-COAST), as well as multiple other research and cooperation initiatives. The Center’s strategic vision focuses on interdisciplinary, integrative, international initiatives with the emphasis on Arctic social sciences, sustainability research and community well-being studies. The Center has contributed to such hallmark international projects as Arctic Social Indicators, Arctic Human Development Report, Arctic Resilience Report, ECONOR and others. The Center is directed by Dr. Andrey N. Petrov.

New Faces in IASSA Secretariat

First of all, great thanks to the Umea IASSA Secretariat! Peter, Gabriella, Linus and other Secretariat staff at Umea provided excellent service to the association, and it will be a hard act to follow. The new Secretariat will try to do its best.

Please, meet our team:

Andrey N. Petrov, IASSA President:
I am a social scientist with a ‘circumpolar’ career: I was born, raised and educated in Russia, received my PhD in Canada (Toronto) and now work as Associate Professor of Geography and Director of the ARCTICenter at the University of Northern Iowa, USA. In addition to my two terms on the IASSA Council, I serve as a Vice-Chair and U.S. Representative on the IASC Social & Human Sciences Working Group and as the Past Chair of the Polar Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers.

My research primarily focuses on economic issues in northern communities and policies of regional development in the Arctic. I study human-environment relationships and Arctic socio-ecological systems as well. I lead a number of circumpolar research initiatives, most importantly the international research coordination networks in Arctic sustainability (Arctic-FROST) and coastal resilience (Arctic-COAST). I have also been a lead contributor to Arctic Social Indicators, Arctic Human Development Report, Arctic Belmont, Arctic Horizons and other major international and interdisciplinary projects.
IASSA welcomes new Secretariat

Ann P. Crawford, IASSA Secretary:
I am an administrative assistant in the Geography Department at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, USA. I was born and raised in Iowa and am still here! My grandparents came from Denmark to Cedar Falls in the early 1900’s. Even though I was not raised in Cedar Falls, but in a small town of 800 people in Southeastern Iowa, I find a true connection to my Danish heritage and enjoy the international connections that have been made available to me in this job.

I work with special projects within the Geography department, including the ARCTICenter. My academic background does not fit this position in any way with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work and a bachelor’s degree in Gerontology. I do however, have a strong belief that education is never lost and I use what I have learned in those fields all of the time. I have always loved winter and cold weather so I am happy to be working with programs about the Arctic.

IASSA Secretariat Staff:
Graduate students: Grant Burke: (Membership & data), Varvara Korkina (Indigenous and Early Career engagement), Christopher Pierce (Newsletter production), Matthew Ruiz (Listserv & Webpage).

The University of Northern Iowa is an emerging hub of Arctic social sciences: the Arctic, Remote and Cold Territories Interdisciplinary Center (ARCTICenter) was established at the University in 2015 to recognize the rapid growth of Arctic research on campus. It now manages $3 million in projects and serves as a home for two NSF Arctic social sciences research coordination networks (Arctic-FROST and Arctic-COAST), as well as multiple other research and cooperation initiatives.

UNI has been a U.S. lead institution for ICASS VIII and IX funding applications designed to help early career, Indigenous, and Russian researchers to attend ICASS meetings. The University has a strong commitment to supporting Arctic research and IASSA Secretariat specifically through the ARCTICenter. The Center’s strategic vision focuses on interdisciplinary, integrative, international initiatives with the emphasis on Arctic social sciences, sustainability research, and community well-being studies. The Center has contributed to such hallmark international projects as Arctic Social Indicators, Arctic Human Development Report, Arctic Resilience Report, ECONOR, and others.

The ARCTICenter serves as a U.S. Midwest hub for Arctic Horizons, a program designed to provide U.S. science funding authorities with investment priorities in respect to the Arctic social science research. The Center is directed by Dr. Andrey N. Petrov, who will be supported by the IASSA Secretary. ARCTICenter staff have coordinated or organized multiple conferences, meetings and workshops in the USA, Russia and other locations. The IASSA Secretariat will be hosted by the Center and will benefit from its experience and expertise, including securing and managing funding, while providing logistical support to the ICASS X in Arkhangelsk in 2020.

More than 1,000 people follows us on the IASSA Facebook page!

Follow us on:
www.facebook.com/pages/International-Arctic-Social-Sciences-Association/
The City of Arkhangelsk (Archangelsk) is the historical capital of the Russian Arctic. Arkhangelsk founded in 1584 was the starting point for the exploration of Russia’s North. It is currently the largest city in the Arctic, a major historical, industrial, scientific, and cultural center. The city has a population of 357,000 and a plethora of historical and cultural amenities, hotels, conference facilities, and supporting infrastructure. A large Arctic port, it is an easily accessible transportation hub with multiple daily flights from Moscow and St. Petersburg and a regular passenger train service.

Russia is the only Arctic country that has never hosted or co-hosted an ICASS. Given Russia’s size and role in the Arctic, the large Russian membership in the IASSA, and the vast contribution of Russia’s scholars to Arctic social sciences, it is only logical to set the tenth ICASS in a Russian city. It is especially critical to do this now, when collaborative efforts and meetings among scholars from the Arctic face challenges due to political tensions and barriers. Holding ICASS X in Russia will highlight IASSA’s commitment to circumpolar collaboration, engagement of researchers, and communities in the Russian Arctic and support for social sciences and scientists working in Russia.

Northern (Arctic) Federal University (NARFU) will be the local host of ICASS X. NARFU is one of the largest Arctic universities with a long and proud history of Arctic-based research and education. NARFU is a home for more than 20,000 students from 47 countries. The university has considerable experience in international collaboration (for example, serving as one of the UArctic and Barents Euro-Arctic Council education and research hubs) and congress organization. NARFU has been selected to hold multiple large meetings, including the “International Arctic Forum: The Arctic: Territory of Dialog” (in 2011 and 2017). Between 2011 and 2016 NARFU organized and hosted more than 400 international and national conferences and symposia. In 2016 alone the university welcomed 104 international meetings with 420 foreign participants. To accommodate a high volume of international visitors the university has established a streamlined visa support system.

The university has modern conference facilities, boasting a congress hall, exhibition center, modern conference rooms, and reception facilities. The university has been a focal point of Arctic research in Russia. This mission is supported by several institutes and centers in Arctic social sciences and humanities: Arctic Center for Strategic Research, Integrative Translation Studies in Sub-Arctic Dimensions Center, Lomonosov Institute, Pomor Institute of Indigenous Minorities of the North, Center for Social and Economic Development in Northern Areas and Arctic Region, and Center for Ethnic and Cultural Studies and Humanitarian Geography of the Arctic. NARFU has been a top producer of PhD graduates in social sciences in the Russian Arctic with 77 PhD dissertations defended in the last five years in various social science disciplines. Currently, more than 100 students are pursuing doctoral degrees in social sciences. University’s principal research areas encompass sociology, political science, health studies, linguistics, human geography, history and anthroplogy.
From Growth to Prominence: A Strategic Vision for IASSA in 2017-2020

Dear IASSA members!

I am writing to you as the new President of the Association to welcome you on the exciting journey that will take our Association to the new levels of excellence, prominence and engagement.

Our collective disciplines have been successful in articulating our role in the diverse family of Arctic sciences, active in developing cutting-edge theoretical and methodological frameworks, vocal in driving new research agendas, and instrumental in addressing the grand challenges faced by Arctic communities. Never, since the establishment of IASSA, has the Arctic social sciences been so substantial in volume and quality of research. We have also begun an active engagement with humanities and natural sciences, a work that is expected to continue in the future. It is my belief and my aspiration that Arctic social sciences are poised to translate this remarkable growth to prominence in the near future.

In the next three years, I envision this Association and scholarship it represents to become a prominent voice in the global interdisciplinary and disciplinary conversations, a prominent contributor to theories and methodologies in social sciences and humanities, a prominent channel of policy-relevant information, a prominent driver of research agenda and funding priorities, and a prominent source of inspiration and support for the next generation of Arctic social scientists. I hope that in the next three years, we will work together to continue our growth and attain our goals.

I intend to be the President that serves the interests and implements the ideas expressed by the membership. Therefore, I call on all members to share their thoughts, suggestions, and dreams about what the Association can do and how it can operate with me and the Council. We will also appreciate your input on what you, the members, can do to make IASSA better.

Send your ideas to: andrey.petrov@uni.edu

To begin this conversation, at ICASS IX I outlined my platform From Growth to Prominence that includes nine priorities, which I think will be instrumental in bringing the IASSA to the next level of success. This transformation will culminate with the Association’s 10th Congress in Arkhangelsk, Russia.

Priorities (include, but not limited to):

1. Centralization of the IASSA’s role as the flagship of Arctic social sciences among international professional organizations and national science institutions (funding agencies, academies, ministries, etc.) to ensure an increased investment and continued development of our disciplines;
2. Expansion of the IASSA role in the Arctic Council, Arctic Economic Council (through observer and expert group mechanisms) and IASC (through elevating the position of the Social and Human Sciences Working group);
3. Consideration of options to develop IASSA internal structure with the potential to create new working or thematic groups, networks and regional nodes;
4. Support to Indigenous scholars, organizations and residents, and institutional, methodological and practical facilitation of Indigenous knowledge and knowledge co-production (workshops, training, research principles, advocacy, etc.);
5. Further engagement of humanities and arts;
6. Institutional and intellectual support for interdisciplinary connectivities through more active cooperation with professional associations in biogeophysical sciences (Intl. Permafrost Association, Intl. Geographical Union, American Geophysical Union, etc.), including cooperative agreements, co-organized conferences and shared networks;
7. Targeted, prioritized investment in the new generation of Arctic social scientists including financial support to early career scholars, sustained collaboration with APECS, IASC Fellowship Program, and research coordination networks with early career programming;
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

From growth to Prominence: Strategic vision for IASSA 2017-2020

(8) Consideration of a possibility to increase the number and geography of IASSA meetings between ICASS, such as annual regional or thematic meetings;
(9) Expansion of our connections with social scientists working in non-Arctic regions, including Antarctica.

From ideas to action

The first action to start discussing and implementing IASSA 2017-2020 priorities will be a consideration by the Council to establish internal task forces that will be charged with developing implementation recommendations suggestion and plans. The Council will also be soliciting and analyzing the input from IASSA membership. We will strive to develop plans and mechanisms for each approved priority in 2018.

Thank you very much,
Andrey N. Petrov, PhD
President, International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
Director, ARCTICenter
Department of Geography
University of Northern Iowa
205 ITTC UNI 50614-0406 USA
Phone: 1-319-273-6245
Fax: 1-319-273-7103
https://arctic.uni.edu/

Thank you to the outgoing IASSA Council!

Not pictured: Grete Hovelsrud
New IASSA Council

Andrey Petrov, President
Director, ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa, USA

Peter Sköld, Past President
Professor and Director, Centre for Arctic Research at Umeå University, Sweden

Peter Sköld is professor in history, Sami culture and society development at Umeå University, Sweden. He is the director of the Centre for Arctic Research (Arcum). Sköld’s research profile includes historical demography, indigenous health transitions and northern cultures. Apart from being the former president for International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), Sköld is member of UArctic Board of Governors and chair for WG Human and Social Sciences in the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). He is also Swedish delegate of the Arctic Council Sustainable Development WG Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG). 2014-2018 Sköld is co-leader of the 4.5 million Euro project New Governance for Sustainable Development in the European Arctic, involving 30 researchers.

Dmitry Funk
Professor and Chair of Department of Ethnology, Moscow State University and Tomsk State University, Russia

I have directed the Department of Northern and Siberian Studies at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, since 1995, where I focused international projects and collaborative initiatives. Since November 2013, I am a Professor and Chair of the Department of Ethnology (Faculty of History) at Lomonossov Moscow State University. Concurrently, I am also a leading researcher at Tomsk State University. Presently, I am leading the “Man in a Changing World. Problems of Identity and Social Adaptation in History and at Present”. My research profile includes northern/Siberian cultures, urbanization processes, social impact assessment, and corpora linguistics. My recently published books were devoted to the analysis of epic tradition of the Shores in Western Siberia (a 4-volume anthology, 2010–13) and of interaction between culture(s) and resources on the North of Sakhalin Island (2015). I am acting as an editor-in-chief of Siberian Historical Research journal (Tomsk), and of Journal of Central and Inner Asian Dialogue (Washington). Apart of these two, I collaborate as a member of an editorial board or as a reviewer with many international journals. I have been awarded the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel-Forschungspreis Prize in Ethnology by the International Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2007).
Diane Hirshberg
Professor of Education Policy, University of Alaska Anchorage
Institute of Social and Economic Research, USA

Diane Hirshberg is Professor of Education Policy at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She also serves as Advisor to the UAA Chancellor on Arctic Research and Education. Her research interests include education policy analysis, indigenous education, circumpolar education issues, and school change. She has studied the boarding school experiences of Alaska Native students, teacher supply, demand and turnover, including the cost of teacher turnover in Alaska, as well as school finance issues. She has served or is currently evaluator for a number of federally funded education reform initiatives in Alaska and beyond, and currently is the North America lead for the Arctic Youth-Sustainable Futures project, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Dr. Hirshberg sits on both the International Arctic Social Sciences Association Council since 2014 and the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States Board. She also is a member of the “visionary group” for the Advancing Native Dialogues on Racial Equity project with the First Alaskans Institute. She teaches in the UAA Honors College and the College of Education. She has a PhD in Education from UCLA, a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University and a bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley.

Michał Łuszczuk
Assistant Professor
Maria Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland

I am an associate professor of international relations teaching at the Department of International Relations, Maria Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. My main scientific interests include the development of the international relations in the Arctic, currently with the focus on a role of non-state actors in the Arctic governance and mechanisms of the science diplomacy. As a member of the Committee on Polar Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, I engage in the development of Arctic research in Poland. Additionally, I am also involved in works of the IASC’s Social & Human Working Group and I am a Polish delegate to the IASC Council since 2017.

Gertrude Saxinger
Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna and APRI - Austrian Polar Research Institute Vienna, Austria.

My research focuses are the multitude of relations of people and institutions to the environment: in particular I look on social aspects of extractive industries and transport infrastructures (i.e. the built environment). I am interested in mobility studies where I study multi-local lives of fly-in/fly-out petroleum and mining workers, inequality in the (im)mobility context as well as gender aspects as a crosscutting issue in these fields. In the course of various international research projects I am conducting field work in Siberia as well as in Canada’s Yukon Territory with indigenous and non-indigenous people. The transfer of scientific knowledge to the public is a key concern in my work. Therefore I am a proponent of combining applied research, community based research and theory building in the Arctic social sciences. I am serving since 2014 as IASSA council member and since several years as Austrian representative of IASC. In 2017 I was able to establish together with colleagues the IASSA Working Group “Gender in the Arctic”. As a founding member of the Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI), and spokesperson of the Regional Group Circumpolar and Siberian Studies of the German Association of Anthropologists (DGV), I am actively promoting Arctic social sciences in non-Arctic countries. Serving on the IASSA Council means not only representing scholars from these regions, but also to foster scientific collaboration among newly emerging research groups and established scholars/centers in Arctic and non-
New IASSA Council

**Tatiana Vlasova**
Leading Researcher, the Institute of Geography
Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Dr. Tatiana Vlasova is a leading researcher at the Institute of Geography, Russia where she received her PhD in social/economic geography. She graduated from Moscow State University's Geographical Department as a physical geographer. Her experience in the Arctic is based on her fieldwork and participation in several international multidisciplinary projects such as; Arctic Climate Impact Assessment where she served as a representative from RAIPON, Local Health and Environmental Reporting from the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North (UNEP Grid-Arendal), Arctic Social Indicators, and the Arctic Resilience Report as an IASSA representative. During the IPY 2007-2008 she served as a member of the IPY Committee of Russia and on the Sub-Committee on Observations. Her current research interests include socially-oriented observations and assessments of quality of life conditions and human capital development involving traditional and local knowledge. She is the leader of a Russian team of the Belmont forum “Arctic sustainability: synthesis of Knowledge” (ASUS) project supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) and the ARCTIC Studio - a mobile platform for international exchange of knowledge and views within the framework of transdisciplinary communication of scientists, educators, the public, authorities, businesses for sustainable and resilient development of the Arctic and its regions. The Arctic Studio is supported by the International Geographical Union Commission on "Cold and High Altitude Regions" (CHAR) which Tatiana Vlasova chairs. She is a Councilor of the International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA) and a member of the editorial board of "Polar Geography".

**Gary Wilson**
Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada

Gary N. Wilson is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in Prince George, Canada. He also serves as the Acting Chair of the Department of First Nations Studies and the Coordinator of the Northern Studies Program at UNBC. His research examines politics and governance in the Circumpolar North with a focus on Inuit self-government in the Canadian Arctic. He is also interested in issues related to development and governance in northern British Columbia and the Canadian provincial north. Gary currently serves as the Vice President of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS). In 2014, he was the Co-Convener of the Eighth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences at UNBC.

**Alona Yefimenko**
Technical Advisor, Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat, Norway

Alona Yefimenko is a Technical Advisor of the Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat (IPS), a support organisation for the Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations that are Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council. It is based in Tromsø, Norway. She received her Master’s Degree in Philology from the Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia and the Far Eastern State University. Alona came from the Even/Chukchi reindeer herding family of Russian Kamchatka Peninsula.
IASSA General Assembly at ICASS VIII in Prince George, Canada elected Umeå University, Sweden to be the next host of the organization, and Peter Sköld as the new President. The IASSA Secretariat was transferred from University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George to Umeå University on 1 September 2014. Gabriella Nordin at the Arctic Research Centre (Arcum) was appointed as IASSA Secretary, and in September 2015 Linus Lundström joined the Secretariat.

IASSA Council was formed, consisting of Gail Fondahl (past President, CAN), Grete Hovelsrud (NOR), Diane Hirshberg (USA), Andrey Petrov (USA), Gertrude Saxinger (AUT), Florian Stammler (FIN), Tatiana Vlasova (RUS) and Alona Yefimenko (IPS).

It has been three intensive, but at the same time most rewarding years. The Council had 13 meetings, 6 issues of Northern Notes were published, IASSA website was upgraded and improved, the activities on social media increased significantly, and outreach activities were arranged. The collaboration with our partner organizations has been very valuable. During the Arctic Science Summit Week, on 2 April 2017 IASSA, IASC and UArctic signed a renewed and revised Letter of Agreement. It states that the three organizations share many common interests around growing, supporting, and disseminating Arctic research. In pursuit of these, they collaborate in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest, by encouraging the development of integrated plans for scientific research, by communicating to the public, by entering research partnerships with Arctic residents, by supporting the training and education of students and early career researchers, by providing advice to policy makers, and by addressing the Arctic Council together.

IASSA enjoys observer status at the Arctic Council since being accredited at the Barrow Ministerial Meeting 2000. This means that IASSA may attend meetings of the Senior Arctic Officials and of the AC’s Working Groups. Most of IASSA’s WG participation has been at the meetings of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). At several SDWG Meetings 2014-2017 IASSA has provided reports, expressing the continued interest in supporting Arctic Council’s work and working with especially SDWG on relevant projects. IASSA President Peter Sköld is a member of Arctic Council Social, Economic and Culture Expert Group, representing Sweden. IASSA Secretariat hosted a two day program for the Senior Arctic Official of Sweden, Andrés Jato, and Sweden’s SDWG delegate Elinor Blomgren, in August 2016. Multiple IASSA members take part in Arctic Council projects, and our organization has a broad collaboration with other observers, and with the Permanent Participants. Moreover, IASSA has established a collaboration with the European Union EU PolarNet.

ICASS IX was a great success. The number of participants exceeded 800, which was almost twice the size of the previous conferences. Welcome addresses were presented by the Senior Arctic Officials of Finland (René Söderman) and Sweden (Andrés Jato), the vice-chancellor of Umeå University (Hans Adolfssohn) and the President of the Sami Council (Åsa Larsson Blind). 21 parallel sessions run over five days, from morning until late afternoon. If they had been all plenary, we would have been in Umeå for 3 months and 10 days! Instead of individual keynote speakers each day started with a plenary panel. The panel themes were extractive industries, education, health, indigenous issues, and bibliometric analysis. An organizations were established to take care of all the submitted abstracts. It was divided into 22 different science themes, each one led by a chair responsible for organizing the sessions within the theme, and communicate with session chairs and presenters.

The theme of ICASS IX was People & Place and IASSA Council aimed to have a strong indigenous profile of the conference. After five days we could conclude that the ambition was fulfilled. Sami and other indigenous researchers and experts were well represented. As mentioned did the President of the Sami Council give a welcome address, Umeå University’s official yoik was performed during the opening ceremony, the welcome reception outdoors at the cultural area Gammila presented Sami culture and food, and several indigenous groups participated during the closing session. An official statement from the indigenous participants was presented to the meeting. The great efforts to raise funding for participation at the conference results in 144 stipends, of whom more than 90 were indigenous. But most importantly was the fact that so many presentations had an indigenous dimension, of the 900 presentations were 45% on an indigenous theme.

For us in Umeå the conference was a great experience, and we are sincerely thankful to all people who travelled long distances to join us. I think we are most happy for the friendly atmosphere, the great discussions and all splendid presentations.
Statement of the ICASS IX Indigenous Knowledge Roundtable

By: Carolina Behe, Åsa Larsson Blind, Noor Johnson, Liza Mack, Svein Disch Mathiesen, Andrey Petrov

On June 9, 2017, ICASS IX hosted and Indigenous Knowledge roundtable discussion organized by the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat. The panelists of the roundtable have developed the following statement:

Indigenous Knowledge provides a foundation for individual and collective well-being of past, present, and future generations of Arctic Indigenous Peoples. This knowledge system holds inherent value and methodologies, functions, and validation processes. Indigenous Knowledge empowers communities throughout the circumpolar north to significantly advance our understanding, intellectual performance, and management of the Arctic.

We are thankful that IASSA has invited and showcased issues and topics that are inclusive and community driven. IASSA has demonstrated their willingness to expand the ways in which Indigenous scholars and Indigenous Knowledge holders are engaged. By providing a platform that brings together a holistic and meaningful conversation, this progress will continue within IASSA and beyond.

Moving forward we suggest the following actions that can be supported by IASSA, individual IASSA members and the broader research community:

1. Revise IASSA research principles to explicitly include Indigenous Knowledge.
2. Clearly declare and ensure permanent support for Indigenous Knowledge within IASSA as defined by Indigenous Peoples, e.g., the development and supporting an Indigenous Knowledge Working Group or task force.
3. Produce a white paper synthesizing existing national and international ethical protocols for the engagement of Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous communities.
5. Sponsor and facilitate Indigenous Knowledge workshop(s), early career training opportunities or other engagement formats within IASSA.
6. At the international and national levels (Arctic Council, IASC, national funding agencies, those that define research needs and other appropriate organizations).
7. Investigate methods that position Indigenous communal oral histories as being of equal value to peer-reviewed science in Arctic studies.

In addition, we call on individual researchers to ask themselves: What Can I Do?

Indigenous Knowledge roundtable panelists:
Noor Johnson (Moderator), Exchange of Local Observations and Knowledge in the Arctic
Carolina Behe, Inuit Circumpolar Council
Åsa Larsson Blind, Saami Council
Liza Mack, Aleut International Association
Svein Disch Mathiesen, UArctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry at International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Saami University of Applied Science and UIT Arctic University of Norway
Andrey Petrov, University of Northern Iowa, IASSA President-Elect

Response from IASSA President:

ICASS IX IK Roundtable Declaration is a blueprint for IASSA Action

IASSA is proud to count many Indigenous knowledge holders among our members. IASSA Council and ICASS IX Organizing committee appreciated the opportunity to host a roundtable devoted to a growing role of Indigenous knowledge the family of Arctic sciences.

IASSA is committed to promoting IK and supporting IK holders in all scholarship and practical activities that may advance our understanding of the Arctic and improve the wellbeing of Arctic communities and residents.

It has been my position that Indigenous knowledge is a unique knowledge system that reflects generations-long experiences of the Indigenous Peoples. Comprehensive scientific research in the Indigenous Peoples homelands cannot be considered complete without engaging IK. In the recent NSF Arctic Horizons report, the engagement of the IK and IK holders in knowledge co-production is recognized as a key priority for Arctic social sciences. IASSA forcefully and unequivocally declares its support for fostering such engagement.

What will IASSA do now:
• Revise IASSA research principles to explicitly include Indigenous Knowledge.
• Establish Task Force on IK within IASSA (Chaired by Alona Yefimenko) to consider the development of an Indigenous Knowledge Working Group and other actions that will ensure permanent support for Indigenous Knowledge within IASSA.
• Advocate for Indigenous Knowledge engagement by other Arctic research organizations.

What will IASSA do in the near future:
• Support producing a white paper synthesizing existing national and international ethical protocols for the engagement of Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous communities.
• Work with Indigenous Knowledge holders to develop best practices for the engagement and utilization of Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge holders within Arctic research.
• Sponsor and facilitate Indigenous Knowledge workshop(s), early career training opportunities or other engagement formats within IASSA.

Andrey N Petrov
Features continued

IASSA Statement of the Role of Social Sciences in Arctic Pollution Research: Arctic Council SAO Meeting, October 26th, 2018

IASSA Statement on Preventing Pollution in the Arctic (IASSA is a Observer at the Arctic Council)

IASSA brings together over 700 social scientists, humanities and health experts who study Arctic societies in their connections with the Arctic environments. In the recent years, Arctic Social scientists have made considerable contributions to the understanding of human drivers, processes and implications of pollution. Importantly, pollution is a human-controlled process, and its most important impacts are related to humans. Therefore, social sciences are well-positioned to shed a new light on causes and effects of pollution in the Arctic, and social scientists should be and are involved in research on this subject. Of a particular importance for IASSA is the engagement of Indigenous knowledge in all types of research activity in the Arctic, including the study of pollution. In other words, a comprehensive understanding of pollution is neither possible nor practical without bringing on board social sciences and mobilizing local and Indigenous knowledge.

Examples of recent work by social scientists that led to better understanding of pollution processes, factors and impacts, as well as developing new ways to prevent and mitigate pollution include numerous studies in environmental health, sociology and anthropology of environmental disaster (groundbreaking work in the US in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez disaster), mining histories and reclamation activities (from Giant Mine, NWT to Kola Peninsula), food and water security, resilience and adaptation of Arctic social-ecological systems and many other topics.

Examples of ongoing research projects include REX-SAC in Sweden, ReSDA, MINERAL, TERRENET, Northern Exposure in Canada, ARCTICFRONT in Norway, and well-recognized work at the Kola Science Center in Apatity, Russia, to name just a few.

Pioneering work in Arctic health and wellbeing deals with pollution implications to health, water and food security. Access to high quality food and water is a basic human right of 4.5 million Arctic residents. The understanding of the exogenous drivers of disease and mortality associated with local and transported pollutants has been on the forefront of Arctic health research. Poor health, food and water access affect the overall wellbeing of Arctic residents, not only physical, but also social and cultural. Access to uncontaminated food, water, land and see is a key component of traditional livelihoods.

Recently a number of Arctic Council member countries, Permanent Participants and expert groups concluded studies on food security that demonstrate considerable difficulties experienced by the Arctic regions. Re-engagement of ‘old’ pollutants and hazardous substances due to erosion, permafrost thaw and industrial activity should not be overlooked as it causes direct and negative effect on human population (e.g., the anthrax outbreak in Western Siberia).

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Social scientists in collaboration with natural science colleagues and Indigenous knowledge holders have been working to elucidate social-ecological systems as primary elements and units of analysis of coupled human-environmental processes. Within these systems, one can more holistically understand resilience and adaptation of humans and environment to pollution and other stressors.

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IASSA appreciates an opportunity for our members to work on issues related to pollution as a part of the Arctic Council working group activities, including expert groups. We would like to expand the involvement of social scientists in these initiatives. Pollution analysis, monitoring and prediction in the Arctic must be conducted in an interdisciplinary manner with strong social sciences participation and engagement of the Indigenous knowledge. It will create new avenues for collaborative, comprehensive science in the Arctic and foster conditions for knowledge co-production.

Prepared by Andrey N. Petrov, IASSA President and Head of IASSA Delegation

Sustainable Development Working Group Social Economic, and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG)

IASSA has been invited to formally join the Social Economic, and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG) of the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group. SECEG

Under the direction of the SDWG, the SECEG supports work to advance social, economic and cultural research in the development of sustainable and integrated approaches emerging in the circumpolar region. The SECEG provides the SDWG with relevant information, and collaborate with other Arctic Council Working Groups, Permanent Participants, academic institutions and other relevant circumpolar organizations and observers.

More information: Dr. Timo Koivurova and Saara Tervaniemi (Co-Chairs)
Cultural Economy in Indigenous Communities: A Path to Sustainable Future
(Workshop report)
By: Andrey N. Petrov and Varvara Korkina, ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa

Introduction

In the recent decades Arctic communities experienced dramatic economic, social and cultural transformations, as well as a rapid environmental change. While some communities were able to partially capitalize on new economic opportunities, assert their rights and preserve ecosystems, others are facing formidable challenges and struggles. Cultural economy is an indispensable component of both local economy and traditional society. Indigenous communities in the Arctic are uniquely positioned to benefit from economic benefits of cultural activities, while preserving their identity and control over material and spiritual culture. Elements of traditional knowledge, such as arts and crafts, are not only important components of Indigenous culture, but can also be commodities that can bring economic profit (this economic sector is known as ‘cultural economy’). Commercial arts and crafts are a substantial and growing sector of northern economy in some parts of the Arctic (Canada, Nordic countries). It is important, however, that such economic activities are led and controlled by Indigenous people through Indigenous entrepreneurship and Indigenous businesses. This event focused on experiences in cultural economy in the Indigenous communities around the Arctic. We held a “knowledge sharing” session (plenary and panel discussion) that brought together entrepreneurs, scholars and policymakers from various parts of the circumpolar and Euro Arctic world.

Indigenous perspectives on sustainable development of the Russian Arctic are not well known to the international social scientists, a significant gap that needs to be addressed. Indigenous peoples in the Russian Arctic represent 26 distinct nations who are quite different in their heritage and culture, and include reindeer herders, sea hunters, horse breeders, and urban residents. Many of them are losing traditional territories due to climate change, resource extraction, tourism, and existential transformations of traditional lifestyles. Some Indigenous peoples moved to urbanized communities in the Arctic and beyond, and face multiple challenges on how to earn their living while preserving their cultural heritage. Indigenous art has a strong connection with traditional patterns, activities, spiritual beliefs, and culture in general. Indigenous artists use traditional knowledge coming from grandfathers and grandmothers and invest considerable time and effort in producing handicraft using hands and traditional instruments. However, the current economic situation and the nature of potential markets for these arts and crafts pressures Indigenous artists to seek new opportunities for designing their products and organizing production and sales. They are looking into ways to better connect with external markets and to make their production accessible and desirable to a larger customer base, while ensuring cultural continuity and restricting commodification of Indigenous arts and crafts by actors outside the Indigenous community.

The purpose of this workshop was to share results of particular studies and personal experiences of Indigenous cultural entrepreneurship from USA, Russia, and Canada. The workshop coincided with the largest Indigenous arts and crafts festival in Russia “The Treasures of the North” and attracted festival participants to our audience. The workshop gathered academics, fashion designers, Indigenous artists, businessmen, and government representatives to discuss this important issue. In addition to formal presentations and discussion, we also held a panel with the Russian Indigenous speakers. We also had follow-up interviews with Indigenous artists.

* * * * * *
Indigenous cultural economy: Opportunities and Challenges

Presentations and discussion at the workshop and in the following day allowed identifying key themes and findings associated with cultural economy in Indigenous communities. The participants emphasized a number of crucial challenges and emerging opportunities.

Victoria Okpik of Nunavik Creations (Canada) prepares to speak about her experience as an Indigenous designer

Opportunities

- Cultural industry as a new economic sector in Indigenous communities.
- Employment opportunities created by cultural economy could be considerable for small settlements.
- Cultural economy maintains and reinforces the connection to land claims and rights.
- Cultural economy in itself may be instrumental for taking back cultural rights.
- Income could be generated directly (if employ indigenous artists and crafters) and indirectly (through purchasing handicraft or materials from Indigenous producers).
- Cultural economy supports sustainable development in Indigenous communities, gives something that stays in these communities (both income and culture).
- Provides education and training.
- Involves youth, women and rural residents struggling to find jobs.
- Allows transmitting tradition to young generations and thus maintains cultural continuity.
- Cultural economy gives new opportunities to connect to urban Indigenous youth, provides means to maintain cultural identity for Indigenous urban residents.
- Reinvigorates appreciation of traditional arts and crafts through commercialized products (both among the Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous populations who gain exposure to Indigenous culture and learn ways to respect and cherish Indigenous heritage).
- Cultural economy provides an avenue for popularizing Indigenous culture.
- Cultural economy protects Indigenous cultural heritage from expropriation by outsiders while ensuring economic benefits to Indigenous artists and communities.

Challenges

- Market access could be very problematic and market size is still limited (more studies are needed).
- Cultural appropriation and commodification remains a strong concern.
- Need to have community consensus on appropriate ways to commercialize traditional arts and crafts.
- Access to capital is a critical issue (Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements, IBAs, grants are major tools to consider).
- The ‘middle segment’ problem: how to connect artists to customers.
- Restrictions on the use of some materials inherent for Indigenous arts and crafts (seal skin, walrus tusk, etc.).
- Involving and engaging young people in production is a challenge.
- Cultural economy can’t exist without connection to land and sea; loss of access to land and sea will erode cultural production.
- Need for money and efforts to fight the government and protect indigenous rights, land/sea access and cultural heritage, instead of focusing on community development. This limits opportunity to invest in cultural economy.
- Outside interference by the government or the ‘big money’ may be problematic.
IASC (International Arctic Science Committee) was founded in 1990 by representatives of national scientific organizations of the eight Arctic countries. Membership today includes 23 countries involved in all aspects of Arctic research, including 15 non-Arctic countries (Austria, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland and the UK). IASC is governed by a Council, composed of one representative of each of its member countries, which meets annually at the Arctic Science Summit Week. The Council sets priorities and guides the work of the organization. An Executive Committee, consisting of an elected President, four elected Vice-Presidents and a permanent Executive Secretary operates as a Board of Directors and manages IASC activities between Council meetings. The Secretariat is currently hosted by Rannis (Iceland), and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization. The Secretariat was previously hosted by Germany, Norway and Sweden.

IASC includes five working groups of which Social & Human is one. A new leadership of the WG was elected during ASSW in Prague: Peter Skold, chair (Sweden), Gunhild Hoogensen-Gjørv, co-chair (Norway), Andrey Petrov, co-chair (USA) and Gail Fondahl, past chair (Canada). At this meeting a Strategic Plan 2017-2022 was adopted that expresses the scientific and cross-cutting foci together with funded initiatives.

IASC Social and Human Working Group (SHWG) has an annual budget of €20,000 to invest in science initiatives. They are the most important surplus of SHWG activities. The initiatives correspond respectively to the science and the cross-cutting foci. The foci are continually revised.

### Scientific foci

| Arctic residents and change | Histories, perceptions and representations of the Arctic | Securities, governance and law | Natural resource(s)/use/exploitation and development: past, present, future | Human health and well-being |

### SHWG funded initiatives (2017/18 + 2018/19)*

| Long-term perspectives on Arctic social-ecological systems | Human land use in permafrost landscapes | Gender in the Arctic | Global Arctic – Understanding peace in the Arctic | RATIC | PACES |

### Cross cutting foci

| Long-term impacts, vulnerability and resilience in Arctic social-ecological systems | Competing forms of resource use in a changing environment | Perception and representation of Arctic science | Human health, well-being and ecosystem change |
SHWG IASC Report: Five Year Plan
By: Peter Skold, SHWG Chair

SHWG 5-year plan strive to achieve IASC’s vision, and specifically the three pillars that constitute the basis of activities. The plan is built on SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) goals. The deliverables will be evaluated annually.

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Investigating community resilience on the Arctic coast in Teriberka, Russia
By: Jessica Graybill, Andrey N. Petrov, and Gleb Kraev

Over the last two decades, Teriberka, Russia has become an Arctic hotspot of activity by researchers, investors, entrepreneurs, and tourists. There have been many promises made to and plans imagined for this village and its surroundings, from large-scale investment in infrastructure related to the Shtokman field, an offshore hydrocarbon resource extraction site (now on hold) to smaller-scale entrepreneurship associated with tourism in this only open-access location to Russia’s Arctic coast; other locations along the vast coastline remain closed to the public due to their border zone status. The 2014 film, Leviathan, was filmed in and around Teriberka and after winning the award for best screenplay at the Cannes Film Festival that same year, tourism increased massively.

Left to right: Andrey Petrov, Jessica Graybill, Gleb Kraev

Increased tourism due to the notoriety of the haunting and ethereal landscape shown in the film—sometimes called ruin porn tourism—is, however, only one of the many factors operating to transform Teriberka today. Tourists are drawn to Teriberka to experience the landscape of the film, but they are also coming from around the world for other experiences as well, in all seasons. For example, Russian thrill seekers attend the springtime snow kiting school, while Chinese come in winter to see the northern lights. Others arrive in summer for a music festival, and others seek the solace of nature for berry and mushroom picking in late summer and fall.

All of this activity is due to multiple factors, including easy road access to Teriberka from Russia’s largest urban centers, Moscow and St. Petersburg since 2009. Before this time, the community—and the the Arctic—has been closed to visitors of any kind and, with increasing car ownership in post-Soviet Russia, travel to such an exotic location has never been so easy for Russians or for foreigners. There are even plans—from investors in Moscow—for large-scale berry picking operations and rezoning for new construction in the village as excitement about this place seem not to have abated.

What is happening to the resilience of the community in this village today because of the excitement about this place and the access it provides to experience the Russian Arctic?

Two recent research projects are aimed at understanding the socio-ecological transformations in Teriberka today. First, the “Tundra Tracks” research project funded by Colgate University (Jessica Graybill is PI, with co-PIs Gleb Kraev and Andrey Petrov) seeks to understand how roads and ATV tracks change use of the landscape surrounding Teriberka village. During this research for this grant, in January 2016, it became clear that issues of community resilience due to socio-ecological and economic transformation are poignantly felt in this community and that transdisciplinary attention to the transformations that are occurring may be useful in increasing the capacity for resilience in and of this community. Second, Arctic COAST, a Research Coordination Network funded by the National Science Foundation (Andrey Petrov is PI, with co-PIs Jessica Graybill, Aaron Presnall, Lev Neretin), held a community workshop in Teriberka in June 2017 with local community members, local and Moscow-based tourist business entrepreneurs, Moscow-based urban planners, and Arctic researchers to understand how different viewpoints and understandings of what could—or should—be planned for the development of this village. The focus was on building an understanding of what community resilience is among the many stakeholders involved in Teriberka’s transformation. The two-day workshop was informative and lively, and indicated that local residents have strong feelings about how it should continue to develop, especially regarding the place of tourists and the visions for new zoning and buildings in the community. Three main concerns were expressed: (1) the need for attention to the garbage dump, which has grown since the arrival of tourists in the region. (2) the lack of understanding of what the local community wants from outside investors an entrepreneurs, and (3) the fact that the summer music festival, which brings the most tourists to Teriberka at any one time, does not provide real investment in the community.

Through the ongoing “Tundra Tracks” research and the Arctic COAST workshop, it is clear that the capacity for community resilience in Teriberka exists but that continued discussion among multiple stakeholders is necessary so that continued transformation may benefit, and not harm, the local community and surrounding landscape. Stay tuned for future news about Teriberka!

Generous supporters:
Colgate University’s Picker Interdisciplinary Institute
Arctic Coast RCN (NSF)
Village of Teriberka
House of Culture, Teriberka
Workshop Invitation

Polar Cities “Circles of Sustainability”

Workshops based on the ’circles of sustainability’ method (www.circlesofsustainability.org) are being held in three of the cities (Hobart, Christchurch, Punta Arenas) to determine the both the sustainability and Antarctic ’connectedness’ of each of these cities.

The advertised “Polar Cities” workshop, which will be held just prior to the POLAR2018 conference, is designed to scope the possibility of applying the same method to Arctic gateways. The circles of sustainability approach has been applied to cities all over world, and could offer a useful tool for exploring connections between the far south and the far north.

We welcome anyone interested in exploring how we might progress this idea to note the date in your diary, and come along to discuss at this open meeting.

This event is open to all, and details are also available via http://www.polar2018.org/side-meetings-schedule.html

For more information, please contact Juan Francisco Salazar (j.salazar@westernsydney.edu.au); visit www.circlesofsustainability.org/projects/antarctic-cities/; or follow the project at www.twitter.com/AntarcticCities
We are glad to invite you to participate in the International Geographical Union Commission C16.05 “Cold and High Altitude Regions” (IGU-CHAR) session organized during the IGU Thematic Conference "Practical Geography and Challenges of the 21st Century" in Moscow on 4-6 June 2018.

Our Commission session theme is “Cold & High Altitude Regions challenges and solutions for achieving sustainability.” It was prepared by the help from our several SC members. A lot of thematic sub-sections are welcomed to be organized also, if we have enough presentations (for example “Arctic coast” and “Arctic Youth-Sustainable Future.”

Please see the description of the session: Special session of the Commission “Cold & High Altitude Regions research for achieving sustainability.” The role of scientific investigations, especially international and interdisciplinary ones, in achieving sustainability and resilience in the Arctic, Antarctic, and High Altitude Regions experiencing rapid social, ecological and geopolitical changes and transformation, will be discussed at this session. It would be particularly valuable to look at the ways of bringing scientific results, including methods of local people participation in both biophysical and social sciences research, to the public and decision-makers for planning of a sustainable future. Sustainability and resilience of complex socio-ecological systems is becoming a primary focus of different branches of science from geotectonic to geopolitical science. A lot has been done in this respect in geography, although other disciplines such as anthropology, permafrost research, biology, sociology, soil sciences, economics, architecture, hydrology, climatology, and design, etc. are also very important when investigating sustainability issues and presenting solutions from diverse lenses at different geographical scales - global, pan-arctic, national, regional, community, ecosystem, and landscape. In reality, the consensus between different branches of sciences and stakeholders is achievable through activities such as the implementation as Environment and Social Impact Assessments, with public hearings, sustainability planning with local residents’ participation, as well as long-term sustainability monitoring of key issues and the definition of sustainability indicators. Monitoring sustainability and resilience of integrated socio-ecological systems through indicators serves several goals: (1) it focuses on interactions between social and ecological domains, built environments, resilient socio-ecological systems, (2) it increases learning and knowledge capacities of local communities and their ability to shape change and (3) will help to plan for a sustainable future. The IGU-CHAR Commission hopes to see the presentation on diverse themes discussing important challenges facing sustainability in the Arctic, Antarctic and High Altitude Regions from the point of different scientific disciplines and their interactions even those that are still not familiar to the scientific auditorium. Sub-sections on different topics within this session could be organized on the basis of received abstracts.


The working languages of the conference are English and French.

Tatiana Vlasova,
Russian Academy of Sciences
Up Coming Conferences, Events & Workshops

January 15-18, 2018  5th International Symposium on Arctic Research (ISAR-5)
Tokyo, Japan
http://www.jcar.org/isar-5

This symposium will be comprised of discussions on environmental changes in the Arctic and their regional and global implications and seeks additional international scientific collaboration in this area by gathering, synthesizing, and sharing information related to these changes occurring in the Arctic. Arctic change has impacts on the global climate, as well as ecosystems and human societies in higher-middle latitudes. A better understanding of these processes is needed so that improved information can be given to society and stakeholders, particularly decision makers. Special emphasis will be placed on the fields of the social sciences and humanities, which have not been included in previous ISARs.

January 21-26, 2018  Arctic Frontiers Science 2018
Tromsø, Norway
http://www.arcticfrontiers.com

Connecting Arctic societies together and closer to the rest of the world’s ideas, knowledge, technology and capital is an issue of special importance at Arctic Frontiers Policy in 2018. In 2018 the Arctic Frontiers Policy program will have five main sessions with the following tentative working titles: State of the Arctic, Technology and connectivity, Resilient Arctic societies and business development, Healthy and productive oceans, Industry and environment.

February 11-14, 2018  Western Regional Science Association
Pasadena, CA, USA
https://www.wrsaonline.org

WRSA annual Remote regions sessions will gather economic geographers, economists and regional scientists from around the world.

April 10-14, 2018  American Association of Geographers
New Orleans, LA, USA
http://www.aag.org/

AAG Polar Geography Specialty Group is hosting many sessions covering various Arctic topics.

⚠️  🗣️ Attention: Conference & Workshop Participants

The editors of the Northern Notes are always wanting to hear from participants who have attended conferences and workshops relating to the international social sciences. If you’ve recently attended a workshop or conference and want to tell us about your experiences, please e-mail Ann Crawford, IASSA Secretary at ann.crawford@uni.edu
Up Coming Conferences, Events & Workshops continued

June 4-8, 2018  
**International Geographic Union Commission on Cold and High Altitude Regions: Practical Geography and Challenges of the 21st Century**  
Moscow, Russia  

The role of scientific investigations, especially international and inter disciplinary ones, in achieving sustainability and resilience in the Arctic, Antarctic, and High Altitude Regions experiencing rapid social, ecological and geopolitical changes and transformation, will be discussed at this session.

June 15-18, 2018  
**POLAR 2018: Arctic Science Summit Week 2018 & IASC Business Meetings**  
Davos, Switzerland  
[https://www.polar2018.org/](https://www.polar2018.org/)

The goal of POLAR2018 is to bring together excellent research from both poles, as well as from high altitude areas, focusing on the similar challenges those regions face.

June 18, 2018  
**Workshop: Polar Cities: Circles of Sustainability**  
Davos, Switzerland  
[www.circlesofsustainability.org](http://www.circlesofsustainability.org)

"Antarctic Cities and the Global Commons," a research project currently funded by the Australian Research Council, is examining ways in which the five Antarctic 'gateway cities' might both re-imagine and intensify their relations to Antarctica and each other. Workshops based on the 'circles of sustainability' method are being held in three of the cities (Hobart, Christchurch, Punta Arenas) to determine the both the sustainability and Antarctic 'connectedness' of each of these cities.

June 19-26, 2018  
**POLAR 2018 SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference and Arctic Observing Summit**  
Davos, Switzerland  
[https://www.polar2018.org/](https://www.polar2018.org/)

The goal of POLAR2018 is to bring together excellent research from both poles, as well as from high altitude areas, focusing on the similar challenges those regions face. The program features 65 different sessions, structured into 12 categories. In addition to the parallel sessions, central elements of the Open Science Conference (OSC) will be keynote presentations, mini-symposia, extended poster sessions, and exhibitions. The 2018 Arctic Observing Summit will be held immediately after the OSC. A range of excursions and trips will allow participants to make the most of coming to the Swiss Alps and enjoy science, nature, culture, and sports.

August 12-15, 2018  
**17th International Congress on Circumpolar Health**  
Copenhagen, Denmark  

The ICCH congresses are held every third year in different locations in the circumpolar area and represent the largest scientific meetings worldwide on circumpolar health. The ICCH congresses are organised by the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), aided by a local organising committee.
On October 26th and 27th, the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) held its annual symposium and AGM in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Established in 1978, ACUNS promotes northern and Arctic research and education in Canada and throughout the circumpolar north among its member institutions. Through the Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST) program, ACUNS also administers over $1.4 million in research and travel funding every year for undergraduate and graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows based at Canadian post-secondary institutions. The majority of the funds for the CNST program are provided through a generous grant from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

ACUNS has a permanent office in Ottawa, which is headed by Executive Director, Jeanette Doucet. It also has a Board of Directors made up of representatives from member institutions across Canada. At the meeting in Yellowknife, Gary Wilson (University of Northern British Columbia and IASSA Council Member) was elected President of ACUNS for 2017-2019. For more information on ACUNS and its programs, see http://www.acuns.ca/en/.

This year’s symposium focused on the “Three Cs of Northern Research – Consent, Consultation and Collaboration.” The symposium began with a keynote address from Dr. John B. Zoe, the Chief Land Claims Negotiator for the former Treaty 11 Council of the Northwest Territories until the establishment of the Tłı̨chǫ Government in 2005. Dr. Zoe is now a senior advisor to the Tłı̨chǫ Government. The symposium also featured a panel discussion on the “Three Cs”, as well as presentations from student researchers and CNST award recipients.

The 2018 ACUNS AGM and symposium will be held in November at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, in conjunction with the triennial ACUNS Student Conference. The theme of the Student Conference is “Landscapes of Northern Knowledge: Peoples, Animals, and Environments in the Circumpolar World.” For more information on this conference, see: https://acuns2018.weebly.com/
CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda in the Context of the CBSS 25th Anniversary
By: Zane Šime

On the occasion of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) 25th anniversary, the CBSS Secretariat has the pleasure of introducing wider audiences, including the Arctic social science and humanities community, to the vibrant Baltic Sea Region-wide cooperation in science domain and its ties to other the geographic areas.

Those Northern Notes’ readers who are already familiar with the earlier CBSS Secretariat’s contributions to the issues #46 (titled “CBSS Science, Research & Innovation Agenda: Beyond the Baltic Sea Region-Wide Cooperation”) & #47 (titled “The Role of the CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day in Advancing the Regional and Global Dialogue on Research and Innovation”) are aware of the Baltic TRAM (Transnational Access in Macro-Region) project developments. The recent Baltic TRAM Mid-Term Conference “Analytical Research for Industry – Novel Options for Enhanced Cooperation” offered a much appreciated opportunity to introduce present the report “Multi-Level Governance of Innovation and Smart Specialisation” which entails comparative sections on science, research and innovation cooperation overseen by each of the Four Councils of the North, namely, the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the CBSS and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Therefore, it serves as an insightful reading for all researchers interested in exploring in a comparative way the dynamics, differences and similarities of the domain-specific transnational cooperation. Likewise, the report will serve as a promising point for further reflections on science cooperation in the context of the upcoming annual consultations among the Four Councils of the North.

Readers of the multi-level governance report might also find interesting the BSR Policy Briefing 4/2017 “National innovation and smart specialisation governance in the Baltic Sea Region: Laying grounds for an enhanced macro-regional science-business cooperation” since both reports together offer a full spectrum multi-level governance insight. Namely, the BSR Policy Briefing 4/2017 captures a local, regional and national governance overview of Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden, specific cases. While the report “Multi-Level Governance of Innovation and Smart Specialisation” presents the analysis of transnational, European, international and global governance frameworks. It should be outlined that the European, international and global governance chapters hold relevance also to the Arctic research setting.

The discussions on science cooperation projects endorsed by the CBSS are also enriched by the Baltic Science Network seminar “New Tools for Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation in Research and Innovation Programmes” held on 16 November 2017. The seminar took place at the helm of the Estonian EU Presidency, a notable Presidency due to the Tallinn Call for Action 2017. The Call elaborates on investments in research and innovation being a necessity, not a luxury, once evaluated in the context of enduring competitiveness and sustained welfare of Europe. Such line of thinking bears resemblance to the core considerations supporting one of the three CBSS long-term priorities “Sustainable and Prosperous Region”.

Two of the four Baltic Science Network Tallinn seminar’s sessions cover the widening participation of EU-13 countries in the EU Framework Programmes. Consequently, the Tallinn discussions of the Baltic Science Network will be enriched by the recently published Working Papers “Participation in ERA and Baltic Sea RDI Initiatives and Activities: Analysis and Policy Implications for Widening Participation of Strong and Moderate Innovators” and “Study on Research Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region: Existing Networks, Obstacles and Ways Forward”.

Both reflections on the Baltic Sea Region-wide science cooperation expressed in Stockholm and Tallinn are of relevance to further advancement of the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda. The spirit of the CBSS Reykjavík Ministerial, being the most notable and most inspiring occasion of the CBSS 25th anniversary, will be brought forward during the second CBSS conference Baltic Sea Science Day, which will be taking place on 25 January 2018 on the occasion of the centenary of the Åbo Akademi University and the 5th Baltic University Programme Rectors’ Conference. The Arctic social science and humanities community is warmly welcome to join the conference and offer its perspectives on the research cooperation in the Northern areas.

More than 1,000 people follows us on the IASSA Facebook page!

Follow us on: www.facebook.com/pages/International-Arctic-Social-Sciences-Association/
Tatiana Vlasova, leading researcher from the Institute of Geography Russian Academy of Sciences and our IASSA councilor has participated in the International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA) workshop which the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) organized at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. This workshop was mainly devoted to the discussion of the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation, which had been signed by the Arctic Council (AC) foreign ministries of eight Arctic States, in Fairbanks on 11th May, 2017.

In this Arctic Science Agreement, IASSA has been mentioned among other Arctic Council observers - IASC, University of the Arctic, as the main AC observing organizations that should participate in this agreement implementation. This is the third legally binding instrument to emerge from the efforts of the Arctic States, following the search-and-rescue and marine oil pollution preparedness and response.

This legally binding agreement recognizes first “the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and constructive cooperation in the Arctic.” It aims to enhance scientific cooperation by “removing obstacles” and by providing a basic road map and commitment to facilitate consistent access for marine, terrestrial, and atmospheric research on a pan-Arctic scale. The agreement aims to improve use of existing infrastructures that were previously unavailable; enable new movement of researchers, students, equipment, and materials; promote sharing of data and metadata in ways that were not previously possible; and encourage holders of traditional and local knowledge to participate in scientific activities across territories (see map) (2).

Each party identified geographic areas over which the agreement pertains. These are contained in an annex to the agreement and could be seen on the map (2).

For IASSA, it is also very important that the Arctic Science Agreement will set up research partnerships across borders; increase support for field and summer schools and related means for training the next generation of Arctic scientists; promote well-formulated comparative studies designed to examine common issues at multiple locations across the Arctic; create innovative venues that integrate natural and social sciences along with indigenous knowledge to address common concerns.

Although the Arctic States are the signatories, the agreement emphasizes that these States “may continue to enhance and facilitate cooperation with non-Parties with regard to Arctic science.” This holistic (international, interdisciplinary, and inclusive) science cooperation broadens the scope of the agreement beyond its defined area (see map).

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New Research Project

Sustainable business and demography (SBD): exploring critical links between gender, youth and small-scale business development in fisheries and tourism in South Greenland.

The overall objective of this project is to support sustainable business and demographic development in and for South Greenland by exploring and illuminating the role that local small-scale business operations play in creating a desirable and valuable business development for themselves and their community.

The SBD project has got a progressive start. The project team has been working on, what is called the first phase of the project, which covers the review of existing studies examining the role of, and relationships between, gender, age and value creation in relation to small-scale business development and population in the Nordic countries, with a particular focus on the NSPA (Northern Sparsely Populated Areas) region.

Currently, the project team is preparing a report for the Nordic Council of Ministers (TemaNord) based on the results of the first phase. The report will be completed by ultimo 2018.

Moreover, preparations for an upcoming workshop in Qaqortoq, the capital of South Greenland, (the third phase) have started. The workshop is directed to all relevant local and regional stakeholders and partners both within and outside of the community. The participation of Greenlandic stakeholders is absolutely essential for any long-term success of the project. The workshop is expected to take place in ultimo April 2018.

Next, the project team will continue to the second phase of the project, which will include two weeks of preparatory fieldwork in Qaqortoq in January 2018. Based on the fieldwork the project will 1) facilitate knowledge collaboration and dialogue during a workshop in South Greenland and 2) deliver reports and academic papers on the critical links between gender, youth and small-scale business development in fisheries and tourism in South Greenland.

SBD PROJECT TEAM:

The SBD project draws on the interdisciplinary expertise of a team of nine Arctic scholars.

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New Publications

Living without the Dead: Loss and Redemption in a Jungle Cosmos

Author: Piers Vitebsky
Publisher: University of Chicago Press Books
Publication Year: 2017
Pages: 272 p.
ISBN: 9780226407876

http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/L/bo8005668.html

Those who know Piers Vitebsky’s book The Reindeer People: Living with Animals and Spirits in Siberia, winner of the Kiriyama Prize and described by the late Jean Briggs as “a masterpiece of anthropological writing”, may like to know of a new companion volume about his other fieldwork site. Entitled Living without the Dead: Loss and Redemption in a Jungle Cosmos (see University of Chicago Press website), it reveals striking parallels between the Arctic and the tropics around indigenous religions, missionary transformations and national politics.

The Polar Adventures of a Rich American Dame A Life of Louise Arner Boyd

Author: Joanna Karfarowski
Publisher: Dundurn Press
Publication year: 2017
Pages: 368 p. (Kindle edition also available)
ISBN: 9781459739703

https://www.dundurn.com/books/Polar-Adventures-Rich-American-Dame

Between 1926 and 1955, California-born socialite Louise Arner Boyd (1887-1972) organized, financed, and lead seven expeditions by sea to Greenland, Franz Josef Land, and Jan Mayen Land. Supported by the American Geographical Society, she published several books about her adventures including The Fiord Region of East Greenland (1935) and The Coast of Northeast Greenland with Hydrographic Studies in the Greenland Sea (1948). Her bravery and scientific contributions won international renown and she received honorary degrees and awards from Norway, France, Sweden, Poland and the United States. Boyd poured her personal fortune into expeditions aimed at advancing science and satisfying her own profound curiosity about the north. Despite the high regard in which she was held by other explorers and scientists during her lifetime, Louise Arner Boyd paid a heavy price and her extraordinary life has largely been forgotten.
Arctic Sustainability Research: Past, Present and Future

Authors: Andrey Petrov, Shauna BurnSilver, F. Stuart Chapin III, Gail Fondahl, Jessica Graybill, Kathrin Keil, Annika Nilsson, Rudolf Riedlsperger, & Peter Schweitzer
Publisher: Routledge
Publication Year: 2017
Pages: 110 p.
ISBN: 9781138088306


The Arctic is one of the world’s regions most affected by cultural, socio-economic, environmental, and climatic changes. Over the last two decades, scholars, policymakers, extractive industries, governments, intergovernmental forums, and non-governmental organizations have turned their attention to the Arctic, its peoples, resources, and to the challenges and benefits of impending transformations. Arctic sustainability is an issue of increasing concern as well as the resilience and adaptation of Arctic societies to changing conditions.

This book offers key insights into the history, current state of knowledge, and the future of sustainability, and sustainable development research in the Arctic. Written by an international, interdisciplinary team of experts, it presents a comprehensive progress report on Arctic sustainability research. It identifies key knowledge gaps and provides salient recommendations for prioritizing research in the next decade.

Arctic Sustainability Research will appeal to researchers, academics, and policymakers interested in sustainability science and the practices of sustainable development, as well as those working in polar studies, climate change, political geography, and the history of science.

This book is co-sponsored by the IASSA, IASC and Arctic-FROST/ASUS projects.

An Arctic Indigenous Knowledge System of Landscape, Climate, and Human Interactions: Evenki Reindeer

Authors: Alexandra Lavrillier and Semen Gabyshev
Published by: Kulturstiftung Sibirien, Fürstenberg/Havel
Publication year: 2017
Pages 467 p.
ISBN: 978-3-942883-31-3
http://www.siberian-studies.org/publications/arcticiks_E.html

Co-written by an anthropologist and a reindeer herder (BRISK project co-researcher) on the basis of their field materials, this book offers documentation and analysis of complex traditional environmental knowledge. After discussing the methodology of the Evenki community-based transdisciplinary observatory for monitoring climate and environmental changes with herders (2012–2016), the book reveals some of the results of this co-production. It presents the emic typologies and concepts the Evenki use for understanding norms and anomalies, observing and predicting changes, and adapting. Conceived together with the herders, the book’s structure combines analytical texts (traditional in anthropology) and other forms of presentation, such as abstract diagrams with explanations in Evenki, Russian, and English, diagrams on pictures, and encyclopaedic entries with pictures and trilingual explanations from the herders.
Waldemar Bogoras: The Chukchee

Editors: Michael Dürr and Erich Kasten
Published by: Kulturstiftung Sibirien, Fürstenberg/Havel
Publishing Year: 2017
pages 860 p.
ISBN: 978-3-942883-88-7

http://www.siberian-studies.org/publications/bogchuk_E.html

Since the 18th century, researchers and scientists have traveled the Russian Far East. Their exhaustive descriptions and detailed reports are still considered some of the most valuable documents on the ethnography of the indigenous peoples of that part of the world. These works inform us about living conditions and particular ways of natural resource use at various times, and provide us with valuable background information for current assessment. As the first profound anthropological descriptions of that region, the publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, undertaken in the first years of the 20th century, marked the beginning of a new era of research in Russia. They represented a shift of the already existing transnational research networks toward North America. Bogoras’s work The Chukchee was an important milestone for Russian and North American anthropology that provides to this day a unique contribution to thoroughly understanding the cultures of the North Pacific rim.

Oral History Meets Linguistics

Editors: Erich Kasten, Katja Roller, & Joshua Wilbur
Published by: Kulturstiftung Sibirien, Fürstenberg/Havel
Publishing Year: 2017
pages 216 p.
ISBN: 978-3-942883-30-6

www.siberian-studies.org/publications/orhili_E.html


Oral histories constitute a common topic of research for linguists, historians, as well as for social and cultural anthropologists. However, respective discourses on this theme have barely yet delivered among them. During a workshop at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) in December 2015, it became apparent how scientists from various disciplines can benefit from such an intellectual exchange. With its contributions to minority languages and linguistic contact varieties this volume aims at bridging this gap by providing multifaceted interdisciplinary views on diverse approaches to oral history research.
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit: What Inuit Have Always Known to Be True

Editors: Joe Karentak, Frank Tester & Shirley Tagalik
Publisher: Fernwood Publishing
Publishing Year: 2017
ISBN: 978-1552669914
https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/inuit-qaujimajatuqangit

The Inuit have experienced colonization and the resulting disregard for the societal systems, beliefs and support structures foundational to Inuit culture for generations. While much research has articulated the impacts of colonization and recognized that Indigenous cultures and worldviews are central to the well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities, little work has been done to preserve Inuit culture. Unfortunately, most people have a very limited understanding of Inuit culture, and often apply only a few trappings of culture — past practices, artifacts and catchwords — to projects to justify cultural relevance.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit — meaning all the extensive knowledge and experience passed from generation to generation — is a collection of contributions by well-known and respected Inuit Elders. The book functions as a way of preserving important knowledge and tradition, contextualizing that knowledge within Canada’s colonial legacy and providing an Inuit perspective on how we relate to each other, to other living beings and the environment.

Aus dem Fernen Osten Russlands
Deutschsprachige Schriften (1881–1908)

Editor: Erich Kasten
Published by: Kulturstiftung Sibirien, Fürstenberg/Havel
Publication year: 2017
pages 159 p.
ISBN: 978-3-942883-91-7
http://www.siberian-studies.org/publications/jochside_E.html

Abstract: The past decade has seen a proliferation of community-scale climate change vulnerability assessments globally. Much of this work has employed frameworks informed by scholarship in the vulnerability field, which draws upon interviews with community members to identify and characterize climatic risks and adaptive responses. This scholarship has developed a baseline understanding of vulnerability in specific places and industries at particular times. However, given the dynamic nature of vulnerability new methodologies are needed to generate insights on how climate change is experienced and responded to over time. Longitudinal approaches have long been used in sociology and the health sciences to capture the dynamism of human processes, but their penetration into vulnerability research has been limited. In this article, we describe the application of two longitudinal approaches, cohort and trend studies, in climate change vulnerability assessment by analyzing three case studies from the Arctic where the authors applied these approaches. These case studies highlight how longitudinal approaches can be operationalized to capture the dynamism of vulnerability by identifying climate anomalies and trends, and how adaptations develop over time, including insights on themes such as social learning and adaptive pathways.

Research Processes and Indigenous Communities in Western Alaska


Духовая культура коряков-нымыланов с. Лесная Мировоззрения и ритуальные праздники / Worldviews and Ritual Practice Coastal Koryaks (Nymylans), Lesnaya, Kamchatka

Editor: Erich Kasten Published by: Kulturstiftung Sibirien, Fürstenberg/Havel Publication year: 2017 pages 168 p. ISBN: 978-3-942883-32-0
http://www.siberian-studies.org/publications/worldviewritpractig_E.html

This book provides a comprehensive compilation of Koryak texts with Russian and English translations. It contains information to worldviews and ritual practices by Koryak (Nymylan) people living on the north-west coast of Kamchatka. DVD with Russian and English subtitles (2:25 hrs.).
This book provides the first in-depth, multidisciplinary study of urbanization in Russia’s Arctic regions, with a specific focus on new mobility patterns, and the resulting birth of new urban Arctic identities in which new-comers and labor migrants form a rising part of.

NEW: Greenland & the International Politics of a Changing Arctic: Postcolonial Paradiplomacy between High & Low Politics
Edited by Kristian Seby Kristensen, Jon Rahbek-Clemmensen

Examines the international politics and relations of semi-independent Greenland in a changing and increasingly globalized world.

NEW: Arctic Sustainability Research: Past, Present & Future
By Andrey Petrov, Shauna BurnSilver, F. Stuart Chapin III, Gail Fondahl, Jessica Graybill, Kathrin Keil, Annika Nilsson, Rudolf Riedlsperger, Peter Schweitzer
Offers key insights into the history, current state of knowledge & future of sustainability, & sustainable development research in the Arctic.

NEW: Climate, Society & Subsurface Politics in Greenland: Under the Great Ice
By Mark Nuttall
Unravelling the entanglements of climate change, indigenous sovereignty & the politics surrounding non-renewable resource extraction, this book explores how Greenland is on the verge of major environmental, political & social transformations.

NEW: New Mobilities & Social Change in Russia’s Arctic Regions
By Marlene Laruelle
This book provides the first in-depth, multidisciplinary study of re-urbanization in Russia’s Arctic regions, with a specific focus on new mobiilty patterns, and the resulting birth of new urban Arctic identities in which new-comers and labor migrants form a rising part of.

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Northern Notes is published twice a year by  
the International Arctic Social Sciences Association Secretariat  
c/o ARCTICenter, 1227 W 27th St Cedar Falls USA 50614  
Website: www.iassa.org  
E-mail: andrey.petrov@uni.edu  
Editors: Andrey Petrov and Christopher Pierce  
ISSN 1816-9767 (online)  
ISSN 1817-0404 (print)