

Northern Notes

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

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In this issue

Features

From the President.....	1
ICASS VI: 3 rd Announcement.....	2
Arctic Social Indicators (ASI): A Follow-up to the Arctic Human Development Report.....	3
ESF Eurocores Programme BOREAS (Histories from the North: Environments, Movements, Narratives”) Up and Running.....	5
Presentation of BOREAS projects.....	8

The IPY Focus on Data, the IPY Data Policy, and Data Management within the Social Sciences: Invitation to a Necessary Discussion.....	13
Departments	
News from Members.....	15
Conferences and Meetings.....	17
New Books, Dissertations and Film.....	19
On the Web.....	25
On IASSA – New Membership Fees.....	26

From the President

This issue opens with feature articles on two large international schemes in Arctic humanities and social science research, which started this fall: the Arctic Social Indicators project, and the European Science Foundation EUROCORES Programme “BOREAS”. But this is far from all: on March 1st, 2007, before the next issue of this Newsletter appears, an extraordinary burst of research will be launched: the fourth International Polar Year (IPY). “Our” social science representatives on the IPY Joint Committee, Grete Hovelsrud and Igor Krupnik, have published a recent update on social science participation in IPY (Hovelsrud and Krupnik 2006). However, this huge endeavor still undergoes rapid development, with new projects and new funding possibilities (see www.ipy.org for the latest news), and issues yet under discussion. Among them, you will find an article below by Birger Poppel, member of the IPY Data Subcommittee, on social science data management. Data management, archival, and accessibility, are “hot” topics, which should lead to follow ups as legacy to IPY, in the guise of circumpolar Arctic

Observation Networks, electronic data archival arrangements, etc.

Another currently debated issue is the contents of the ethical guidelines the IPY Joint Committee might promote. Understandably, researchers on Antarctic glaciers have different views on it than Arctic social science researchers. For the last time hopefully in the history of the Polar Years, the highest organizing body of this edition (called the Joint Committee) does not to include any Arctic indigenous representative. For this to happen we will have to wait another half-century. It is thus up to the scientists to also represent the interests of Arctic residents as best they can—and social scientists, in particular, are expected to fulfill that expectation.

Thousands of researchers will stream into the Arctic for fieldwork in the context of IPY next year. Some regions such as Nunavut are well prepared for this, having had an effective research licensing system, administered in the territory, for

over two decades. On the other hand, Greenland, among other Arctic regions, does not register the numerous scientists coming to do social scientific field research on its territory. In such regions, one can only hope that communities will look favorably on unexpected guests.

Over the past few years, IASSA and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) have started to forge a new alliance at the occasion of long-term science planning (ICARP II, see Northern Notes Fall/Winter 2005/2006). IASSA co-sponsors, with IASC, three of the eleven research themes which were identified at the ICARP conference last year. These three themes in the social sciences and human dimensions should be implemented through concrete research projects over the next decade. One can no more doubt that IPY will bring Arctic research to a new and much higher level. But it will be up to the organizations that stay, after this colossal “unavoidable guest” will have left the scene, to follow up on its legacy. It is probably then that the ICARP process will come into its own—but it is no less important that it starts now, in cooperation with IASSA, and accompanies IPY.

The last Arctic Council (AC) meeting under Russian chairmanship took place successfully in Salekhard last October. Three two-year terms should follow in Scandinavian countries, beginning with Norway in 2007-08. One may look forward to more intense lobbying by observer science organizations at AC, i.e. IASC and IASSA, to provide scientific expertise to Arctic politics in many fields: economic, environmental, social, etc. This may be crucial at a time when Arctic governance, and even borders, may enter a new turbulence zone due to the consequences of rapid climatic and environmental change, and the new challenges and opportunities such change will bring.

Third Announcement

ICASS VI in Nuuk, Greenland, August 25-29, 2008

IASSA is pleased to announce the exact dates of ICASS VI in this IASSA Newsletter. Please be aware that both August 25th and August 29th are conference days. The General assembly will take place in the middle of week.

The council of our association did not meet in corpore this year, but we have had constant cyber-contact. The secretariat in Nuuk wishes to acknowledge the constant and excellent advice of the other council members, and their active participation in formulating reasonable decisions.

Last but not least, the IASSA Council will introduce a new membership fee structure early next year. Most fees will remain unchanged, but we will introduce reduced rates for economically weaker countries, and a special discount rate for students. For further information read “On IASSA” at the end of this issue.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful turn-of-the-year holiday!

Yvon Csonka
IASSA President

Reference:
Hovelsrud, Grete K. and Igor Krupnik, 2006. IPY 2007–08 and Social/Human Sciences: An Update. *InfoNorth, Arctic* 59(3): 341-348.



being in Nuuk and facilitate cross boundary networking.

Call for sessions in the last issue of Northern Notes

In the last issue of the newsletter we urged all project leaders to submit ideas and thoughts for workshops and sessions by mid-September 2006. We have since then received 19 proposals of sessions and workshops from projects leaders around the world. We have sent a confirmation to everyone who submitted proposals that we have received their proposals but we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been so kind to let us know of their intentions at this early stage.

It is still possible to propose sessions and workshops until March, 1. 2007

Leaders of IPY projects who are still applying for funding are encouraged to include funding for a meeting of their research team at ICASS in their application, and to announce their intention to the

IASSA secretariat even if the funding is not yet secured.

The next issue of the newsletter will announce all approved sessions.

Cultural events at ICASS VI

We hope to be able to make ICASS VI not only a forum for Arctic social science but also an experience of Arctic cultural life in all its diverse forms of expression. We therefore encourage all who have ideas for events and/or contacts to artists of all kinds from around the Arctic to let us know. Please contact us at iassa@ilisimatusarfik.gl with ideas and inspiration for the planning of the ICASS VI cultural program.

Next ICASS VI Announcement

The next announcement will be presented in the summer 2007 issue of the IASSA newsletter. The 4th announcement will include the announcement of the approved sessions and the first call for papers.

Arctic Social Indicators (ASI): A Follow-up to the Arctic Human Development Report

By Joan Nymand Larsen

The Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project is a follow-up to the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) and was launched in January 2006. The ASI project seeks to devise indicators to facilitate the tracking and monitoring of human development in the Arctic, and is being developed under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council. The project period is 2006-2008, with a final report being planned for late summer of 2008, and a presentation of results at the Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS IV) in Nuuk, Greenland, in the summer of 2008.

The project's main objective is to devise a limited set of indicators that reflect key aspects of human development in the Arctic, that are tractable in terms of measurement, and that can be monitored over time at a reasonable cost in terms of labour and material resources. The goal is to weigh the relative merits of a range of proposed indicators of human development in the Arctic, to select a number of indicators that seem most likely to prove successful in this context and to test

indicators with existing data and in discussions with representatives from various Arctic communities. The project, which covers the developmental stage in a long-term effort to measure and monitor human development on an integrated basis in the circumpolar Arctic can benefit a wide range of stakeholders, including those involved in Arctic policy making processes, residents of the North, as well as those engaged in the Arctic social sciences.

The scope and significance of the AHDR report has been recognized and widely praised both among those concerned with Arctic affairs and among those who deal with human development in the world at large. It presents a broad overview of the state of human development or social well-being in the circumpolar Arctic as of the early years of the 21st century, and as such, provides a baseline or a starting point from which to measure changes over time in the state of human development. While the AHDR constitutes a unique resource making it possible to compare and

contrast the Arctic and other regions with regards to a host of factors, it does not, however, except in a few instances, provide a longitudinal perspective on human development in the Arctic.

This is where the ASI follow-up project will seek to fill a critical gap. The development of a suite of indicators was a part of the original vision of those who articulated the rationale for the development of the AHDR, but it became clear early on that there would be neither the time nor the material resources needed to produce a high quality product of this type. Therefore, the AHDR does not present quantifiable indicators suitable for monitoring or tracking changes in human development in the Arctic. There remains, however, an obvious need for indicators of this sort.

We can look briefly at the basic question of what an indicator is, and how one can select the most suitable ones. An indicator can be defined as a measure used as a gauge of the state of some factor of interest to policymakers and analysts; it is not an operationalization of the factor itself. When determining the usefulness of an indicator and deciding among a group of possible indicators one can look at whether the chosen indicators are generalizable and stable, easy to measure in a broadly accepted manner, and suitable for use in longitudinal analyses. It is clear, that in settings where members of the relevant communities differ in their underlying views regarding the nature of human development or change their perspectives on social welfare over time, it is difficult to devise useful indicators, given the range of communities and the diversity within communities themselves. Thus, the exercise of devising useful indicators is indeed a challenge. From this perspective, then, it is desirable to develop a small suite of indicators that capture the essential features of the phenomenon in question and can be measured empirically in a simple and intuitively appealing manner.

The UN Human Development Index (HDI) is without doubt, the most influential method currently in use in terms of measuring human development. The HDI is a composite of three components: GDP per capita, longevity, and a measure of literacy/education. While the HDI constituted an important point of departure in the work on the AHDR, lengthy discussions led eventually to the conclusion that the HDI is not a good indicator of human development in the Arctic and for several reasons. For example, as described in the AHDR (2004), GDP per capita typically

fails to take into account many goods and services enjoyed by those who participate in subsistence economies or even the mixed economies that are widespread in the Arctic today, and conventional measures of literacy/education omit the production and transfer of knowledge and skills that constitute important features of traditional cultures and societies.

Based on the limitations of the HDI as applied to the Arctic context, members of the AHDR team proposed three elements of human development that seem particularly prominent in the Arctic: fate control or the ability to guide one's own destiny; cultural integrity or belonging to a viable local culture; and contact with nature or interacting closely with the natural world. Indicators, however, were not developed from these three domains. ASI, in following up on the AHDR, has adopted these three elements as important domains for the construction of indicators.

On September 15-17, the first workshop of the Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project was held in Akureyri, Iceland, hosted by the Stefansson Arctic Institute. About 25 working group members met for two and a half days to begin the work on the construction of social indicators in the Arctic. The main task was, first, to discuss the broad categories which ought to be covered by indicators, and then to discuss and select potential indicators within each of the chosen domains. This was followed by a mock testing exercise of preliminary indicators with anecdotal evidence to help identify a preliminary set of indicators. The group also discussed the steps needed for a proper test of the selected indicators.

The working group arrived at six domains for the construction of social indicators, and team leaders were chosen for each of these domains. The first three domains were selected based on what had been proposed in the AHDR as important elements of human development in the Arctic, namely: (1) Fate control and or the ability to guide one's own destiny; (2) Cultural integrity or belonging to a viable local culture; and (3) Contact with nature or interacting closely with the natural world. Three additional domains were identified – namely, the domains used by the UNDP in constructing the Human Development Index: (4) Education; (5) Demography/Health; and (6) Material Well-being. The work on the construction of indicators for these six domains is now underway. A second ASI workshop will take place in late spring of 2007.

Clearly, assessment is a critical component of a project of this kind. There will be a number of components to the project's assessment strategy: it will include a consultation process, which will commence in 2007 and consist of the testing of indicators using existing data and discussions with representatives from various Arctic communities. Community and indigenous feedback will be a critical part of the evaluation process, as the working group will invite feedback from members of the Sustainable Development Working Group and Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council. Traditional peer-review will occur after the consultation process. The project is aiming for a rather large and diverse audience, including the science community, inhabitants of the Arctic, educational institutions and students enrolled in Northern universities and colleges, policymakers at all levels, and the Arctic Council and its Sustainable Development Working Group. It is expected that the ASI report will have a similar audience as the AHDR.

Funding for this project has been generously provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Cooperation Programme, the US National Science Foundation, the University of Alaska, and the Stefansson Arctic Institute.

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ESF EUROCORES Programme BOREAS ("Histories from the North: Environments, Movements, Narratives") Up and Running

By Piers Vitebsky & Rüdiger Klein

The ESF EUROCORES Programme BOREAS ("Histories from the North - environments, movements, narratives") – which had published a call in spring 2005, see also *Northern Notes* Spring/Summer 2005: 3-5) – is now up and running. The Programme launch conference was held at Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge (U.K.) in October where it was revealed that the programme is now fully operative and funded to a total budget of approximately 6 Mio. Euros (incl. ESF networking funds). New research funding for this programme has been generated in Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and the United States to support research in large-scale Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs; for details, see below). Associated Partners are based in Belgium, France, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Specific funds are provided by ESF to ensure networking activities between the funded CRPs, so that the programme as a whole may lead to new

visibility of Humanities and Social Science based research into the circumpolar North.

The programme was initiated by the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) in Cambridge, England. Funding has been generated from European, Canadian (SSHRC) and US-American (NSF) funding agencies through the European Science Foundation (ESF). The selection of project proposals was achieved through a two-stage process with Outline Proposals, having been sifted by the international BOREAS Review Panel (which included European, Russian, Canadian and US-American academics), and Full Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects selected by the Review Panel on the basis of international referee reports. BOREAS is the first successful experiment for such a "global" assessment and evaluation process.

Eventually, out of 28 Outline Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs with 130

individual project teams, and 53 Associated Partners) seven CRP obtained funding, with 38 individual project teams and 14 Associated Partners. The duration of projects is between three and four years, depending on the funding granted under national rules and regulations.

Researchers from these projects met for a kick-off conference at SPRI on 14-17 October 2006. The meeting was also attended by members of the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities, which initially sponsored the programme, by participants from an earlier planning meeting (held at SPRI in September 2004) who contributed toward the formulation of the call for proposals, by members of the Review Panel, and by representatives of numerous other circumpolar research initiatives.

Each project was given a full hour for presentation and discussion, to allow all participants to become fully aware of the detailed texture of the other projects. In addition, much time was spent discussing the relations between projects, and further networking possibilities. In the spirit of the ESF EUROCORES networking philosophy, all of this was designed to create an integrated programme which would amount to more than just the sum of its projects.

There was a strong atmosphere of mutual support, and many new friendships and collaborations were forged between researchers who had not previously met. The project presentations offered a dazzling array of what will surely turn out to be some of the most interesting humanities and social science research on the Arctic today. The projects moved effortlessly in their conception between different areas and countries of the Arctic, providing a truly comparative regional vision; this vision was backed up by a realistic logistic skills and local partnerships on the ground. All projects responded to the spirit as well as the letter of the call for proposals. Between them, they have truly done justice to the plurality of environments, movements and narratives in the title of the programme.

In contrast with very strong representation from disciplines such as anthropology, archaeology, history, geography, and demography, some fields were conspicuously missing. Despite strong encouragement written into the call for proposals (and indeed the disciplinary interests of the Standing Committee for the Humanities), no proposals were received covering subjects such as literature, linguistics, myth, philosophy, or art, and

even the projects which mentioned “culture” rarely explored the realm of metaphor. Despite the existence of some brilliant individual scholars in these areas, no applicants emerged with the vision and the confidence to develop them on the scale of a large international project.

Having begun our respective careers in Classics and passed through Indian and Middle Eastern Studies respectively on our ways into the Arctic, we find this absence particularly significant, since among Humanities scholars in other regions of the world these topics would be considered absolutely fundamental. This may be indicative of a deeper lack of confidence among scholars working on the Arctic, who after years of necessity have become perhaps too adept at subordinating research profiles to natural science agendas: has the view by now been so internalised that in large-scale international research, social sciences and humanities are at best a modest add-on, a token “human dimension”?

To look at many dominant portraits of Arctic research, even today, one would almost get the impression that it concerned the surface of an uninhabited planet. It was this lingering bias which led some countries to decline to participate in BOREAS: their national Arctic agenda was too strongly committed to the natural sciences. At the meeting, this also led to a lengthy discussion of problems of data management – also in view of the requirements for projects that sought endorsement under the IPY - and related ethical questions: it was felt that our projects risked being tied down to unsuitable and inflexible models and criteria which derive from natural sciences. As part of the networking activities a first workshop will be organised by ESF in February in Paris to address these issues. One aim of the workshop will be to link BOREAS data generating and storage activities to wider-ranging activities in Europe (digital research infrastructures for the Humanities), in the US (cyber-infrastructure), and elsewhere. It is not inconceivable that with its comparatively compact and globally well-connected researchers’ community circumpolar research takes the lead in such initiatives.

In order to structure the other networking activities under BOREAS, a “Scientific Committee” has been set up, composed of the Project Leaders, and some external members (incl. the Chair of the BOREAS Review Panel and the ESF Programme Coordinator at ESF, the two authors of this

contribution). An e-mail network has been set up between Project Leaders, and a data sharing platform is being developed by ESF for this use of the project members.

One ambition of BOREAS is to deprovincialise the Arctic (and the related Humanities and Social Science research): if hegemonic Arctic research has little room for the Humanities, the wider Humanities disciplines in turn know little about the Arctic. In anthropology, specialists in Africa, Indonesia and the Amazon read and use each other's work. Yet, they rarely refer to any anthropology coming out of the Arctic, or make use of any theoretical advances which have arisen from Arctic research. The situation is similar in other disciplines – one reason may be that Arctic researchers still work to a very narrow horizon.

Fortunately, there are signs of change. Externally, the “human dimension” of natural science programmes is becoming less of a token nod, as rapid global change forces those sciences to face their own limitations; internally, younger Humanities researchers are emerging who are not constrained by this narrowness. Students in Cambridge recently organised a workshop comparing Siberia and Amazonia as resource frontiers: the papers and the discussion showed persuasively that the study of these two regions throws a complementary light on each other and also on issues which are ultimately global.

It was suggested at the meeting of the BOREAS Scientific Committee that a workshop be convened in which BOREAS projects would compare notes with researchers studying comparable topics in other regions of the world.

BOREAS should make a contribution to shaking off these twin constraints: that it will make Arctic humanities research more confident in the validity of a pure humanities research agenda without looking over their shoulder at the natural sciences, and that it will de-provincialise the region in relation to our own disciplines, so that the Arctic becomes a known and respected locus for regional studies, on a par with India, Latin America or Africa.

The circumpolar research community owes a great debt of gratitude to the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities, who allowed themselves to be persuaded of the value of the programme, despite some initial scepticism: clearly, the topic had been far outside anything they had thought of before (a

further indication of the problem of Arctic research remaining outside the mainstream awareness of Humanities disciplines); to the relevant funding agencies of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and the United States whose commitment to the EUROCORES Programme made the launching of BOREAS a certainty. The administration of ESF has, in the process, accomplished the logistic and diplomatic task of coordinating the funding agencies of numerous countries (notably their project selection and approval procedures) so expeditiously that BOREAS grew from the back of an envelope to a fully funded programme in two years.

The ESF understood the global reach of the circumpolar Arctic as an opportunity to work for the first time with funding agencies in Russia, the USA and Canada. Unfortunately, despite enthusiasm on the Russian side, it was only possible to organise the participation of the Russian Academy of Sciences as an Associated Partner. However, the scope and depth of the programme has been greatly enhanced at every stage by the many Russian scholars who have been involved in the initial proposal planning, on the evaluation panel, and as associated partners in many of the research projects.

On the other hand, BOREAS has been significantly strengthened through the participation of many North American (Canadian and US) scholars, often as Project Leaders. This is an indication of the vitality and the coherent profile of the research community in North America, as well as of the comparatively generous institutionalised support they enjoy. The resulting level of self-confidence is as yet not met in Europe. It is hoped that the involvement of advanced PhD students and post-docs in BOREAS, and their exchange over the years to come, will create a vibrant circumpolar research community with new centres and new synergies emerging also in Europe. This would be in line with the philosophy of the EUROCORES Scheme, which is to foster the creation of critical mass at European level, aiming at strengthening the integration of Europe's scattered researchers in Arctic humanities.

Circumpolar research in the Humanities and the Social Sciences has added a new dimension to this ambition, i.e. the creation of a global network.

For further information about BOREAS see <http://www.esf.org/boreas>; for programme related

enquiries (incl. networking, data management)
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Presentation of the ESF EUROCORES BOREAS Projects

The seven BOREAS projects are presented below in short descriptions authored by project leaders and principal investigators of the different projects.

Colony, Empire, Environment: A Comparative International History of Twentieth Century Arctic Science (CEE)

Until recently, histories of the Arctic landscape—of the natural spaces and the larger environment of the far north—were also often narratives of domination and conquest. Previous scholars showed little interest in comparative studies, visual evidence, photography, *in situ* analysis, or in field stations and their role in research. Indeed, field experience, crucial to many branches of the life sciences and earth sciences, especially in the polar regions, was largely neglected in the conventional treatment of modern science. Another poorly studied aspect of northern history is how international political conflicts, and their resultant demands for particular kinds of geographic knowledge, shaped perceptions of the Arctic and Sub Arctic and the kinds of research programs undertaken there. If the North was already a vital concern for the Soviet state by the first third of the twentieth century, it did not become so for the United States until emerging Cold War hostilities after 1947 recast the Arctic as a potential battleground for anxious Pentagon planners. Surprisingly few studies have explored how Cold War military patronage shaped research programs and the production of knowledge in fields other than physics. Yet the influence of military patronage on the emerging environmental sciences is not only a neglected historical topic; it is a vital issue in contemporary policy deliberations as well, one that promises to shed light on historical conservation practices and stewardship of natural resources. While our proposed research centers on the Arctic, the influence of patronage on amorphous disciplines such as the environmental sciences is an issue of global significance.

The most important contribution from this project will be a greatly improved understanding of Arctic scientific research during the twentieth century, as well as deeper insight into the shifting meaning and significance of the northern landscape, as colonial domination was replaced by Cold War military activities and ultimately increased native autonomy.

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Home, Hearth and Household in the Circumpolar North (HHH)

Circumpolar indigenous peoples hold their home hearths with special reverence. The hearth is a place where hunters and herders reciprocate the respect granted them by animals by feeding the

fire with fat or spirits. This project will place the focal metaphors of hearth, home and household at the centre of a research agenda to understand northern ecological narrative, cultural resilience, and the use of space. Through uniting the efforts of indigenous people, museum researchers, archaeologists, anthropologists, and historical demographers, we aim to demonstrate the special dynamics of northern households, broadly defined, as well as contribute to the revival of cultural awareness now underway in indigenous societies across the North.

This BOREAS project is made up of five participating projects from Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United States and includes one associate project from the United Kingdom. Our team will conduct primary research in Canada's Northwest Territories, in Northern Sweden, Finland and Norway, in the Kola Peninsula, Taimyr, and Zabaikal'e within Russia, and in the National Museum of the American Indian [NMAI] in the USA. We are including in our research programme the active participation of Tlicho (Dogrib) Dene, Inuvialuit, Dolgan, Evenki, and Sámi experts.

Our efforts will aim to elucidate how residential patterns in the North have a long-term time signature. We will narrow the theme by investigating how the use of portable lodges contributes to a uniquely northern narrative. Through the study of space, vernacular architecture, and household dynamics we will identify similarities and differences in the way that northerners interrelate with their landscape. Although the themes of home, hearth and household have been central themes both in the lives of northern people and in each of our separate disciplines, the 'state-of-these-arts' have well documented lacuna in each area. It is widely acknowledged that despite a century of state-sponsored surveys in the Arctic, that we have a poor understanding of the contemporary demographics of northern families (AHDR 2004). The study of homesites and of the hearths of northern aboriginal people has been one of the founding techniques in the history of archaeology, yet many scholars note that we have poor knowledge of the activity patterns and the architecture of these spaces (Kent 1984; Janes 1983; Oetelaar 2000). Finally, although the architecture of the conical skin lodge has become an almost a stereotypical symbol of northern peoples worldwide, craftspeople working with

recent revitalisation projects have noted that we know very little of the craftsmanship and broader social relationships embedded in these complex structures (Anderson in prep. Sirina 2002; Sokolova 1999).

This project aims to unite a team of northern scholars and craftsmen who have a demonstrated record in each of these three areas to create a set of resources that speak to the themes of Home, Hearth and Household internationally.

Project Leader:

Dr David Anderson, Univ. of Tromsø, Norway

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Dr Robert Wishart, University of Aberdeen (UK)

The HHH project website can be visited at www.sami.uit.no/boreas

Moved by the State: Perspectives on Relocation and Resettlement in the Circumpolar North (MOVE)

Migration and resettlement have always been core strategies of survival for peoples of the circumpolar north. In the past, seasonal and more permanent movements in the lives of northerners were usually responses to the local conditions upon which their subsistence lifeways were based. More recently, population movements have been more often imposed as a reflection of policy, reflecting market or state logics of a conspicuously *non-local* character. As the regions of the circumpolar north are more tightly integrated into the global economy, and the interests of state come to bear more heavily on the

organization of settlement in the north, the answer to the question of where people live in the north, or whether they live there at all, is increasingly out of local hands.

Within a common rubric of “state-sponsored resettlement”, this project (MOVE) will examine migration in a diversity of sites across the circumpolar north from a ground-up perspective in order to address questions of community sustainability, social fabric and senses of belonging. Bringing together an interdisciplinary team of anthropologists, demographers, historians and community-based researchers, MOVE will for the first time consider in a single research framework Russian/Soviet and Western modes of relocation, as well as indigenous and settler histories of migration.

Moved by the State is a research initiative comprised of five participating projects based in Canada (University of Alberta), Finland (University of Lapland), Denmark (University of Greenland), and the United States (University of Alaska Fairbanks & University of Maryland). Over a four-year project lifespan, field research involving teams of researchers and local collaborators will be conducted in Alaska, northern Canada, Greenland and regions of the Russian far North (Chukotka, Magadan, Yamal).

The MOVE project website can be visited at <http://www.alaska.edu/boreas/move/>

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New Religious Movements in the Russian North: Competing Uses of Religiosity after Socialism (NEWREL)

This 3-year social science and humanities research project comparatively investigates the religious landscape across the Russian North today in various cultural and historical contexts. NEWREL brings together 25 researchers from six countries in disciplines ranging from folklore and literature to cultural anthropology and linguistics. Nine principal investigators lead independent projects that are coordinated with one another through three collaborative workshops, the first of which was hosted by the Department of Ethnology at the University of Tartu, Estonia, in September 2006.

Rather than focusing on such visible phenomena as the resurgence of the Russian Orthodox Church and the revival of shamanism, NEWREL researchers shift attention to the interstices of institutionalized religion, studying what we call “in-between” religious phenomena. This includes evangelical protestant groups, new age spiritualities, “ekstra-sens” practitioners, and any other phenomena that our interlocutors may be engaged in. We do not think that shamanism is always practiced by indigenous peoples while Orthodoxy is always practiced by Russians; rather we interrogate what causes a sense of belonging in any religious practice. We are extremely sensitive to the mixed nature of communities in the Russian North, and to the fact that religious practices are similarly mixed.

Moreover, we specifically emphasize religious practices, since it is practices that best reveal the social relations that are of interest to us. We are also highly attuned to various discourses and the ways people represent their religion to themselves on an everyday basis, as well as to those outside their practice. The questions we are seeking to answer are not about religion alone – we are interested in the wider issues concerning lived experience in the context of social, economic, and political change, and how new cultural and social forms come about. We think religion is a fertile ground for investigating this.

The nine principal investigators are:
Tatiana Bulgakova, Professor, Herzen State Pedagogical University, St. Petersburg, Russia;
Patty Gray, Assistant Professor, and David Koester, Associate Professor, both of the

University of Alaska Fairbanks, U.S.A.; Art Leete, Professor, University of Tartu, Estonia; Alexander Panchenko, Leading Research Fellow, Institute of Russian Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg; Patrick Plattet, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland and University of Alaska Fairbanks; Sergei Shtyrkov, Lecturer, European University of St. Petersburg, Russia; Anna-Leena Siikala, Professor, University of Helsinki, Finland; and Virginie Vaté, Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany.

The NEWREL project website can be found at www.newrel.org

Northern Narratives: Social and Geographical Accounts from Norway, Iceland and Canada (NORSAGA)

The project NORSAGA is an international collaborative study which brings together a blend of social and natural science skills contributed by a team of researchers from the United States, Iceland, and Canada.

NORSAGA comprises three individual projects (IP) focused on four geographical areas of research: Iceland (IP2); Labrador/Nunatsiavut (IP3); Arctic Canada and Alaska, and Norway (IP1). The methods to be used for NORSAGA involve the study of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), as well as the documentation and analysis of social, geographical and environmental movements, using narratives primarily in the form of historical documentary records. The main time period to be covered will be the past \approx 300 years to the present. Data from the natural sciences, especially climate proxy data, will also be used in NORSAGA. The Labrador/Nunatsiavut component will include an analysis of tree-ring cellulose data. This will result in the highest resolution 300-year-record of proxy climate that has yet been produced for Labrador. This detailed record, together with proxy climate data for Iceland, will be compared with documentary and TEK data in order to enhance understanding of perceptions of boreal environmental changes and climate impacts over the last 300 years. Data from Arctic Canada and Alaska will be taken primarily from the writings of the explorer Vilhjálmur Stefánsson (1889-1962). For Norway, the TEK study will be

centered on the Vestre Slidre region of Valdres in the Oppland district. For this part of the project, data will also be drawn from farmers' diaries as well as other historical sources.

The primary objective of NORSAGA is to explore particular instances of changes in the past and present in order to document and understand the movements, narratives and histories of humans within their environmental context.

Project Leader:
Astrid E.J. Ogilvie, INSTAAR, University of Colorado, USA

Principal Investigators:
Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland
Níels Einarsson, Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland
William Patterson, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Associated Partners:
Peter Wadhams, DAMTP, Cambridge University.
Brian Hill, Institute for Ocean Technology, National Research Council Canada.
Gaston R. Demarée, Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium.
Jeffrey C. Rogers, The Ohio State University.

Social Change and the Environment in Northern Prehistory (SCENOP)

SCENOP will seek to identify cross-cultural regularities and differences in human responses to rapid environmental change in prehistory. By collecting and analyzing archaeological and paleo-environmental data from two widely separated but environmentally comparable circumpolar paleo-estuaries, the Yli-Ii area of Northern Finland and the Wemindji area of James Bay in Quebec, the project will provide information about how prehistoric groups created sustainable adaptive systems in response to the environmental challenges while developing historically unique sets of life-ways. The project will also shed light on the ways in which prehistoric populations consciously and unconsciously transformed and impacted their environments.

SCENOP's main goals are to determine 1) the extent to which specific localities in James Bay (Old Factory Lake paleo-estuary) and Northern

Finland (Yli-Ii paleo-estuary) were subject to similar or different trends of environmental change and 2) both the common and unique nature of social changes experienced by the populations of these localities as revealed by archaeological data. Elucidating these two problems will contribute to our understanding of the relationship between environmental change both local and global, and social change as well as the diversity of human adaptive responses to climate fluctuations.

The SCENOP team consists of researchers and graduate students from McGill University in Canada, Oulu University in Finland, and the University at Buffalo in the United States. Gail Chmura and her students (McGill) will perform paleo-environmental reconstruction for both regions of study. Jari Okkonen (Oulu) and Andre Costopoulos (McGill) and their students will gather and analyze archaeological data on prehistoric human adaptations in both regions. Ezra Zubrow and his students (Buffalo) will integrate the paleo-environmental and archaeological data into GIS models of both regions. Using the GIS model, the entire team will formulate and test hypotheses about the differences and similarities between the regions and their impact on social evolution trajectories.

Understanding Migration in the Circumpolar North (UMCN)

Migration involves long term social, cultural, and economic consequences for northern communities. The patterns of migration and the propensities to migrate differ by region, demographic groups, and in response to different policies. The goal of this project is to describe and understand the migration flows around the circumpolar north through interdisciplinary comparative research. Our ability to understand migration in the north is limited by data limitations and by the fact that most research on migration is disciplinary, country, or place specific.

The project will pursue two general tasks to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of migration in the circumpolar north. First, the project will provide information on the determinants and consequences of migration across multiple regions of the Arctic using a variety of data sources new to questions of

migration, including data from the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic. This task will be addressed in four separate individual projects examining migration patterns in Chukotka, Northern Sweden, Greenland, and Northern Canada. Migration data from these sources will be examined at the individual and community level. A related project extends this research to northern Alaska. Similar hypotheses and questions will be explored across the regions.

The second task will provide a synthesis of existing research on migration in the north. This will involve two workshops. The goal of the first workshop will be to identify what we know about migration in the north. Social scientists from all disciplines, who use different methodologies and study migration at different geographic scales, will be invited to present their work. Outcomes of this workshop will be a set of stylized facts about migration and a set of hypotheses about the causes and consequences of migration in the north. A series of international comparative papers that address these hypotheses will be written and presented for comment and discussion at IASSA meetings in Nuuk.

Project Leader:
Lee Huskey, University of Alaska Anchorage

Principal Investigators:
Matt Berman, University of Alaska Anchorage;
Chris Southcott, Lakehead University; Birger Poppel, University of Greenland; Olle Westerlund, Umea University.

Associates:
Stephanie Martin, University of Alaska Anchorage
Jack Hicks

The IPY Focus on Data, the IPY Data Policy, and Data Management within the Social Sciences: Invitation to a Necessary Discussion

By Birger Poppel

As researchers within the social sciences and humanities we all collect data, be it in the form of artifacts, myths or tales, qualitative interviews, questionnaires, public registers or archival or other kinds of information that we, using the methods of our disciplines, work up and analyze. Thus the difference to the natural sciences is not the use of “data” but merely the nature, the representation, the storage, the ways of sharing data – and related ethical questions.

Despite these differences, the planning of and the procedures established in connection to the IPY place the social sciences ‘in the same boat’ as the natural sciences. The Framework document on the International Polar Year 2007-08 states that: “The overarching objective of the IPY 2007-2008 data management is to ensure the security, accessibility and free exchange of relevant data that both support current research and a lasting legacy” (ICSU 2004: 19). and “IPY will leave a legacy of observing sites, facilities and networks, as well as individual data and data systems to support ongoing polar research and monitoring” (ICSU 2004: p.10).

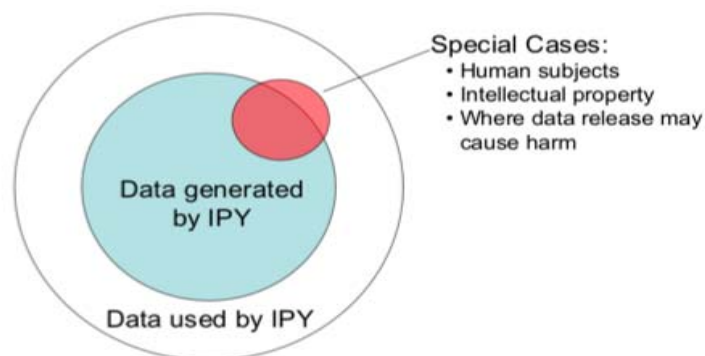
To support the International Polar Year priority given to data management and the preservation of data for future generations all IPY project proposers had to tick a box confirming that they would obey the IPY data policy (which was then yet to be developed). The Joint Committee of the International Polar Office mandated the IPY data subcommittee 1) to prepare an *International Year Polar 2007-2008 Data Policy*. The data policy was launched in May 2006 and the PI’s of the 227 IPY endorsed projects were asked to fill out an IPYDIS 2) *Data Registration* form “To ensure the

preservation of and broad, interdisciplinary, and non- expert access to IPY and related data, the IPY Data Policy and Management Subcommittee is charged with developing an overall data management strategy. To develop this strategy, including the general organizational data flow structure, we request the following information from IPY Project coordinators ” (Introduction to Data Registration form 3)).

Most social scientists doing research in Arctic communities must abide by some ethical research code including principles for “management of data”. Despite this situation more general questions related to data management (collecting, storing, preservation and dissemination of data) are rarely discussed among researchers from the social sciences. This might be part of the reason why very few project leaders from what in the IPY terminology is classified as “Projects about Peoples” completed the data form. To be able to contribute to the discussions on IPY data policy in the IPY Data Subcommittee and more qualified present the broad spectre of data use and management within the social science and humanities I hope that the following outline of the IPY Data Policy will result in comments, clarifications and proposals.

The IPY Data Policy document in brief

The Data Policy document defines IPY data as *those data generated during the IPY timeframe (March 2007 – March 2009) by the specific projects endorsed by the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee as IPY projects.* (IPY 2007-2008 Data Policy: p. 2)



The definition including ‘special cases’ is illustrated above. The exceptions to the principle of full, free, and open access for IPY data are:

- where human subjects are involved, confidentiality must be protected
- where local and traditional knowledge is concerned, rights of the knowledge holders shall not be compromised
- where data release may cause harm, specific aspects of the data may need to be kept protected (for example, locations of nests of endangered birds or locations of sacred sites). (IPY 2007-2008 Data Policy: 3)

It is furthermore emphasized that “all IPY participants will respect and safeguard local and traditional knowledge and all related tangible and intangible cultural heritage of polar communities.” (IPY 2007-2008 Data Policy: 1)

No matter whether data are covered by the general principles or not, all IPY data “must be accompanied by a full set of metadata that completely document and describe the data”. And it is stressed that “all information necessary for data to be independently understood by users and to ensure proper stewardship of the data.” (IPY 2007-2008 Data Policy: 3)

On preservation the Data Policy stresses the need for archiving IPY data “in their simplest, useful form and be accompanied by a complete metadata description.”

Many researchers – and not just social scientists – regard the data they collect an important part of their fund for further research and therefore do not necessarily wish to share them with the rest of the research community and e.g. the indigenous peoples participating in the research. This attitude is most likely based on, among other things, the fact that researchers seldom are fully credited for creating collections of “data”, datasets etc. until papers presenting the “data” were published. This insight has led to a paragraph on ‘data acknowledgement’ especially focussing on this

complex of problems: “To recognize the valuable role of data providers (and scientists who collect or prepare important data) and to facilitate repeatability of IPY experiments in keeping with the scientific method, users of IPY data must formally acknowledge data authors (contributors) and sources” (IPY 2007-2008 Data Policy: 4).

In my opinion the discussion has perspectives beyond IPY projects and the International Polar Year (see for instance the BOREAS article by Piers Vitebsky and Rüdiger Klein in this issue) and is related to other ethical research questions. Thus, everyone is encouraged to contribute to the discussion on how we improve cooperation with respect to data management – including data sharing and data archiving in formats appropriate for future generations of researchers and for other stakeholders and interested parties to apply.

- 1) I was nominated to this working group by IASSA.
- 2) IPYDIS, International Polar Year Data Information centre is established to facilitate data management of the IPY projects and communication between projects and e.g. data centres to help projects identify appropriate long-term archives and data centers.
- 3) http://nsidc.org/forms/ipy_data_registration.html.

Birger Poppel, IASSA Vice-president and member of IPY Data Subcommittee
bipo@ilisimatusarfik.gl

ICSU (International Council for Science). 2004. *A Framework for the International Polar Year 2007-2008* produced by the ICSU IPY 2007-2008 Planning Group.
Available at <http://www.ipy.org>

The IPY Data Policy and Management Subcommittee. 2006. *International Polar Year 2007-2008 Data Policy*. Available at http://www.ipy.org/Subcommittees/final_ipy_data_policy.pdf

News from Members

Arctic Books Sweep the Board at the Victor Turner Prize

The Victor Turner Prize for ethnographic writing for 2006 has been won by two Arctic anthropologists.

First Prize went to Julie Cruikshank, of the University of British Columbia, for "Do glaciers listen? Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters, and Social Imagination".

Honorable mention went to Piers Vitebsky, of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, for "The reindeer people: living with animals and spirits in Siberia", which also won the Kiriyaama Prize for Non-Fiction earlier this year.

The awards were presented in November at the annual convention of the American Anthropological Association in San Jose, California.

According to the chair of the judges, the committee had no special interest in making the award to books about cold climates, but these books were, "simply put, the two best ethnographic publications to appear in 2005."

Dr Piers Vitebsky, Head of Anthropology and Russian Northern Studies, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, UK

1.75 million CAD to Support Research of the Northern Social Economy Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada has provided \$1.75 million dollars over five years for a Northern research network that will connect University, College and Community researchers with the not-for-profit organizations that make up the social economy in Northern Canada. This is the largest research grant to be awarded for social science research in the Canadian North.

Dr. Chris Southcott, a Professor of Sociology at Lakehead University is the principal investigator and research director for the network. He will oversee the research activities of the program. Dr. Southcott will be assisted by three co-directors: Dr.

Frances Abele of Carleton University, Dr. Heather Myers of the University of Northern British Columbia, and Dr. David Natcher of Memorial University. These activities will be coordinated and administered through Yukon College in cooperation with Nunavut Arctic College in Nunavut and Aurora College in the Northwest Territories. This structure provides for greater northern involvement, contacts and research direction. Dr. Abele of Carleton University notes that "one of the wonderful aspects of this project is that it originated in the north, on the initiative of northern research institutes and scholars, and it will be completed by northerners and southerners working together."

Other researchers currently involved in the network are located at Université Laval, the Université de Québec à Montréal, the Université de Québec à Chicoutimi, Lakehead University, the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Alberta, the University of Northern British Columbia, the University of Victoria, Yukon College, Aurora College, and Nunavut Arctic College.

The Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada (SERNNNoCa) will conduct research that is relevant and useful to communities currently facing substantial social and economic challenges. The term 'social economy' covers the economies of a range of organizations which are in neither government nor the private for-profit sector. It includes the traditional relationships in aboriginal communities, volunteer organizations, cooperatives, community groups, non-governmental organizations, non-profit groups, and charities.

The research conducted as part of SERNNNoCa will focus on four main areas: profiling the social economy in northern Canada; Indigenous communities and the social economy; resource regimes and the social economy in the north; and the state and the social economy in the north. More details are available at www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/nri/sernnoca

"The communities in Canada's North are facing substantial challenges," Dr. Southcott says. "This Network aims to help these communities with research findings that are relevant to their social economy, and will help them deal with changes in

their economy. There is not much information about this sector of the Canadian economy so this research will provide timely and relevant information."

Key Partners:

- Northern Research Institute
Dr. Valoree Walker
SERNNNoCa Program Coordinator
- Aurora Research Institute
Andrew Applejohn, Director
Karen Heikkila, NWT SERNNNoCa Coordinator
- Nunavut Arctic College
Mary Ellen Thomas, Executive Director
Jennifer Wilman, Nunavut SERNNNoCa Coordinator
Nunavut Research Institute
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
Dr. David Natcher
- Carleton University
Dr. Frances Abele
- Lakehead University
Dr. Chris Southcott
Research Director
- University of Northern British Columbia
Dr. Heather Myers
- Canadian Social Economy Hub
Annie McKitrick, Project Officer

Dr. Valoree Walker, SERNNNoCA Program Coordinator, Northern Research Institute, Yukon College, Canada

Maternity Clinic in PUV Celebrates 20 Years

October 2006 marked the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the maternity clinic at Inuulitsivik Hospital in Puvirnituk, Nunavik. As you may know, this is where some of the Nunavik Inuit midwives practice and receive their training. Two other maternities have also developed since then, one in Inukjuak and one in Salluit.

On behalf of the National Aboriginal Health Organization and its Ajunnginiq (Inuit) Centre, please join us in extending our warmest congratulations to all those who have helped through the years to bring about this tremendous success story! A whole generation has witnessed

the benefits of the work you have all done. May the future be even brighter!

Catherine Carry, Research Officer
Ajunnginiq (Inuit) Centre, National Aboriginal Health Organization, Ottawa, Canada

Circumpolar Women's Health Working Group

Discussions are underway between the Ajunnginiq (Inuit) Centre at NAHO, contacts in Alaska and others to hold a working group meeting on women's health in Banff in April 2007. This international working group was reactivated at the 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health held in June 2006 in Russia. The proposed meeting would be in conjunction with other circumpolar health meetings that are planned at the same time in Banff.

The women's health meeting plans to focus on four themes: Human Papillomavirus (HPV), violence prevention, literacy and health and midwifery. In addition to sharing information and discussing potential research collaborations, we will begin the planning of the themes for a women's health stream at the International Congress on Circumpolar Health to be held in Yellowknife in 2009. We are interested in receiving ideas for obtaining funding to bring several Aboriginal women from around Canada to Banff to participate in these discussions. If you have expertise in these areas, are Aboriginal and would have your own funding to attend or ideas about where to obtain funds for this activity, please email inuitmidwifery@naho.ca or call 1-613-760-3515 for Catherine Carry.

Catherine Carry, Research Officer
Ajunnginiq (Inuit) Centre, National Aboriginal Health Organization, Ottawa, Canada

Conferences and Meetings

January 21-26 2007

Arctic Frontiers
Tromsø, Norway

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

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

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

For further information, please go to:
<http://www.arctic-frontiers.com>

February 21-24, 2007

Remote Regions/Northern Development
Sessions
Western Regional Science Association 46th
Annual Meeting
Newport Beach, California

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

The WRSA meeting includes a series of remote regions/northern development sessions to accommodate social scientists who have a special interest in research on economic, social, political,

and cultural issues in remote, sparsely settled regions in the circumpolar north and elsewhere. In the past, researchers from Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, Micronesia, Israel, Russia, and the coterminous United States have presented papers.

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

or by contacting

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

March 14-20, 2007

Arctic Science Summit Week 2007
Hanover, New Hampshire, USA

Dartmouth College and CRREL welcome you to the 2007 Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). The United States is pleased to serve as the host country to ASSW from March 14-20, 2007 in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA.

ASSW 2007 is hosted by both the Institute of Arctic Studies, within the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College, and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab (CRREL).

The ASSW is a collaborative effort between:
International Arctic Sciences Committee IASC
Arctic Ocean Sciences Board AOSB
European Polar Board EPB
Pacific Arctic Group PAG
Forum of Arctic Research Operators FARO

The purpose of the summit is to provide opportunities for coordination, collaboration and cooperation in all areas of Arctic science, and to combine science and management meetings to save on travel and time. The ASSW also offers insight into Arctic research undertaken by the host country. There are also side meetings organized

by other groups with interests in Arctic science and policy. Previous ASSW meetings have been held in Potsdam (Germany), Tromso (Norway), Cambridge (UK), Iqaluit (Canada), Groningen (Netherlands) and Kiruna (Sweden), Reykjavik (Iceland), and Kunming (China).

ASSW 2007 falls at the beginning of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008. The Hanover meeting is a kickoff event for the U.S. and international involvement in IPY.

Kenneth Yalowitz, Ambassador (ret.)
Director, Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College
Ross Virginia, Director, Institute of Arctic Studies, Dartmouth College
Mary Albert, US Army ERDC Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab (CRREL)

For further information visit www.assw2007.org

July 19-22, 2007

Northern Europe and its
Indigenous minority:
pointers for Australia?
UNSW, Sydney, Australia

When the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) was formed in 1975, the Sami of Northern Europe were among its founding members. Since then, they have been at the forefront of the movement for Indigenous rights on the global stage, where the leaders of the Sami can be found side by side with the representatives of such peoples as Native Americans, Inuit, Maori, and Aboriginal Australians. Although Europeans, the Sami have through their history shared much of the experience of Indigenous peoples from other continents: colonisation, pressures for cultural and linguistic assimilation, loss of traditional land rights, political and economic marginalisation. The “Sami revival” of recent decades, however, has done much to improve matters: in Norway, Sweden, and Finland, the Sami now have their own elected parliaments. Sami-language media and education are flourishing. In 1997, the Norwegian King apologised to the Sami for “injustices committed in the past against the Sami people by the Norwegian state”. Today, the Nordic countries (and especially Norway) are often held up as examples to the rest of the world in their policy towards their Indigenous minorities. Yet problems remain. Above all, there is the question of rights to

the land, water, and other natural resources – all hotly contested issues between national governments and Indigenous movements. The three Sami parliaments have little more than advisory powers, and although the Sami see themselves as one people, with one homeland (Sápmi), they remain divided by the frontiers of four different states (the three Nordic states and Russia) which have very different approaches to the question of Indigenous rights. The Sami revival, and the responses to it of the North European states (as well as that of the European Union, of which Sweden and Finland are members while Norway and Russia are not), is of obvious interest to Australians grappling with similar issues in the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. Not, of course, in the sense of “lessons” which could simply be transferred from Northern Europe to the very different situation here but as pointers to possible alternative approaches.

The conference will be an opportunity to discuss in depth various key aspects of the Sami experience and the Indigenous politics in Northern Europe, as presented by Sami and non-Sami academics, activists, and politicians from the region (hopefully from Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia). Australian speakers, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, will also be invited to respond and to facilitate comparisons with Australia.

Key themes of the conference

-Assimilationism, cultural identity, and cultural revival
The policy of “Norwegianisation” (and its equivalents in other Nordic countries) and its effects on the cultural and political identity of the Sami.
The revival of Sami culture and the expansion of Sami education and media.

-Cultural identity and socio-economic development
Cultural identity must have a socio-economic base to survive in the long run: given that only a minority of Sami are still engaged in the iconic activity of reindeer herding, what about agriculture, fishing, and industry?
Can there be a secure future without ownership of the resources?

-Grassroots activism and political representation
A key factor in the “Sami revival” in Norway was the campaign of civil disobedience around the

construction of the Alta dam in the 1970s, which preceded the Sami Act and the establishment of a Sami parliament. Sami politics from the top to the bottom.

-Majorities and minorities

The Sami are a minority in four different nation states, and every political advance is therefore conditional on coalitions and alliances with other forces. What developments outside the Sami movement itself have been favourable towards the Sami revival? The Sami movement and the mainstream political parties.

Call for papers

Proposals are invited for papers on any topic relevant to the theme of the conference. Please submit only, for now, a title and brief synopsis (of around 100 words), along with some biographical details, by email/attachment to g.minnerup@unsw.edu.au. At this stage, it is envisaged that all sessions of the conference will be plenary sessions – i.e. no parallel sessions – and although that may change if a very large number of high quality proposals is received, that means that the number of papers will be limited and it is therefore advisable to submit proposals early. The intention is for conference papers to be given ample time both for presentation and discussion – no “sound bite papers” – which is another reason

why the overall number of papers is likely to be limited.

Further information

The conference has a budget sufficient to ensure that it takes place, but it is hoped that financial support from other parties will enable us to keep down registration costs for participants and to bring to Sydney as many speakers from the Nordic countries as possible. We therefore appeal to interested organisations and institutions for offers of such support, and to prospective participants to explore means of having their travel to Sydney subsidised by their academic institutions or other organisations wherever possible. Detailed registration instructions will be published on the Conference website at www.arts.unsw.edu.au/CES/events.html which will go “live” after 1 January 2007. Until then, regular news and updated versions of this document will be emailed to everyone on the conference mailing list.

To be included on that list, and for any further information, please email

g.minnerup@unsw.edu.au or write to Günter Minnerup, Director, Centre for European Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia.

New Books, Dissertations & Film

Books

Arctic Oil and Gas Development, Indigenous Affairs 2&3/06

Edited by Mark Nuttall and Kathrin Wessendorf
IWGIA, Copenhagen, 2006

The publication can be ordered through iwgia@iwgia.org and will be available on our website (www.iwgia.org) shortly.

This thematic issue of *Indigenous Affairs* examines some of the major oil and gas development projects that affect the lives and lands of indigenous peoples throughout the Circumpolar North, highlighting indigenous perspectives and

concerns over such development. The contributors explore the processes of decision-making, social impact assessment and environmental review assessments in the face of proposals to build pipelines across Russia, Alaska, and Canada’s Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, consider indigenous livelihood rights and oil development in northern Alberta; and examine the political and social mood over oil exploration in Greenland. While local experiences and responses to oil and gas development may not be universal, the contributors seek to understand how communities differ in their experiences, and what

common perspectives, understandings and experiences they may share.

Contents:

1. Editorial - Mark Nuttall and Kathrin Wessendorf
2. Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Debate – Mark Nuttall
3. Yukon First Nations and the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline – David Roddick
4. The Mackenzie Gas Project: Aboriginal Interests, the Environment and Northern Canada's Energy Frontier – Mark Nuttall
5. Assessing the Impacts of Oilsands Development on Indigenous Peoples in Alberta – Clint Westman
6. Oil Exploration in Greenland – Rasmus Ole Rasmussen
7. Oil and Gas Development in Western Siberia and Timan-Pechora – Florian Stammer and Bruce Forbes
8. Oil Pipeline Development and Indigenous Rights in Eastern Siberia – Gail Fondahl and Anna Sirina
9. Evenks of Chitinskaya Province: Society and Economy (Still) in Transition – Olga Povoroznyuk

For more information, visit the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs website, www.iwgia.org (go to Indigenous Issues / Thematic Focus for more information on oil and gas development.)

***Cows, Kin and Globalization:
An Ethnography of Sustainability***

By Susan A. Crate

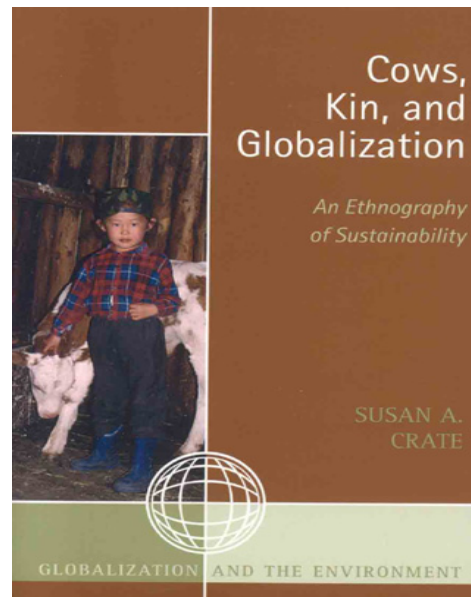
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Author contact: scrate1@gmu.edu

Crate presents the first cultural ecological study of a Siberian people: the Viliui Sakha, contemporary horse and cattle agropastoralists in north eastern Siberia. The author links the local and global economic forces, and provides an intimate view of how a seemingly remote and isolated community is directly affected by the forces of modernization and globalization.



She details the severe environmental and historical factors that continue to challenge their survival, and shows how the multi-million dollar diamond industry, in part run by ethnic Sakha, raises issues of ethnic solidarity and indigenous rights as well as environmental impact. Her new book addresses key topics of interest to both economic and environmental anthropology, and to practitioners interested in sustainable rural development, globalization, indigenous rights in Eurasia, and post-Soviet and environmental issues.

*Through her eloquent description of the personal, daily choices of contemporary Viliui Sakha, Crate steers us toward the conclusion that truly sustainable development both enlarges the range of local people's choices to make development more democratic and participatory and incorporate[s] an in-depth knowledge of local ecosystems and cultures. Hers is a cogent, necessary case study for anyone interested in issues of indigenous peoples, adaptation, and sustainability seen through the lens of ethnographic inquiry. –Ellen Bielawski, author of *Rogue Diamonds: The Rush for Northern Riches on Dene Land* and dean of the Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton*

Cows, Kin, and Globalization is three books in one: a vivid description of the Sakha people of Siberia, a comparative review of the impact of high-value mining on indigenous cultures, and a thoughtful exploration of the possibilities and perils of reconciling diamond mining and local populations. Because it brings these topics together, it is ideally suited for students and

scholars in environmental studies, geography, and anthropology. – Josiah Heyman, University of Texas at El Paso

Through this innovative multi-sited ethnography of complex local and global indigenous sustainability, we see how under diamond mining the Viliui Sakha were transformed from their pre-Soviet subsistence strategies into the Soviet working class then to a post-Soviet household production system founded upon having and knowing land. The Viliui Sakha re-emerged as victors of sustainability. This is a perceptive ethnography of sustainability that passionately advances indigenous peoples rights to socioecological equity, cultural survival, and political devolution.

- David Hyndman, author of *Ancestral Rain Forests and the Mountain of Gold: Indigenous Peoples and Mining in New Guinea*

In this richly detailed work, Susan Crate offers a new take on an old form. Her ethnography of the Viliui Sakha captures the complex dimensions of daily life for one native people of contemporary Russia. This work, situated within a cultural, ecological, historical, and comparative framework, presents the how and why of human adaptation. In short, this is a multifaceted jewel of a work. - Barbara Rose Johnston, Center for Political Ecology, Santa Cruz, California

About the author

Susan A. Crate is a writer and scholar who conducts research in cultural and political ecology, environmental policy, sustainable community development, and global climate change in Siberia, Russia, and the circumpolar North. She is assistant professor of human ecology at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Greenland in the Global Society: Development and Change of Norms and Practices

Edited by Hanne Petersen

Atuagkat Publishing/Ilisimatusarfik, Nuuk, 2006
283 pages, ISBN: 87-90133-59-5

DKK 228 at the Atuagkat Bookstore, PO Box 1009, DK-3900 Nuuk, Phone +299 321727 Fax +299 322444 E-mail mail@atuagkat.gl or at www.atuagkat.com

This publication is in Danish

This book contributes to a mapping of the process of redefining a relationship with and a place in the global society that the Greenlandic society has gone through during recent decades.

The articles in this anthology show how Greenland and its population in different ways during the last quarter of a century of rapid change has been in the process of finding a place in a global society which is also changing. The book shows how it with considerable practical and pragmatic effort and with great success has been managed to “*put Greenland on the Map of the World*” as phrased in several of the articles.

Contents:

- Greenland on the Map of the World – introduction and summaries of the articles - Hanne Petersen

Challenges and Thoughts about the Future:

- Safety and Security in Greenland - Aqqaluk Lyngø
- Greenlandic Challenges - in a Globalized World - Johan Lund Olsen
- Greenland's Position and the Home Rule Government's role in the Global Economy - Niels Tanderup Kristensen
- Greenlandic Foreign Policy in Relation to the Danish Realm and the Global Society - Josef Motzfeldt
- From Research in Greenland to Greenlandic Research - Henriette Rasmussen
- Male Violence Against Women in a Nordic and Arctic Perspective - Mariekathrine Poppel
- Faith and Outlook - Finn Lyngø

Practical Experiences:

- Home Rule and Foreign Policy – Jonathan Motzfeldt
- Greenlandic Diplomacy in Bruxelles – Lars Vesterbirk
- Greenland in Nordic Cooperation 1984-2004 – Jørgen S. Søndergaard
- Greenland's West Nordic Platform – Kaspar Lyttthans
- Why the Arctic Council? A Greenlandic Perspective – Marianne Lykke Thomsen
- From the Study of International Jurisdiction on Oil to the Practice in the Administration of Jurisdiction on Oil – Lida Skifte Lennert

Theoretical and Methodical Reflections:

- World Citizen in Greenland – Peter Kemp

- Greenland as a Co-Actor in the Creation of Global Law – Perspectives of the Sociology of Law – Hanne Petersen
- The Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA – A Comparative and Transnational Project – Birger Poppel
- Poem about Saami Rights by Ande Somby

***Social Life in Northwest Alaska:
The Structure of Iñupiaq Eskimo Nations***

By Ernest S. Burch Jr.

University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 2006

7 x 10, 496 pages, maps, b & w illustrations, bibliography, index

ISBN 1-889963-78-X (cloth)

US \$65.00

www.uaf.edu/uapress



This is another tour de force in Burch's life-long effort to recreate the social systems and lifestyles of Native Alaskans of the early nineteenth century. It places the Iñupiaq people on the map as one of the best documented indigenous peoples of the North. This monumental volume will become the premier source on 'the old days' for Native Alaskans and for anyone interested in Iñupiaq lifeways and culture for decades to come. —Igor Krupnik (Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution)

Burch's command of nineteenth-century Inupiaq history is unparalleled. His comprehensive masterpiece answers questions lesser scholars have never thought to ask. —Ann Fienup-Riordan (author of Eskimo Essays and The Living Tradition of Yup'ik Masks)

Burch has produced a work of historical ethnography unmatched in its clarity and attention to detail. Essential reading for anyone interested in Eskimos, hunting peoples, or the history of Alaska.

—Daniel Odess (Curator of Archaeology, University of Alaska Museum)

This landmark volume will stand for decades as one of the most comprehensive studies of a hunter-gatherer population ever written. In this third and final volume in a series on the early contact period Iñupiaq Eskimos of northwestern Alaska, Burch examines every topic of significance to hunter-gatherer research, ranging from discussions of social relationships and settlement structure to nineteenth-century material culture.

Ernest S. Burch, Jr., is a historical ethnographer specializing in the study of northern peoples, especially those of north western Alaska and the central Canadian Subarctic. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and has published extensively on the Iñupiat, the Caribou Inuit, kinship, and hunter-gatherer social organization. His recent books include *The Iñupiaq Eskimo Nations of Northwest Alaska* (University of Alaska Press 1998) and *Alliance and Conflict: The World System of the Iñupiaq Eskimos* (2005). He is currently a research associate of the Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution.

The Peoples of Lapland: Boundary Demarcations and Interaction in the North Calotte from 1808 to 1889

By Maria Lähteenmäki

Translated by Gerald McAlester

Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Helsinki 2006

328 pp

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The North Calotte, which comprises Finnish Lapland, northern Sweden, northern Norway and the Kola Peninsula in Russia, has a history which is fascinating in many respects. The nineteenth century saw the closure of frontiers in the multicultural peripheral regions of northern Europe as well. This study analyses the demarcations of physical and cultural borders that were made in the area and the networks of interaction that existed there. In particular, ethnic relations within the

population constituted a source of tension in the history of region. The work demonstrates that the frequently used dichotomy “pioneer settlers vs Saamis” employs scientifically incommensurable terms: “pioneer settler” refers to an occupational group, “Saami” to an ethnic one. The writer also questions the claim that the authorities deliberately oppressed the Saami as an ethnic group in the nineteenth century. There was political and ethnic oppression, but it would seem to have been directed primarily at the nomadic reindeer-herding Saamis, not all the Saamis.

Unlike earlier scholars, the author examines the northern frontier region as a whole rather than from the point of view of any single nation.

Dissertations

Reconceptualizing Sovereignty through Indigenous Autonomy: A Case Study of Arctic Governance and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference

By Jessica Shadian

Ph.D., University of Delaware

Department of Political Science and International Relations

Degree Awarded August 2006

For further information please contact Jessica Shadian at shadyj11@yahoo.com

This dissertation focuses on the role of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference as a case study for the ways in which non-state actors are changing previous conceptions of sovereignty in the study of international relations. Contemporary political circumstances have created a new theoretical debate over the ongoing importance of states and how much primacy should be given to non-state actors. This dissertation focuses on the historical making of Inuit political identity: the construction of the modern Arctic Inuit myth. The cut this dissertation takes into this process is via Arctic colonization namely, Inuit colonization in Greenland, Alaska and Canada. It focuses on a historical narrative of the colonization of the Arctic Inuit as a process which emerged in relation to the making of the Westphalian system. Over time this narrative created a sedimented belief in a shared history of the international system which assumed an ahistorical essence: a belief that it has always been that way. Through the expansion of the state system the state became the central means of

authority. It was incidentally that sovereignty became an assumed prerogative of the state and territory became the official parameters wherein states delineated authority. Through this historical progression the Inuit in the Arctic grew to become regarded as a codified group of indigenous peoples distinctly separate from the state and its accompanying national narrative. Therefore, much of what came to be defined as ‘indigenous’ was a narrative largely written as part of European and American nation-building.

Drawing on ICC policy, speeches, archival journals and interviews this dissertation focuses on the conditions upon which the ICC came to fruition set alongside shifting international laws and norms from three particular levels of analysis: the domestic, Arctic regional and the international. Preceding and throughout colonization, Inuit conceptions of a “stewardship” approach to Arctic land and resources functioned as the basic justification for European expansion and for undermining any existing Inuit self-determination. Since this time, the idea of Inuit stewardship has been reinvented and forged into Arctic policy discourse. Rather than stewardship serving as the means to dismantle or override Inuit autonomy, it has become the means by which Inuit leaders have justified their claims for self-determination and the right to be included in the processes of Arctic development and policy-making.

Through a historical chronology of significant declarations which came to incorporate indigenous rights directly into international human rights, this dissertation offers a narrative which evokes not only a story of how indigenous peoples were brought into the international system but, moreover, a story of the ways in which the traditional indigenous conception of stewardship (as realized through Inuit land claims settlements) and indigenous rights have melded with an emerging discourse of sustainable development and became legitimized through a parallel evolution of international human rights law. Taking as a point of departure the realities and/or myth of the Westphalian system and its accompanying assumptions that political identities are static as well as embedded in the state, this case study brings to question the ongoing assumptions of Westphalian sovereignty by exposing a shift from sovereignty based on territory to sovereignty based on symbolic meaning; what it means to be Inuit (of which territory is but only one aspect). This dissertation argues that the ‘Inuit’ indeed

possess a degree of sovereignty which is exercised not through their ability to achieve statehood or by being an NGO, transnational advocacy network or intergovernmental institution, but through the legitimacy of the Inuit myth as a legitimate political discourse in global politics. As such this dissertation provides a needed case study into recent IR theory debates grappling with the constitutive relationship between non-state institutions and making of global agendas.

Films

Scenes of Daily Life Among the Evens of Yakutia.

Middle Kolyma, 2000

A film by Joëlle Robert-Lamblin: 29'. CNRS 2006.

DV Video film - Editing and Computer Graphics: M.-F.Deligne CETSAAH-CNRS. Distribution: CNRS Images, 1 Place Aristide Briand, 92190 Meudon. Fax: (33) 1 45 07 58 60.

This film was shot in the autumn of 2000, north of the Arctic Circle, in the Middle Kolyma Region in eastern Yakutia. It is part of the research program on the changes affecting indigenous societies in the Siberian Arctic.

The Evens living in the valley of the Berezovka River make up an ethnic, cultural and economic enclave within Yakut territory. Their life revolves around reindeer herding and hunting, and they speak a language of the Manchu-Tungus family. These Evens of the Middle Kolyma resisted Soviet collectivisation and sedentarisation for longer than other Siberian reindeer herding minorities. Today, with reindeer herding in major crisis, the elders of the community try hard to preserve their identity (language and know-how such as traditional cooking, clothing and culture in general) in the midst of a multi-ethnic society. The sequences were filmed in the indigenous Even village of Berezovka; in the regional centre of Srednekolymsk; in the Yakut village of Nalimsk and in Yakutsk, the capital of the Sakha/Yakutia Republic.

Keywords: Siberia, Yakutia/Sakha Republic, Middle Kolyma, Evens of Berëzovka, Reindeer

culture, Even traditions, Yakuts of Nalimsk, Sedentarisation, Change.

The film can be viewed completely with Real Player on the web site :

http://video.rap.prd.fr/video/cnrs/cetsah/Evens_of_Yakoutia_Large.rm

Scenes of Daily Life Among the Evens of Kamchatka

Bystrinski Region, 2004

A film by Joëlle Robert-Lamblin: 33'. CNRS 2006.

DV Video film - Editing and Computer graphics: M.-F.Deligne CETSAAH-CNRS. Distribution: CNRS Images, 1 Place Aristide Briand, FR 92190 Meudon Fax: (33) 1 45 07 58 60.

This video was filmed in the central region of the Kamchatka peninsula in the autumn of 2004, during a multi-disciplinary research program on "the Reindeer System: biological and cultural adaptations". The aim of this field expedition was to study the activities and ways of life of the Even reindeer herders of Kamchatka, whose livelihood is now dependent on a changed and threatened environment.

The film shows aspects of contemporary life among this ethnic minority, whose members first arrived in central Kamchatka in the second half of the 19th century, and illustrates the profound changes that have occurred in Even lifestyles. Since the early 1990s, when reindeer herding went into a steep decline with the fall of the Soviet Union, it has concerned only a tiny fraction of the region's indigenous population. The film was shot in different locations: the camp of the nomadic Even herders who manage one of the Esso reindeer herds, during a corralling operation; in the small regional capital of Esso; in the native village of Anavgai, and finally in Bystrya, an old village that was shut down by the authorities in 1974.

Keywords: Siberia, Kamchatka, Evens of Bystrinski, Reindeer herding, Nomadism, Sedentarisation, Social change.

The film can be viewed completely with Real Player on the web site:

http://video.rap.prd.fr/video/cnrs/cetsah/Evens_of_Kamchatka_Large.rm

On the Web

The Inuit through Moravian Eyes

A new collaborative website, The Inuit Through Moravian Eyes, documents the history of the Moravian presence in coastal Labrador.

The website, a joint project among the Libraries of the University of Toronto, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Laval Université, was made possible in part through the Canadian Culture Online program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. The site documents the history of the Moravian missionary settlements and highlights the interaction between the congregation and the Inuit of coastal Labrador.

Moravian missionaries had their origin in ancient Bohemia and Moravia in what is the present-day Czech Republic, arriving in North America early in the eighteenth century.

The website includes digital reproductions of about 6,000 pages of textual material and 1,000 photographs related to the missions in Labrador. The site also includes rare manuscript maps of northern Labrador and drawings, plans and paintings of the missionary settlements. It also provides access to approximately one hour of audio and video recordings of Moravian choral and brass band music.

The collection is accompanied by bilingual metadata which facilitates the discovery and retrieval of information. Users are able to search and browse through the digital collection. It is also full text searchable, allowing users complete access to the collection of archival and print material.

The richness of the Moravian-Inuit records lends itself to the creation of a wide variety of interactive and supplementary learning materials. The website includes materials such as essays, timelines and other ancillary materials related to life on coastal Labrador.

To aid Canada's student population, learning plans and other interactive materials have been created to promote experiential learning. While the overall goal of this project is to create a freely accessible

resource where all Canadians can explore their cultural heritage, the new and exciting learning opportunities that flow naturally from such a venture is an added benefit.

The Inuit Through Moravian Eyes website is available at <http://link.library.utoronto.ca/inuitmoravian/>

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Bibliographies online

Dear IASSA-miut,

A brief note to let you know that I have made a number of bibliographies available on-line at my humble website, www.jackhicks.com :

- Greenland (1,407 references, 178 pages, last updated November 2006) -- 1.3 meg .pdf file.
- articles appearing in vols. 1-29 of the journal *Études/Inuit/Studies* (80 pages) -- 600K .pdf file.
- 'Arctic social sciences' theses and dissertations (1,186 references, 358 pages, last updated October 2006) -- 2.7 meg .pdf file.
- Theses and dissertations on indigenous peoples outside the Arctic (962 references, 360 pages, last updated November 2006) -- 2.9 meg .pdf file.
- Coming soon: Nunavut.

These bibliographies are very much works in progress. Notification of omissions (and of typos and other errors) would be oh-so-greatly appreciated! The abstracts are those prepared by the authors. The spellings of some words have been standardized to facilitate searching by keyword.

Best regards,

Jack Hicks

jack@jackhicks.com

On IASSA

New membership fees!

January 2007 will see the introduction of a new membership fee structure. One new feature is the introduction of a new student fee at a reduced rate. The other change in the fee system is the introduction of geographically determined fees in a 2-area system. The new fee structure will be announced on IASSA.Net and on www.iassa.gl upon the launch and will be effective in time for the annual renewal drive in January.

All expired members will receive an expiry notification by e-mail in January and this will also include an introduction to the new fees.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Inge Seiding,
IASSA Secretary

