

Northern Notes

Issue 44 - Autumn / Winter 2015



A newsletter published by the International Arctic Social Sciences Association

Umeå University campus at Fall.

Welcome from the President

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Now at the very beginning of December there is a lot of attention on the COP21 climate meeting in Paris. That in turn offers opportunities for Arctic research to promote itself and to present the important efforts that are made. Last Sunday I participated in a public climate meeting at the main square in Umeå. I had three minutes to say something about the Arctic, and started to use the metaphor with the canary bird that was usually sent into the mine tunnels during the 19th century in order to find out if the air down there was serviceable. The Arctic is very much the canary bird of climate change. In the context of climate research it is important to highlight the fact that social sciences make a great and important contribution. We should also remember that climate change is not always top of the list for Arctic citizens that have other concerns that occupy them in everyday life. Nevertheless, it will be exciting to go to Paris to participate in a panel on The Arctic and Nordic Climate Science, Technology and Diplomacy in a Global Context.

IASSA is truly working as an international science organization. The council has representatives from eight countries in the Arctic. And it is noteworthy that the non-Arctic states become more and more actively engaged in Arctic social science research. Within a few days in mid-November I participated in the 1st Central European Polar Meeting in Vienna, the 2nd Spanish Arctic Symposium - the Arctic: opportunities and challenges deriving from climate change, and the Arctic Futures conference in Brussel. Moreover, the planning process has started for the next meeting with the Chinese-Nordic Arctic Research Centre that will take place in Rovaniemi, Finland. Multi-disciplinary research initiatives and the multiple Arctics have been frequently debated during these events. Here is also the scope for



Peter Sköld speaking at in Madrid, Spain.
Photo credits: Gabriella Nordin

two IASSA endorsed sessions taking place during the Arctic Science Summit Week in Fairbanks in March 2016.

The IASSA council has discussed the necessity of taking initiatives for an inventory of Arctic social science researchers. Apparently it is difficult to find all relative researchers in different countries, and to find what their scientific focus is. There are many challenges involved in such an operation, including legal, technical and not least resource matters. Hopefully IASSA can make a contribution.

It is December and time to make a wish list for Christmas. On my list is a sustainable development of the Arctic, funding for many more social science research projects, a successful 2016 for IASSA, and many vinyl records (the last one exclusively for me).

Hope to see you at ICASS IX in Umeå, 8-12 June 2017 under the theme of People & Place.

Best wishes!

Peter Sköld,
President, IASSA
peter.skold@umu.se

From the IASSA Secretary

They say "time flies when you are having fun" - well that is surely the case when it comes to hosting IASSA secretariat and we are already half time up in our mandate period!

That also means that ICASS IX is just one and a half year away. The planning of the meeting is under way and dates, locations, and main theme, is decided. Please watch out for the latest news and information on the IASSA website. The dates for ICASS is set to **June 8 -12 2017** and the overall theme of the meeting will be **"People & Place"**. So, save the date and take the opportunity to visit Umeå and Arcum in 2017!

As of this Autumn we have been able to put some more efforts into the IASSA business. Launching the new IASSA website in early November followed by a new IASSA mailing list. As the IASSA secretariat is itinerant we have decided to connect the mailing list to the IASSA website in-

stead. The old IASSA.net listserver will cease to exist, instead you send the information which you would like to put out to our members directly to me at gabriella.nordin@umu.se and I will forward the e-mail to IASSA list members. **As IASSA-list member you do not need to do anything, you are already enlisted on the new list.**

Below you can learn more about Linus, our new colleague who makes my life as IASSA secretary so much easier.

I wish you all lovely upcoming Christmas Holidays!

Gabriella Nordin
Secretary, IASSA
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IASSA website: www.iassa.org

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Selfie at office - not too unhappy with the progress with the latest issue of Northern Notes.
Photo credits: Gabriella Nordin

New member at the IASSA Secretariat



Linus Lundström - new IASSA webmaster.
Photo credits: Johan Norström

Meet Linus Lundström - IASSA Secretariats' newest member! Besides being Arcums new Project assistant he will also have a function as part of IASSA:s secretariat. He began studying web coding and front end programming at the onset of 21st century. After a few years in the marketing business and a move from his hometown Skellefteå to his current residency in Umeå he felt he needed new challenges and means to canalize his interest in societal issues. This led to Linus started studying political science at Umeå University in the fall of 2009.

During his years as a student Linus started to involve himself in the student

rights organizations which culminated in him being elected as chairman of the Umeå Student Union in the spring of 2014. Linus academic interest revolves around environmental governance and democracy issues and he has attained a master degree in political science.

When a position at the Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University opened up, Linus applied for it, seeing that it could give him use of his web-skills while being a nice fit for his academic orientation. Linus got the job and the rest is history (or at least present day).

Linus' first and foremost duties at the secretariat will be as webmaster and he

has already substantially improved our website.

Do not hesitate contacting Linus if you have any questions, suggestions, or announcements regarding the website.

Linus Lundström
Webmaster, IASSA
linus.lundstrom@umu.se
IASSA website: www.iassa.org

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On October 20-22, the Arctic Council met in Anchorage, Alaska for its first plenary meeting since the U.S. assumed the chairmanship of the council. IASSA was represented at the meeting by Diane Hirshberg.

On October 20, for the first time, there was a half-day special session on observer engagement, where observer organizations and states (including IASSA) were invited to the table to talk with the Senior Arctic Officials and Permanent Participants. The agenda for that meeting included a discussion on facilitating observer participation in the Arctic Council, and opportunities for observer engagement in subsidiary body initiatives. The discussion was quite lively and it was clear that there is interest in continuing this conversation, though no promise was made around when such an event might occur next.

Of particular interest to IASSA researchers was the extensive discussion around engagement by the Permanent Participants in developing new Arctic Council Working Group proposals as well as the role of Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK) in council projects. The Arctic Council has agreed to try out check lists for proposals as follows, and then revisit the success of this in a year:

Permanent Participant Engagement Checklist

1. Have Permanent Participants been engaged in the development of the project proposal?
 - o Yes
 - o No
2. If no, why? (Please describe in 2-3 lines)

3. If yes, please describe any role that PPs will have in the project. (Please describe in 2-3 lines)

4. How was the contact with the PPs made?

Traditional and Local Knowledge Checklist (roughly)

1. Will the use of TLK lead to better project outcomes?
 - o Yes
 - o No
2. If yes, explain how TLK will be used in the project. (Please describe in 2-3 lines)
3. If no, provide an explanation why TLK is not applicable or feasible for this project. (Please describe in 2-3 lines) How has this conclusion been reached?

Review of Observers

Another issue of importance to IASSA is the announcement that there will be over the next few years a review of Observers. The purpose of the review is to assess observer participation. The council has decided not to review all observers as a single group, but instead under the US chairmanship there will be a review of observers accredited from 1996 to 1998: Germany, Netherlands, Poland, UK, Parliamentarians, NNEP, Ad Con PS, IASC, Int'l Union Circumpolar Health, IWCN, WWF, Nordic Council, UNECC, and Northern Forum.

Other observers that were accredited more recently, including IASSA, will be subject to the same review during next chairmanship, under Finland.

The thinking is that under each chair-

manship roughly half of the observer organizations and states will be reviewed. The chairman will ask for specific information from observers, and we should expect to see further information on this soon. There is an ongoing requirement for all observers to submit a report on relevant activities during each ministerial, 120 days before the ministerial meeting. That will not change, regardless of the review process. There will be specific criteria used for the review process, and this will be communicated soon as well.

There were presentations by the Arctic Council Working Groups on various projects. One was from the Arctic Council working group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) chair Renée Sauvé on the "Meaningful Engagement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Project."

The MEMA Project is an effort to compile and identify main themes and practices from an existing PAME database containing some 245 entries representing documents, recommendations, and guidance on the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in Arctic marine and coastal activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the Arctic Council and what was discussed at the last meeting, documents from the meeting and a participant list are available at: <https://oarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1481>

A press release on the meeting is at: www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/our-work/2/8-news-and-events/367-sao-anchorage-october-2015

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SAVE THE DATE!

The **9th International Congress of the Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS IX)** will take place June 8 - 12, 2017 at Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden. The theme for the conference is "**People & Place**". A call for papers and more information on the conference will be available at www.iassa.org. Any questions, comments or ideas can be sent to IASSA Secretary Gabriella Nordin gabriella.nordin@umu.se.

Katiksugat - a new website / digital library collection

By: Helen Halbert, Resource Centre Librarian, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami & Anna Claire Ryan, Senior Policy Advisor, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

The early years are critical to a child's development, however Inuit early childhood education faces many challenges, from the difficulties of delivering programs within a fragmented funding landscape to the lack of professional development and training opportunities available to educators and other child care centre staff living in Inuit Nunangat (the Inuit homeland).

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the national voice of Inuit in Canada, is committed to addressing this key area of education and ensuring that – despite a lack of resources and infrastructure for Inuit early childhood education (ECE) – Inuit children still have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

In keeping with this commitment, in September 2015, ITK launched Katiksugat: Inuit Early Learning Resources, an online resource designed primarily for educators, parents, and other childcare centre staff. Katiksugat ("collection" in South Baffin Inuktitut) is a multilingual digital library that aims to provide access to a diversity of Inuit-specific educational materials, from teaching tools and policy manuals, to activity ideas and original research on Inuit early childhood development.

The idea to create a library collection to support Inuit educators was first developed by the Inuit Early Childhood Development Working Group (IECDWG), a sub-committee of the National Inuit Committee on Health. The working group identified the need for a central repository for materials that contribute to high-quality, culturally relevant Inuit early learning. In assembling all existing Inuit ECE resources, Katiksugat is also a necessary first step towards research gap analysis and the development of an Inuit-specific early childhood development curriculum.

Katiksugat was built using Omeka, an open source web-publishing platform for creating and showcasing digital archives, library collections, and museum



exhibits. The majority of materials currently in the collection come from Inuit organizations and governments, but Katiksugat also accepts submissions of original work and contributions by individuals including educators, parents and childcare centre staff. Katiksugat provides full-text of materials where possible. Copyright remains with the creator, and licencing agreements are mindful of rights related to the respectful use of Inuit knowledge. Contributors are encouraged to submit items in English as well as any dialect of Inuktitut.

Katiksugat is a living and evolving website and ITK is excited to see it grow. The Katiksugat project team, in consultation with IECDWG, is currently planning outreach activities to promote awareness of the collection and conducting research into how to increase accessibility to digital resources for an intended audience that may not have access to reliable or fast Internet. For the long term, the team is working towards the goal of getting more materials created by and for Inuit in the collection by planning a series of community digitization events throughout Inuit Nunangat.

For more information, visit Katiksugat: Inuit Early Learning Resources at <http://katiksugat.itk.ca/>

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is the National Inuit Organization representing close to 60,000 Canadian Inuit from coast to coast to coast, primarily in the 53 communities in Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit Homeland.



Call for Papers

The Arctic Observing Summit and the ISAC Program (International Study of Arctic Change)

Arctic observing activities have generally included monitoring the physical, biological, and chemical systems of northern regions, particularly using remote sensing approaches (satellite, radar, sonar, aerial photography, etc.), sensor arrays, and complemented with field-based studies, surveys and validation. However, we increasingly recognise the importance of monitoring social and community well-being components also as part of Arctic observing activities. Long-term observations contributed through community-based programs, Traditional Knowledge, citizen science initiatives, and the incorporation of historic samples and archives are all key components in global monitoring initiatives. Due to the complex Arctic linkages to the global climate system and because of the unprecedented rapid change in Arctic environments, consensus is growing on the critical need to improve Arctic observing. Comprehensive, sustained and coordinated monitoring of circumpolar ecosystems will be imperative to guide decision-making for environmental change adaptation, preparedness, and to guide future sustainable development. Arctic observing may include Earth observing systems and collaboration beyond Arctic boundaries.

The Arctic Observing Summit (AOS; www.arcticobservingsummit.org) is a biennial, high-level forum and solutions-oriented workspace to engage all sectors with diverse disciplinary expertise and stakeholders interested in observing activities, and including managers, system designers, researchers, decision-makers and Arctic communities. The focus of AOS is to

guide the development and sustained implementation of a collaborative, comprehensive, international and integrated Arctic observing system of systems (a network of systems). Prior to each Summit, the highest priority themes are identified based on community contributions, participant and stakeholder feedback, and based on recommendations from AOS expert workgroups. During each Summit, thematic working groups focusing on the selected topics distill community input and provide syntheses of emerging issues, challenges towards sustained Arctic observing, collaboration strategies, and develop recommendations based on the identified needs and propose solutions-based applications and strategies. Community input is elicited through white paper contributions prior to the Summits, which serve to highlight key priorities, gaps, emerging needs, and opportunities.

The success of AOS has its foundation in dialogue and engagement of diverse perspectives and local to international representatives including Indigenous Organizations. Discussions include themes related to sustained funding, international policy, the implementation of novel technology, the interfacing of Traditional and Local Knowledge and science, and the coordination of activities that will enable interoperability of systems and the generation of data that are compatible, that facilitate the collection and long-term archival of open-access information, and that enable the alignment of research activities with the needs of communities and research users to develop solutions and mitigation strate-

gies in the face of Arctic environmental change.

The inaugural AOS 2013 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, and the second AOS 2014, held in conjunction with the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) in Helsinki, Finland, provided the solid groundwork to elicit stakeholder perspectives and community input to guide Arctic observing coordination and initiatives to facilitate implementation. The upcoming **AOS 2016 (March 15 - 18)** will be held in conjunction with **ASSW 2016 (March 12-15)**, in Fairbanks, Alaska (www.arcticobservingsummit.org/aos-2016-themes-and-important-announcements). Community contributions have been invited once again in the form of white papers, which are currently under review by thematic working groups. A call for poster abstracts on the AOS 2016 themes is still open (www.arcticobservingsummit.org/aos-2016-poster-abstracts-submission-form), and poster presentations will be **invited until December 2015** (or until capacity is reached).

The 2013 and 2014 Summits included participants from over 30 countries, representing all sectors and diverse disciplines, who contributed white papers and perspectives on programs, our current observing capacity, the design and coordination of systems and initiatives, engaging stakeholders and addressing community needs, innovation, and data management and accessibility. Based on recommendations from previous Summits, AOS 2016 will focus on the following themes: (1) International and national strategies for sustained support of long-term Arctic observing;



Call for Papers continued

The Arctic Observing Summit and the ISAC Program (International Study of Arctic Change) continued

(2) Technology and innovation for sustained Arctic observations; (3) Contributions of the Private Sector and Industry to sustained Arctic observations; (4) Actor and Stakeholder engagement and needs in sustained Arctic observations; (5) Arctic Observations in the context of Global Observing initiatives; and (6) Interfacing Traditional Knowledge, Community-based Monitoring and Scientific Methods for sustained Arctic observations. Detailed descriptions of the themes are available on the AOS 2016 website (www.arcticobservingsummit.org/aos-2016-theme-descriptions).

The **International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC)** is a long-term, international, multi-disciplinary Arctic environmental change program established in 2003 by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Arctic Ocean Science Board (<http://www.arcticchange.org/>). The core components of ISAC include observing, understanding and responding to Arctic environmental change through research, monitoring, linking science and

local knowledge, deployment of observing systems, data-sharing, communicating results, and knowledge translation for action and mitigation. ISAC is responsible for leading the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS). The AOS is a task of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process, led by the Arctic Council and by IASC. The AOS contributes to the SAON process through the synthesis of Arctic knowledge, development of the vision for an integrated Arctic observing system design, engagement in dialogue, solutions development, and the identification of gaps and priorities. AOS in the future will continue to be a key platform and forum for SAON and the Arctic community to address the observation needs of stakeholders, and to foster international communication and the coordination of long-term observations for improving understanding and responding to system-scale Arctic change.



Contact us:

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Coming In the Next Issue of *Northern Notes*...

- Report from the side event "Arctic Lessons" at COP21 in Paris, moderated by Rasmus G. Bertelsen, at which IASSA President Peter Sköld held a presentation
- Report from Arctic Frontiers 2016, the annual meeting in Tromsø, Norway
- Report from IASSA members attending at ASSW 2016, March 12–20, Fairbanks Alaska, USA



Reframing Understandings of the North: Placing Social Sciences and Humanities at the Center of Interdisciplinary Arctic Research - An Arctic Science Summit Week Public Event March 14, 2016

During the upcoming Arctic Science Summit Week in Fairbanks Alaska (March 12-18), the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), the International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the University of the Arctic (UArctic) are co-sponsoring "Reframing Understandings of the North: Placing Social Sciences and Humanities at the Center of Interdisciplinary Arctic Research." This one day event is aimed at bringing together Arctic social science and humanities researchers and scholars and Arctic natural sciences researchers to discuss ways to reframe Arctic research in truly inter- and transdisciplinary ways that place the social sciences and humanities alongside the natural sciences at the center of these collaborations, rather than as an afterthought. This all-day event is free and open to all registered participants of the Arctic Science Summit Week (<https://assw2016.org/>).

In the morning, three panels, including researchers in the social sciences, arts and humanities, and professional fields, e.g.,

health, education, engineering & business, will frame some of the approaches to and challenges in interdisciplinary arctic research, in particular around how to make social sciences and humanities more central in these projects. These researchers will give brief (5 minute) descriptions of their interdisciplinary research, when possible in teams with their partner researchers from different disciplines (in particular natural sciences researchers) and then engage with each other and audience members in discussion around questions such as:

- How are the projects structured to integrate the different disciplinary foci?
- What are the challenges in framing and in carrying out this work?
- Are there particular difficulties or benefits in terms of finding funding?

In the afternoon, all session attendees will participate in 2 hour breakout discussions around issues raised in the morning, and propose some ideas for strengthening support for and conducting of interdisciplinary arctic research. Breakout groups will report back on their discussions, and sug-

gestions will be compiled, to be shared out to all the sponsoring organizations as well as to funding agencies, the Arctic Council and others. Finally, there will be a poster session and reception featuring posters on interdisciplinary arctic research by a broad range of faculty members and students.

We are seeking participants for morning panels, facilitators for the afternoon breakout discussions, and presenters for an afternoon poster session and reception, as described above.

Are you interested in being part of a morning panel, facilitating a breakout discussion group, and/or presenting a poster? If so, please apply at:

http://uaa.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5om1SRYAd04yHu5

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* * * * * New IASSA e-mail list * * * * *

As of December 2015 the old IASSA.net e-mail list cease to exist. To share information on the new list please send an e-mail to IASSA secretary Gabriella Nordin gabriella.nordin@umu.se

To subscribe or unsubscribe please visit: <http://iassa.org/home/iassa-listserver>

👉 Please note that current members of the old IASSA.net list are already transferred to the new list

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Up Coming Conferences, Events & Workshops

January 24 - 29, 2016

10th Arctic Frontiers

Tromsø, Norway

<http://www.arcticfrontiers.com/>

The Arctic is a global crossroad between commercial and environmental interests. The region holds substantial natural resources and many actors are investigating ways to utilise these for economic gain. Others view the Arctic as a particularly pristine and vulnerable environment and highlight the need to limit industrial development.

Arctic Frontiers 2016 will discuss the balance between resource utilisation and preservation, and between industrial and environmental interests in the Arctic. Envisioning a well-planned, well-governed, and sustainable development in the Arctic, how can improved Arctic stewardship help balance environmental concerns with industrial expansion? How can the industrial footprints from future business activities be minimised? And last, but not least, what role will existing and emerging technologies play in making industrial development profitable and environmentally friendly, securing a sustainable growth scenario for Arctic communities?

March 12 - 20, 2016

Arctic Science Summit Week 2016

Fairbanks, Alaska USA

<https://assw2016.org/>

Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) is the annual gathering of international organizations involved in Arctic research. The 2016 Summit will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA and meetings and events will span from March 9–20, 2016. Many organizations capitalize on the Summit to convene workshops, meetings, and events.

March 14 - 17, 2016

The Arctic Indigenous Education Conference (AIEC) 2016

Guovdageaidnu, Norway

For more information please contact: AIEC2016@samediggi.no

The Sámi parliament of Norway and Sámi University College are pleased to announce the Arctic Indigenous Education Conference (AIEC) 2016 which will be held in Guovdageaidnu, Norway, March 14-17, 2016.

March 23 - 24, 2016

8th Arctic Shipping Summit

Montreal, Canada

<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/arctic-shipping-summit/>

We will deeply explore new developments and regulations that will come into action for the Arctic Shipping industry. Combining expert views, governmental officials and industry service providers to expand and increase efficiency & knowledge for new generation shipping and operations. The two day event will bring together key industry individuals from the Maritime industry, IT and data associations, consultants, solution and technology providers.



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 **Gabriella Nordin**, IASSA Secretary at gabriella.nordin@umu.se



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Up Coming Conferences, Events & Workshops continued

May 10 - 13, 2016

4TH INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONFERENCE

Rotterdam, Netherlands

<http://www.adaptationfutures2016.org/>

Adaptation Futures is the biennial conference of the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA). In 2016 the European Commission and the Government of the Netherlands co-host the fourth edition. Adaptation Futures 2016 is where scholars, practitioners, policymakers and business people from all around the world go to connect, learn and inspire. It highlights adaptation practices and solutions for people, governments and businesses. The programme addresses all sectors and all parts of the world.

May 11 - 13, 2016

The 33rd Annual Qualitative Analysis Conference: Visual Research Methods and Visual Ethnographies

Ontario, Canada

<http://www.qualitatives.ca/>

While this year's theme highlights visual research methods and visual ethnographies, we encourage submissions from people conducting all forms of qualitative research and interpretive analysis. Submissions from novice and experienced researchers are welcomed. We are keen to include graduate students as presenters and as participants.

May 11 - 15, 2016

2016 joint NASO NAFHA conference

Portland, Maine, USA

For more information please contact: Program Committee's Vic Mastone:

victor.mastone@state.ma.us

"Periculum maris spes lucri superat: Fisheries, Trade, Defense, Health, and the North Atlantic World," the 42nd Conference of the North American Society for Oceanic History held jointly with the North Atlantic Fisheries History Association, and the Society for the History of Navy Medicine, will be held in Portland, Maine, May 11-15, 2016.

June 20 - 24, 2016

11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP 2016)

Potsdam, Germany

<http://icop2016.org/>

The 11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP 2016) will be held in Potsdam, Germany, 20-24 June 2016. The conference aims at covering all relevant aspects of permafrost research, engineering and outreach on a global and regional level.

September 12 - 16, 2016

Uarctic Congress 2016

St Petersburg, Russia

<http://www.uarctic.org/about-uarctic/events/uarctic-congress-2016/>

The first ever UArctic Congress will take place in Saint Petersburg, Russia from September 12 - 16, 2016. Hosted by Saint Petersburg State University, the inaugural UArctic Congress 2016 will feature Science and Meetings.



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Resources, Well-Being and Sustainable Development in the Arctic: International Geographic Union (IGU) Conference Report (Moscow, August 17-21, 2015)

By: Andrey Petrov (USA), Tatiana Vlasova (Russia)

The International Geographic Union (IGU) is a worldwide association of geographers which embodies 41 Commissions and one Task Force. The IGU facilitates the participation of geographers in the global community of scientists through its formal affiliation as a Member Union within both the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). The IGU usually meets once a year in a designated location at so-called regional conferences and once during four years for the Congress. The IGU 2015 regional conference took place in Moscow on 17-21 of August. This is the first time since the 1976 IGU Congress was held in Moscow or anywhere in Russia. As a result, this was a unique opportunity to engage more Russian scholars and ensure considerable participation and interest from Russian scientists.

The conference theme was "Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth."

Polar studies were among five key themes of this IGU 2015 conference. That is why the IGU Cold Region Environments (IGU CRE) Commission was one of main commissions that attracted most attention of the international geographical community, especially those representatives who are engaged in the Arctic, Antarctic and high mountains studies.

In 2015 the IASC, notably its Social and Human Science Working Group (SHWG), has provided partial support for the Special Sessions "Resources, Well-Being and Sustainable Development in the Arctic" organized by the IGU CRE Commission at the Regional Conference in Moscow. Both the IASC and the IGU are strongly interested in such kind of cooperation. Key IASC priority area is developing international connections and interdisciplinary approaches, while the IGU CRE is also looking forward for strengthening international cooperation with other organizations and projects in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, observations and assessments. This geographical-oriented commission, is interested in many aspects of the physical environment with the social and economic realms cross-

cutting.

Based on these priorities, the papers invited to this Special Sessions focused on the connection between the use of natural resources and quality of life in the Arctic in the context of sustainable development. We strived to ensure methodological and regional diversity, as well as to achieve a combination of conceptual papers and case studies that represent community-based and community-relevant approaches.

The session attracted both social geographers and natural scientists as well as those who try to work on cross-cutting issues of sustainability or human security, for example food security. Theory of sustainable development, resilience assessment and sustainability science was also of special concern in presentations and during the discussion. In addition to geographers, presenters included representatives of various other disciplines, such as architecture tourism business, education and. According to Yulia Loginova (Ph.D student, University of Melbourne): "this was a valuable learning experience, since the specific features of the Arctic make it important to address sustainable development from various angles, establishing and stimulating dialogue between disciplines". This can enhance future Arctic research and she hopes to contribute to this process.

The sessions covered a diverse range of topics from various disciplines, including geography, architecture, planning, political and social science. It stimulated cross- and trans-disciplinary discussion over the issues of sustainable development in the North. Most of papers were presented by socio-economic geographers, although sessions included physical geographers, and an architect.

During the discussion following Evgeny Antonov's (Russia) presentation it was demonstrated that comparative studies are of high importance in geography and that during the session as he wrote in his summary report, he had received some advice not only on the demographic topic of his research but add important subjects based on comparisons between the demographic

situations between Chukotka and Alaska. Evgeny Denisov (Russia) highlighted population and demographic gradients and trends in the Russian North, indicated that the trends were quite variable and favored regional capitals and larger communities. Yulia Loginova (Australia) focused on the importance of community resilience thinking and on how formal and informal institutions and their interplay across scales impact community resilience. The study examined communities and livelihoods along the Pechora River in northern Russia and their response to environmental changes associated with natural resource development in the area. Their experiences may offer important lessons for understanding sustainability and resilience of northern communities in general. Tatiana Vlasova's (Russia) presentation addressed the problem of food security which has become one of the most urgent issues in the Arctic. It was noted that the multidisciplinary integrated indicators system for food and water monitoring in different regions of the Arctic states, such as Canada, the USA and Russia has started to be developed within the international "ASUS: Arctic sustainability: synthesis of knowledge" project. Finally, Vlad Lyakhov (Norway) presented an interesting paper on the relationship between climate and architecture as manifested in Greenlandic traditional and modern house construction.

Andrey Petrov (USA) introduced the content of IASC White Paper on Arctic Sustainability Research. This paper summarized the findings and opens the discussion of opportunities to develop an Arctic/cold/remote regions-oriented sustainability science conceptual framework. It was argued that despite advancements of research in recent years, our understanding of the complex structures, functions and interactions within or among socio-ecological systems across this region is still incomplete as it lacks synthesis. In other words, the patchwork of sustainability knowledge in the Arctic is yet to evolve in to the framework that provides a comprehensive understanding of Arctic social-ecological systems.

Recent Conferences & Workshops

Resources, Well-Being and Sustainable Development in the Arctic: International Geographic Union (IGU) Conference Report (Moscow, August 17-21, 2015) continued

By: Andrey Petrov (USA), Tatiana Vlasova (Russia)

In the following discussion, while recognizing the importance of disciplinary approaches, socio-economic and physical geographers pointed to the need of integration of such professional disciplinary research. As Evgeny Denisov noted: "it was an opportunity to discuss important issues with Arctic researchers from different fields".

Acknowledgments:

To the IASC & IASC HSWG, Chair of the IGU CRE Commission Nancy Doubleday, IASSA, Arctic-Frost, ASUS (Belmont forum), NSF (the USA), RFBR (Russian Federation) and Polar Geography journal.



IGUmoscow2015

Reduced membership fee in the Circumpolar Health Research Network! Report from the ICCH16 meeting in Oulu, Finland.

By: Lena Maria Nilsson, Arcum, Umeå University, Sweden

In June 8-12 the 16th International Conference for Circumpolar Health (ICCH16) was held in Oulu Finland. The conference gathered a big spectrum of participants from Medical and Social science faculties from all over the Circumpolar area. One important side event during the ICCH16 was the Annual General Meeting of the Circumpolar Health Research Network (CHRN). This network was established in 2012 by merging two former associations, i.e. the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (INCHR) and the International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers (IACHP). Besides supporting forthcoming ICCH conferences and scientific exchange in the North, CHRN also acts as publisher of the International Journal of Circumpolar Health.

To encourage new members to join the network, a new fee system was discussed and approved during the Oulu Annual General Meeting. Now individual membership is free of charge, and institutions can choose between a full membership fee of 5,000 euros, or a contributing membership fee of 1,500 euros.

Rhonda Johnson, board member, supported the reduction of the membership fee. She explained that the new system is more consistent with how the network started. And thus, non members of the network, attending the ICCH16 conference, were invited to join the network on the spot. An invitation which was adopted by, among others, the writer of this brief conference report. Hope the next ICCH conference will be as well managed and organized as the memorable ICCH16 in Oulu, and a big thanks to the organizers!



Peter Bjerregaard, president of the Circumpolar Health Research Network (CHRN), welcomes Christina Larsen and Mylene Riva as new members of the CHRN Board. And with a reduced membership fee they hope that the organization will grow.

Photo credits: Lena Nilsson



Uarctic PhD and Masters Programme "Arctic Extractive Industries", course in Mirnyi, Yakutia 16-21 February 2016

By: Florian Stammler, Arctic Centre University of Lapland

Abstract:

Resource governance between global theories and local approaches

Resource governance in the Arctic and its importance for geopolitics has been shaped by several big industry development projects that changed the way in which people relate to their resources altogether. One such place is Mirnyi in Yakutia, Siberia, a town which was established for digging what has become the biggest artificial hole on our planet - an open pit Diamond mine, which is today called "trubka mira", the piece-pipe. In this course we focus on the relation of global and circumpolar resource governance approaches and its influence on life and practices among people that live literally on these resources, as well as examine the ways in which local people and practices can influence governance and geopolitics, if at all. How do resource governance and geopolit-

ical changes shape the local experience of resource governance? Do local actors have the possibility to impact these changes themselves through claims to, for example, environmental and societal protection? The lectures in the course shall give insights to linkages between such larger developments as the centre-periphery relations, management approaches to natural resources, comparative analysis of such approaches and relations between the Soviet Union, contemporary Russia and other regions of the Arctic. Moreover, we shall pay specific attention in the course discussions to different levels of extractive industries resource governance on the international, national, provincial or local level and their interrelation. Among other topics, we shall discuss how these different level address and weigh the major orientation of resource governance, such as environmental, social, cultural, economic aspects.

Any and all interested PhD and Masters students are welcome to apply. Students in funding partner countries (Norway, Canada, USA, Russia, China, Denmark, Finland) are eligible for funding - the number of funded participants will be limited to the funding available. All applications will be considered on the basis of previous participation (to complete the certificate program) as well as project/paper proposal.

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Towards a Sustainable Arctic Future Fulbright Arctic Symposium, Oulu, Finland, 11 February 2016

The Fulbright Center in Finland is happy to announce that the international cohort of Arctic researchers participating in the Fulbright Arctic Initiative (FAI) Program will hold a one-week plenary meeting in Oulu, Finland, on 8-12 February 2016.

On Thursday, 11 February, 2016, the FAI scholars will present their ongoing research as a part of a broader public symposium that gathers together Arctic scientists, students, policymakers, industry and NGO representatives and other key stakeholders as well as the general public.

The event is open to anyone interested in Arctic issues, and it is expected to gather 300 participants.

Through high level keynotes, panels and interactive discussions, the symposium will address changes in the Arctic, particularly through the themes of the FAI program (energy, water, infrastructure and health), and contribute to

developing strategies and policies for a sustainable Arctic future.

Presenters will include distinguished scientists and high level policymakers.

The Symposium is organized jointly by the Fulbright Center Finland and the Thule Institute, University of Oulu.

It will take place at the Saalasti Hall of the University of Oulu main building (address Pentti Kaiteran katu 1).

More information will be released soon at:

www.fulbright.fi/en/fulbright-seminars/fulbright-arctic-symposium

#FulbrightArcticOulu



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Arctic
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OULU • FINLAND • 11 FEBRUARY 2016

Call for papers: Communities and New Development Paths in the Sparsely Populated North

Guest editors:

Patrick Brouder (Brock University, Canada): pbrouder@brocku.ca

Doris Carson (Umeå University, Sweden): doris.carson@umu.se

Suzanne de la Barre (Vancouver Island University, Canada):

Suzanne.deLaBarre@viu.ca

Socio-economic development in sparsely populated northern areas has been challenged in recent decades due to a range of issues, including restructuring of traditional resource industries, ongoing rationalization of public services, rapid urbanisation, and population aging. There is an increasing interest in how peripheral communities in the sparsely populated north adapt to such changes and implement new development paths that can help sustain communities into the future. We are proposing a special issue in the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* (<http://journals.brandu.ca/jrcd/index>) that will bring together research from different northern peripheries around the world to develop a better understanding of the complex processes affecting new development paths in the sparsely populated north. We welcome papers that can make an innovative conceptual, methodological and/or

empirical contribution to the growing body of research around socio-economic path creation in northern peripheral communities. We are particularly interested in the experiences of individual communities at the local (village or town) level, rather than studies at a broader regional or provincial level.

Potential topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Theoretical frameworks for analyzing socio-economic path creation in sparsely populated areas.
- Critical analyses of economic diversification efforts, including the shift from extractive to attractive or creative industries (e.g. tourism, arts and cultural industries, knowledge industries).
- New development paths arising from new mobilities (labour commuting, e-commuting, lifestyle mobilities, retirement migration, second home ownership, international migration, etc).
- Institutional frameworks and their impacts on local path dependence versus path creation.
- Peripheral communities and their participation in (local, regional, global) innovation systems.
- The role of social innovations in community development.

- Place-based and asset-based community development in sparsely populated areas.
- The (non-)persistence of new development paths in response to a re-emerging natural resources boom.
- New research methodologies for understanding socio-economic path creation in sparsely populated areas.

Papers may include regular articles (5,000-8,000 words, inclusive of references and graphs) and shorter community case studies (3,000-5,000 words inclusive of references and graphs).

Important dates:

Abstract deadline: 18 December 2015

Invitation for full papers: 31 December 2015

Full paper submission: 30 September 2016

Peer-review decisions: 30 November 2016

Revised paper submission: 31 January 2017

If you are interested in contributing a paper to this special issue, please submit your abstract (up to 300 words) before 18 December 2015 to one of the guest editors.

* * * * *

UArctic Congress 2016

The first ever UArctic Congress will take place in Saint Petersburg, Russia from September 12-16, 2016. Hosted by Saint Petersburg State University, the inaugural UArctic Congress 2016 will feature Science and Meeting sections, including:

- Acclaimed keynote speakers and scientific experts presenting their latest research.
- Parallel sessions on an array of Arctic science, policy, and education topics.
- Formal meetings for representatives of the Council of UArctic and UArctic Rectors' Forum.
- Side-meetings to foster contacts and enhance networking.
- Opportunities for promoting and marketing your organization and activities.

- A UArctic Student Forum with workshops.
- A Cultural and Social program like no other.

The 2016 UArctic Rectors' Forum and the 19th annual meeting of the Council of UArctic form an integral part of the congress.

For more information please visit [Uarctic website](http://Uarcticwebsite)

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**UARCTIC
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SEPTEMBER 12TH – 16TH
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Northern Notes

Issue 44 (Autumn/Winter 2015)

- page 13 -

Are you a stakeholder in polar research? Then we need you!

In the previous Northern Notes, we informed you about the EU-PolarNet, a project that wants to create a better link between polar science and society. It is to create an ongoing dialogue and co-operation between science and all other relevant stakeholders, which will result in an integrated European polar research programme. As you hopefully read in the spring/summer newsletter, the social sciences should play an active role in sustaining successful and valuable science in the Arctic and Antarctic. In order to create a better link between science and society, we are currently mapping all relevant scientists and stakeholders, and we need you! Could you help us and improve the potential for polar research?

Creating better links between polar science and society plays at several levels. First of foremost, an ongoing dialogue between scientists and the world beyond academia must be created. This however directly translates into the need to integrate the sciences in their own right. EU-PolarNet wants

to integrate the EU-PolarNet's twenty-two member research institutions, to connect the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and to build a bridge between the social and natural sciences. In order to achieve these goals, first a good overview of the players in the field must be established. The stakeholder analysis wants to identify current and potential future stakeholders that contribute to or have an interest in polar research, whether policymakers, business and industry leaders, local communities, expert networks or individual scientists.

Can you help us expand our stakeholder map? Are you a (social) scientist doing research on a polar topic? Are you representing an organisation operating in the extreme north or south? Do you know other local stakeholders whom we may be interested in? Whatever your background, join us now as a stakeholder, put us in touch with other stakeholders, and/or forward this request to your network. It would be highly appreciated if you could help

polar science forwards.

If you want to be included in the stakeholder list, please use the email addresses below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us, or take a look at <http://www.eu-polar.net.eu/project-themes/interaction-with-stakeholders.html>.

Thank you very much in advance!

Contact details:

Renno Hokwerda, stakeholder analyst,
r.hokwerda@rug.nl

Annette Scheepstra, representative for social science and humanities
a.j.m.scheepstra@rug.nl

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New Publications

Youth Perspectives on their Future in the Nordic Arctic

Nordregio Policy Brief 2015:4
ISSN: 2001-3876
Published 2015

The questions of how to retain and attract young populations are central issues for regional policy development in the Nordic Arctic. Nordregio and the Nordic working group on sustainable regional development in the Arctic have carried out an analysis to uncover young people's own perspectives of their future possibilities in Arctic com-

munities. This policy brief summarises the main findings of a number of qualitative case studies about young people living in remote locations. The aim is to voice the ambitions and future expectations of the young generation.

[Download full version in PDF](#)

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The Barents Region - a Transnational History of Subarctic Northern Europe

Editor: Elenius, L.
2015, 518 p.
ISBN: 9788253036519
Pax Forlag, Oslo Norway

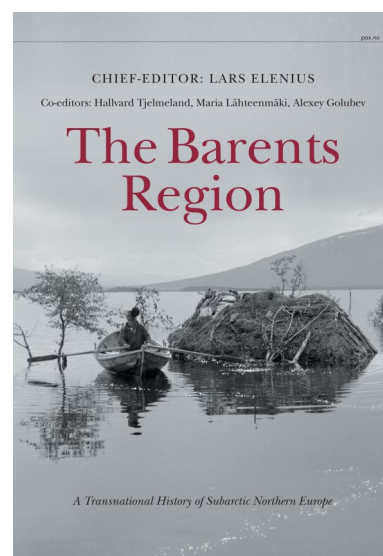
The Barents region comprises the northernmost parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. It was established in 1993 as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and it is also the first macroregion to move beyond the Cold War's Iron Curtain. This book provides a research-based history of the Barents Region from 800–2010 written by 27 history researchers within the thirteen sub-regions of the Barents Region. It is suitable as a course book in history for students at university level, but also for social sciences and for others interested in the comparative transnational history of northern Russia and northern Scandinavia.

Six million people live in the Barents Region. The authors tell the history of the regional development in four nation states, bridging the gap between Russia and the Nordic countries in terms of ethnicity, religion, cultural content, political systems, economies and different stages of modernisation. The account starts with the history of independent ethnic groups in a common

area. From the ninth century we can see tendencies towards an integration of the northernmost areas of Europe into larger political structures, culminating in early state formations such as the merchant republic of Novgorod and the kingdoms of Norway and Sweden. The focus is on comparative transnational aspects of history through stages of rivalry and co-operation. It is also the history of the many minorities and nationalities moving cross borders of different kinds.

As is the case with nations, there are different understandings of what constitutes a region. Are regions deeply grounded in history and culture or are they created by actors for instrumental reasons? The Barents Region is the prototype of a region made by concrete actors for political purposes, but the historical account shows that there were transnational contacts even before this novel political construction came into being. In the concluding chapter the reader will find reflections on what kind of region the Barents Region invented in 1993 really is.

* * * * *



Inuit outside the Arctic: Migration, identity and perceptions

Author: Terpstra, T.
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.
2015 [Groningen]: 251 p.
Print ISBN: 9789491431876
Electronic ISBN: 9789036780599
Original language: English

Today many Inuit live outside the Arctic. This research deals with the experiences of these migrants. The focus is on Greenlanders in Denmark, but their experiences are compared to those of Inuit in southern Canada. However, various of the themes discussed in this study also apply to other groups of migrants.

Despite decolonization, there are still many ties between Denmark and Greenland. Important reasons for Greenlanders to move to Denmark are education and family

ties in Denmark. The informal channels, through family or friends in Denmark, mean a lot to newcomers. Various initiatives for Greenlanders in Denmark can also play an important role. Today a clear "Greenlandic infrastructure" can be identified there. In southern Canada, where various initiatives for Inuit also exist, the presence of an Inuit network seems less visible. But as in Denmark it is clear that women here also play an important role in maintaining a distinct identity.

It can be concluded that ignorance about Greenlanders/Inuit continues to be an issue. However, changes in this context have also been experienced. Attention to internal identifications is of great importance. The Greenlandic language, Greenlandic food and Greenlandic networks in Denmark contribute to maintaining

Greenlandic identity there and maintaining that identity is important to the well-being of migrants. Such elements present a different view of Inuit to the existing stereotypes and contribute to the positive experiences of Inuit outside the Arctic.

[Download complete thesis \(in PDF\)](#)

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Adapting to, or mitigating demographic change? National policies addressing demographic challenges in the Nordic countries

Nordregio Working Paper 2015:1

ISSN 1403-2511

ISBN 978-91-87295-33-1

Editor: Lisa Hörnström

Liisa Perjo, Ingrid HG Johnsen and Anna Karlsdóttir

Published 2015

The Nordic countries continue to experience the impact of the long term demographic trend of migration from rural areas and smaller communities to larger towns and cities. In addition, the share of the Nordic population aged over 65 is increasing. Ageing population is especially pronounced in areas outside the largest city-regions. Depopulation and having relatively fewer people in working age is expected to have a severe impact on many Nordic municipalities causing additional problems with the future provision of welfare services. In addition, these municipalities face challenges when it comes to accessing the labour force especially in the welfare sector. Moreover, while population decrease imposes particular challenges to rural and peripheral

areas, the large city-regions in the Nordic countries are experiencing significant population growth, bringing an altogether different set of challenges.

At the same time, the nuances in this general picture need to be acknowledged given, primarily, the continuing strongly positive flow of international migration. All municipalities in the Nordic countries experience an in-migration of people from abroad. Indeed, in Norway in particular, migration from abroad has clearly contributed to population increases in rural and peripheral areas. The major demographic trends in the Nordic countries can be summarised as follows:

- Concentration of the population to urban areas has resulted in significant differences in population structure between growing urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas. This has led to new regional imbalances in the availability of and demand for labour.

- Stagnation or reduction of the workforce. The younger generations are not large enough to fully replace those leaving the

labour market.

- Strong increase in the share of population aged over 65 and within the next 30 years there will be an increase in this age group in all the Nordic countries.

- Gender imbalance in many Nordic municipalities and regions. The general pattern is more women than men in urban areas and more men than women in rural and peripheral parts of the Nordic countries.

In this report, we study how national level policies in the Nordic countries aim to address the main demographic challenges faced. The report focuses on those policies that address demographic challenges specifically from a territorial perspective. The report covers each of the Nordic countries plus the autonomous areas of Åland and the Faroe islands. Greenland is not included in this policy overview because the Working Group does not have a member representing Greenland.

[Download full version in PDF](#)

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The Northern Review. Exploring human experience in the North, No 41, 2015 Special Issue on Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic

Guest edited by: Chris Southcott

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"Resource Development and Northern Communities – An Introduction"
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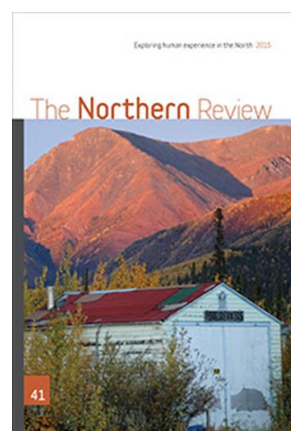
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"Language, Distance, Democracy: Development Decision Making and Northern Com-

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Sheena Kennedy Dalseg, Frances Abele

Accessible online at <http://journals.sfu.ca/nr/index.php/nr/issue/view/37/showToc>



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New Publications continued

Proceedings of a Workshop on the Historic Place Names of Franz Josef Land (Russia).

Editor: Capelotti, P.J.
Year: 2015

The proceedings of a workshop on the historic place names of Franz Josef Land and supported by the Office of Polar Programs at the U.S. National Science Foundation are now available on-line through Septentrio Academic Publishing at the UiT Library at Tromsø. This project is published as a collaborative arrangement between Tromsø's Septentrio Conference Series (2015:3), The Polar Center at Penn State University, and the Department of Anthro-

pology at Penn State University as No. 32 in their Occasional Papers in Anthropology.

The proceedings are available at the following link:

<http://septentrio.uit.no/index.php/SCS/issue/view/303>

Full citation:

Capelotti, P.J., editor. 2015. Proceedings of a Workshop on the Historic Place Names of Franz Josef Land (Russia). Oslo, Norway, 12-13 May 2015. Tromsø: Septentrio Con-

ference Series 2015 (3), and University Park, PA: The Polar Center and Occasional Papers in Anthropology No. 32, Department of Anthropology, Penn State University. 103 pp.

* * * * *

Rethinking the Top of the World: Arctic Public Opinion Survey, Vol. 2

Full Title: Rethinking the Top of the World: Arctic Public Opinion Survey, Vol. 2
Pages: 70

The Gordon Foundation (Canada) has released the full report of Rethinking the Top of the World: Arctic Public Opinion Survey, Vol. 2 at the Arctic Energy Summit in Fairbanks, Alaska. The report details the findings of a 10,000 respondent strong public opinion survey from across the eight Arctic countries: Canada, United States,

Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland.

This study provides an empirical perspective on issues related to Arctic security, environment, and economy. building on a study conducted in 2010, entitled Rethinking the Top of the World: Arctic Security Public Opinion Survey, this report examines how the Arctic is understood by the public, determines contributors to public understanding, and solicits preferences and principles to consider in both public policy and private sector decision-making.

The survey was conducted in nine lan-

guages, including Inuktitut. It asked respondents for their views on a variety of issues related to the Arctic, including issues of security, environment, and economy. It is a follow-up to the Foundation's 2011 report on public opinion in the Arctic, which allows for tracking of how public opinion has changed in these countries over the past five years.

[Download file](#) (PDF 12.17 MB)

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Itelmen texts

Editors: Erich Kasten and Michael Dürr
Published by: Kulturstiftung Sibirien, Fürstenberg/Havel
Publication year: 2015
Pages: 120 p.
Black & white illustrations
ISBN: 978-3-942883-22-1
Languages: Itelmen, Russian, English
http://www.siberian-studies.org/publications/itelmentexts_E.html

This book provides a comprehensive documentation of Itelmen texts with Russian and English translations. It contains remembrances of earlier Itelmen village life on the west coast of Kamchatka, as well as tales and songs. Most of the texts were

recorded by Erich Kasten between 1997 and 2000 during his fieldwork in the Tigil'ski and Bystrinski districts (Kamchatka). The given collection of texts provides us with a broad documentation of local language varieties that were spoken in traditional Itelmen villages on the west coast of Kamchatka, many of them having been closed since the 1970s.

The volume is part of a set of learning and teaching materials on Itelmen language and culture. The aim of these print and online editions with supplementary DVD documentaries is to sustain the particular local speech and knowledge of the Itelmen people, who live in Kamchatka, and to encourage and support their transmission to future generations.

http://www.kulturstiftung-sibirien.de/mat_31_E.html

Among these, also the recently published online Itelmen Talking Dictionary is useful for both educational and research purposes. The Russian edition is intended primarily for schools and for interested others in Kamchatka. It provides an easy-to-use means to access valuable sound documentation from the last speakers of the Itelmen language. The English edition is aimed at international scientists as it gives Itelmen words and sentences in linguistic transcription.

http://www.kulturstiftung-sibirien.de/itd_E.html.



New Publications continued

Tunguso-man'chzhurskie etnosy v novom stoletii: materialy vserossiiskoi konferentsii s mezhdunarodnym uchastiem, g. Ulan-Ude, 11 noiabria 2009 g. [The Tungus-Manchu Peoples in the New Century: Materials of an All-Russia Conference with International Participation]

Edited by E. F. Afanas'eva and L. D. Radnaeva.

Ulan-Ude: Izdatel'stvo Buriatskogo gosuniversiteta, 2010.

185 pages.

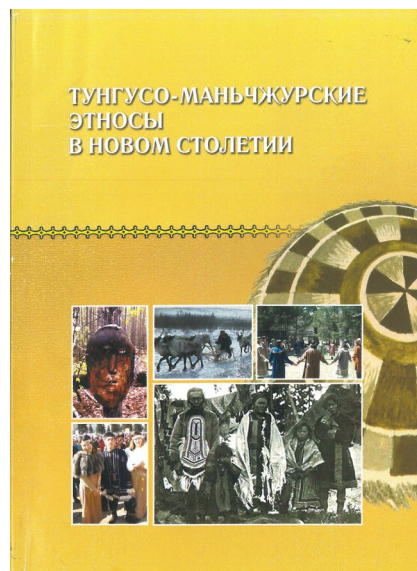
ISBN 978-5-9793-0246-5

The Tungusic-speaking peoples – Siberia's Even, Evenki, Nanai, Negidal, Oroch, Orok, Udegei, and Ul'chi, and China's Evenki, Manchus, Orochen, Sibe, and Solon – form a vital part of northeastern Asia's complex quilt of indigeous cultures. In November 2009, researchers, educators, and librarians from institutions in Blagoveshchensk, Chita, St. Petersburg, Khabarovsk, Buryatia, Yakutia, Krasnoarskii Krai's Evenki Municipal Raion, (formerly the Evenki National Okrug), and the Evenki Khoshun of China's Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region gathered in Buryatia's capital Ulan-Ude at a conference titled "The Tungus-Manchu Peoples in the New Century" to present thirty-four papers on the fate of these groups cultures, languages, and traditional lifeways; they have been gathered into the volume under review by Buryat State University's Elizaveta Afanas'eva and St. Petersburg State University's Liubov' Radnaeva.

Language survival is a crucial issue for virtually all of the Siberian peoples, and the Tungusic-speaking groups are no exception. As Kirill Struchkov informs the reader, the dominance of Russian in education, media, and public life in the Evenki lands, non-native in-migration, liquidation of native settlements, and decades of Russification to create a "new Soviet man" have resulted in a diminished public sphere for the Evenki language, profound Russian influence upon the language's content, and widespread language loss. The Amur Evenkis' Zeiskii, Dzheltulaskii and Seledmzhinskii dialects are particularly endangered, and Gul'chera Bykova describes the work done by scholars at Blagoveshchensk State University and the Russian Academy of Sciences' Yakutsk and Novosibirsk branches to record them. Dar'ia Bereltueva suggests that the Nanai enjoy the most extensive native-language retention of any of Khabarovskii Krai's

Tungusic peoples (Even, Evenki, Nanai, Negidal', Oroch, Ul'ch, and Udegei) thanks to their compact settlement and better-developed native pedagogy and literature. As Liubov' Radnaeva points out, Even, Evenki, Manchu, Nanai, Negidal, Orochon, and Udegei historical sound recordings (currently undergoing digitization) held by the Russian Academy of Science's Institute of Russian Literature can serve as important tools of language survival. In the realm of native literature, Nadezhda Protod'iaonovna and Luliia Khazankovich' address themes of nature, patriotism, and love of native language in the work of the Evenki poet Nikolai Oëgir (1926-1988) and the nature imagery and rhythmic patterns of Dmitrii Aprosimov (1929-1983), an ethnic Evenki poet who wrote in Sakha.

Eight papers treat native educational matters. Marta Konorënok discusses the Evenki Municipal Raion's language and culture-immersion camp in Surinda, whose graduates excel in Evenki-language competitions across Siberia; Natal'ia Boiagir reports on the Raion's libraries' production and distribution of print and electronic educational materials on native history, language, and culture. Valentina Flegontova discusses the use of expository-writing exercises based on Evenki folklore texts to enhance comprehension and expression, while Elena Kalinina advocates the incorporation of Evenki toponyms into language classes due to their ethnographic and historical value: as she puts it, "every geographical name is the sign of a culture, manifested in language" (p. 96). Vera Kaplina suggests that Evenki schoolchildren's delayed development, poor performance and motivation, and behavioral problems can be ameliorated by greater parental attention, treatment of psychological fatigue caused by repeated failures, expanded outdoor time, better explanation of school regulations, and evenings of traditional games and storytelling. Aleksandr Maiorov describes how Evenki teachers in Dyren in Buryatia's Kurumkanski Raion employ a particularly systematic reinforcement of, and progression through, difficult morphological and syntactical material; incorporate native language, culture,



ecology and history across the curriculum; and involve pupils in area-studies research. Klavdiia Makarova and Liudmila Zaliatdinova discuss the curriculum of Nerungri, Yakutia's multiethnic (Even, Evenki, Dolgan, Yukagir, Chukchi, Russian and Yakut) "Arktika" boarding school, while Stepanida Chapogir shows how audiovisual presentations and school journals are used to enhance Evenki-language classes in lukta in the Evenki Municipal Raion.

Several authors address the fate of traditional native economic activities and the local environment upon which they depend. Nadezhda Ermolova expresses concern that the Evenki National Okrug's absorption by Krasnoarskii Krai in 2007 will endanger recent progress in reviving reindeer herding and protecting the local ecology. This concern seems warranted since, as Anna Sirina stresses, non-natives lack Evenki (and Even) ethics of resource use based on animistic beliefs that "nature is something alive and sacred; nature and the tutelary spirits must be respected; [and] nature's gifts must be repaid" (p. 142). Ol'ga Gurova suggests that Zabaikal'skii Krai's Evenki can perpetuate traditional economic activities (reindeer herding, hunting, and handicrafts) most successfully in monoethnic settlements, where "neotraditionalism" merges customary lifeways with modern technology and

New Publications continued

Tunguso-man'chzhurskie etnosy v novom stoletii: materialy vserossiiskoi konferentsii s mezhdunarodnym uchastiem, g. Ulan-Ude, 11 noiabria 2009 g. [The Tungus-Manchu Peoples in the New Century: Materials of an All-Russia Conference with International Participation] continued

institutions; Vera Gil'fanova believes that reindeer herding is most likely to flourish there, since it provides a steadier income than hunting; suffers less than handicrafts from loss of traditional skills; and can rely upon the popularity of "exotic" and healthy reindeer meat in East Asia and Northern Europe. Al'bina Solovova suggests that Tungusic peoples might support ecological preservation and native cultures by combining ecotourism and ethnotourism, as the Buryats have done in Transbaikalia's "Alkhanai" preserve.

In the realm of folklore and traditional folk culture, Oksana Archakova, Aleksandr Varlamov, and Viktoriia Malakshanova employ folklore evidence to reconstruct the historic relations between Evenki tribes, and between Evenki and outsiders (other native Siberians, Russians, and Mongols); the prehistoric Evenkis' replacement of the simple larch bow (ber) with the compound bow (alanga); and the origins and migrations of the Nanais' Samagir and the Evenkis' Tepkegir and Gol'dëgir clans. Galina Varlamova compares the Evenkis' heroic tale (gume nimngakan) and heroic epic (nimngakama nimngakan), noting that the former is more archaic; is often performed by women; is recited, not sung; and lacks the latter's sacral nature. Anfisa Voronina reports the decline of epics, legends and myths among the Evenki of Buryatia's Bauntovskii Raion, but the persistence of

minor folklore genres – jokes, riddles, sayings, superstitions – and ritual formulas used in hunting, burial, and veneration of fire and sacred places. Marina Belianskaia, Tamara Saf'iannikova, and Ol'ga Duvan describe preliterate Evenki hunters' transmission of information about hunting areas, distances, and directions via symbols carved onto trees and poles placed in prescribed patterns; the production, symbolism, and specialized terminology of traditional Evenki ornaments; and genres of Evenki dance (the shingkele bear-hunting dance is no longer performed, but circle dances – ikëvun, derëde, etc. – retain their popularity). Natal'ia Mongo suggests that pan-Evenki festivals held in Ulan-Ude's Ethnographic Museum of the Peoples of Transbaikalia can aid cultural survival by promoting inter-regional Evenki solidarity, while Maria Badmaeva describes the promotion of native culture and language by Ulan-Ude's "Arun" Evenki cultural center and similar organizations. Vladimir Torgonov notes that popularized ethnographic works, e.g. Elena Vasilaki and Mikhail Kutuzov's Evenki Zabaikal'skogo Severa [The Evenki of the Transbaikalian North] (Chita, 2008) facilitate cultural survival by stimulating natives' "interest in their own history, culture, traditions, and customs" (p. 159).

Finally, four articles address northeastern China's Tungusic peoples. Eliza-

veta Afanas'eva presents demographic, geographical, and ethnographic data on the Evenki and Orochon of China's Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. Sariuna Gomboeva examines correspondences between weather, flora and fauna, and geographical terms in Evenki and Solon, a Tungusic language of Inner Mongolia. Natal'ia Mal'chakitova compares Inner Mongolian and Siberian Evenkis' reindeer-herding and hunting terminology, while Du Bolorva describes the form and symbolism of Evenki shamans' ritual costumes in Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang Province.

The Tungus-Manchu Peoples in the New Century provides abundant material – based on fresh textual research and field work – on a vast range of crucial contemporary and historical issues, and complements works by Western scholars such as David Anderson, Alexia Bloch, Craig Campbell, Gail Fondahl, and Piers Vitebsky. Although this reader would have liked to have learned more about peoples other than the Evenki, their numerical dominance within the Tungusic-speaking milieu no doubt explains the volume's emphasis upon them. Anthropologists, folklorists, historians, linguists and indeed all readers concerned with the fate of the Northern indigenous peoples will find much of value.

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New documentary film: Guardians of Eternity

France Benoit, dir. (2015)

Guardians of Eternity is a documentary film about the toxic legacy of an abandoned gold mine in northern Canada. The Giant Mine is closed now, but the mess that has been left behind will be with us forever. The Yellowknives Dene First Nation is on the front line because the mine is on their land.

The Giant Mine produced 7 million ounces of gold over a period of 55 years. The companies that controlled the mine made \$1.1 billion (all figures in 2002 dollars) in profit and the government collected \$572 million in taxes and royalties, but also

provided \$59 million in subsidies to the mine.

After the mine went bankrupt, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada took responsibility for dealing with the cleaning up of the site. The Giant Mine site consists of 950 hectares containing 8 open pits, 4 tailing ponds, 100 buildings, 11,500,000 cubic feet of contaminated soils, and 237,000 tons of arsenic trioxide.

Remediation of the mine site focuses on isolating and containing the arsenic trioxide using a "Frozen Block Method." In the short term, the estimated cost of the remediation work is \$903 million. However, arsenic trioxide will remain toxic to life

forever.

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation has lived on the surrounding land for centuries and now they must deal with the prospect of living with arsenic trioxide for eternity.

For more information about the film: Shebafilms@gmail.com

Watch trailer at: <http://www.guardiansofeternity.ca/>

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New Publications continued

Mining and Communities in Northern Canada: History, Politics, and Memory

Editors: Arn Keeling and John Sandlos
448 pages

25 illustrations, 10 maps, notes, bibliography, index

Canadian History and Environment

Year: 2015

978-1-55238-804-4 (Paperback)

978-1-55238-806-8 (Institutional PDF)

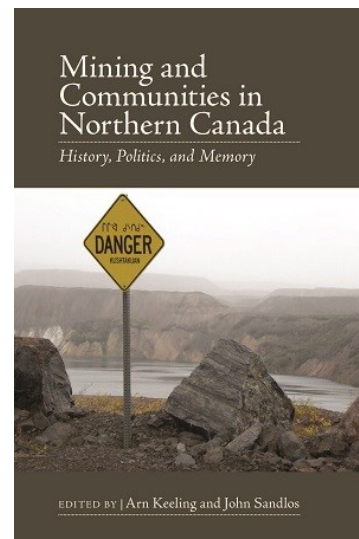
978-1-55238-807-5 (ePub)

978-1-55238-808-2 (mobi)

For indigenous communities throughout the globe, mining has been a historical forerunner of colonialism, introducing new, and often disruptive, settlement patterns and economic arrangements. Although indigenous communities may benefit from and adapt to the wage labour and training opportunities provided by new mining operations, they are also often left to navigate the complicated process of remediating the long-term ecological changes associated with industrial mining. In this regard, the mining often inscribes colonialism as a

broad set of physical and ecological changes to indigenous lands.

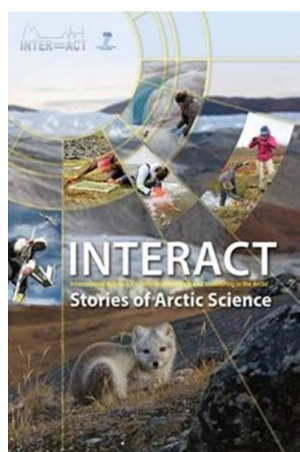
This collection examines historical and contemporary social, economic, and environmental impacts of mining on Aboriginal communities in northern Canada. Combining oral history research with intensive archival study, this work juxtaposes the perspectives of government and industry with the perspectives of local communities. The oral history and ethnographic material provides an extremely significant record of local Aboriginal perspectives on histories of mining and development in their regions.



INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science

The latest addition to the INTERACT products, a highly illustrated popular science book INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science, was launched at the Arctic Circle 2015 conference in Reykjavik.

The book contains stories of cutting-edge Arctic research supported by INTERACT Transnational Access, as told by 138 scientists from 17 countries. The book consists of seven sections focusing on landscape-forming processes, glaciers and permafrost environments, ground processes that store and release greenhouse gases, the ecology of land and freshwater, and the Peoples of the Arctic.



The book has been edited by INTERACT Coordinator Terry V. Callaghan and Transnational Access Coordinator Hannele Savola. The preface has been written by Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.

Download the book from [here](#).



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Made in Nunavut: An Experiment in Decentralized Government

Authors: Jack Higgs and Graham White
Hardcover: 400 pages
Publisher: UBC Press (December 11, 2015)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0774831030
ISBN-13: 978-0774831031

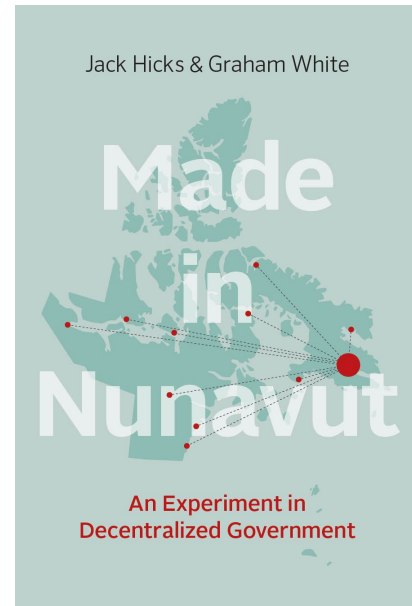
On April 1, 1999, after decades of dreams and negotiations and years of planning, the Inuit-dominated territory of Nunavut came into being in Canada's Eastern and Central Arctic. This was a momentous occasion, signifying not only the first change to the map in over half a century but also a remarkable achievement in terms of creating a new government from the ground up.

Made in Nunavut provides the first behind-the-scenes account of how the Government of Nunavut (GN) came into being, exploring the many political and administrative issues that arose in its design and implementation. The book offers a close analysis of the period between the passage

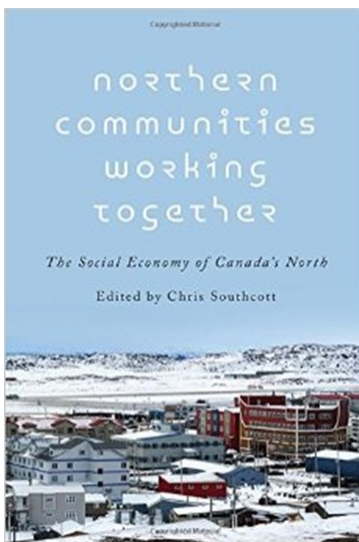
of the Nunavut Act in 1993 and the start-up of the GN in 1999, paying close attention to its most distinctive and innovative organizational design feature -- the decentralization of offices and functions that would normally be located in the capital to small communities spread across the vast territory. It examines how this decentralization was implemented post-1999 and concludes by taking a hard look at whether the GN's controversial structure has provided better government for the people of Nunavut.

The result of nearly two decades of research and writing by leading authorities on the politics of the Canadian Arctic, Made in Nunavut is a definitive guide to understanding the structure and politics of Canada's youngest territory.

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Northern Communities Working Together: The Social Economy of Canada's North



Editor: Chris Southcott
Publisher: University of Toronto Press
Year: 2015
Pages: 291

The unique historical, economic and social features of the Canadian North creates distinctive challenges for communities in the region. The social economy of these communities -- a sector that includes non-profits, cooperatives, social enterprises, and community economic development organizations -- are an important and often understated source of solutions for these challenges. Northern Communities Working Together highlights the innovative ways in which Northerners are using the social economy to meet their economic, social, and cultural challenges while increasing local control and capabilities. The contributors focus on the unique barriers that exist

in the region and the way that social economy organizations are being used to overcome these barriers. The book includes chapters on land claim organizations, volunteering, cooperatives, hunter support programs, and specific Indigenous notions of the social economy.

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