

# Northern Notes

The Newsletter of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association

Issue 33 • 2010



University of Alaska Fairbanks campus as it looked like during the days IASSA was established in late August 1990  
From an unmarked postcard in Igor Krupnik's personal collection (1990)

## **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

### **The Beginnings of Arctic Social Sciences: Reconstructing the Genealogy of IASSA**



Special issue celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IASSA (1990–2010)  
and honoring Ernest S. Burch, Jr. (1938–2010)

Edited by Igor Krupnik and Ludger Müller-Wille

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

### The Beginnings of Arctic Social Sciences: Reconstructing the Genealogy of IASSA

Special issue celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IASSA (1990–2010)  
and honoring Ernest S. Burch, Jr. (1938–2010)

Edited by Igor Krupnik and Ludger Müller-Wille

#### Table of Contents

Igor Krupnik and Ludger Müller-Wille Reconstructing the Genealogy of IASSA - Preface by the Guest Editors	3
Joan Nymand Larsen From the President: Special Issue of the NoNo Newsletter on the Occasion of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IASSA	4
Igor Krupnik Ernest S. Burch, Jr. (1938-2010)	6
Igor Krupnik Arctic Social Sciences: The Beginning	9
Noel D. Broadbent Concepts for an International Association of Arctic Social Sciences and the Foundation of IASSA, 1987-1990	14
William W. Fitzhugh Laying the Groundwork for Arctic Social Sciences, 1985–1990	18
Ludger Müller-Wille Establishing the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) 1990-1993: Retrospections, Records and Reflections	20
Yvon Csonka Recollections of the IASSA's Founding Meeting – August 1990	46
Susanne Dybbroe IASSA and IASC: Reminiscences on a Relationship	47
Galina Diatchkova Anniversary Greetings	51
Ernest S. Burch, Jr. Selected Publications (1970–2009)	52

Published by the IASSA Secretariat  
c/o Stefansson Arctic Institute, Borgir, Nordurslod, IS-600 Akureyri, Iceland  
Tel.: +354 4608980 · Fax: +354 4608989 · E-mail: [iassa@svs.is](mailto:iassa@svs.is) · Website: [www.iassa.org](http://www.iassa.org)

# Reconstructing the Genealogy of IASSA

## Preface by the Guest Editors

Igor Krupnik and Ludger Müller-Wille

Professional scientific associations have been part and parcel of academic life for a long time. They serve ever-changing scientific communities to organize themselves and help enhance the exchange of ideas among scholars, students, and amateur researchers interested in specific concepts, themes and environments. In the late 1980s, various groups of social scientists conducting research with and among the peoples of the circumpolar North, in the Arctic, Subarctic, and Boreal regions, felt a need to institute an association to further their growing field. The result was the foundation of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) in Fairbanks, Alaska on August 23, 1990, now *twenty* years ago.



Although 20 years is not such a long time span, some members of IASSA thought that it would be appropriate to celebrate this important anniversary, and to recall and review the beginnings of IASSA, particularly for the younger members of the association. Many people who were involved in making IASSA a viable and

worthwhile institution could still remember the emergence of the idea for IASSA and its practical implementation during the late 1980s that culminated in association's founding meeting in August 1990. Also, the twenty-year time-span is a natural period of transition between the first and the second generation, that is the beginning of IASSA's own extended genealogy.

The original push for this special anniversary issue of the *Northern Notes* actually originated from the outside. It goes back to a communication that Igor Krupnik received from Odd Rogne on July 7, 2010 about a proposed project looking into the history of the "Initiation of Circum-Arctic Cooperation (ICAC)" in the 1980s. Odd Rogne, the first executive secretary of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), suggested that there was a need to write the history of "... the opening up of the East-West cooperation in the Arctic" during the 1980s and 1990s. Scientists and science managers, active in this process, were asked to contribute to this history that would become "a source for professional historians, social scientists and others interested." The particular date for his project that Odd Rogne had in mind was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of IASC in late August 1990. It was that initial communication that led Igor Krupnik to initiate an 'IASSA History Project,' since IASSA's own 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary was also coming on August 23, 2010. Igor immediately contacted Ludger Müller-Wille, the first Chair of IASSA, and Noel Broadbent, the person who was, perhaps, most instrumental in the creation of our organization. Both enthusiastically agreed to join forces in writing the history of our organization. In the midst of the summer fieldwork and vacation season, we sent a proposal for this project to Joan Nymand Larsen, IASSA president. Joan immediately supported it and offered to reserve a special anniversary issue of *Northern Notes* for this purpose; Igor and Ludger volunteered to prepare it as guest editors. On August 23, 2010, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Joan issued a letter to all members of IASSA and called for contributions to that special issue to be produced shortly.

Six IASSA members - Noel Broadbent, Yvon Csonka, Susanne Dybbroe, Bill Fitzhugh, Igor Krupnik, and Ludger Müller-Wille - wrote their contributions to this collection of memoirs, documents, and personal stories. The list of authors includes the first IASSA chair and a former president, five members of the IASSA Council, and the convener of ICASS I. All contributors were part of the events in the late 1980s and early 1990s and thus provided personal insight into the preparation and early history of IASSA between 1985 and



1995, crucial years in the association's history. We were also blessed by the contribution by Joëlle Robert-Lamblin, another founding member of IASSA, who generously offered her photographs taken in Fairbanks in 1990 as illustrations to this special issue. Peter Schweitzer, another former IASSA President, helped secure a copy of the initial announcement for the first planning meeting for IASSA on August 21, 1990. Liisa Hallikainen (Arctic Centre, Rovaniemi, Finland) and Yvon Csonka located independently a copy of the very first newsletter that IASSA sent out through the Northern Science Network in October 1991.

While contributions for this collection were being written and edited the sad news of the untimely death of Ernest 'Tiger' S. Burch, Jr. on September 16, 2010 overshadowed our work. Moved and saddened by the great loss to Arctic social sciences we decided to honour Tiger by dedicating this publication to him and to recognize his life's achievements by adding two special contributions to IASSA 'anniversary' issue. Tiger Burch was the recipient of the IASSA honorary membership in 2008 and he had a very prominent role in our association as one of its most respected senior members. Every big family and every social scientist know that building genealogies is a bitter task. Recreating one's roots always matches the narratives of generational replacement, death, and renewal into one flowing process.

We would like to express our gratitude to all contributors and in particular to Yvon Csonka, who kindly proof-read the manuscripts at short notice, as well as to Joan Nymand Larsen and Lára Ólafsdóttir for their efforts to produce this publication. We hope that the writings will be of interest to the IASSA members and to the larger community of arctic sciences. We wish that these historical overviews of our association's beginnings would help preserve the knowledge of the origins of IASSA and allow it to pursue its objectives in the future.

**From the IASSA President:  
Special Issue of the NoNo Newsletter  
on the Occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IASSA**

Dear *NoNo* Readers:

Please join our members and me in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IASSA. On behalf of IASSA, I wish to extend to the Arctic social science community my warmest greetings on this important occasion.

The International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) had its early beginnings in 1990 – exactly twenty years ago. It was founded in Fairbanks, Alaska, at a special meeting held in conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference on August 23, 1990. The creation of IASSA followed the suggestion, first made at the Conference on Coordination of Research in the Arctic held in Leningrad in December 1988, to establish an international association to represent Arctic social scientists. On this special occasion, I would like to salute our founders, our true visionaries – who were the pioneers of this undertaking. Among the early founders of IASSA who were instrumental in its creation and who did the important preparatory work are Ludger Müller-Wille, the first IASSA chair (called president later on); Noel Broadbent, who worked on the Association's by-laws and founding documents; Igor Krupnik, who served on the first IASSA council, and many others.

On this occasion of this anniversary of IASSA, I also wish to extend my congratulations and respect to our members, both past and present, whose dedication and continuous efforts have led to the present profile, growth and recognition of the Association that we now enjoy. It is a time to reflect, remember the achievements, take stock, and to look to the future. You are to learn more about IASSA's early beginnings in this special anniversary issue of *Northern Notes* that was kindly prepared by its Guest editors, Igor Krupnik and Ludger Müller-Wille. I am grateful to Igor and Ludger for taking the lead in this critical task of re-creating the narrative of our Association's founding and its early history, and for putting it on paper.

Our past presidents, our many IASSA council members over the past two decades, and our numerous dedicated members have done an invaluable job for our association, working to raise the reputation, recognition, and the visibility of IASSA and the Arctic social sciences in the North and beyond. Much effort has been put into promoting and stimulating national and international cooperation, to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international arctic research, and to furthering our communication and coordination with other related organizations. From our relatively short history, we can, I think, derive confidence. This is a memorable day, when we should not only look to the past, but also and

above all re-commit our strength to the growth of Arctic social sciences and to international and multi-disciplinary scientific cooperation.

The growth and visibility of our association bears witness to its success. Our membership has grown to between 500-600 members, residing in more than 20 countries. Looking back I recall my own first encounter with IASSA, and becoming a member. This was about 10 years ago when I still lived in Canada and I was searching for a conference to present a paper on the modeling of the Greenland economy. Birger Poppel (current IASSA councillor) told me about an upcoming ICASS IV in Quebec City – back when Gérard Duhaime was IASSA president – and urged me to try and submit an abstract even though the call was long since closed. I was lucky to receive a travel grant from Denmark and just in the nick of time. This turned out to be a pivotal moment for me. Participating in the Quebec ICASS, and getting introduced to IASSA, made me realize that Arctic research was for me, and there was no turning back or venturing down another path after meeting this vibrant and dedicated community of Arctic social scientists. The Association has reached a phase of critical reflection, the object of which is to ensure its continued growth, the increased recognition of Arctic social sciences and a growing participation in social science research in the Arctic. The past 20 years have seen great advances towards the continued growth of the Arctic social sciences and humanities, and in this IASSA has played a notable part thanks to the dedication of our membership.

As IASSA matured over the past two decades, we also watched some of our senior members retiring and passing. It is our responsibility to remember their contribution and to keep it prominently in the emerging historical record of our Association.



Fig.1 IASSA honorary members, Robert Petersen, Ernest S. Burch, Jr., and Ludger Müller-Wille, with Hans-Pavia Rosing (second from right), former President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference at IASSA reception in Nuuk, August 23, 2008. Photo: Léo-Paul Dana with permission

On this solemn note, I would like to acknowledge the unexpected and untimely passing of Ernest ('Tiger') Burch, Jr., who died suddenly at his house in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania on September 16, 2010. We all remember Tiger over many years of his highly visible presence in the Arctic social sciences and, particularly, from the ICASS VI in Nuuk in August 2008, where Tiger was awarded IASSA's honorary membership, our Association's highest award (Fig.1). Tiger's death happened while Igor and Ludger were working on this special *NoNo* anniversary issue. It was our shared decision that we should use this account on the Association's early history to honour Tiger Burch and his contribution to our field.

is my sincere hope that our Association may continue to grow and realize its objectives to stimulate and promote our science, to increase public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results, and to promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and peoples of the North. Once again, my best wishes on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of IASSA as well as the hope that its future may be marked by further achievements and growing research collaboration. In welcoming with confidence IASSA's entry into its third decade, we can look forward to working together to continue the tasks that our early pioneers began long ago and to continue the work to strengthen Arctic social sciences.

Joan Nymand Larsen  
IASSA President  
Stefansson Arctic Institute  
Akureyri, Iceland

In celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it

## Ernest S. (Tiger) Burch, Jr. (1938-2010)

Igor Krupnik<sup>1</sup>

Ernest S. Burch, Jr., almost universally known to his colleagues as ‘Tiger Burch,’ died suddenly at his home in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania on September 16, 2010. He was 72. His untimely and unexpected death brought to a close one of the most prolific careers in Arctic anthropology. It also silenced perhaps the most authoritative voice in contemporary studies of Arctic indigenous societies and, specifically of the Iñupiaq people of Arctic Alaska.



Fig. 1 Ernest S. Burch, Jr., 1938–2010  
Photo: Courtesy Deanne Burch

Tiger Burch had a commanding presence in northern anthropology for almost four decades, specifically in ethnohistory, studies of social relations (kinship, social organization) and culture change in North and Northwest Alaska, oral history, human-caribou interactions, social geography and population distribution of indigenous Arctic groups, trade and warfare, indigenous knowledge and resource use, working with Elders, study of aboriginal place-names, and many more. (See ‘List of major publications by Ernest S. Burch, Jr.’ at the end of this issue). To those who knew him closely, to hundreds of his colleagues worldwide, and to many thousand readers of his books, including people in Alaska, he was the living symbol of craft of anthropological research. Encyclopedically knowledgeable, open, meticulous with regard to his sources and historical materials, always respectful of other people’s work and expertise, collegial, yet reserved, Tiger was a monumental figure in any professional setting. His writing was clear and his booming voice was a fixture at our professional meetings. This is how I remember him from our first encounter at the joint U.S.-Russian (then Soviet) symposium, ‘Cultures of the Bering Sea Region,’ held in Moscow in June 1979. That meeting

set up a professional relation and, later, friendship that lasted until his untimely death.

Tiger, who was 13 years senior, often teased me that he would like me to write his obituary some day. I did not take it seriously and never thought the task might come soon. In my ‘laudatio’ (honorary speech) for Tiger at the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of Arctic Social Sciences in Nuuk in August 2008, where he was given the Association’s Life Achievement Award and the life-time membership, I deliberately stuck to an informal and joking tone. For that PowerPoint presentation in Nuuk, Deanne, Tiger’s wife, and I conspired to collect some of Tiger’s funny photographs from Alaska from the 1960s. The text with several photographs will be published in the forthcoming volume of the ICASS-VI proceedings. This time the writing task is serious. Though a preliminary sketch, this short obituary may become one of many assessments of Tiger Burch’s contribution to the field of Arctic social sciences.

By unanimous recognition, Tiger Burch was the most respected scholar in the area of Arctic or Inuit social/cultural anthropology. He was a towering figure, our true Giant. He loved to call himself jokingly a “legend.” He was indeed legendary for his work, his work ethics, his breadth of knowledge, and his vision. He was also a legendary friend and an absolutely legendary colleague and mentor to many.

Burch’s main contributions to Arctic social studies were his impressive work at the ‘junction’ of written (documentary) records, oral historical tradition of polar peoples, and good social theory, as well as the unique methodology of ethnohistorical reconstruction he perfected over the years. Early in his fieldwork among the Iñupiaq people of Northern Alaska in the 1960s he figured out (like many of us in due course) that Elders who were raised by their grandparents were usually more knowledgeable and more focused on the history of the ‘early days’ than their peers. Unlike most of us, however, he made special effort to reach out to those knowledgeable experts and to interview them extensively, often several times. In his own words, he visited *all* Iñupiaq communities in Northern Alaska and interviewed *all* Elders who had such a life story. He was both persistent and lucky to get access to an unmatched pool of experts, who he proudly called ‘Indigenous historians.’ By doing so in the 1960s, when several Elders born in the 1880s (and raised by their grandparents born around 1830–1840) were still alive, he succeeded in getting access to the living memories

<sup>1</sup> IASSA Founding Member (1990), IASSA Council Member (1990–1995; 2004–2008); Curator, Arctic and Northern Ethnology, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA.

of the events that took place in the early-mid 1800s. That depth of historical knowledge was astounding, as Burch single-handedly expanded the horizon of our historical vision by almost 100 years. He was the only anthropologist I know who could talk and write about aboriginal life in the Arctic (in Alaska, specifically) some 200 years ago without using a time machine or lifting an archaeological shovel. As his records expanded over the years of field and archival research, Burch published it prolifically in his many papers and books, including his last seminal volumes (Burch 1998, 2005, 2006) that cumulatively became the encyclopedia of Native Alaskan life in the early 1800s. No one else, to my knowledge, is, was, or would ever be capable of doing it again. For his lasting contribution to the field of Alaskan historical and ethnological studies, he was awarded the Professional Achievement Award of the Alaska Anthropological Association in 2003.

Burch recalled his entry to the field of Arctic studies twice in his own words, both in writing (Burch 2002) and in a published interview (Mason 2007), to which the readers are advised to turn. He was born in New Haven, Connecticut, the eldest of three children of Elsie Lillard Burch and the late Ernest S. Burch, Sr. His mother was teaching social science at Yale at that time; so, he was a second-generation social scientist. His career in Arctic anthropology started 56 years ago, in 1954, when at age 16 he became a junior crewmember on the Admiral Donald B. MacMillan's expedition on the schooner *Bowdoin* to Labrador, Baffin Island, and Greenland. From that first trip came the famous photo of Tiger as a teenager playing the accordion that we published recently in one of the Smithsonian collections (Burch 2002). The decision to become an Arctic anthropologist took him first to Princeton University (B.A. in Sociology in 1960, *cum laude*) and then to the University of Chicago (M.A. in Anthropology, 1963; Ph.D. in Anthropology, 1966). He also continued his Arctic travels. After a summer of field research in Labrador in 1959, he spent eleven months in 1960 and 1961 in the Inuit village of Kivalina, Alaska, working for the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, a place he visited numerous times over his life. It was a few years later in Kivalina where he was terribly burned trying to save his dissertational field notes; nonetheless, he returned to the village to complete his study (see: Mason 2007). After finishing his Ph.D. at Chicago, he taught at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg (Associate Professor and the Chair in the Department of Anthropology, 1966-1974). After a short gap, he secured a non-paid affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution and its Arctic Studies Center in Washington, DC, where he has been Research Associate for 31 year and my colleague for the past 19 years.

Since his first days in the Arctic, he was an unstoppable traveler. Over 50-some years, he has been to innumerable places in Alaska, Arctic Canada, Greenland, and northern Scandinavia, not counting other exotic parts of the world. He even spent two weeks in winter 1982 in my snow-bound apartment house in Moscow, Russia. That was an unforgettable time for me and my family. At that time, Tiger was working on his map, "Peoples of the Arctic (ca. 1825)" that he produced for *The National Geographic* (1983), and we spent hours in long discussions about the names, areas, and divisions of Siberian indigenous groups. It was on that visit that I also learned from Tiger about the difference between 'summer' Arctic researchers, like myself, and 'winter' anthropologists, like him. The former use a knife and an axe to cut frozen meat whereas the latter use a saw. Also, the former travel by boats and the latter use dogsleds. Tiger had his own dogsled in Kivalina and he was an avid dog driver and dog-lover ever since.

Tiger Burch was a person who worked in big blocks and who published major books. He was the only scholar I know of who single-handedly designed a 10-volume encyclopedia focused on a particular region of the Arctic, Northwest Alaska (*The Cultural and Natural Heritage of Northwest Alaska*), and then produced four out of his ten planned volumes, including the one on Geology, in 130 copies (Burch 1990, 1994, 1998, 2003). Three of those volumes later became acclaimed monographs about the Alaskan Iñupiaq Eskimo 'nations', international relations, and social life. He loved to write major overview articles and he produced several seminal synopses of North American northern ethnography (1979), organization of Arctic social sciences (1993), sociocultural research in Alaska (2005), Native claims (1979), and the likes. His map of the "Peoples of the Arctic (ca 1825)" (2003) is an unmatched piece of scholarship. Tiger was the first person who proposed and then duly produced the *International Directory of Arctic Social Scientists* (1997) that listed 1000 names, though he pledged never to do it again.

Tiger Burch has been advisor to the United States Arctic Research Commission (1995–1998) and member of many scientific and journal boards (the Polar Research Board, U.S. National Academies, 1993–1997; *Études/Inuit/Studies* journal, 1978–1995; Arctic Studies Center's Steering Committee, 1988–2003, etc.) and committees, including the U.S. National Academies' Committee on Arctic Social Sciences in 1988–1990, whose work is covered in several articles in this special issue. He often joked in recent years that he had no time to write papers, because he had to finish several books on his 'to do' list. He published five influential monographs and over 50 major papers; many became the classics in our field. He left unfinished his last



monumental project, the reconstruction of some 200 years of history of caribou and reindeer herds in Alaska that remains in the form of a manuscript of over 200 text pages and almost 1000 pages of notes and sources. It will be our collective responsibility to ensure that this precious unfinished manuscript sees the light of day.



Fig. 2 During the days of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in Fairbanks, August 1990. Left to right: Joëlle Robert-Lamblin, Marvin Falk, and Ernest S. Burch, Jr. Photo: Courtesy Joëlle Robért-Lamblin

Working for the past 35 years out of his basement in suburban Camp Hill, Pennsylvania and missing daily personal interactions with his colleagues, Tiger took it upon himself to attend major professional meetings and he did it diligently at his own expense. He made his yearly pilgrimages to the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Alaska Anthropological Association, the Society for American Archaeology, and also he participated in most (all?) of the Inuit Studies Conferences and Conferences on Hunter-Gatherers' Societies during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. It came as no surprise that he attended *all* IASSA Congresses over the past 20 years, from

the founding meeting in 1990 (Fig.2) till the last ICASS VI in Nuuk in 2008, where he was awarded the life-long membership in our Association (Fig.3).

As Tiger frequently pointed out, he was very attached to IASSA and he truly enjoyed going to the IASSA Congresses. That bond was mutual. Besides producing our first International Directory of Arctic social scientists, he was invited as a keynote speaker at ICASS I in Québec City in 1992 and as a special guest of honor at ICASS VI in Nuuk in 2008. To many younger members of the Association he epitomized the highest qualities of our 'tribal elders' and also the heroic legacy of Arctic anthropological research. Thanks to his deep historical expertise, his lifelong work with Native elders, and his unparalleled knowledge of diaries and field notes of the early Arctic researchers and explorers, he was indeed the best living historian of our discipline. This place has been emptied now and the void and the resulting loss of knowledge will be painfully obvious for decades to come. Native people love to say that 'When an Elder dies it is like the library has been burned to the ground.' Not all Elders are living libraries; but Tiger Burch was the richest library and the best historical archive we had after the passing of Frederica (Freddy) de Laguna in 2004.

We are to honor Tiger's contribution to our field at a special panel to be held at the next ICASS VII in June 2011 that we named 'In the Footsteps of the Giants' and at another session to be organized at the annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association in Fairbanks in March 2011. The key tasks of both sessions are to generate a renewed interest in Burch's work and his many contributions among younger scholars working across the circumpolar region, and to initiate an overview of many fields in Arctic social sciences that advanced over the past decades thanks to his influential research and writings. Papers from the sessions will be considered as contributions to the forthcoming *Festschrift to Ernest (Tiger) Burch* that is now being discussed among his colleagues and friends.



Fig. 3 Tiger Burch during the ICASS VI days in Nuuk, August 2008. Photo: Igor Krupnik



Over the past 30 years that we knew each other closely, I witnessed many sides of his work and character. Tiger was more than a colleague or close friend of 30 years. I was 28 when we first met and he was 41. In the following decades, his words and writings were with me at every turn of my life and career. I was deeply influenced by his very presence, his guidance, and insight. We have been together in Native Alaskan villages where I cooked us fried eggs for breakfast with whale muktuk instead of bacon, and he taught me how to empty honey-buckets (that were unknown in Siberia). He was a beacon of wisdom, a pillar of sterling scholarship, and the epitome of the Smithsonian mission, *the increase and diffusion of knowledge*. As the news of his passing last month spread across the Arctic social science community, I was humbled and strengthened by the outpouring of grief coming from many colleagues and friends.

Among the messages of sympathy posted on the online ‘Ernest S. Burch, Jr. Guest-book’ last month, none is perhaps more touching than the one from the community of Kivalina, Alaska sent on September 21, 2010:

*Hello Deanne and Family! ... Sorry to hear about the passing of Tiger... I remember him coming around to Kivalina many times n staying with my Grandparents Bobby n Sarah Hawley... I've been looking online trying to find his home address to let you all know that Aaka Sarah also passed on July 18, 2010, 82 years old... I've included a pic of her, I hope it finds its way to you all! Our love n sympathy to our family from the Hawley family here in Kivalina!*

*Myra “Ahquk” Wesley, Kivalina, Alaska.*

Tiger Burch is survived by his wife of 47 years, Deanne Burch; his mother, Elsie Burch, 95; his junior brother John Burch; his two daughters, Karen and Sarah, and son David, and their families, including six grandchildren. Blessed be your memory, our beloved Friend. Our deep grief and condolences go to your family. It will be a different world without you.

## Arctic Social Sciences: The Beginning

### Igor Krupnik<sup>2</sup>

When a small group of IASSA founders started to recreate the events that led to the establishment of the Association in August 1990, we were surprised to rediscover the many complex layers of our origination history. Firstly, the now familiar five-word title of IASSA (‘International Arctic Social Sciences Association’) turned out to be a composite form made of several individual elements, each with a story of its own. It also happened to be a result of a compromise and then much-debated choice (see N. Broadbent, this issue). Secondly, the formation of IASSA at the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska on August 23, 1990 did not arrive simply on a wave of spontaneous grass-root professional enthusiasm. Rather, it was an outcome of many separate processes to spur the international collaboration across the wide spectrum of northern circumpolar research, as well as of certain developments in individual countries, notably in the U.S., Canada, and Russia (then U.S.S.R.).<sup>3</sup>

Also, the very nature of our Association was very much determined by the timing and setting of its creation at the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference. It bore distinctive birthmarks of its origination out of an open panel and the following plenary at a thematically broad professional meeting (see N. Broadbent, this issue). Unbeknownst to its many younger members, IASSA underwent a remarkable (and, generally, unnoticed) evolution between the founding meeting in August 1990 and its first full-size International Congress (ICASS I) in Québec in October 1992. The goal of this short preamble is to put the following narratives by the two people who were most instrumental in the origins of our Association into a larger historical context.

<sup>2</sup> IASSA Founding Member (1990), IASSA Council Member (1990–1995; 2004–2008); Curator, Arctic and Northern Ethnology, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA.

<sup>3</sup> An earlier version of this paper has been presented at the Workshop, *History of Polar Social Sciences: Arctic and Antarctic Connections* at the International Polar Year Science Conference in Oslo, Norway on June 10, 2000. I am grateful to Ludger Müller-Wille, Noel Broadbent, the late Ernest S. Burch, Jr., Chris Elfring, Bill Fitzhugh, and Oran Young for their helpful comments to the earlier drafts of this paper. I also relied on some unpublished documents related to the work of the ‘Committee on Arctic Social Sciences’ (1987–1990) from the late Ernest Burch’s personal archives.

## The origins of ‘Social Sciences’

The term ‘social sciences’ has a long and distinguished history of almost 200+ years, though it remains uncertain whether it should be first attributed to the writings of the 1700s French encyclopedists, early 19<sup>th</sup> century’s British economist William Thompson (1775–1833), philosopher John Stuart Mill (1806–1873), or to French sociologist Auguste Comte (1798–1857) (Senn 1958; Irges 1959; Ross 1991). The label ‘social scientists’ did not appear until many decades later and was first registered in 1875 (Shapiro 1984).

Several encyclopedias of the late 1800s already listed ‘social science/s’ as a separate entry; and a monumental 15-volume *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* appeared in 1935, with the second edition in 18 volumes published in 1968–1979 (Sills 1968). All of these authoritative sources, as well as later editions, including the 26-volume *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (Smelser et al. 2001), more or less uniformly include in the definition of ‘social sciences’ a large and diverse group of disciplines – anthropology, demography, economics, education, geography (at least, economic and political geography), history, law, political science, psychology, sociology, statistics. Often, philosophy is also added to this list and even certain sub-disciplines of larger fields, like archaeology and linguistics under anthropology or business and development studies under economics. It appears that almost every scientific endeavor dealing with people, society, and social processes could find its place under a big tent of ‘social sciences.’

Whereas the term ‘social science’ (or ‘social sciences,’ in plural) was known since the 1800s, the field’s institutional building, that is, the establishment of various organizations carrying the term ‘social sciences’ in their title did not happen until much later. The earliest was, perhaps, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), a non-profit independent organization established in 1923 and dedicated to advancing research in the social sciences and related disciplines. The SSRC based in New York came into being as a result of the initiative of the American Political Science Association that was supported by the American Economic Association, American Sociological Society, and the American Statistical Association. Other U.S. national scientific associations – in Anthropology, History, and Psychology—designated representatives to the new entity soon named the Social Science Research Council that was incorporated in 1924 ([www.ssrc.org/about/history/](http://www.ssrc.org/about/history/)). At the international level, the term ‘social science’ was advanced by the creation of the *International Social Science Council (ISSC)* founded in 1952, under the auspices of UNESCO with the aim to promote the social and behavioral sciences ([www.worldsocialscience.org/](http://www.worldsocialscience.org/)).

Even more important was the establishment of the national research, educational, and funding agencies that carried the term ‘social sciences’ in their title, like the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences within the U.S. National Science Foundation (since 1976; transformed into the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences in 1991). Also in the U.S., a new ‘Class’ (Division) of Behavioral and Social Sciences was established within the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1971 (Goldblum 1987). In Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) was created in 1977 as a special federal agency to promote university-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences. In several European countries, the term ‘social sciences’ was institutionalized even earlier. In the U.K. it happened in 1965, under the name of the Social Sciences Research Council (later re-named as ‘Economic and Social Research Council,’ ESRC). In France, a special section (branch) on economic and social sciences (*sciences économiques et sociales*) existed since 1947 under the École pratiques des hautes études (established in 1868); it was transformed into a separate institution under the name of École des hautes études en sciences sociales in 1975. The term ‘social sciences’ was also used in the titles of many other national institutions in respective national languages (German *Sozialwissenschaften*, Russian *Obshchestvennye nauki*, etc.), though with vastly different meanings.

## Northern Connections

Systematic research on people, cultures, communities, and languages of the northern regions goes back at least to the 1700s. History of polar explorations and of the northern peasant communities (like those in Iceland, Scandinavia, and Russia) were, perhaps, the earliest established fields of what we would call today ‘social science research.’ It was followed by anthropology of polar indigenous people, linguistics, archaeology, and, quite independently, studies in polar economies, resources, transportation, and political issues related to the North. The American/Canadian/Icelandic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson (1879–1962) was perhaps the first person to explore many of the then-existing disciplinary traditions by writing prolifically in almost all of the above-named fields. Nonetheless, the term ‘Arctic social sciences’ was hardly, if ever used during the 1950s, 1960s, and even in the 1970s. For example, the monumental 16-volume *Arctic Bibliography* (1953–1971) featured the term ‘social conditions’ in its volume indexes

published throughout the 1950s and 1960s. As the notion ‘social sciences’ was becoming increasingly popular within the broad academic community, ‘Arctic social sciences’ was still not heard of.

Instead, ‘Arctic Anthropology’ became an established field, particularly after 1962, when American anthropologist Chester Chard launched the first disciplinary journal with that very title that continues to these days. During the 1970s, ‘arctic archaeology’ branched off to become a recognized (sub)discipline (Dekin 1978). The Arctic human health research developed in the 1960s and 1970s and was formally institutionalized with the establishment of the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH) in 1981 (see <http://iuch.net/about.php>). Last but not least in the context of IASSA history was the development of the ‘Inuit Studies’ field in the late 1970s in Canada (Association Inuksiutiit Katimajit established in 1974), with its international science conferences held every two years since 1978. It also published a biannual scholarly journal, *Études/Inuit/Studies* (since 1977) dedicated to “[...] the study of Inuit societies, either traditional or contemporary, in the general perspective of social sciences and humanities, including ethnology, politics, archaeology, linguistics, and history” ([www.fss.ulaval.ca/etudes-inuit-studies/journal.HTML](http://www.fss.ulaval.ca/etudes-inuit-studies/journal.HTML)).<sup>4</sup> The field of ‘Inuit Studies’ covered a significant block of the future IASSA’s agenda, though still a fraction of its overall niche, both thematically and geographically. Nonetheless, it was no accident that one of the ‘Inuit Studies’ conferences eventually became the organizational hub and the birthplace for IASSA.

### Polar Research Board Takes the Lead

The event that ultimately triggered the formation of IASSA in 1990—at least, as we may reconstruct our genealogy today—was, actually, far removed from the field of social sciences. In 1984, the U.S. Congress enacted the *Arctic Research and Policy Act* “to establish national (i.e., American – I.K.) policy, priorities, and goals, and to provide a federal program plan for basic and applied scientific research with respect to the Arctic, including natural resources and materials, physical, biological, and health sciences, and *social and behavioral science*” (italics mine – I.K.; Arctic 1993, 1). The Act was notable for the first known connection of the terms ‘Arctic’ and ‘social sciences,’ and also for its placement of the social sciences firmly within the broad context of other fields in polar research. The key players in the development of the new Arctic research agenda were the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Polar Research Board (PRB) of the U.S. National Academies. The PRB was established in 1958 to facilitate America’s participation in the International Geophysical Year 1957-1958; reportedly, it never used the term ‘social sciences’ during the first 25+ years of its history.

Nonetheless, as the official narrative goes, it was the PRB that initiated the first major study that finally officiated the term ‘Arctic social sciences,’ at least in the U.S. The PRB was tasked to produce and in 1985 it published the 125–page document called *National Issues and Research Priorities in the Arctic*, with a special chapter on ‘social and cultural research’ (Weller 1985,88–95).<sup>5</sup> That chapter was, in fact, remarkably weak and—as the report lead editor duly acknowledged—“[T]he Board realized that a separate, longer-range study was needed for the Arctic social sciences” (Arctic 1993,24). To produce such a study, the PRB established in 1987 a special expert team called ‘The Committee on Arctic Social Sciences’ of 11 members chaired by Alaska public health specialist Mim Dixon and political scientist Oran Young. The Committee members included (besides Dixon and Young) many prominent polar scientists: the Americans Douglas D. Anderson (Arctic archaeology), Garry D. Brewer (management), Ernest S. Burch, Jr. (Arctic ethnology and ethnohistory), Robert F. Kraus (psychology), John A. Kruse (rural Alaskan sociology), Edna A. MacLean (indigenous languages), Claus Naske (Polar history), George W. Rogers (economics), Arlon R. Tussing (economics), and the Canadians Constance D. Hunt (law) and Peter J. Usher (indigenous history, geography, and economics).

The committee of experts worked for almost two years and in 1989 it released a two-part report titled *Arctic. Contributions to Social Science* (in singular) and *Public Policy*, with a 60-page Appendix called *Arctic Social Science: An Agenda for Action*. Remarkably, the 60+ reference section for the Report did not list any paper or book with the words ‘Arctic Social Sciences’ in its title. It was thanks to that report of 1989 (published as a slim volume in 1993) and a 100-participant workshop held by the committee in October 1988 at the Arctic Science Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska that the term ‘Arctic social sciences’ (in plural!) was established.

<sup>4</sup> See more on the development of ‘Inuit studies’ in Stern 2006

<sup>5</sup> A condensed version of that report was published in *Science* in 1986 (Washburn and Weller 1986) with a short section called “The Peoples” (p.636).



became known to American polar researchers and, more importantly, to the many U.S. governmental agencies dealing with research and funding in the polar areas (see W. Fitzhugh, this issue).<sup>6</sup>

The 1989 Report named three major fields of prime research importance for ‘Arctic social sciences’: (1) Human-environmental relationships; (2) Community viability; and (3) Rapid Social Change. The themes were, reportedly, selected from a large list of prospective research topics solicited (with the requested justification) from among the Committee members.<sup>7</sup> All three themes selected in 1988–1989 sound remarkably innovative and truly modern by today’s standards, to the great credit of the Committee’s expertise. They were also revolutionary compared to the then-dominant vision of polar ‘social research’ that was commonly presented as a disjoint combination of studies in Arctic industrial development, human health and social disorders, indigenous languages, polar history and archaeology, and Native issues (Weller 1985; Washburn and Weller 1986).

Among the many far-reaching impacts of the Committee on Arctic Social Sciences that made it to the official PRB Report were its recommendations to vastly increase funding in Arctic social science research (0\$ in NSF spending in 1985 and 1986) and to establish a special focused program in Arctic social sciences within the NSF Office of Polar Programs. Following the report’s release in 1989, that program was promptly established within NSF and was offered funding to support social science research projects in the Arctic (see N. Broadbent’s paper below). The NSF Arctic Social Science Program became a staunch backer of IASSA since its creation in 1990

### **IASSA’s International Beginnings**

Another powerful driver in the origination of IASSA came from the growing general push for open international cooperation in polar and, specifically, Arctic research after 1986. Prior to the late 1980s, all organizations promoting international Arctic research included primarily western, i.e. European and North American scientists. The drive to make these bodies truly circumpolar, so that they would also embrace scientists and northern residents from the (former) Soviet Union gained momentum in 1986–1987, with the start of *perestroika* in the former USSR. A preliminary international meeting was held in San Diego, USA in June 1986 and in February 1987 the first meeting of the Planning Group for the proposed ‘International Arctic Science Committee’ (IASC) took place, at which representatives from eight Arctic countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, USA, and USSR) participated. From the very beginning, IASC planners viewed social sciences among the prospective fields of interests of their organization. Another session of the IASC planning committee took place in March 1988 followed by the third session in Leningrad (St. Petersburg) in December 1988 (Rogne 2010). The latter meeting was attached to the first major interdisciplinary and international conference, *Arctic Research. Advances and Prospects*, which, for the first time in almost 60 years, brought together some 500 western and Soviet (generally ‘eastern’) polar scientists, including many key researchers in the disciplines related to people, societies and social processes in the polar regions (Gvishiani and Kotlyakov 1990).

The Leningrad 1988 Arctic conference that I attended (and at which I first heard the new term, ‘Arctic social sciences’ – e.g. Young 1990) was a breathtaking event. It was an eye-opening experience to see polar scientists from many countries actively discussing, often bitterly contesting various scenarios for their future collaboration. All key players in the U.S. *Arctic Research Policy* report and in the planning for IASC convened in Leningrad, together with a strong international group of polar social science researchers, including Terence Armstrong, Hugh Beach, Ivar Bjørklund, Noel Broadbent, Bill Fitzhugh, Michael Krauss, Gail Osherenko, Robert Petersen, Marianne Stenbæk, Piers Vitebsky, Oran Young, and others. Two months prior, in October 1988 I also attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in Copenhagen, in which a small Russian (then Soviet) contingent of Inuit/Eskimo specialists (Sergey Arutyunov, Mikhail Chlenov, Evgenyi Golovko, Igor Krupnik, and Nikolay Vakhtin) accompanied by Chukchi writer, Yuri Rytkeu participated.

---

<sup>6</sup> In Canada the status of ‘human and social sciences in the Arctic’ was first discussed almost at the same time in a similarly authoritative report titled *Canada and Polar Science* (Adams et al. 1987).

<sup>7</sup> The first questionnaire on the prospective fields of research ‘with the potential to contribute to global and national issues and the fundamental body of theory in the social sciences’ was mailed to the committee members in late 1987 and detailed outlines for certain themes were submitted as early as January 1988 (Ernest S. Burch’s personal papers).

That was, again, the first time when a group of Russian (Soviet) ‘Eskimologists’ took part in the ‘Inuit Studies’ meeting, thus geographically and symbolically completing the ‘Inuit Studies’ field.<sup>8</sup>

Both the Leningrad Arctic conference and the Copenhagen Inuit Studies meeting in late Fall 1988 generated enormous enthusiasm; they also had far-reaching influence on the development of international collaboration in the Arctic social sciences during the following decades.<sup>9</sup> They also introduced two organizational models for such collaboration, one of an open grass-root professional community (association) exemplified by the Inuit Studies conferences and another of a more formal international structure arranged along science disciplines and particular research fields, with high-level national representation, as emerged at the Leningrad meeting. The former eventually produced the template for building IASSA, which was established at the *next* Inuit Studies conference in August 1990 (see Noel Broadbent’s story below). The latter became the precursor to the founding of IASC almost at the same time, by the formal signing of the IASC Founding Articles by high-level scientific representatives of eight northern countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, USA, and USSR) at their meeting on 28 August 1990, in Resolute Bay, Arctic Canada (IASC 1990; Langlais 2000).

This short summary reveals that the beginning of what we know today as ‘Arctic social sciences’ and of our Association was a brainchild of many processes that successfully came together by 1988–1990. Some were related to the general growth of the field (like the emergence of Arctic Anthropology and/or of the ‘Inuit Studies’), whereas others were mere political drives for international cooperation (the Leningrad Conference of 1988) or institutional developments within national scientific framework (like the U.S. *Arctic Research and Policy Act* and the PRB ‘Committee on Arctic Social Sciences’). Also, this narrative is clearly skewed towards the North American and Russian events and lacks information related to the Nordic and, generally, European nations. It could be much improved and expanded by the stories about other national and regional drivers that contributed to the origins of IASSA in 1990. Building a shared history of our organization needs a broad international focus. I would be grateful to my colleagues in IASSA who would consider adding their memories and personal stories to this process.

## References

- Adams, W.P., P. F. Burnet, M. R. Gordon, and E. F. Roots 1987. *Canada and Polar Science*. Ottawa, Circumpolar and Scientific Affairs Directorate. 129 pp.
- Arctic. 1993. *Arctic Contributions to Social Science and Public Policy*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- Dekin, Albert A., Jr. 1978. *Arctic Archaeology. A Bibliography and History*. New Yourk: Garland Pub. (Garland Reference Library of Science and Technology 1)
- Fitzhugh, William W. 2003. Heritage Anthropology in the “Jesup-2” Era: Exploring North Pacific Cultures Through Cooperative Research. In *Constructing Cultures Then and Now. Celebrating Franz Boas and the Jesup North Pacific Expedition*. L. Kendall and I. Krupnik, eds. *Contributions to Circumpolar Anthropology* 4. Washington, DC: Arctic Studies Center, pp. 287–306.
- Goldblum, Janice. 1987. Behavioral and Social Sciences within the NAS. Unpublished memo (courtesy Chris Elfring), 4 pp.
- Gvishiani, J.M., and V.M. Kotlyakov. 1990. Experience and Prospects of International Cooperation in Investigation and Development of the Arctic. In *Arctic Research: Advances and Prospects*. V.M. Kotlyakov and V.Ye. Sokolov, eds. Vol.1, Moscow: Nauka Publishers. Pp. 17–24.
- IASC. 1990. Founding Articles for an International Arctic Science Committee. Final Edition, August 1990 (signed on August 28, 1990).

---

<sup>8</sup> The *Études/Inuit/Studies* journal, actually, dedicated a special issue to the Russian Yupik people in 1981 and certain Russian authors (Vakhtin, Golovko, Krupnik) published their papers in the journal during 1981–1987.

<sup>9</sup> On the earlier history of international (primarily U.S.–U.S.S.R) collaboration in Arctic anthropology and museum studies during the 1970s and 1980s see Fitzhugh 2003; Michael and VanStone 1983.

- Iggers, George G. 1959. Further Remarks about Early Uses of the Term “Social Science.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 20(3): 433–436.
- Langlais, Richard. 2000. Arctic co-operation organizations: a status report (for the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region). In: Conference Report: Fourth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Rovaniemi, Finland, August 27-29, 2000, ed. Markku Heikkilä, 85-116. Helsinki: Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region/Edita, [www.arcticparl.org/res/site/File/static/conf4\\_langlais.pdf](http://www.arcticparl.org/res/site/File/static/conf4_langlais.pdf) (accessed 12 September 2010).
- Michael, Henry N., and James W. VanStone. 1983. Introduction. In *Cultures of the Bering Sea Region: Papers from an International Symposium*. H.B. Michael and J.W. Van Stone, eds. American Council of Learned Societies, Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, pp. 5-6.
- Rogne, Odd. 2010. [Highlights on the history of IASC]. Unpublished letter to Igor Krupnik, July 7, 2010.
- Ross, Dorothy. 1991. *The Origins of American Social Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Senn, Peter R. 1958. The Earliest Use of the Term “Social Science”. *Journal of the History of Ideas* 19(4): 568–570.
- Shapiro, Fred R. 1984. A Note on the Origin of the Term “Social Science.” *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 20(1):20-22.
- Smelser, N.J., J.D. Wright, and P.B. Bultes, eds. 2001. *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Oxford: Elsevier Publishers.
- Stern, Pamela. 2006. From Area Studies to Cultural Studies to a Critical Inuit Studies. In *Critical Inuit Studies. An Anthology of Contemporary Arctic Ethnography*. P. Stern and L. Stevenson, eds. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, pp.253–266.
- Washburn, A.L., and Gunter Weller. 1986. Arctic Research in the National Interest. *Science* 233 (8 August):633–639.
- Weller, Gunter, ed. 1985. *National Issues and Research Priorities in the Arctic*. Washington, DC: National Research Council, Polar Research Board.
- Young, Oran R. 1990. An Arctic Research Agenda: Politics, Economic, and Law. In *Arctic Research. Advances and Prospects*. Proceedings of the Conference of Arctic and Nordic Countries on Coordination of Research in the Arctic, 1988. V.M. Kotlyakov and V.M. Sokolov, eds. Moscow: Nauka Publishers, Vol. 2, pp. 394–399.

## Concepts for an International Association of Arctic Social Sciences and the Foundation of IASSA, 1987-1990<sup>10</sup>

Noel Broadbent<sup>11</sup>

### The Beginnings - 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health, June 1987

I am sure a lot of people have been thinking about some sort of organization for the Arctic social scientists [in the 1980s]; but for me the most concrete opportunity was through my interaction with the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH). An international congress of that Union was to be held at the Umeå

<sup>10</sup> Based on taped interview recorded on July 23, 2010 and transcribed by Igor Krupnik.

<sup>11</sup> IASSA Founding Member (1990), IASSA Council Member (1990–2004), Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA.



University in Sweden in 1987 and I served as a member of the Swedish Organizing Committee.<sup>12</sup> This is how I came into contact with Jens Peder Hart Hansen (1936–1998), former President of the IUCH, and other prominent people from that organization, which was a part of the International Union for Sciences (ICSU). It is really a group of organizations rather than countries and it is run by the representatives of these organizations and holds its international congresses every 3 years.<sup>13</sup>

That 7<sup>th</sup> Congress in 1987 in Umeå was one of the rare opportunities for social, health, and cultural scientists to come together. The main reason that social scientists were so prominent at the 1987 IUCH Congress in Umeå was that the Center for Arctic Cultural Research of the Umeå University that I was chairing at that time was very heavily involved in the Congress planning. Rarely was such a great opportunity for social scientists to have an early planning role in a big interdisciplinary meeting and, therefore, the coordination of cultural and social sciences was a strong part of circumpolar health agenda. We invited many scholars to the IUCH Congress in Umeå as guest speakers (like Milton Freeman from Canada), who otherwise probably would not be there. Also, we invited many Saami participants to attend that Congress, besides that several Saami organizations were already members of the IUCH. This organization with its structure was a very good model to follow; this is how I first started thinking how to put a similar organization for Arctic social scientists.

As you may recall, a big thing on everyone's mind in 1986 was Chernobyl (the Soviet nuclear reactor explosion). So, we had a lot of Saami representation and speakers addressing the issues related to their culture and the impact of Chernobyl on the Saami. Most people at the Congress were from the medical and human health field, and the focus that year was clearly on Scandinavia, particularly the Chernobyl-related issues. Otherwise, the North American Arctic social scientists and the Inuit Studies group were not represented there.

Of particular importance was my collaboration with Jens Peder Hart Hansen, because he chaired the 1981 Congress of the International Union for Circumpolar Health in Copenhagen and was instrumental in drafting its bylaws. So, I looked carefully over the IUCH bylaws and that was from my perspective a great opportunity to be taken as a starting point, particularly when we started talking about our own Arctic social sciences organization. That happened after the 1988 Conference on the Arctic Research Planning in Leningrad (St. Petersburg).

### **Next Steps: Copenhagen and Leningrad, Fall 1988**

But it was first in October 1988 at the 6<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in Copenhagen that we began formulating in earnest the need for an Arctic social sciences organization. I believe it was also at the Inuit Studies meeting in Copenhagen that we realized that the next best opportunity for the Arctic social scientist community to get together would be in 1990, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska. Once again, these were merely talks that did not advance much until the next major meeting, the Leningrad Conference on Arctic Research that took place two months later, in December 1988.

It was in Leningrad that it all started to come together, primarily because of what has been happening in the Soviet Union at that time. We all felt that there was a real new opportunity to bridge all northern countries, particularly the Soviet Union. We were so inspired by what was happening at that Leningrad meeting, it looked almost like a mini-revolution. So many Russian scholars for the first time in our memory were interacting directly with their western colleagues. It was a huge gathering, over 500 people. So, in many respects, the impetus for the Arctic social sciences organization came from this opening of the Soviet Arctic and the experience we shared in Leningrad.

Meanwhile, the discussions about the future International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) were also quite active during that very time. Many of us thought that it would be essential to have our own organization of the Arctic social scientists in place when the IASC would come into being as a major international and interdisciplinary group.

---

<sup>12</sup> The committee also included Håkan Linderholm, Frej Stenbäck, Christer Bäckman, Gunhild Beckman, Per Jonas Blind, Thorhild Ericsson, and Ingemar Joelsson,

<sup>13</sup> The latest, 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health was held by IUCH in July 2009 in Yellowknife, NWT, Canada (IK).

## Moving to Washington and Finding the Proper Name, 1989–1990

Frankly, I do not recall us using the term ‘Arctic social sciences’ at that early stage, at the Copenhagen and Leningrad conference in 1988. I sure was leaning more towards ‘Arctic cultural research’ or ‘cultural studies,’ since our Center in Umeå was called ‘The Center for Arctic Cultural Research.’ It was not until Polar Research Board’s Report on Arctic social sciences became widely known in 1989 (see Igor Krupnik, this issue) that the name became more commonly used.

I was changing jobs at that time and had been interviewed in 1989 for the position of the director (program manager) of the new Arctic Social Sciences Program at NSF. Many people at NSF talked about ‘Arctic social science.’ It seemed to have become an established term by then, even for the people who otherwise had no knowledge of social science research. They were following the recommendation of the Polar Research Board to establish an Arctic Social Sciences Program, even though the report itself was not published as a book (by the National Research Council) until 1993.

Peter Wilkniss, then the Head of the NSF Polar Programs, was very enthusiastic about these developments. I also recall strong support given by Jerry Brown and Bob Corell, who both worked at NSF (see more in Bill Fitzhugh’s comment below). I won’t say that many other NSF people were openly supportive, however NSF’s Polar Programs was a very hard-sciences dominated program.

On relocating to DC in early 1990, I immediately started writing the first NSF program announcement for the Arctic Social Sciences Program. We had to be ready for the first proposal opportunity in 1991. My first year budget was also very small. We started with just \$300,000, which was a miniscule fraction of the NSF

polar research budget. So, I had to spend a lot of time securing some matching funds to get this program off and running. I remember being the lone social scientist in the Geosciences Directorate, and with the smallest budget imaginable for conducting polar research.

Another responsibility that was very time-consuming was the preparation of a statement on Ethical Principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic. It was absolutely amazing that we were able to produce such a document in the spring of 1990, and to get it approved by all of the (U.S) federal agencies that worked in the Arctic. This included the Department of Defense and many other agencies and their subdivisions – remarkably, they all came aboard.<sup>14</sup>

In the program documents and ethics statement in 1990, we always used the term ‘Arctic social sciences,’ though it was, admittedly, still a bit new to me. Another term that was very common, but more esoteric was ‘Circumpolar’ (i.e. the International Union for Circumpolar Health). The term ‘Arctic’ simply resonated better politically. It would clearly mark our area of common interests and responsibility. There had, furthermore, been a long tradition of funding the social sciences, particularly sociology, since World War II and it was a part of NSF from its founding in 1950. So, it can be said that the construction “Arctic Social Sciences” was very much NSF-driven name.

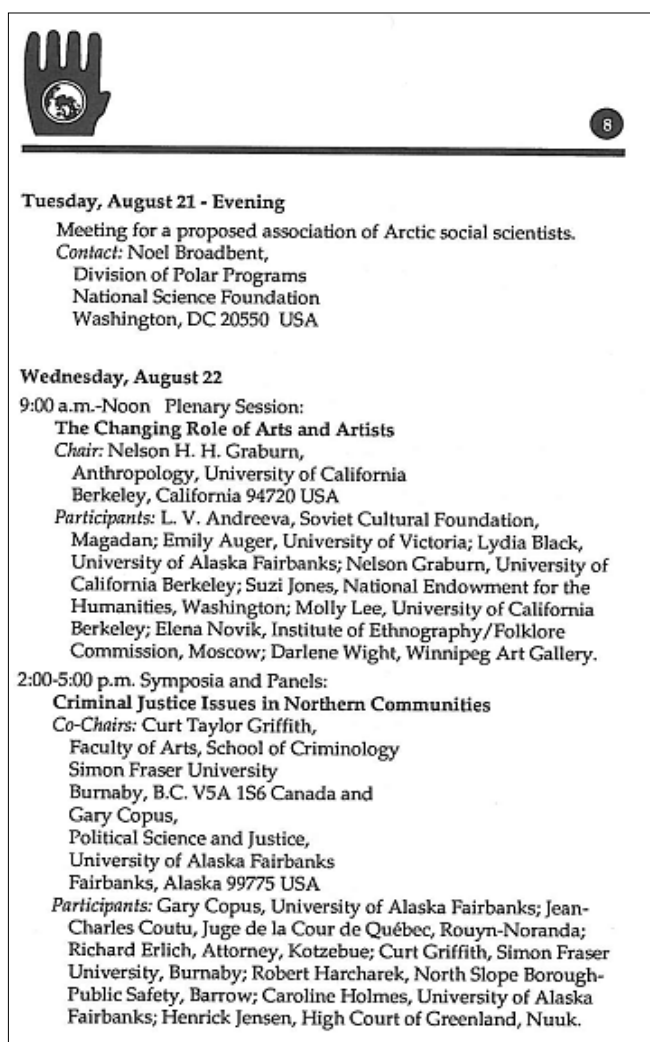


Fig.1 Copy of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference program featuring a meeting for a proposed association of Arctic social scientists (August 21, 1990). Courtesy, Peter Schweitzer

<sup>14</sup> The interagency Statement of Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic was approved by the U.S. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee and subsequently published in the *Arctic Research of the United States* (Vol. 6, Fall 1992).

## Preparing for the Fairbanks Inuit Studies Conference, Spring 1990

Bill Fitzhugh and I got involved in the preparation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in Fairbanks in August 1990, through our proposal for the Arctic Social Science Association. We wanted to make sure that we had a special session at the very end of that conference and a follow-up plenary meeting. It was all thought through very carefully, because we believed it would be our best opportunity to establish the social science association. Fitzhugh was giving the idea strong Smithsonian backing and scholarly legitimacy. Also, I especially invited Jens Peder Hart Hansen to attend the Inuit Studies conference, so that he could share the experience with the IUCH. So, we managed to put it on the conference program for August 21, 1990 as a “Meeting for a proposed association of Arctic social scientists” (Fig.1). The rest is covered in great detail in Ludger Müller-Wille’s story.

Of course, I knew Ludger from years before; but we did not have any preliminary discussions about IASSA prior to the Inuit Studies conference. When Ludger saw that there going to be a special session for such a proposed ‘Association of Arctic social scientists’ he approached me in Fairbanks and asked to be included. Of course, he was included. Many other people were very interested in this new association and everyone was welcome to join us. It also helped that I knew so many people from my former years in Umeå, from the Nordic countries, Canada, Russia, and also from my professional connections in the U.S.

I certainly had good contacts with the organizers of the Inuit Studies conferences – Louis-Jacques Dorais, Bernard Saladin d’Anglure, and, particularly, with Lydia Black, who was the chair of the Fairbanks conference. It never occurred to me that the new association might be perceived as a sort of a threat to the Inuit Studies group or any other group. Actually, I was personally facing a looming conflict-of interest issue because I was now representing a major federal funding agency (NSF). I knew I would have to avoid any formal role besides that of a board member in the new association. NSF has been strong financial supporter of IASSA ever since the association was established and it continues to do so to these days. Once IASSA was off the ground, I stepped into the background and withdrew my name from consideration as IASSA’s first chair. Ludger took on that role.

So, I came to Fairbanks with a definite ‘battle plan.’ We had a well-defined concept of the new social science association; a draft of the bylaws that we would pattern on the IUCH bylaws; and a rough idea of what we were to call it, the ‘International Association of Arctic Social Scientists’ [eventually, that name was changed at the Fairbanks meeting].

We also needed to have the association’s bylaws approved at the Fairbanks meeting. I prepared a draft that was adapted from the bylaws of the International Union for Circumpolar Health. The plan was that I would present such a concept and a vision of the structure at the session, and after the conference we would have an opportunity, a plenary session, where we all could get together to discuss our future. The key of that plan was that we would have an *open* meeting; anyone who wanted to join the new association would be welcome. And this was exactly how it happened.



Fig.2 Participants at the Inuit Studies meeting in Fairbanks, August 1990. Left to right: Roza G. Lyapunova (1928–1992, Institute of Ethnography, Leningrad, Russia), Lydia T. Black (1925–2007, Chair of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference, University of Alaska Fairbanks); two unidentified Alaskan participants; Chuner M. Taksami (Institute of Ethnography, Leningrad, Russia). Photo: Joëlle Robert-Lamblin

So, we did not have to start the new association from scratch and it was pretty much what we needed. As I recall, none of the prepared documents was ever seriously contested. We had very good international representation, particularly because so many Russian scientists and indigenous representatives were there (Fig.2). Also, we had no (internal) international member-organizations, like the Union for Circumpolar Health has to deal with. Our main issue was how to ensure good representation by participating northern countries. At the end, we achieved very good representation by the U.S., Canadian, Scandinavian, and Russian scholars, also by indigenous representatives on the first IASSA Council (see L. Müller-Wille’s story).



## Dealing with IASC

In the late 1980s, I was in Canada representing Swedish interests in the 'Man and Biosphere' (MAB) UNESCO program. Also, at that time, I was on the board of the Center for Northern Research at McGill University in Montreal. So, I had a lot of interactions in the 1980s, when the formation of IASC was actively discussed. Marianne Stenbæk from McGill, who was also present at the Leningrad meeting in 1988 tried to set something similar for social scientists at the IASC founding meeting in Resolute Bay in August 1990. But that was really not a community effort and there was no real social science community present at that meeting. So, IASC did not get too far with social sciences until people like Oran Young became active in that organization. But we followed the development with IASC very closely. We wanted to be sure that we would have an actual representation from our professional community in IASC, and that we came as an organization and not just as individual scientists on projects.

I was communicating closely with Oran Young at this time. He was Co-chair of the NSF-PRB Committee on Arctic Social Sciences and he was also at the Leningrad meeting of 1988. Oran did not attend the Inuit Studies conference in 1990, but he was always present—either personally or as a prospective partner in all of these discussions related to IASSA. I am sure I had discussed with him my plans related to the establishment of the association on one of his regular visits to NSF in late 1989 and early 1990. I met with all of those people who were on that NSF committee on Arctic social sciences—Tiger Burch, Douglas Anderson, Mim Dixon, Edna MacLean from Barrow, Jack Kruse, Robert Kraus, and others—either when they came to Washington or on my visits to their place of work.

So, when IASSA was established in Fairbanks, and then the IASC charter was signed a week later in Resolute Bay, there was not a lot of discussion. IASSA was a very open, very democratic organization from the very beginning. IASC was a much trickier group. For one thing, the IASC did not endorse the Statement of Ethical Principles after its 1990 founding and still has not done it after twenty years.

## The Day IASSA Was Born

Going back to these memories of 1990, I really see how all of the opportunities we had in the 1980s came together for that event. We progressed from one meeting to another, until there was enough critical mass of people who were thinking and talking about the need to establish our association. For any organization to have a successful start, you have to have a critical group of people to give legitimacy to what you are doing. We started seeing that in Leningrad in 1988, where so many plans for future partnerships were discussed. But it was not until we all came together in Fairbanks that we really had for the first time a broad enough representation, by people and countries that we had not even dreamed before.

I recall that Tiger Burch, who we have just lost, was dumbfounded by how it all happened. But we did it!

## Laying the Groundwork for Arctic Social Sciences, 1985-1990

William W. Fitzhugh<sup>15</sup>

This discussion of the origins of explicit reference to 'Arctic social science' has caused me to wish I had taken more notes during those critical years of 1985–1990, particularly from the 1988 Copenhagen 'Inuit Studies' and Leningrad 'Arctic Research' conferences.

I recall how engaged we all were in policy discussions at the Leningrad conference in December 1988. I particularly remember that Oran Young, Igor Krupnik, Noel Broadbent, and I were prominent in lobbying for a new international 'network' for social science research and collaboration in the North. There was already an established "Northern Sciences Network" for physical and natural scientists, and we thought that we needed a similar network for the social sciences. I have in my notes from the 1988 Leningrad conference a list of "general problems" – issues that were facing social scientists in the North, and one of the items on my list described under the heading of "needed actions" was "international network for northern social science (northern science network)."

Marianne Stenbæk from McGill University was there and she also talked about this at the Leningrad meeting and after it. As I recall, [Vladimir] Boiko and other official Russian representatives for the social science field in Leningrad in 1988 did not want us to propose this 'network' in the communiqué from the meeting,

<sup>15</sup> Director, Arctic Studies Center, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA.

and there was vociferous debate over the issue. Igor Krupnik was very prominent in speaking out about various items related to open and free international partnership that Boiko eventually had refused to allow into the document. I think this meeting and the discussions we had in Leningrad in 1988 planted the seed from which the IASSA movement came to life at the next Inuit Studies Conference in 1990.

In 1989–1990, I helped Lydia Black with some of the planning for the 1990 Inuit Studies Conference in Fairbanks, mostly helping her connect with the U.S. agencies for funds to bring Russian participants to the Conference. However I did not go to that meeting and was not present at the inauguration of IASSA.

The Smithsonian had an important role to play beginning in the first years after the passage of the U.S. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Act in 1984. Shortly after that Act became law, we approached NSF's Office of Polar Programs with proposal that the Smithsonian should be invited to join as a regular member of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) that was established by the 1984 Arctic Research Policy Act. I recall that I was asked to justify our presence among the other agencies who had huge financial resources and staff devoted to polar issues. By including our arctic ethnological collections (including heating and storage costs), research and exhibits costs (including at the time the work on our expensive "Crossroads of Continents. Cultures of Alaska and Siberia" exhibit), pro-rated salaries of conservators, curators, and office spaces, I came up with a sufficient figure to justify our presence. More to the point was the fact that the Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center (ASC) was established in 1988 and when it was funded, it was the only entity in the U.S. federal budget that dealt exclusively with arctic social science. So in the years after 1988, the Smithsonian coordinated the effort through the IARPC to establish for the first time a formal research plan for the Arctic social science studies. Previous plans had dealt with only the physical and biological sciences. I well recall how difficult it was in those early years to get our voice heard around the IARPC table. It was not that I faced adversity—quite the contrary—the committee was generally supportive; it was just that the system ran on the big agency funds, and if you had nothing to bring to the table, you couldn't play. With the establishment of the ASC our portfolio of \$450,000 did not buy much territory.

However, we were able to accomplish many things on paper, and the various research planning reports that were prepared in the years between 1985–1990 brought social sciences into the orbit of other long-established government Arctic research traditions run by the military forces, the Interior agencies, NOAA, US Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, and others. Many of these reports had specific sections devoted to 'Arctic social science' including the 1986 draft *Arctic Social Science Research Plan* that became an IARPC planning document for presentation at public hearings in Anchorage, 17–19 October 1986; Barrow, 21–25 October 1986; Polar Research Board, Washington, 10 March 1987, and Arctic Research Commission, Los Angeles 3–5 March 1987 (Compiler: W. Fitzhugh). Several other official documents prepared during 1987–1990 also had the term 'Arctic social sciences' in their text or title; that helped tremendously to make the term known and legitimate among the U.S. polar agency people (Social Science in the Arctic 1986; [Social Science] 1987; People and Health 1989; Arctic Social Science 1989; Principles for the Conduct of Research 1990, etc.).

I believe that we should give major credit to Jerry Brown (then at NSF Polar Program) and to Oran Young for getting the social science agenda advanced via the U.S. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) in 1988–1990. At that time, this was the key battleground for the official recognition of Arctic social sciences, at least in the U.S. Oran Young pushed hard for social sciences, especially political science, and I for anthropology and related fields. Oran was certainly the person who initially persuaded NSF and IARPC to use this term as its banner, and I climbed on board immediately, as this was the most inclusive way to advance Arctic cultural and heritage programs at the Smithsonian. None of this would have worked, and the Arctic social science program would never have started at NSF without the three of us—Oran, Jerry Brown, and I—triangulating on Bob Corell (then at NSF Geosciences), Peter Wilkniss (then Head of Polar Programs), and Eric Bloch, the head of NSF, to move in this direction. Jerry Brown was indefatigable in this regard and a great supporter of Arctic social science and Native involvement.

When Noel Broadbent was hired at NSF in winter 1990 as the first 'Arctic social science program' manager, the reason he could be so effective and could advance the acceptance of a set of "Principles for Conduct of Research in the Arctic" and other innovations promoted by our newly-formed interagency Social Science Task Force was because he was being backed strongly by Jerry Brown, and later Peter Wilkniss and Bob Corell. Ultimately, it was thanks to the-then NSF director, Dr. Eric Bloch, who was also supportive of our work to bring social science and indigenous voices into the formation of a new brand of arctic policy that for the first time explicitly included Arctic peoples and cultures. These new developments represented a real step

forward, since the only ‘social sciences’ that had been done or was proposed previously at NSF was the study of researchers who happened to be working or residing in the Arctic or Antarctic regions.

## References

*Social Science in the Arctic* 1986. Document presented by the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee to Polar Research Board meetings in Washington DC, on 16 October 1986 (prepared by W. Fitzhugh)

[Social Science]. 1987. Section of the United States Arctic Research Plan. *Arctic Research of the United States* 1 (1): 237-287.

*People and Health* 1989. Section of the U.S. Arctic Research Plan and its biennial revision of 1990-1991. *Arctic Research of the United States* vol.3, pp. 40–46 (Committee chair report by W. Fitzhugh);

Arctic Social Science Research Plan. 1989. *Arctic Research of the United States* 3(Spring) (W. Fitzhugh, chair and compiler)

*Principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic* 1990. Report of the IARPC Social Science Task Force, chaired by Noel Broadbent, *Arctic Research of the United States* 4 (Spring):110–111.

## Establishing the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) 1990-1993: Retrospections, Records and Reflections

Ludger Müller-Wille<sup>16</sup>

*Dedicated to the memory of  
Linda J. Ellanna (1940-1997) and Phoebe Nahanni (1947-2001)  
who gave and shared humanity, collegiality and friendship.<sup>17</sup>*

### Precursors to instituting “Arctic social sciences” before 1990

During the Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VI) at the University of Greenland in Nuuk (Greenland) the festive banquet was held on Saturday, August 23, 2008, ominously delayed by a brown-out, the very day on which the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) was founded at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1990. To celebrate this 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary and thus, as Yvon Csonka, IASSA President (2004-2008), called it, “the coming of age of IASSA”, the Council bestowed its first honorary memberships on three of its members (Ludger Müller-Wille, Robert Petersen and Ernest S. Burch, Jr. [1938-2010]) to recognize their “distinguished career achievements and lifelong service in advancing the field of Arctic social sciences” (Csonka 2008). This maturity along with established traditions provided favourable conditions guaranteeing the successful transition from the first to the second generation within the association.



Linda Ellanna and an Inupiaq woman at work in Kiana (Alaska, USA) on August 8, 1989 Photo: Ludger Müller-Wille

<sup>16</sup> IASSA Acting Chair (1990-92), Chair (1992-95), Past-Chair ex officio and Councillor (1995-98), Councillor (1998-2001), Honorary Member (2008); ICASS I Convener (1992), ICASS I to IV Member, Organizing/Review Committees (1992, 1995, 1998, 2001). Between 1977-2008 I was professor of Geography / Northern Studies in the Department of Geography, McGill University (Montréal, Québec, Canada) and from 1994-96 with the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland (Rovaniemi, Finland) and its director in 1995-96.

<sup>17</sup> In early September 2010, starting to write this paper, I dedicated it to honour Linda J. Ellanna and Phoebe Nahanni before I learned the sad news that Ernest (Tiger) S. Burch, Jr. died unexpectedly on September 16, 2010 to whose lasting memory this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of IASSA’s *Northern Notes* is committed.

Now, two years later, in 2010, the occasion of IASSA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an appropriate time to present the historical record of the origin and establishment of IASSA and offer, as well, some recollections and



Phoebe Nahanni speaking at the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi (Finland) on December 12, 1994  
Photo: Linna Weber Müller-Wille

reflections. In the following sections I will try to document the inaugural events that led to the foundation of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association and highlight developments that occurred between August 1990 and May 1993, that is from its inception to the first international congress and a secure conceptual and functional base. Since then IASSA has emerged as a broad and strong forum serving, during these first two decades, the interests and aspirations of a large number of social scientists working on and in the circumpolar North. Some of the historical record was already documented and published earlier in various sources on which the following sections are based (see Sources and References). To relate this early history of IASSA also means to consider my personal involvement in this process as IASSA's first Chair (this more egalitarian 'title' was changed to 'President' after ICASS III in 2001), therefore my deliberations and discourse inevitably include some autobiographical notes.

Getting involved in the foundation of an international scientific and professional association is not a usual affair. The outcome of my engagement, in conjunction with the encouraging support and participation of many colleagues and friends, was IASSA, an association that was to break novel ground, enhancing communication and cooperation among social scientists working in a specific geographic region, in this case, the circumpolar North. My own fledgling interests as a teenager in things "polar" were triggered by following reports of the exciting events of the first trans-Antarctic crossing led by Vivian Fuchs and Edmund Hillary during the International Geophysical Year 1957-58 (in today's parlance also called the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Polar Year). What continued to appeal to me was to learn more about the human dimension of polar life, which I then pursued in my studies in ethnology (cultural anthropology) and geography conducting extensive research with peoples in the northern circumpolar regions in both northernmost Europe (with Sámi and Finns) and northern Canada (with Dene, Inuit and Naskapi) since the mid-1960s.

At that time, from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s, there was little in academic and scientific organizational structure in the realm of northern social sciences and humanities that could or would support exchanges and cooperation in circumpolar comparative studies and research. For an interested student and researcher, such connections needed to be constructed individually through a personal network by studying abroad and engaging with colleagues internationally to break down solitude or isolation across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Later, the presence and engagement of my wife (Linna Weber Müller-Wille) and our children (Ragnar, Verena and Gwen) during my studies in the North enhanced interactions and allowed for many personal and professional relations. Furthermore later on, my two-year stint in 1975 and 1976 as a scholarship officer and science manager heading the North America and Oceania Section of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn (Germany) gave me an intricate insight into the administrative and diplomatic mechanism of international academic and scientific exchange and cooperation that became very useful in my academic career and, in particular, when contributing to the establishment of IASSA in the early 1990s.

One way, I felt, to overcome my isolation as a "*northernist*" in anthropology and geography in Central Europe was to organize international meetings and/or sessions with established scientific societies. My first major foray into such an exercise began in May 1974 and resulted in the organization of a session called "Unexpected Consequences of Economic Change in Circumpolar Regions" held at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SAA) at the Royal Tropical Institute (!) in Amsterdam, May, 19 to 22, 1975, with the close support and encouragement by Henri J. M. Claessen, David S. Moyer, Linna Weber Müller-Wille and Pertti J. Peltó. My idea was to cast the net wide with respect to a circumpolar approach. I sent invitations to 130 colleagues in ten countries including all northern polar states whose names I knew from the literature or from my studies; 25 of these presented papers at the two-day symposium that was attended by 70 people (Müller-Wille et al. 1978). The contributors and participants came not only from ethnology/anthropology but also from ecology, geography, history, psychology, religious studies and sociology. In retrospect, that symposium was the beginning of an extending northern circumpolar network for a larger number of colleagues. At that time, this network was still restricted solely to the western hemisphere of the circumpolar North because, although invited, colleagues from the Soviet Union did not react to the invitation. Such an opening would only come later in the northern social sciences when a group of scholars, including Igor Krupnik (see contribution in this



issue), from the Soviet Union made it to the 6<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference held in Copenhagen from October 17 to 20, 1988 (Dahl 1989).

Only two years later, in 1977, when I had moved to Montréal and McGill University, it was natural to draw from that experience in Amsterdam and develop contacts with existing and emerging northern institutions and organizations (e. g. in Canada: Centre for Northern Studies and Research [1976-1998] and Interfaculty Minor in Northern Studies [1988-1997] at McGill University; Centre d'études nordiques [1961], Groupe d'études inuit et circumpolaires [1987; since 2004 integrated into CIÉRA - Centre interuniversitaire d'études et de recherches autochtones], Études/Inuit/Studies [1977] and Inuit Studies Conference [1978] all at Université Laval; in the USA: Institute of Circumpolar Studies [1988-89] and BA [1971] and MA [1991] in Northern Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Center for Northern Studies in Wolcott, VT [1971]; in Finland: Arctic Centre [1988] and Arctic Studies Program [1990] in Rovaniemi and in Sweden: Center for Arctic Cultural Research [1983] in Umeå). Furthermore, I continued to initiate my own research projects and engaged in organizing smaller and larger conferences internationally in Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway and Sápmi. I also developed and directed international exchange programs, e.g. the Kevo-Schefferville Subarctic Exchange Program 1978-1979 between the University of Turku (Finland) and McGill University (Canada).

In 1977, the Association Inuksiutiit Katimajit established by colleagues at Université Laval in Ste-Foy (Québec) announced in the first volume of its journal *Études/Inuit/Studies* plans for an "Inuit Conference", similar to the annual Algonquian Conference founded in 1968, with the statement that "[l]ess rigidly structured than the traditional scientific gatherings, the 'Inuit Conference' would permit all those from across North America working on Inuit society to meet every two years." (*Études/Inuit/Studies* 1977: 171) The 1<sup>st</sup> Inuit Studies Conference (ISC 1) was held at Université Laval in October 1978. The organizational model for this evolving conference series was based on flexibility whereby the conferences would migrate biennially to places and institutions that issued an invitation to host the next conference independently. Traditionally, over the last 30 years, the ISC has attracted participation from such fields as archaeology, anthropology, geography, history, linguistics, religious studies and others engaged in the Inuit circumpolar North.

Over the years the ISC concept has been remarkably successful and stable and has served as an example of how scientific endeavours of engaged research communities could maintain visibility and open access, thus shaping future research agendas. Interested parties would join the conference without having to belong to an official association. From October 28 to 30, 2010 ISC 17 was held at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue in Val d'Or (Québec) and already scheduled for 2012 ISC 18 will migrate to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

As will be seen, the Inuit Studies Conference and their organizers were to play a crucial role in the foundation of IASSA. Over the years I have participated in a number of these conferences, published in the journal *Études/Inuit/Studies*, that began accepting papers with a broader circumpolar dimension (e.g. Müller-Wille and Pelto 1979), and also served as a member of its Editorial Committee between 1979 and 2008. I was quite familiar with the research and way of thinking in "Inuit Studies" by the time the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference (ISC 7), with the theme "Looking to the Future", was held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) between August 19 and 24, 1990. That conference became the forum and platform for the foundation of IASSA.

### **Steps towards the foundation of IASSA**

The following paragraphs are an account of the first steps that were taken by social scientists working in northern circumpolar regions to establish an international association at the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference (ISC 7) in August 1990, so far the largest of such gatherings (see Müller-Wille 1990 and contributions by Broadbent, Csonka and Krupnik in this issue). Only two years later, Ernst S. Burch, Jr. would say in his keynote to the joint opening session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference (ISC 8) and the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS I) in Ste-Foy (Québec) Canada, "There are too many Arctic social scientists now to make much more progress merely as a set of individuals with interests in the North. We must continue to develop our organizational base, but we must do so with constant attention to quality and effectiveness. If we do our work properly, when we meet for the 18<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference [2012] and the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences [possibly in 2020], we will be able to look back with satisfaction on a job well done." (Burch 1993: 41) Looking back over 20 years of developments and progression, it is my opinion that Burch's gentle exhortation and encouragement have been heeded by the members and the executive of IASSA, with the proviso that the test of success needs to be reapplied continuously, possibly, one would hope, at meetings in the future.

## The path to Fairbanks, 1988-1990

In retrospect it does not seem easy to identify the path of ideas that culminated in action to bring the proposal to consider forming an “Association of Arctic social scientists” to the attention of the 300 or so participants of ISC 7 in Fairbanks. One thread clearly originated at the “Conference of Arctic and Nordic Countries on Coordination of Research in the Arctic” held in Leningrad from December 12 to 15, 1988 (see contributions by Broadbent, Fitzhugh and Krupnik for more details; all three attended the conference, I did not). That conference was organized under the auspices of the Commission on Arctic Research of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR as a derivative of Mikhail Gorbachev’s speech on open access in the Arctic, which he held in Murmansk on October 1, 1987 (Gorbachev 1987; Kotlyakov and Sokolov 1990, Vol. 1: 5).

The Leningrad conference brought together around 500 scientists and science managers from the eight Arctic and seven non-Arctic states. The delegates represented predominantly natural sciences, however, there were a smaller number of social scientists and humanists from those countries. Previous to that conference there had already been a proposal, initiated in 1986, to establish an international scientific umbrella organization to enhance cooperation in Arctic research to be called the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). This proposal was supported strongly by the delegates (J. M. Gvishiani and V. M. Kotlyakov in: Kotlyakov and Sokolov 1990, Vol. 1: 21-22).

In fact, soon after, the national research organizations of each of the eight polar states formally founded IASC. This took place in Resolute Bay (NWT [Nunavut], Canada) on August 28, 1990 (IASC 1990), only five days after IASSA was established – an unexpected coincidence? According to Noel Broadbent and William W. Fitzhugh (see this issue) there was an apparent sense of urgency for arctic social scientists to establish their own independent organization to attain standing among the “Arctic sciences”.

What did not emerge clearly at the Leningrad conference was whether the attending social scientists felt included in this organizational and managerial process to establish IASC. For one, “science” was kept in the singular in the title of IASC. Some social scientists commented in papers delivered at the meeting that “Arctic social sciences”, as the term was by then used, could well be integrated into the proposed International Arctic Science Committee. However, although there must have been personal contacts between natural and social scientists at that time, there is no clear evidence that direct links were established (see below discussion of IASSA-IASC relations and contribution by Dybbroe). According to recollections by Broadbent and Fitzhugh, a number of concerned social scientists met to discuss the need for a separate organization to look after the interest of “Arctic social sciences”. Some of them also came to ISC 7, but only Noel Broadbent, Jens Peder Hart Hansen and Igor Krupnik became active in the critical foundation meetings at ISC 7 (see below and also Broadbent and Krupnik in this issue).

In the late 1980s and beyond, a number of developments increased direct contacts among social scientists considerably in northern research, most of them being well aware of the ideas and aspirations emanating from Gorbachev’s Murmansk speech and the Leningrad conference. In the educational field several universities established new or expanded their existing degree programs or summer institutes in “Northern/Arctic/Circumpolar Studies”, which all included a strong emphasis on human-environmental relations (e.g. Yukon College, McGill University, University of Lapland and existing ones at University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cambridge University and the Center for Northern Studies, Wolcott, VT). The extensive exchange of ideas and personnel among these institutions furthered cohesiveness in the northern research community. For example, I was invited to lecture and teach at the Institute of Circumpolar Studies (University of Alaska Fairbanks) in February and August 1989 and returned in September 1991. Some of the students and teachers who were engaged in those programs became strong supporters and members of IASSA in August 1990 and later on. At the same time, existing northern research centres and groups in some polar countries expanded their scope and gave more attention to the human dimension in the circumpolar North. New institutes or centres that were founded around that time made efforts to integrate human and social sciences into their mission statements and objectives.

It was under these circumstances that Noel D. Broadbent (since early 1990 manager of the just established Arctic Social Sciences Program with the National Science Foundation, Washington DC) and William W. Fitzhugh (Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution) approached the organizer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference, Lydia T. Black (1925-2007), to schedule a “[m]eeting for a proposed association of Arctic social scientists” (University of Alaska Fairbanks 1990: 8). It turned out that only Noel Broadbent, who had attended ISC 6 previously in 1988, could come to ISC 7 to look after their proposal.

Noel Broadbent introduced the term “Arctic social scientists” without further explanation of why such a meeting was being held at an Inuit Studies Conference that focused on the Inuit circumpolar North between Siberia and Greenland (see discussion in his contribution). It was also not clear what were exactly this term’s thematic definition and geographical scope. In the mid-1980s the term “Arctic social sciences” had been coined and applied in the discussions around the development and management of Arctic and Antarctic (polar) research in the USA, in which several American social scientists were asked to participate (for more detail and references see Broadbent’s and Krupnik’s contributions). It seems that American social scientists used the modifier “Arctic” for reasons of identity and strategically to become part of the Arctic research community completely dominated by natural scientists. That inclusion and acceptance would allow them to shape general policies on polar research, as well as to attain a niche to secure sustained research funding. This also clearly indicated a shift from the more conventional “Northern” to “Arctic” to attract attention for strategic reasons. Furthermore, “Arctic” was also espoused by newly founded organizations in the USA, e.g. ARCUS - Arctic Research Consortium of the U. S. (1988); Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution (1988); Institute of Arctic Studies, Dartmouth College (1989) and finally the Arctic Social Sciences Program at NSF (1990). “Arctic social sciences” had arrived and became a new science brand. It was therefore reasonable for Noel Broadbent to use this specific label for the proposed association.

In Canada the term “Northern/*nordique*” has been widely used and conveyed a broader, more encompassing application thematically and geographically. Therefore it appeared and continues to appear in official titles for research centres, programs and organizations (e.g. Institute for Northern Studies, University of Saskatchewan (1960-1984), Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, University of Alberta (1960, since 1990 Canadian Circumpolar Institute), Centre d’études nordique, Université Laval, ACUNS – Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (1977) and others listed above). One only has to refer to the concept and mental perspective of “*la nordicité canadienne*”, a neologism coined by the Canadian geographer Louis-Edmond Hamelin (1975) in the early 1960s, to understand the importance of “northern” within the Canadian context (see also Science Council of Canada 1977: 56-58 and other reports by Canadian governmental commissions on “northern and polar sciences” during the 1980s). Furthermore, Canadian scientists were instrumental to create the first formal “Northern Sciences Network” in 1982 under the umbrella of the UNESCO “Man and the Biosphere” program. This network was to enhance communication and cooperation among northern scientists. It was understood from the beginning that social scientists were included in this network as expressed in NSN newsletters.



The NUNA-TOP team in front of the Inuit Cultural Institute in Arviat (N.W.T. [Nunavut], Canada) on July 17, 1989. Back row, left to right: Julia Okatsiak, Linna Weber Müller-Wille, Edward Aijunaaq, Benoît Clermont; front row: Robert A. Rundstrom, Ludger Müller-Wille, Peter Suwaksiorik  
Photo: Müller-Wille Collection

Although, as will be seen, the difference between “Northern” and “Arctic” did not become a major issue at the Fairbanks meetings, still it was discussed by participants. The matter was agreed and “Arctic” remained as the label (see Minutes and Bylaws below). In retrospect, it is my assessment that it was quite noticeable that the new association did not reach as many researchers engaged predominantly in the Subarctic and Boreal regions as had been hoped.

The proposed organizational meeting was announced in the ISC 7 Pre-registration Information that included the

program and was sent out to prospective participants in the early summer of 1990 (see copy in Broadbent’s contribution). It was scheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 1990 with no place and time given. People interested were asked to contact Noel Broadbent at his Washington office beforehand. It seemed that the Inuit Studies Conference would be the appropriate place to initiate the establishment of an “Arctic social sciences

association” because it brought together scholars from all regions of the Inuit Circumpolar North including, for the first time, Inuit and Yupik and others from the Soviet Union, in fact, a welcome continuation of the participation of a delegation from the Soviet Union that was made possible at ISC 6 in Copenhagen in 1988 (Dahl 1989). This added dimension was to open up further opportunities in circumpolar cooperation and exchanges.

During the winter of 1989/90 and summer 1990 Linna Weber Müller-Wille and I were directing the extensive NUNA-TOP toponymic surveys with Inuit experts throughout the communities of the Kivalliq region in Arctic Canada and were also travelling in Europe and to Colorado. Therefore I had not planned to attend the Inuit Studies Conference. However, Avataq Cultural Institute (ACI, Inukjuak, Nunavik, Québec), the sponsor of our joint NUNA-TOP Place Name Surveys that we conducted in Nunavik producing a gazetteer and maps, decided in June 1990 to send a staff member, Tommy Weetaluktuk (Inukjuak), an archaeologist, to the ISC to represent their cultural research projects. I was asked to accompany and introduce him to researchers at the conference. A call to Lydia Black was all it took to get both of us registered.

Thus it happened that I could attend ISC 7 and be free to join any session without needing to give a paper. This was helpful when setting up improvised meetings. I do not recall if I had noted Noel Broadbent’s announcement before Tommy and I flew to Fairbanks; still I must have read the item before leaving. I do remember that I did not have any communication with him beforehand, although we had known each other since April 1984 when he was the director of the Center for Arctic Cultural Research at Umeå University and visited Montréal and McGill University on a fact-finding tour to northern research centres in North America; we also met at ISC 6 in Copenhagen in October 1988. When flying to Fairbanks to join ISC 7, there was little indication that I would get deeply involved in the establishment and management of an international organization for the next decade and more.

### **IASSA: foundation meetings and the First General Assembly, August 21-23, 1990**

Once arrived in Fairbanks I recall, and my calendar book tells me, that on Monday, August 20, 1990 during lunch with Claus-M. Naske, Terrence Cole, Anne Shinkwin (all University of Alaska Fairbanks), Lise Lyck (University of Copenhagen) and Noel D. Broadbent present, we discussed the proposed organizational meeting and the steps that should be taken. First, a voluntary ad-hoc committee emerged to oversee the initial procedures towards the foundation of an association. Noel chaired that and the following meetings and I agreed to keep minutes for all. Second, a time slot and room was found for the meeting on August 21, 1990, and third, conference participants were alerted to this first meeting by spreading the word informally and distributing flyers throughout the sessions and hallways.

There was a general feeling that the time was right to discuss the formation of a scientific association and establish a forum for social scientists throughout the northern circumpolar regions. It was also understood that people who could be made interested in founding an association had come to the Inuit Studies Conference from quite different directions and with different expectations. The conference organizers’ openness to accommodate such an endeavour showed that there was a willingness to go beyond the geographical and scientific reach of Inuit Studies without interfering with the activities of the well-established cycle of Inuit Studies Conferences. The *Association Inuksiutiit Katimajit inc.*, a Canadian non-profit society founded by anthropologists at Université Laval in 1974, had started the journal *Études/Inuit/Studies* in 1977 and the series of perambulating Inuit Studies Conferences in 1978. It never saw itself as a formal professional association. Each time, those conferences were independently organized by the hosting institution that invited the ISC biennially. Organizers and participants of this 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference offered a stimulating atmosphere that was to foster the growth of a very close and productive cooperation between its organization and IASSA during the next two years and beyond. Furthermore, many ISC participants showed enthusiasm that kept the momentum going to establish an international association through a rapid succession of meetings, all within two days during a busy conference schedule.

The following sections include the exact minutes, shown in *italics*, that I took during all six meetings that were held (any additions are given in brackets). These minutes are IASSA’s first official documents. I edited the minutes in Montréal on August 28, 1990 and, after Noel Broadbent as the chair of those meetings, had read them and made amendments, I finalized the text on September 26, 1990 (Müller-Wille 1990). The same procedure was applied to the Bylaws that, based on a draft by Noel Broadbent, were formulated at the various meetings (see Appendix 1). All meetings were held at the premises of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. To



preserve the historical record of these important events I feel it worthwhile to include all names and affiliations of the people who were engaged in the process.

***Ad-hoc Committee Meeting, Kayak Room, Rasmuson Library, 21 August 1990, 1 pm***

*Members: Noel D. Broadbent (Chair; Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC), Ludger Müller-Wille (Secretary; Department of Geography, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada) and Lise Lyck (Member; Department of Economics, Copenhagen University, Denmark)*

*A number of participants joined the ad-hoc committee for discussion. Procedures and an agenda were established for the first general meeting to discuss the establishment of an international association. The agenda was copied and distributed. Jens Peder Hart Hansen ([1936–1998] Department of Pathology, Copenhagen University; President [1987–1993], International Union for Circumpolar Health - IUCH) was invited to report on IUCH's experiences going back to the 1960s. It was decided to look at IUCH as a model for the new association.*

***General Meeting, Fine Arts Theater, 21 August 1990, 5:15 to 6 pm***

*Meeting to establish an international association of Arctic social scientists.*

*Panel: Noel D. Broadbent (Chair), Ludger Müller-Wille (Secretary), Lise Lyck and J. P. Hart Hansen (Members).*

*The meeting was open to all participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference.*

*1) Introduction and Background: Noel D. Broadbent outlined the origin of the proposal to establish an international association of Arctic social scientists. The proposal emerged at the Conference of Arctic and Nordic Countries on Coordination of Research in the Arctic held in Leningrad on 12- 15 December 1988. At this meeting steps were taken to establish the International Arctic Science Committee (inaugurated by scientific bodies from eight polar countries [Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.] in Resolute Bay, Canada on 28 August 1990). Also in 1988, the newly founded Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland (Rovaniemi, Finland) agreed to house the Secretariat of the Northern Sciences Network founded in 1982 under the UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) Program [established in 1970] to increase communication among northern scientists. These international organizational developments in the northern scientific communities suggested that social scientists should establish an umbrella organization to maintain representation on the international level. Lise Lyck reviewed the developments and efforts in the Nordic countries. Ludger Müller-Wille stressed the importance of the Inuit Studies Conference, which had provided a forum for the establishment of a new association. J. P. Hart Hansen explained the organization of the International Union for Circumpolar Health (founded in 1981), its trials and successes, which can serve as a model for the new association.*

*2) Proposal to establish an international association: After brief discussion the proposal was carried unanimously.*

*3) Proposal to base the association at the MAB Northern Sciences Network Secretariat in Rovaniemi, Finland: After the discussion of pros and cons the item was accepted and Noel D. Broadbent was given the mandate to contact NSN and submit the proposal on behalf of the association at the next annual meeting of the NSN in Rovaniemi in September 1990 [see below].*

*4) Appoint working group to draft the association's objectives and bylaws and to function as the nominating committee for association's executive: The item was carried unanimously and volunteers signed up for the working group. [For more detail see contribution by Broadbent].*

*5) Membership: At this time, membership includes all participants who have signed lists circulated during the general and other meetings during the Inuit Studies Conference.*

*6) Next General Meeting (Foundation Meeting): Fine Arts Theater, 23 August 1990, 1 pm.*

***First Meeting, Working Group on Bylaws and Nominations, Kayak Room, Rasmuson Library, 21 August 1990, 6:00 to 7:30 pm***

*Chairs: Noel D. Broadbent (Washington, DC), Secretary: Ludger Müller-Wille (Montréal), Members: Lise Lyck (Copenhagen), John P. Cook (Fairbanks), Joëlle Robert-Lamblin (Paris), Bernard Saladin d'Anglure (Québec), Valerie Alia (London, Ontario), Susanne Dybbroe (Århus), Grete Hovelsrud (Oslo), Edna A. Maclean (Fairbanks), Wendy H. Arendale (Fairbanks), William Demmert (Fairbanks), Anthony Kaliss (Honolulu).*

*The working group formulated and agreed on a number of goals and objectives included in Draft 1, which was put together by Noel D. Broadbent; items on membership, council and general assembly were added. The organization's tentative name was "International Association of Arctic Social Scientists" (IAASS) at this time [with this acronym it did not last long].*

***Second Meeting, Working Group on Bylaws and Nominations, Kayak Room, Rasmuson Library, 22 August 1990, 1:00 to 2:30 pm***

*Chair: Noel D. Broadbent, Secretary: Ludger Müller-Wille, Members: Joëlle Robert-Lamblin, Bernard Saladin d'Anglure, John P. Cook, Wendy H. Arendale, Susanne Dybbroe, J. P. Hart Hansen (Copenhagen), Ellen Bielawski (Sidney, B.C.), Anthony Kaliss, Robert Petersen (Nuuk, Greenland), Grete Hovelsrud, Carol Z. Jolles (Seattle), Oscar Kawagley (Fairbanks), Igor Krupnik (Moscow), Vladimir Sangi (Moscow), Olga Toumnettuvge (Novosibirsk), Viktor Podgainyi (Anadyr), Chuner Taksami (Leningrad), Anne Fienup-Riordan (Anchorage), Samuel Fry (Washington, DC), Evie Plaice (Manchester, England), Caroline Palliser (Dorval, Québec)*

*Noel D. Broadbent submitted Draft 1. The organization's name was changed and unanimously accepted as "International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)". Each bylaw was discussed individually. Revisions and additions were made which were included in Draft 2 that was typed by John D. Cook and proof read by Lise Lyck and Ludger Müller-Wille. This version of Draft 2 including nominations for the national seats on the Council was made available to the Inuit Studies Conference participants before the banquet on August 22 at 7:00 pm.*

***Meeting, Ad-hoc Committee, Wood Center, 22 August 1990, 7:30 pm***

*Noel D. Broadbent, Lise Lyck, and Ludger Müller-Wille met briefly and established the agenda for the foundation meeting and first general assembly of the association on 23 August 1990.*

***Foundation Meeting and First General Assembly, International Arctic Social Sciences Association, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fine Arts Theater, Thursday, 23 August 1990, 1:00 to 2:20 pm***

*Chair: Noel D. Broadbent, Secretary: Ludger Müller-Wille*

***MINUTES***

*1) Functions of Chair and Secretary. Approved.*

*2) Opening Statement. The Chair explained the process and procedure, which had evolved since 21 August. The Secretary presented the list of all members who participated in the meetings of the Working Group on Bylaws and Nominations. The Chair and Secretary urged all participants to add their names as members on to the circulating membership lists.*

*3) Consideration of the Draft Bylaws. The Chair tabled Draft 2 dated 23 August 1990, which had been edited by Noel D. Broadbent for the First General Assembly. The bylaws were discussed individually and approved with the following amendments or proposals.*

- a. Association's name. Carried.*
- b. Definition of term "Arctic". Carried. [That is "all Arctic and sub-Arctic (circumpolar) regions of the world", see Bylaws, Appendix 1]*
- c. Range of Social Sciences. Terms "education, anthropological" added. Carried.*
- d. Objectives. Reformulations and additions suggested. Carried (included in Draft 3 dated 27 August 1990 prepared by Noel D. Broadbent.)*
- e. Administration. Carried.*
- f. Council Membership. Carried.*

*The Chair stated that written submissions for revisions, deletions and additions should be sent to the Acting Council by the end of October 1990. Acting Council will then revise Draft 3 and submit the Final Draft (Draft 4) for consideration by the members at the Second General Assembly of IASSA in 1992.*

*4) Election of Members of Acting Council. The Secretary tabled nominations of candidates received from the Working Group and the General Assembly. The elected candidates are members of the Acting Council until the next General Assembly in 1992.*

*a. Representatives of Nations, Regions and Communities (6 members) – carried. Canada: Ludger Müller-Wille, Greenland: Finn Breinholt Larsen, Indigenous Peoples: Oscar Kawagley, Nordic*

*Countries: Susanne Dybbroe or Lise Lyck (decision by secret ballot), USA: Noel D. Broadbent, USSR: No nomination at this time. The Soviet caucus, as stated by Chuner Taksami and Vladimir Sangi to Chair and Secretary, will nominate a member to the Acting Council by the end of October 1990 [This happened only in mid-1991 when Vladimir Pavlenko (Arctic Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow) was nominated as the national representative to IASSA; how this nomination came about was never explained.]*

*b. Open Membership (5 members): Candidates were nominated and their election was carried out by secret ballot. Nominations: Edna A. Maclean (University of Alaska Fairbanks, Inuit Circumpolar Conference), Hiroaki Okada (Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan), Gordon Pullar (Kodiak Native Corporation, Alaska, USA), Nils Jernsletten (Tromsø University, Sápmi / Norway), Valerie Alia (University of Western Ontario, London, Canada), Bernard Saladin d'Anglure (Université Laval, Québec, Canada), Ellen Bielawski (Sydney, BC, Canada), Wendy H. Arendale (University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska, USA), Joëlle Robert-Lamblin (Centre nationale de la recherche scientifique - CNRS, Paris, France), Susanne Dybbroe (Århus University, Denmark), Igor Krupnik (Institute of Ethnography, Moscow, USSR), Yvon Csonka (Université Laval, Québec), Lise Lyck (University of Copenhagen, Denmark).*

*c. Elections by Secret Ballot for Open Membership and Representative for the Nordic Countries. After the meeting the Chair and Secretary served as the Election Committee, set up the ballot and distributed ballot sheets. The poll was open to all participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in the lobby of the Fine Arts Theater between 3:00 and 5:15 pm. The ballots were counted by the Election Committee who announced the results at 5:45 pm during the Business Meeting of the Association Inuusiutiit Katimajit, Inc. chaired by Bernard Saladin d'Anglure. Election Results (votes cast: 74): Open Membership: Edna A. Maclean, Igor Krupnik, Nils Jernsletten (upon condition that he will accept), Hiroaki Okada, Bernard Saladin d'Anglure, Joëlle Robert-Lamblin (member or alternate member pending upon Jernsletten's acceptance). Nordic Countries: Susanne Dybbroe, Lise Lyck (alternate member). [Actual vote count is not included here, but is in the IASSA files.]*

*d. Members of IASSA Acting Council (1990-92). After contacting all elected candidates the Acting Council consists of the following members. Noel D. Broadbent (USA; Washington, DC), Susanne Dybbroe (Nordic Countries; Århus, Denmark), Nils Jernsletten (open member, Tromsø, Sápmi/Norway), Oscar Kawagley (Indigenous Peoples, Fairbanks, AK), Igor Krupnik (open member, Fairbanks, AK), Finn Breinholt Larsen (Greenland; Nuuk), Lise Lyck (alternate, Nordic Countries; Copenhagen), Edna McLean (open member: Seattle, WA), Ludger Müller-Wille (Canada; Montréal), Hiroaki Okada (open member, Sapporo, Japan), Joëlle Robert-Lamblin (alternate, open member; Paris), Bernard Saladin d'Anglure (open member; ), Vladimir Pavlenko (USSR vacant till summer 1991; Moscow).*

*Noel D. Broadbent and Ludger Müller-Wille agreed to serve as the Association's and Acting Council's liaison until formal arrangements for their functioning have been made.*



Robert Petersen, Louis-Jacques Dorais, and Bernard Saladin d'Anglure at the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference, August 1990

Photo: Joëlle Robert-Lamblin

*5) Other Business: It was decided, pending on favorable circumstances, to hold the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences and the Second General Assembly of IASSA next to the 8<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference at Université Laval in Québec (Québec, Canada) in 1992. The Acting Council was given the mandate to make preparations for these events in cooperation with the Association Inuusiutiit Katimajit, Inc. (Inuit Studies Conference) and the Groupe d'études inuit et circumpolaires (GÉTIC, Université Laval, Québec, Canada). The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. The second general assembly will be held in 1992.*

## Post-meetings reflections

Within a time span of barely 48 hours and six meetings the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) was founded. Almost 100 participants were involved and signed up as the founding members. At the inaugural general meeting they elected twelve people to form the acting council and approved an organizational structure with draft bylaws that included a preamble and objectives for the road ahead. By happenstance and consensus, Noel Broadbent as chair and I as secretary handled the organization and procedures of all meetings. For the time being, we both agreed to coordinate jointly with the Acting Council the future steps that IASSA needed to take to establish itself as a viable recognized scientific association among the increasing number of institutions that were engaged in Arctic sciences. This was clearly a unique opportunity for a redefined research community to emerge and put its imprint on future research studying human-environmental relations and social and cultural change in the circumpolar North. There was the feeling not to lose this opportunity but to take it and create an organization that would further understanding and knowledge of the human dimension throughout the circumpolar North – an ambitious plan.

In retrospect, I am not sure what expectations ISC participants had when, at their conference, they got involved in the instantaneous establishment of a broader professional association, which was not to be seen as competition with the research network around Inuit Studies. This exercise was a success because of the many enthusiastic participants, almost one third of ISC 7 attendants, and in particular, the colleagues of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, who were supportive of and engaged in the preparatory meetings that Noel Broadbent and I ran in short sequence. It was understood very well that there were no financial resources to draw from, only the willingness of people to spend time voluntarily to make it happen. The responsibility was now in the hands of a few people, the Acting Council, to carry the ball. The next two years until the first public appearance of IASSA at its First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS I) in late October 1992 were to be critical for the continuing existence of the association. As events would unfold, it became my role as acting chair to champion the advancement of IASSA's scientific objectives and to oversee the administrative functioning as a recognized international association among peers. A challenge and task I was glad to accept.



Lydia Black (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Chair of the 7th Inuit Studies Conference, August 1990

Photo: Joëlle Robert-Lamblin



Participants at the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference: (left to right) Chuna McIntyre (Eek, Alaska), Margaret Lantis (1906-2006, formerly at the University of Kentucky), Michael Krauss (UAF) and Maria Zhornitskaya (1921-1995, Institute of Ethnography, Moscow, Russia) August 1990

Photo: Joëlle Robert-Lamblin

Friday, August 24, 1990, the last day in Fairbanks, brought some relaxing diversion to several conference participants. I had a chance to take Shanley Allen, Betsy Annahatak, Mitiarjuq Nappaaluk, Caroline Palliser and Tommy Weetaluktuk, all from Québec and Nunavik, on a drive to show them the old gold mining dredges and the Alyeska pipeline north of Fairbanks and take them to the impressive and fascinating Chena Hot Springs before going to the home of Linda J. Ellanna and George Sherrod for dinner – moments to remember.

## The road to ICASS and stability: constituting and advancing IASSA, 1990-1993

After all participants of ISC 7 and the founding members of IASSA had left Fairbanks in late August 1990 to go back to their regular routines, the Acting Council had its tasks cut out for the next 26 months until the proposed successive meetings of ISC 8 and ICASS I at Université Laval in Ste-Foy (Québec) Canada in late October 1992. By then IASSA had to be fully constituted and its objectives advanced. For a fledgling



association with a growing number of members and practically no resources, the challenges were complex and required considerable input in time and energy in order to attain the envisioned goal to rally a large research community whose composition and definition was not yet known.

### **IASSA and Council's activities, August 1990 – May 1993**

At the First General Assembly Noel Broadbent and I had agreed to serve as the Association's and Acting Council's liaisons during the first period of preparatory actions until permanent arrangements had been found. Over the next few months we worked very closely together exchanging information and ideas, developing strategies and devising actions. From the beginning, I looked after IASSA's increasing correspondence with acting council, members and organizations and, as the convener, started to work with our colleagues at Université Laval to plan and prepare ICASS I.

#### **1) Council, chair and secretariat**

The Acting Council's eleven full and two alternate members (four women, nine men, among them three aboriginal members) resided in twelve locations in seven countries. Calling meetings was impractical without financial resources. In fact, the first formal meeting of the Acting Council was only held just before ICASS I began in Ste-Foy (Québec) on October 27, 1992. Therefore extensive communication among the members was conducted by mail, phone and the then ubiquitous fax machine. Gradually, as of early 1992, electronic mail was used whose application was rapidly spreading throughout universities internationally at that time; the internet with websites would follow a few years later. All those electronic tools facilitated communication and public relations immensely.

In Fairbanks, Noel Broadbent had mentioned that, as a government employee with the National Science Foundation, he could not be in any official executive position with an association, however, he could stay on as a regular member of the council, which he did. With council members' consent I agreed to be the Acting Chair till IASSA's Second General Assembly in October 1992 when the new council and chair would be elected according to the Bylaws to be approved at that time.

To further Council's actions, Noel Broadbent and I arranged a working meeting at McGill University in Montréal on January 24 and 25, 1991, while Noel was in Ottawa on business for the National Science Foundation (NSF). We reviewed the achievements so far and made plans for further actions that we summarized in a memorandum to the council members dated January 30, 1991 (Müller-Wille and Broadbent 1991, see also Appendix 2). The following paragraphs include excerpts from that document and the first IASSA Newsletters (Fall 1991 – see Müller-Wille 1991, see also Appendix 3; Spring 1992, Spring/Summer 1993, Fall 1993 – see IASSA 1992-1993) as well as other unpublished sources.

The two-tier composition of the Acting Council – representatives of nations, regions and communities (six members) and open membership (five) – was seen as an initial and temporary step to guarantee fair representation of the Arctic social sciences research community throughout the circumpolar North. This was based on an uneasy compromise, particularly by people from the Soviet Union who wanted to get away from national nominations made by institutions. They and many others were for open membership elected by the grass-root level. Still this first arrangement did support the vision of working together throughout the circumpolar North. Later changes to the bylaws implemented the open council membership fully. This was followed by the reduction of council members to eight, after which council membership became very much dependent on the candidates' recognition by the general members during elections at the General Assembly. The issue of gender ratio also was raised in discussions, but no direct action was taken – by chance, the first five chairs/presidents were men! Therefore it is a positive sign that, since 2008, gender distribution has been equitable on IASSA's council.

At the General Assembly on October 29, 1992 elections were held for the first council for the period 1992-95 based on the approved bylaws. It consisted of eleven full members (three women, eight men, among them three aboriginal members, all Sámi), an adjunct member and two ex officio members. The members were: Pekka Aikio (Guovdageaidnu), Yelena N. Andreeva (Moscow), Noel D. Broadbent (Washington DC), Richard Caulfield (Fairbanks, AK), Susanne Dybbroe (Århus; vice-chair), Igor I. Krupnik (Washington, DC), Henry Minde (Tromsø), Finn Breinholt Larsen (Århus), Ludger Müller-Wille (Montréal, QC; chair), Vigdis Stordahl (Kárásjohka), Nikolai B. Vakhtin (St. Petersburg); Bernard Saladin d'Anglure (Ste-Foy, QC;

adjunct); Michael Pretes (Rovaniemi, ex-officio, secretary till March 1994, then Leena Tornberg till Fall 1995), Monica Tennberg (Rovaniemi, ex-officio, treasurer, ICASS II convener).

During this beginning period 1990-92, I also functioned, next to being acting chair, as secretary and treasurer of IASSA. Between September 1990 and May 1993 Linna Weber Müller-Wille handled all the records of memberships, ICASS I, and mailings by designing a data management program especially for IASSA's needs. This program was used by IASSA until 1998 including ICASS III.

The secretary and treasurer positions were created officially after ICASS I. By August 1992, I was able to obtain assurances from the newly appointed director of the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi, Manfred A. Lange, that the Arctic Centre would house the secretariat and delegate staff for such tasks as of spring 1993. After this, secretary and treasurer became automatically ex-officio members of the Council, as did also the past-chair/president beginning in 1995. After the election in October 1992, IASSA council also had a vice-chair.

In Fairbanks, Noel Broadbent had suggested contacting the secretariat of the "Man and the Biosphere" Northern Sciences Network (MAB – NSN) at the Arctic Centre to see if it would be interested in administering the IASSA secretariat. However, such plans never materialized, still NSN was very supportive and included IASSA's first newsletter in its own newsletter, which had the largest distribution network in northern sciences at that time, and mailed it also to people IASSA had in its own registry in October 1991 (see Müller-Wille 1991; Appendix 3). As it turned out, nominally, the first IASSA Secretariat was with the Department of Geography at McGill University, my home department, which became IASSA's mailing and faxing address with the kind permission of its chair, Sherry H. Olson. Furthermore, McGill University's postal service, computing centre and accounting department contributed services in kind over the next few years. However, practically the secretariat functioned out of the residence of Linna Weber Müller-Wille and Ludger Müller-Wille in St-Lambert (Québec) between August 1990 and May 1993. All this meant that during the first few years of its existence IASSA did not have to pay any actual expenses

IASSA's legal incorporation as a non-profit organization was also, if only briefly discussed at the preparatory meetings. This step was not pursued considering financial and organizational constraints. The chosen model of a migrating secretariat moving from country to country every three years made it clearly arduous to obtain permanent legal incorporation unless an institution would commit itself to function as a long-term office. It does not seem that this has been a disadvantage for IASSA. It might be an aspect to be considered in the future depending on the legal requirements in the host country. On the other hand, from the beginning, IASSA has been successful relying on the commitment of its hosting institutions to obtain extensive funding nationally, regionally and internationally, and thus has from the start been fully recognized as a professional scientific association by universities and funding agencies.

## **2) Creating a research community and attracting members**

The first important and major practical task was to spread the word about IASSA's foundation to as many people, organizations and institutions as possible in the wide interdisciplinary field of social sciences and humanities in the circumpolar North, as well as among natural scientists in northern or Arctic sciences in general. In fact, IASSA became engaged in creating a research community that had not yet been defined in its reach and scope.

At the foundation meeting, it was the understanding of the almost 100 instant members who registered that all people interested in the social sciences of and in the North were welcome to join the association. Therefore all available channels were explored and used to distribute information about IASSA's objectives (see *Études/Inuit/Studies* 1990, Müller-Wille 1991). IASSA's members and council were committed that the association was open to all disciplines without limits and academic hierarchies.

The numbers and the composition of members that joined IASSA during its beginning years indicate that the policy of open access worked. IASSA's low annual fees (in 1991: US\$ 10.00, 1993: US\$ 20.00) and temporary fee exemptions for members from the Russian Federation and eastern European countries allowed many people to participate. Members' loyalty was also strengthened by requesting that all participants in ICASS had to be registered members. By the time of ISC 8 and ICASS I in October 1992 there were close to 900 people and organizations that, in 1991 and 1992, had received mailings of IASSA newsletters and materials in preparation for ICASS I. At the time of the consecutive meetings, in all 418 people had registered with ISC 8 and ICASS I. At ICASS I alone there were 235 participants who gave presentations.

Among these were 38 aboriginal researchers (26 Inuit, two Dene and ten Sámi) or 16% of all participants; three of the four keynote speakers were aboriginal.

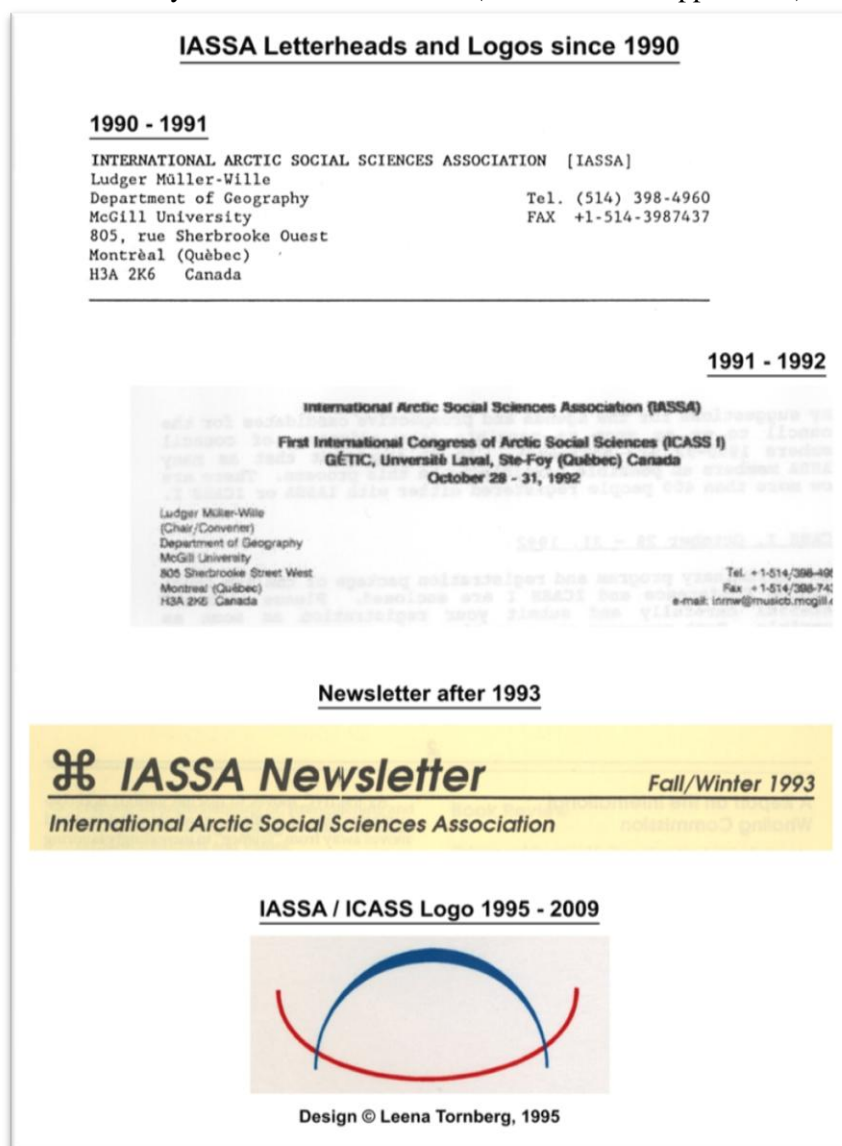
With the experience of the first two years it was estimated that, in the early 1990s, the active research community of Arctic social sciences in and outside the circumpolar North might consist of approximately 1200 people (Burch 1993). By early 1992, it can be assumed they all knew about IASSA and its activities.

Compared to other organizations these numbers seem fairly small, but few of us had expected at all that so many people would show interest. This was a clear indication that IASSA had responded to an existing need for increased interaction and cooperation among Arctic social scientists. The future would show that IASSA had to face and deal with membership fluctuations from congress to congress (unfortunately, exact statistics are not available at this time). Generally, the trend has been upward during the first 20 years and was lately very much enhanced by IASSA's constructive promotion of social sciences internationally and active participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year 2007-2008 (see statement by Joan Nymand Larsen in this issue). This success story belongs to somebody else's historical account (cf. Krupnik 2009).

### 3) Publications and communications

#### NEWSLETTER

Communication with members and the wider research community was begun in May 1991 with the first wide-ranging mailing of general information about IASSA and the announcement of ICASS I using facilities at McGill University. As mentioned above the very first IASSA Newsletter (abbreviated in Appendix 3) was included in the Northern Sciences Network Newsletter of October 1991, which, at that time, had the largest distribution network in and outside the circumpolar North (see Müller-Wille 1991). Amongst other updates that newsletter included the draft bylaws. In April 1992, the second Newsletter was mailed, this time from McGill University. It listed IASSA's first email contact address and information concerning membership fees, the upcoming Second General Assembly and ICASS I, the negotiations with the Arctic Centre (Rovaniemi) about the secretariat and other items. The third Newsletter was issued by the IASSA secretariat at the Arctic Centre and mailed from there in May 1993. It was now designed as a publication on its own with its individual format, layout, title and logo. This issue introduced several features that were to be continued and expanded in the future, such as the editorial by the chair/president, book reviews, members' news, institutional profiles, events and announcements by the secretariat.



IASSA letterheads and logos since 1990

The expenses for these newsletters – layout, printing and mailing - were covered in all cases generously by institutions, i.e. Northern Sciences Network, McGill University and University of Lapland. This was a major support and savings for IASSA as a young organization. A printed version of the newsletter was maintained for some years to reach members in areas without access to the internet before the Newsletter was switched to a full-fledged digital edition ([www.iassa.org/news-letter](http://www.iassa.org/news-letter)).

## PUBLICATIONS

While preparing for ICASS I, I proposed to follow the practice of some organizations that had established their own conference series to publish all keynotes in one volume. In fact, the Inuit Studies Conferences had done that from time to time (e.g. Dahl 1989). It was agreed that IASSA should establish for this purpose its own publication series that would publicize and raise the image of the association and its future international congresses. In 1992, on behalf of IASSA, I registered the series *Topics in Arctic Social Sciences* [ISSN 1021-5891 (Canada)] with the National Library of Canada in Ottawa. The first volume released in October 1993 contained the four keynotes given by Peter Irniq (Ernerk), Pekka Aikio, Phoebe Nahanni (1947-2001) and Ernest S. Burch, Jr. (1938-2010) during the joint session of ISC 8 and ICASS II on October 28, 1992 (Dorais and Müller-Wille 1993). This publication was a joint effort by IASSA and GÉTIC at Université Laval, financed by the funds obtained to support the meetings. It was sent to all participants as part of the registration package. This tradition has been maintained with all congresses since 1992; and six volumes have been published since 1993 (see [www.iassa.org/publications](http://www.iassa.org/publications)).

## THE ELECTRONIC MEDIUM

During this early IASSA period, the electronic age emerged rapidly. Electronic mail came first at the turn of 1991/92 and then other communicative tools. Step by step IASSA integrated and used these technical advantages, always with the help of individuals and their institutions given free of charge. Richard Caulfield initiated the “IASSA.NET Electronic Bulletin Board” for IASSA members that he got implemented by the Computing Center of the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the spring of 1994. This listserv has remained there ever since – a stable and so far, it seems, the only sedentary feature in IASSA’s expansive migratory pattern (see also [www.iassa.org/iassanet](http://www.iassa.org/iassanet)). This effective list server was followed later by the official IASSA website that, by now, has already migrated from place to place several times since its inception (see [www.iassa.org](http://www.iassa.org)).

## 4) Principles of ethics for the conduct of research

The first Bylaws drafted at the preparatory meetings were reviewed by all council members during the fall of 1990 and a final version was produced by late January 1991. This version was submitted to the Council and the General Assembly at ICASS I where it was approved on October 27 and 29, 1992 respectively. Particular care was given to the formulation of the preamble and the objectives, which were wide-ranging and long-term tasks. In fact, the last of the eight guiding objectives was seen as the most pressing one to deal with, due to the research situation in the northern circumpolar regions. This objective plainly stated that IASSA was “to adopt a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic” (see Appendix 1) – a task that would take several years to conclude.

After informal discussions among members at ICASS I the newly elected council decided that the plenary session at ICASS II in Rovaniemi on June 1, 1995 would be devoted solely to “Ethical principles and the Conduct of Research” chaired by Susanne Dybbroe, Vigdis Stordahl and Nikolai Vakhtin. This plenary session was held and the large number of participants engaged in lively discussions, which finally led to the formation of two smaller ad-hoc committees that produced two documents for further review and comments (IASSA 1995: 4-5).

The first committee formulated “A Philosophy of Dedicated Actions” prepared by Linna Weber Müller-Wille, Monica Tennberg, Jane George, Béatrice Collignon, Philip Burgess, Kathleen Osgood Dana and others who were inspired by the ongoing discussions and the presentation by Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley (1996) who raised pertinent issues from the aboriginal perspective. The second committee with Noel Broadbent, Julie Cruikshank and Rosita Worl established the more formalistic and empirical “Principles” based on experiences in Canada, where ethical issues were very much advanced and guidelines already implemented some time ago (Environment Canada 1978), and the more recently approved principles in the USA (US-IARPC 1990).

The final adoption of the principles and guidelines occurred by Council and General Assembly during ICASS III in Copenhagen, May 21-23, 1998. With that IASSA had finally joined other national, international



and aboriginal organizations and governmental authorities to adhere to a clear set of rules on how research was to be conducted in the communities throughout the circumpolar North.

## 5) Relations with other organizations

One other objective that the Acting Council pursued right from the beginning was to establish direct relations with scientific organizations that focussed on northern circumpolar regions. IASSA was the first and only independent organization of social scientists working in or on the North. Other organizations represented almost exclusively the research interests of natural scientists, often with a specific focus such as permafrost, ice, snow, fauna or flora.

In December 1988, the Leningrad Conference endorsed the formation of a non-governmental International Arctic Science Committee with strict national representation by the eight polar countries through publicly funded academies, research councils, commissions and even governmental bodies (see above). Some social scientists present at the conference felt that social sciences and even humanities could find a place under this organizational umbrella and attached themselves to national delegations of IASC. Therefore, it might have been a surprise to some that other social scientists had moved rapidly to create their own organization. Recognizing IASC's future role as a leading actor in sciences in the circumpolar North, IASSA decided to contact IASC immediately to explore direct links.

### THE IASSA – IASC CONNECTION

On behalf of IASSA's Acting Council, I sought contacts with IASC representatives to sound out the possibilities of cooperation and coordination between the two contemporary and young organizations. There were ample opportunities to meet personally in various contexts. On September 4, 1990, I talked to and later met with Marianne Stenbæk in Montréal, then the director of the Centre for Northern Studies and Research at McGill University, who was involved with IASC and seen as its spokesperson for human and social sciences. We exchanged information and touched upon IASSA's intentions to create a liaison with IASC. Later in October, I also got to know Odd Rogne, who was IASC's first executive secretary, at the inaugural meeting of the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi where both of us were appointed members. Our conversations about IASC and IASSA led me to send, in December 1990, a proposal to IASC to establish closer liaison. A brief informal reaction was that IASC was favourably inclined to accept proposals from international organizations but had "... to work out a feasible mechanism." (Müller-Wille and Broadbent 1991: 2)

There was no formal response to this proposal for some time. Still communications continued and IASSA invited IASC to send a delegation to ICASS I in late October 1992, which it did. On October 28, 1992 Noel Broadbent and I met the IASC delegation led by Louwrens Hacquebord for an early morning discussion, which was not conclusive. He had been asked to report back "... how IASC could be involved in further developments in internationally significant human and social sciences in Arctic regions." (IASSA Archive: Rogne/Müller-Wille, June 22, 1993). The matter of liaison was tabled with Council and General Assembly at ICASS I, both approving to establish a direct link with IASC. Not having received a reaction for some time, I sent a formal proposal for "co-ordination and liaison", i.e. "advisory body", to IASC on February 15, 1993 which was discussed at the next IASC council meeting in May. The official response (Rogne/Müller-Wille, June 22, 1993) was that IASC would establish its own "advisory group for human and social sciences" chaired by an IASC member. IASSA was invited to appoint three representatives with other members coming from major indigenous organizations, which were not named, and IASC member states.

IASSA Council found this decision "puzzling" and the approach rather "convoluted and bureaucratic"; furthermore, IASC had not considered at all the formal proposal for an advisory position to IASC as an independent organization (Müller-Wille/Rogne, August 11, 1993). Therefore Council did not accept the invitation to join the planned IASC advisory group, rather pointed out that it wanted to establish a liaison as an independent organization such as IASC had negotiated with the International Union of Circumpolar Health.

Upon this exchange, IASC discussed IASSA's proposal, that now began to be seen favourably by a few IASC representatives, at council meetings in December 1993 and in early May 1994 when the proposition was finally approved. IASSA Council received the response at its meeting held at Århus University on May 12-13, 1994 and accepted IASC's invitation to be the "Advisory Body for Arctic Social and Human Sciences". Noel Broadbent was designated to be IASSA's regular liaison with Susanne Dybbroe as the

alternate. She attended the next meeting of the IASC Global Change Working Group in Stockholm in October 1994 as the first IASSA representative (Dybbroe 1994). It seemed that some kind of understanding had gradually occurred between natural and social scientists (for more details on these two meetings see Dybbroe 1994, Müller-Wille and Dybbroe 1994 and Dybbroe's contribution in this issue).

The official letter by Magnús Magnússon, the president of IASC, announcing this decision was only sent and received on April 24, 1995 (Magnússon/Müller-Wille, April 24, 1995). This was the very day when the IASC Council began its annual meeting for the first time at the Arctic Centre at the Arktikum in Rovaniemi, Finland. As the director of the Arctic Centre (1995-96) it was my task to welcome the delegates. In my opening remarks I offered some reflections on "cooperation and coordination" during the history of international polar research as well as on the very recent recognition of social sciences and humanities after an almost five-year process (Müller-Wille 1995).

*It is only 120 years or six scores ago that - in 1875 - Carl Weyprecht, having returned from a disastrous and nearly catastrophic expedition with Franz Payer to capture and measure the Arctic unknown, proposed a programmatic and systematic approach to polar research based on stationary and areal research schemes with long-term measuring, projections and solid funding to collect data throughout the polar environments. As we know, this stimulating proposal amazingly led, within only a few years, to the formation of the multinational Polar Commission with eventually eleven member-nations and the first international, rigorously designed and simultaneously applied mega-research framework - the International Polar Year of 1882/83. The attained results shaped scientific research for some time to come, although the Polar Commission gradually dwindled and disappeared by the 1890s.*

*Having perused, some years ago, the correspondence and circulars of the International and German Polar Commissions in the archive in Hamburg, I clearly detected that not the disagreement in scientific pursuits and probing caused rifts in this international research organization, rather bureaucratic wrangling and formalities and, in particular, the chemistry and relations of personalities, connected with ego- and nation-building, interfered with progress and continued success. Be it the ubiquitous Graf Heinrich Wild at the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg or the strong-headed Georg von Neumayer at the Deutsche Sternwarte in Hamburg, these men had the possibilities in their hands to let these efforts either flourish or falter.*

*IASC, less than five years old, is - like it or not - part of this tradition in polar research; strides are being taken by your committee to work internationally and globally. I hope that previous mistakes won't be repeated - however, one never knows -, rather that openness to and acceptance of diverse views and different cultural and academic traditions prevail as the core of IASC's work.*

*In this context, as the chair of IASSA, I would like to stress that these goals also apply to social sciences and humanities, as has been already shown to some degree by IASC, since science is - in my understanding - an encompassing term covering all kinds of sets of knowledge.*

The above stands for the record to show how things happened in the not so distant past. In 2010, the picture is quite different. The links between IASSA and IASC as with other organizations in the northern world have evolved into cooperative efforts on different levels (see various IASSA Newsletters). At that time, IASSA expanded its network and impact effectively in other broader contexts. Already in September 1995, Susanne Dybbroe, her husband, the late Poul Møller (1947-1995) and I were able to participate in the First European Network Conference "European Research in the Arctic – Looking Ahead" in Svalbard. This meeting, interestingly organized by the Research Council of Norway not being an EU member, was charged to formulate a northern science policy for the European Union, in which, for the first time, we managed, on behalf of IASSA, to have a full-fledged social science component included in the science policy statement (see Orheim et al. 1995: 4, 17-18). Further developments have occurred since then and the more recent 4<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year 2007-2008 became another threshold for IASSA breaking the ice between natural and social sciences (cf. Krupnik et al. 2005, Krupnik 2009).

## **6) "Social Sciences in the North" - ICASS I in October 1992**

With all the objectives, attributes and tasks mentioned above the most important and valuable asset of a scientific association is to organize well-run, effective and highly noticeable meetings for the members to present research of high quality and project visions and engage in discussion, arguments and criticism. This holds true particularly for emerging associations to establish themselves through regularly held meetings,

which become the association's trademark or brand that people want to identify with or participate in at regular intervals.

A fixed meeting of this type needs a name such as an association does. It was suggested to call it something like Arctic Social Sciences Conference. My reaction was that an international association needed an international congress. This was accepted by the General Assembly. Thus the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) was chosen as a title, which put the bar very high for IASSA. The colleagues from Université Laval, I believe it was Louis-Jacques Dorais who made this proposal, said that ICASS I is invited to come to Québec when ISC would return there for the first time since ISC 1 and 2 were held in 1978 and 1980. The meetings would be scheduled back to back with a joint celebration and keynote session between them. This proposal was endorsed with Louis-Jacques Dorais (ISC 8) and myself (ICASS I) serving as the conveners.

This arrangement was most fruitful as well as practical. First, IASSA would be expertly advised and supported by colleagues who had run successful meetings in the past; second, the interconnections between Inuit Studies and Arctic Social Sciences were strengthened (many participants would engage in both meetings in the future); and third, it would also maintain and expand the links between anglophone and francophone academic traditions in North America, particularly in the realm of social sciences in the North, where both have made major contributions but too often next to each other. ICASS I became the opportunity to build these bridges. So far it has been followed by five successful congresses, each time in different locations either in or outside the circumpolar North. And finally, the distance between Ste-Foy/Ville de Québec and Montréal was easily managed to prepare the meeting jointly.

The first of seven planning meetings (six in Ste-Foy, one in Montréal) happened in Québec on September 9, 1990 when I met Louis-Jacques Dorais and Bernard Saladin d'Anglure. Soon the schedule was decided – ISC 8 October 25-28 and ICASS I October 28-31 with the joint session on October 28, 1992. The general theme for ICASS I became “Social Sciences in the North” which allowed for a broad survey and assessment of where research stood in the early 1990s. It was understood that “[r]esearch endeavours in Arctic social sciences have expanded rapidly during the last few decades due to an increased openness and heightened levels of intensity in communications and cooperation among aboriginal and non-aboriginal scientists throughout the circumpolar North.” (Dorais and Müller-Wille 1995: 3)

These two meetings were seen first of all as a strong symbol of joint efforts by ISC/GÉTIC and ICASS/IASSA and a logical step to further the emergence of Arctic social sciences in general. They were advertised in English and French; presentations could be given in either English or French without translations. The meeting would be held at the newly opened Congress Centre at Université Laval that provided a pleasant ambience.

The concept of ICASS was modeled greatly on ISC. Thus ICASS adapted flexibility in topics presented, however, under a solid review process, open access for everybody with a meaningful interest in northern issues, no hierarchy of any kind, no title or other attributes, no closed sessions and, finally, sensible scheduling to accommodate rigorous sessions but also social encounters and relaxation. In fact, participants have mentioned that these aspects have become the ICASS trademark that has maintained its appeal over the years (Müller-Wille 1993a-b).

The members of the ICASS I Organizing Committee were: Louis-Jacques Dorais, Gérard Duhaime, Bernard Saladin d'Anglure (all with Université Laval), Gail Fondahl (Middelbury College), Tommy Weetaluktuk (Avataq Cultural Institute), Ludger Müller-Wille (chair) and George Wenzel (both with McGill University). Linna Weber Müller-Wille (Myriad Pursuits, St-Lambert, QC) looked after the data management for the congress (program, abstracts, scheduling, address list, etc.) and the Conference Office at Université Laval handled registrations, accounting and other arrangements.

Funding was obtained successfully from the universities involved, federal and provincial sponsors and funding agencies in Canada and from the USA. These funds included extensive travel support for international participants, particularly from Alaska and the Russian Federation through the support by the National Science Foundation and Noel Broadbent's office. The congress program was structured into keynotes, sessions, roundtables and film viewing (Müller-Wille 1992). There were 235 authors who presented 219 papers. They came from 16 countries by residence (USA: 80, Canada: 63, Finland: 23, Russian federation: 20, Denmark 13, Norway: 10, Germany 6, France: 5, Greenland: 4, The Netherlands: 3, Great Britain and Switzerland: each 2, Australia, Iceland, South Africa, Sweden: each 1).



Ludger Müller-Wille at his desk working on IASSA's history, St-Lambert (Québec) Canada, October 1, 2010  
Photo: Ragnar Müller-Wille

The resonance to the first congress was positive and IASSA had passed its first major test. In preparation to assure the continuation of the congress series, I had already conducted and concluded negotiations for holding ICASS II. Thus at the end of the General Assembly on October 29, 1992 Manfred Lange, director of the Arctic Centre (University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland), and Elina Helander, director of the Sámi Institute (Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino, Sápmi/Norway) issued invitations to organize ICASS II with their respective institutions. So it happened that, after Linna Weber Müller-Wille and I moved to Rovaniemi, where, on leave from McGill University, I had taken a position with the Arctic Centre for two

years between 1994 and 1996, that we were around to assist Monica Tennberg as convener and Leena Tornberg as secretary in the organization of ICASS II with the theme "Unity and Diversity in Arctic Societies" to be held in both Rovaniemi and Guovdageaidnu between May 28 and June 4, 1995. Its story and impact are to be told another time.

### Finis – reflections at IASSA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010

Twenty years is not a very long time. Still it is worthwhile to go back to the origins of certain events that shaped the activities of a community in order to follow the inspirations and achievements of the originally envisioned goals. In Nuuk, at ICASS VI on August 23, 2008, I received the first IASSA Honorary Membership. I was moved. In thanking IASSA's president, Yvon Csonka, and all IASSA members and ICASS participants, I reflected on IASSA's role and achievements. I feel that these words are still valid two years later at its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010 (Müller-Wille 2008).

*Finding us here at ICASS VI in Nuuk today is an appropriate time of reflection connecting past, present and future. At this juncture, IASSA finds itself in a generational shift, a transition from the first to the second generation of active participants. For me, as I look toward the excitement of retirement a week from now, this transition is quite apparent.*

*Today is IASSA's eighteenth anniversary, founded by its constituting General Assembly at the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, on August 23, 1990. Among you, I recognize a number of friends and colleagues who shared those events and took actions to enhance the development and standing of Arctic Social Sciences throughout the circumpolar North and beyond. IASSA was established upon suggestions made at the Conference of Arctic and Nordic Countries on Coordination of Research in the Arctic in Leningrad in August 1988. This was the beginning of a new era of open research and interactions including all Arctic regions. That openness, despite difficulties, has continued into the current 4<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year of which ICASS VI is an integral part. Openness and flexibility have lent IASSA its exciting and stimulating dynamics.*

*IASSA set out with clear objectives that have mainly been achieved in the realm of (1) international cooperation, communication and coordination in research, (2) recognition of Arctic social sciences within the broad field of polar sciences, (3) respect among researchers, scientists and interested people of all walks of life, and (4) accepted standards and principles for the conduct of research.*

*IASSA is not a large scientific organization; its several hundred members are part of a wider research community in Arctic social sciences. Throughout its existence IASSA has stressed informal and flexible organization and open accessibility to its congresses.*

*It is my wish that IASSA will maintain its open character without hierarchies, titles or closed sessions and*



*pursue its mandate to foster international, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches in Arctic social sciences. For me it was both pleasure and challenge to serve the association as its founding and first chair. I can say that it was a worthwhile effort, if not always an easy task.*

*The emergence of IASSA could not have happened without you, the members of the association and council, the congress conveners and the current president and former presidents/chairs.*

**“Wissenschaft ... ordnend zu beobachten und verbindend zu deuten.”**

(Leo Waibel, 1888-1951)

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to the Arctic Centre (Liisa Hallikainen and Arto Kiurujoki), Yvon Csonka, Susanne Dybbroe, Igor Krupnik, Ragnar Müller-Wille, Lára Ólafsdóttir, Peter Schweitzer and Linna Weber Müller-Wille for their generous and amicable help and support by locating sources, digitizing and cropping illustrations, reading, editing and commenting on the manuscript, discussing ideas, providing interpretations and analyses, and sharing memories. In the end, this paper is my responsibility.

## Sources and References

*Note: From its beginnings IASSA/ICASS paper and later electronic files were kept by the chair/secretariat, first at my residence in St. Lambert (Québec) Canada from August 1990 to May 1993 when I took the accumulated sets of papers and electronic files (they could still be stashed in a suitcase!) to the new IASSA Secretariat at the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland. As of that time the habit of transferring all files preserved to the next secretariat continued with the volume constantly increasing and the way of filing changing. This means that, by October 2010, the archive has travelled six times and more than halfway around the globe, which certainly had an impact on the condition of the files. The current secretariat in Akureyri has taken valiant steps to put the existing files into an accessible order. Lára Ólafsdóttir, IASSA's secretary, was very helpful to search for some documents from the period of 1990-95, however, for the purposes of this paper I mainly relied on my own personal notes I kept in my calendar books and on my correspondence files at home. Fortunately, there exists also a small publication record to reconstruct IASSA's early history (see list below).*

Burch, Jr., Ernst S. 1993. The Organization of Arctic Social Sciences. In: Topics in Arctic Social Sciences 1: 31-41, list of research institutions, p. 42-114.

Csonka, Yvon 2008. Opening Banquet Speech, Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VI), Nuuk, Greenland, August 23, 2008. Unpublished manuscript.

Dahl, Jens (ed.) 1989. Keynote Speeches from the Sixth Inuit Studies Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, October 17 to 20, 1988. København: Institut for Eskimologi.

Dorais, Louis-Jacques and Ludger Müller-Wille (eds.) 1993. Social Sciences in the North. Keynotes presented at the Eighth Inuit Studies Conference and First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, Université Laval, Ste-Foy (Québec), October 25-(28)-31, 1991. Topics in Arctic Social Sciences 1. Ste-Foy (Québec): International Arctic Social Sciences Association and Groupe d'études inuit et circumpolaires. 125 pp.

Dybbroe, Susanne 1994. Report from the IADC Global Change Working Group Meeting in Stockholm, October 5-7, 1994. IASSA Newsletter Fall/Winter 1994: 5-6.

Environment Canada 1978. Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North. A Discussion Paper. In: Man and the Biosphere, Canadian Communiqué canadien No. 6. Ottawa: Environment Canada, Liaison and Co-ordination Directorate. (first binding version: Association of Canadian University for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication 7, 1982 with later updates).

Études/Inuit/Studies 1977. Projet de conférence inuit / Proposed Inuit Conference. Études/Inuit/Studies 1, 1: 170-171.

Études/Inuit/Studies 1990. International Arctic Social Sciences Association / L'Association internationale des sciences sociales de l'Arctique (IASSA). Études/Inuit/Studies 14, 2: 253-254.

- Gorbachev, Mikhail 1987. The speech in Murmansk at the ceremonial meeting on the occasion of the presentation of the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star to the City of Murmansk on October 1, 1987. Moscow: Novosti Press Agency, p. 23-31. ([www.barentsinform.fi/docs/Gorbachev\\_speech.pdf](http://www.barentsinform.fi/docs/Gorbachev_speech.pdf) - accessed October 6, 2010)
- Hamelin, Louis-Edmond 1975. *Nordicité canadienne*. Montréal: Hurtubise. (Canadian Nordicity. It's Your North, Too. Translated by William Barr. Montreal: Harvest House 1978)
- IASC 1990. Founding Articles for an International Arctic Science Committee – IASC. Final Edition. Resolute Bay, August 28, 1990. 11 p.
- IASSA 1992-1993. IASSA Newsletter Spring 1992, Spring/Summer 1993, Fall/Winter 1993. (IASSA Newsletter till Spring 2001, as of Fall 2001 *Northern Notes – The Newsletter of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association*, since 2009 with numbering starting with Issue 30 - Spring/Summer 2009) [www.iassa.org/news-letter](http://www.iassa.org/news-letter) (accessed September and October 2010)
- IASSA 1995. Guiding principles of ethics for the conduct of research (Draft proposed). IASSA Newsletter Fall 1995: 4-5. Rovaniemi: Arctic Centre.
- Kawagley, Angayuaq Oscar 1996. Alaska Native Education Requires that We Reach into the Profound Silence of Self to Know. *Topics in Arctic Social Sciences* 2: 29-43.
- Kotlyakov, V. M. and V. E. Sokolov (eds.) 1990. Proceedings of the Conference of Arctic and Nordic Countries on Coordination of Research in the Arctic, Commission on the Arctic Research, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad, December 1988, Vol. 1-2. Moscow [sic]: "Nauka".
- Krupnik, Igor 2009. IPY 2007–2008 and Social Sciences: A Challenge of Fifty Years. At: [www.svs.is/IASSA/Igor%20PlenaryFin\\_March%202009\\_InclFig.pdf](http://www.svs.is/IASSA/Igor%20PlenaryFin_March%202009_InclFig.pdf) (also in: Poppel, in press).
- Krupnik, Igor and Michael Bravo, Yvon Csonka, Grete Hovelsrud-Broda, Ludger Müller-Wille, Birger Poppel, Peter Schweitzer, Sverker Sörlin 2005. Social Sciences and Humanities in the International Polar Year 2007-2008: An Integrating Mission. *Arctic* 58 (1): 89-95.
- Müller-Wille, Ludger 1990. DOC 1990/1: International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA). Steps Toward Its Foundation, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska (USA), August 21 - 23, 1990. Minutes, August 28, 1990 with revisions on September 28, 1990. (also in: Poppel, in press).
- Müller-Wille, Ludger 1991. International Arctic Social Sciences Newsletter Fall 1991. In: MAB (Man and the Biosphere) Northern Sciences Network Newsletter, October 1991, Vol. 6, No. 2: 40-44. Rovaniemi: Arctic Centre, University of Lapland.
- Müller-Wille, Ludger 1993a. Social Sciences in the North – Introductory remarks to the Keynote Session. In: *Topics in Arctic Social Sciences* 1: 7-10.
- Müller-Wille, Ludger 1993b. The First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences: Its background and organization. In: *Topics in Arctic Social Sciences* 1: 115-121.
- Müller-Wille, Ludger 1995. Introductory remarks. Opening Session of the IASC Council Meeting. Arktikum, Rovaniemi, April 24, 1995. Unpublished manuscript.
- Müller-Wille, Ludger 2008. Response to the Laudatio by Peter Schweitzer after receiving the IASSA Honorary Membership. Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VI), Nuuk, Greenland, August 23, 2008. (also in: Poppel in press).
- Müller-Wille, Ludger and Noel D. Broadbent 1991. Letter to Members, Acting Council, IASSA. Montréal, January 30, 1991, 4 pp. Unpublished manuscript.
- Müller-Wille, Ludger and Susanne Dybbroe 1994. Editorial. Notes from the Council. IASSA Newsletter Spring/Summer 1994: 1-2.
- Müller-Wille, Ludger (ed.) 1992. Social Sciences in the North - 1992 - Les Sciences sociales au Nord. Abstracts / Résumés. (First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, Université Laval, Ste-Foy, 28 - 31 October 1992). Montréal / Ste-Foy: Department of Geography, McGill University and Groupe d'études inuit et circumpolaires, Université Laval. 72 pp.

Müller-Wille, Ludger and Pertti J. Pelto, Linna Müller-Wille, Regna Darnell (eds.) 1978. Consequences of Economic Change in Circumpolar Regions. Symposium at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Amsterdam, March 21-22, 1975. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies Occasional Publication 14. Edmonton: Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, The University of Alberta. 269 pp.

Müller-Wille, Ludger and Pertti J. Pelto (eds.) 1979 [1980]. Quart Monde nordique / Northern Fourth World. Stratégies politiques du Quart Monde nordique: Inuit, Cris, Sami – Political Expressions in the Northern Fourth World: Inuit, Cree, Sami. (Symposium 'Politics of Indigenous Peoples' at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Canadian Ethnology Society in Montréal, 29 February 1980) Études/Inuit/Studies 3, 3: 5-72.

Orheim, Olav and Ivo Allegrini, Jean Biossonais, David Drewry, Jean Claude Gascard, Dick Hedberg, Ludger Müller-Wille, Pål Prestrud, Andrew Sors, Max Tilzer (eds.) 1995. European Research in the Arctic - Looking Ahead. (Report and Recommendations of the First European Networking Conference in Svalbard, 12-16 September 1995). Oslo: ENRICH (European Network for Research in Global Change) and The Research Council of Norway.

Poppel, Birger (ed.) in press. Opportunities and Challenges for Social Sciences in the International Polar Year 2007-2008. Keynotes and addresses presented at the Sixth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, University of Greenland, Nuuk, Greenland, August 22-26, 2008. Topics in Arctic Social Sciences 6. Nuuk: International Arctic Social Sciences Association.

Science Council of Canada 1977. Northward Looking: A Strategy and a Science Policy for Northern development. Science Council of Canada Report 26. Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada.

University of Alaska Fairbanks 1990. Pre-registration Information. "Looking to the Future", 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference, August 19-22, 1990. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Fairbanks.

US - IARPC (United States Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee) 1990. Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic. US - IARCP – Social Sciences Task Force, Report, June 28, 1990, p. 88-89.

## APPENDIX 1

### *International Arctic Social Sciences Association: Bylaws 1992*

(Since October 1992, the IASSA Bylaws have been adapted and changed at various stages; for the latest, updated and valid version of the Bylaws contact the IASSA secretariat.)

Adopted by Council, 27 October 1992, and General Assembly, 29 October 1992, at ICASS I, Université Laval, Ste-Foy (Québec) Canada

#### PREAMBLE

The Arctic is defined as all Arctic and sub-Arctic (circumpolar) regions of the world. Arctic research is defined as all research relating to these regions. The social sciences encompass disciplines relating to human, behavioral, psychological, cultural, anthropological, archaeological, linguistic, historical, social, legal, economic, environmental and political subjects as well as health, education, the arts and humanities, and related subjects.

#### 1. Objectives.

The objectives of the IASSA are:

- To promote and stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of the social scientists in national and international Arctic research;
- To promote communication and coordination with other related organizations;
- To promote the active collection, exchange, dissemination, and archiving of scientific information in the Arctic social sciences. This may include the compilation of registers of Arctic social scientists and research projects and the organization of workshops, symposia, and congresses;
- To increase public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results;
- To promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and the Peoples of the North' while recognizing these are not mutually exclusive groups;
- To promote the development of research and educational partnerships with the Peoples of the North;
- To facilitate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate education in the North, including training in social sciences;
- To adopt a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic.

## 2. Membership.

There are three (3) categories of membership. **Regular Membership** is open to all involved in Arctic social sciences research and issues. Associations and institutions may adopt **Affiliated Membership** and will be individually included on IASSA mailing lists. **Associate Membership** is open to all individuals concerned with Arctic social sciences. Only regular members who have paid the annual fee are entitled to voting privileges.

## 3. Administration.

The IASSA is directed by the Council and the General Assembly.

## 4. The Council.

- 4.1. The **Council** consists of eleven (11) members, all of whom will be **Regular Members**. Members will represent each of the following categories: (1) countries/regions: Canada, Russian Federation, USA, Greenland, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, (2) aboriginal nations, (3) members-at-large. The **Council** will submit a list of candidates to the **General Assembly**. **Council Members** will be elected by the General Assembly. All council members serve a three-year period. The former **Chair** of the Council will serve as an ex-officio member for the following period.
- 4.2. Members of the Council are elected for the period between two meetings of the General Assembly, i.e. three years. The Council elects amongst its member a **Chair**, a **Vice-Chair**, and appoints a **Secretary** and a **Treasurer** who are **ex officio** members of the council.
- 4.3. The Council meets at least once during each calendar year. The Council is responsible for organizing the **International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences** on behalf of IASSA and the General Assembly.
- 4.4. The Council serves as an executive group to facilitate the work of the IASSA between the meetings of the General Assembly, and to take appropriate actions in agreement with the policies and decisions of the General Assembly. The Council is responsible for recommending a dues schedule. At the meetings of the General Assembly, the Council presents a report of actions taken and recommendations for further activities.
- 4.5. The Chair of the Council serves as a representative of the IASSA in dealing with other bodies. In the event of the Chair being unable to serve in the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall serve in this capacity.
- 4.6. The Secretary and Treasurer are under the general direction of the Chair and the Council and are responsible for conducting the regular business of the IASSA and for keeping its general records, including minutes of meetings of the Council and the General Assembly and the financial reports and the budgets for approval by the General Assembly.
- 4.7. Decisions by the Council are by a simple majority of affirmative or negative votes of those present and taking part in the vote. In the event of tie votes, the Chair has a deciding vote. Bylaws of the IASSA can only be amended with the approval of two-thirds majority of the regular membership. These voting procedure will be accomplished by written ballots.

## 5. The General Assembly.

- 5.1. The General Assembly meets in connection with the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences organized at three-year intervals by IASSA. The Assembly consists of all regular members of the IASSA attending the meeting. Each regular member of the Assembly has one vote. All decisions are by simple majority.
- 5.2. The General Assembly approves the Council's reports of the activities and the Treasurer's financial statement and budget recommendations, and considers other matters.
- 5.3. The General Assembly elects among its members five (5) members of the Council and two (2) auditors for annual checking of the accounts.

## 6. The Secretariat.

The Secretariat of the IASSA is located in the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi (Finland) between 1993-95.

## APPENDIX 2

Memorandum to IASSA Acting Council, January 30, 1991 (see Müller-Wille and Broadbent 1991; courtesy of Igor Krupnik)

### INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION [IASSA]

Ludger Müller-Wille  
Department of Geography  
McGill University  
805, rue Sherbrooke Ouest  
Montréal (Québec)  
H3A 2K6 Canada

Tel. (514) 398-4960  
FAX +1-514-3987437

To Members  
Acting Council, IASSA

January 30, 1991

Dear Colleagues:

Time has passed by since the first circular letter of October 4, 1990. On January 24 and 25, Noel and Ludger met in Montreal to discuss the developments which have occurred since then. Therefore it is time to send you an update and receive your reactions again.

1) Council: Ludger has received replies from most council members; all were very helpful. Please check your address, etc. again and pass on any changes. IASSA does not have any money yet therefore letters are sent by mail through regular channels. This will change once membership fees are collected.

Because of his position Noel cannot fill an official function in IASSA. He stays on as a member of the council and will continue to give all the support he can. Ludger will serve as Acting Chair.

2) Members/fees/secretariat: There are now more than 300 people registered - a great success. The membership fee is CDN \$12.00 for 1991. McGill University has agreed to administer the funds for the time being (please send international money order in Canadian funds payable to "McGill University, account IASSA"). At this time, IASSA can offer rather modestly a newsletter, organization of the International Congress in 1992 and representation of the Arctic Social Sciences community internationally and nationally. The secretariat is at McGill for the time being but we are negotiating with the Arctic Centre at Rovaniemi whose board will make a decision in late February about accepting the secretariat pending that IASSA can commit funds to support the operation. It is a very feasible proposition.

3) Newsletter: within the next few weeks IASSA's first newsletter will be mailed to all people/institutions registered informing them about IASSA, the bylaws, various developments and requesting the payment of fees. The mailing will be done through McGill.

4) Bylaws: A number of comments have been received and incorporated into the Fairbanks version; this final version, dated 25 January 1991, should be discussed at the first council meeting and be then submitted to the General Assembly in October 1992 for adoption.

5) First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS I): The following has been agreed with Université Laval. GETIC (Groupe d'études inuit et circumpolaires) will be the host



to the 8th Inuit Studies Conference (25-28 October 1992) and ICASS I (28-31 October) with a joint program on October 28. The second meeting of the organizing committee was held on February 4 and the first call for papers (joint mailing) will be sent out by May 1992. IASSA, through Ludger, will apply to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Ottawa) for funds (up to \$50,000. The application has to be filed by early summer.

6) International Arctic Science Committee (IASC): IASSA has submitted a proposal for closer liaison with IASC which had at first council meeting in Oslo in late January. IASC is favorably inclined to accept such proposals from international organizations but has to work out a feasible mechanism. We'll let you know about the reaction as soon as possible.

7) Northern Science Network/MAB (Rovaniemi): All IASSA members registered by late October 1991 have received the Newsletter. This will continue if IASSA can assume the mailing and some other costs. IASSA will submit information to the Newsletter, and all council members and regular members are urged to do the same. The deadline is late February (write to A-L Sippola, NSN/MAB, Arctic Centre, POB 122, SF-96101 Rovaniemi, Finland). Please find enclosed the advertisement for a position with NSN/MAB in Rovaniemi. Perhaps you know people who are interested.

8) Council Meeting: Noel and Ludger feel that the council has to meet at least once before the next General Assembly. Ludger will be at the University of Alaska (UAF) during the fall term. Therefore, at that time, most of the members are in or close to Fairbanks. IASSA does not have money right now, however, we suggest to organize a symposium with all council members and colleagues from UAF so that you can raise money for travel. UAF will be approached to make local arrangements. Therefore our proposal is to invite all council members to give a presentation at an "International Symposium on Issues in Arctic Social Sciences" to be held at UAF in late October/early November 1991. We find this the easiest way to get us together. Please let us know your reaction immediately.

9) Information: Your efforts to spread the word about IASSA have been successful, please continue. Information on IASSA has been passed through most channels we know of, but there are more people out there who are potential members and have not yet been reached.

Please stay in touch. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ludger Müller-Wille  
Acting Chair

Noel Broadbent  
Member

### APPENDIX 3

Excerpts from IASSA Newsletter Fall 1991 in MAB Northern Sciences Network Newsletter (see Müller-Wille 1991; courtesy of Arctic Centre and Yvon Csonka)



October 1991 No. 2

#### **MAB NORTHERN SCIENCES NETWORK NEWSLETTER**



Published by UNESCO-MAB Northern Sciences Network Secretariat,  
Finland

#### **INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION, NEWSLETTER FALL 1991**

##### **Recent Developments**

On August 23, 1990 the **International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)** was established and held its First General Assembly during the 7th Inuit Studies Conference at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. An Ad-hoc Committee oversaw the establishment of IASSA and the drafting of bylaws. The General Assembly discussed the Draft Bylaws and elected an Acting Council for 1990-92.

The Acting Council consists of following members: Finn Breinholt Larsen

(Greenland), Ludger Müller-Wille (Canada; acting chair), Oscar Kawagley (Indigenous Peoples), Susanne Dybbroe (Nordic Countries; alternate: Lise Lyck), Noel D. Broadbent (USA), Vladimir Pavlenko (USSR, nominated in June 1991); open members: Edna A. Maclean, Igor Krupnik, Nils Jernsletten, Hiroaki Okada, Bernard Saladin d'Anglure (Joëlle Robert-Lamblin, alternate member).

IASSA's objectives are to stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international arctic research, to foster public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results, to promote research and educational partnerships with the Peoples of the North and to adopt a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the arctic regions.

The Department of Geography (McGill University) serves currently as IASSA's international secretariat. The Arctic Centre (University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland) will play an important role in the secretariat in the future. Close to 400 individuals and institutions have registered as members. IASSA's network is rapidly increasing throughout the circumpolar north and beyond. The response to its foundation has been positive and enthusiastic indicating that there is a need to broaden communication in arctic social sciences.

#### Membership Fees

The annual fee is US \$ 10.00. To assure that your name is kept on the IASSA

mailing list and that you will receive further announcements and the newsletter check your name and address on the label (correct if necessary) and send your remittance for 1991 (as a new member with address, phone, fax and e-mail numbers) by December 31, 1991 to:

Ludger Müller-Wille  
Department of Geography  
McGill University  
805 Sherbrooke St. W  
Montreal, PQ H3A 2K6  
Canada

#### First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences in 1992

In April 1991 the first call for papers (along with the announcement of the preceding 8th Inuit Studies Conference) was sent out to over 800 people. The return has been very encouraging based on submissions of workshops and papers received so far. IASSA will hold the Second General Assembly during ICASS I. The organizing committee members are Ludger Müller-Wille (convener), Louis-Jacques Dorais, Gérard Duhaime, Gail A. Fondahl, Tommy Oweetaluktuk, Bernard Saladin d'Anglure and George Wenzel.

#### "1992 - Social Sciences in the North" Université Laval, Québec, Canada October 28 - 31, 1992

The First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, organized by Université Laval's Groupe d'Études Inuit et Circumpolaire (GÉTIC), on behalf of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), will be held in

Québec City, from Wednesday, October 28, to Saturday, October 31, 1992.

You are invited to attend, deliver a paper (20 minutes maximum) and/or organize a session on the theme of the congress or on any other topic pertaining to aspects of arctic social sciences listed above. All papers submitted will be reviewed by a committee that will decide on their final inclusion in the program. The official languages of the congress are English and French, but without simultaneous translation.

Registration fees have provisionally been fixed at CAN \$80 (\$40 for students, unemployed and retired), or \$120 (\$60 reduced rate) for a joint registration to the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences and the 8th Inuit Studies Conference (Université Laval, Québec, October 25-28, 1992). Fees will have to be paid only after receipt of the second notice. In all cases, these fees do not include federal and provincial taxes

(14.49%). We would appreciate that you **do not** propose the same paper to both conferences.

To receive the Second Notice of ICASS I fill out the section below and mail it to the address given.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the many people and the MAB Northern Science Network for the help and support they have given IASSA during its first year of existence. I hope to see most of you at the first congress and second general assembly in October 1992.

Montréal, September 1991  
Ludger Müller-Wille

44

I wish to attend the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences \_\_\_\_\_  
I propose to deliver a paper (title and abstract - 150 words - included) \_\_\_\_\_  
I propose to organize a session (details included) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Send by December 31, 1991 to:  
Ludger Müller-Wille, Geography, ICASS I  
McGill University, 805 Sherbrooke St W  
Montréal (Québec) Canada H3A 2K6

42

## Recollections of the IASSA's Founding Meeting – August 1990

Yvon Csonka<sup>18</sup>

I have vivid memories from the 7<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference (ISC 7) in Fairbanks, and from the two general meetings, which led to the foundation of IASSA. What impressed me most at the ISC was the very strong presence, for the first time, of indigenous representatives from the then Soviet Union, as well as scholars, and the joyful nightly get-togethers of Inuit and Yupik from four nations—in which I abundantly took part (Fig.1)—the glee was increased by the sharing of bowhead whale maktak brought in by participants from the North Slope. It was but a short hop for the Soviet participants from Provideniya to Nome, then on to Fairbanks; but they had had to wait for days for the fog to lift and their travel documents to be fixed to allow them to fly west to east, across Bering Strait, the first time in people's memory. The arrival of the Soviet 'contingent' of some 50 people, half of them indigenous, gave a tremendous boost to the Inuit Studies Conference and also to the formation of IASSA itself.

I had already been involved in the Soviet-French cooperation set up by Jean Malaurie, when I was a PhD student in Paris in the second half of the 1980s, and was aware of the developments in Arctic cooperation in stride with perestroika. But as I was just coming from long field research in the then Northwest Territories of Canada (now Nunavut), immersed in the life of an Inuit community, I was unaware of the underpinnings of the creation of the new association.<sup>19</sup> I am actually not sure that many people present at the founding meeting

on August 23, 1990, knew much about the background of this event.



At an evening outing during the 7th Inuit Studies Conference in Fairbanks, August 1990, left to right: François Trudel (Université Laval), Julia Ogina (Ulukhaktok), Susie (Anaktuvuk Pass), Rick Condon (1952-1995, University of Arkansas Fayetteville) and Yvon Csonka (then at Université Laval)

Photo: Valerie Alia, courtesy of Yvon Csonka

Being close to the organizers of the Inuit Studies conferences, as member of the board of the Association Inuqtiit Katimajit, Inc. at Laval University in Quebec, I felt that an international association dedicated to Arctic social sciences would be a huge expansion compared to the field of Inuit studies, and wondered if this would not make the latter comparatively weaker, while at the same time opening up a whole new realm of international cooperation. I remember, however, that it was well accepted by the founders of the Inuit Studies conferences series and the journal *Études/Inuit/Studies*.

Participating in the founding

meeting of IASSA, I felt being part of a historical event—although certainly not realizing what potential it would unleash over the twenty years the association has now been in existence. Colleagues from the Inuit Studies circles at Laval University nominated me to the first council elections. As many in the attendance did not know much about me, I was not surprised that I did not obtain enough votes to be elected. On the contrary, I was pleasantly surprised at having received a more than insignificant number of votes.

<sup>18</sup> IASSA Founding Member (1990), IASSA President (2004-2008), IASSA Council member (2008-2011), former professor at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland, currently at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

<sup>19</sup> I did not present any paper at ISC 7; my main reason for attending was an appointment with the late Ernest S. (Tiger) Burch, Jr. (1938-2010) who, as most knowledgeable about Caribou Inuit history, had closely followed my fieldwork in Kivalliq. In 1992, as I had to give up with short notice on my participation in the first ICASS and ISC 8, because my wife was about to give birth, Tiger graciously offered to read the papers on this topic which I had prepared for each of these conferences. For me this was but one among many personal experiences of Tiger's extraordinary human qualities; in addition to his immense stature as scholar.



Little did I know then that the year after, in 1991, I would be offered the possibility to visit Kamchatka, the Commander Islands, and Chukotka, and, later, initiate research in that region. Over the ensuing years, I closely followed the development of IASSA, and became its fifth president in 2004, bringing its secretariat to Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland. Stepping into that position, I truly felt that I was standing on the shoulders of previous IASSA councils and presidents, who had struggled under trying circumstances, and had been successful in bringing recognition to Arctic social sciences and to the association representing this community. IASSA is not the only force that brought about an increased awareness of the importance of social sciences in the field of polar studies, dominated by the natural sciences, but without its efforts to become a major partner in different high-level venues, progress would surely have been much slower. The struggles and hard work continue, but it is more and more clear that we have reached the time when we reap the fruit of a seed planted in 1990, and carefully nurtured over the past twenty years.

## IASSA and IASC: Reminiscences on a Relationship

Susanne Dybbroe<sup>20</sup>

### Scientific organizations and their attributes

It is clear that the original initiative to form an international organization of Arctic social scientists was discussed at the decisive meeting in Leningrad in December 1988, attended mostly by natural scientists and a few social scientists (see contributions by Broadbent and Krupnik in this issue). When preparations to create the organization resulted in the establishment of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) on August 28, 1990, it was also the case that a parallel initiative to form an organization for the social sciences had already matured, leading to the formation of IASSA that held its first general assembly in Fairbanks on August 23, 1990, less than a week before.

Looking back, it was a very fertile link, organization-wise, that was established over a short time between the different branches of or – more evocative – between the two large extended families of scholars ("scientists") working in the Arctic. This was useful in several respects.

First, this move resulted in two strongly representative organizations in the field of Arctic research internationally. Whether the drive towards organizational union was there in both families, is a matter for discussion (see Müller-Wille's contribution). The timing of the appearance of the two organizations is suggestive of a certain common ground, however, based in different concerns of the two groups. Common were the challenges posed by a general realignment among national funding agencies to promote large, collaborative and network-programs, which have had different repercussions in the natural sciences and for humanist-social scientific research, because of different traditions of individual and collaborative research. Another important lever was the opening up of the former Soviet Union and the new landscape this created for communication and research in all disciplines. Perhaps this change was even more important to the humanists and to the social sciences than to the natural sciences, given the practice surrounding Arctic human research and the position of Soviet Arctic social science and possibilities to form linkages across borders prior to 1989. The third lever is the issue of global climate change. I believe IASSA is an expression of this and of other concerns in the context of a specific research environment, the Arctic regions, that is in all respects, politically as well as environmentally of heightened global concern.

Second, this situation has led to a good deal of self-reflection in the extended family of the social sciences (including humanists, we are many who feel we belong also to this sub-family), concerning who we are, and what are our particular research aspirations, strengths in collaborative endeavors, working methods, etc. It has also opened for collaborative research and for new fields of research in areas bordering on the other family's natural subjects by way of channelling externally commissioned work for example on social indices of climate change presented during ICASS VI in Nuuk (Greenland), August 22-26, 2008.

And then a third thing resulted, which is about competition - perhaps. Looking back to the first years, it seems there was a feeling of uneasiness stemming from the splitting up in two organizations. Maybe the organization in two separate associations and the sense of a disciplinary or family hierarchy in this process

<sup>20</sup> IASSA Council Member (1990-98), Vice-Chair (1992-95), IASSA liaison with IASC (1994-95); since 1987 a professor in the Department of Anthropology & Ethnography, Aarhus University (Århus, Denmark); 1986-2006 executive board member of the Centre for North Atlantic Studies, Departments of Anthropology and History, Aarhus University.

created a totally unhealthy environment with respect to scientific collaboration. Considering the heightening importance of the Arctic and the opportunities opening up for Arctic research during the period of organization, incorporating interests was a means to consolidate platforms for acting. Creating platforms and closures of access through the way information is channelled is part of the way an organization works. Influence is an important leading motive, in the beginning of most, perhaps all, organizations, even if generalized and perhaps even unspoken.

This brings me to the link between IASSA and IASC – lost in a haze of not-quite-outspoken-assumptions on the part of either "family" during official meetings. Did the original social science representatives taking part in the Leningrad meeting feel left out? Maybe, and then this may have a pragmatic basis in IASC's initial expectation to be the overall organization with social scientists invited when counsel was needed? A number of answers can be thought to this question, but as always, the interpretation of a case may say more about real life than any answer by individuals involved. And I am not talking about the truth. There is no one truth (and my limited perspective at any rate will not do) - just some interpretations or analyses of my personal observations that may shed some light on interesting happenings in the past. I will briefly go through recollections of a few exchanges that I attended in different contexts, which may say something about differences in concerns between the two families. One is an IASSA council meeting and conference in the spring of 1994,<sup>21</sup> the other a working group meeting organized by IASC that took place in fall the same year.<sup>22</sup> The descriptions, by necessity, are not even since I was a foreigner in at least one. But I take it from there.

### **IASSA – IASC Encounters**

The 4<sup>th</sup> IASSA council meeting took place at Aarhus University in May 1994. Almost all council members participated in the meeting, which was followed by a workshop on "The Future of Arctic Cultural and Social Sciences" attended by council members and invited Danish social scientists and a few students. Up for discussion at the council meeting was on-going business and topics such as bylaws, improved communication, administration, membership and preparations for the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly during ICASS II in Rovaniemi in May-June 1995. A special issue was raised, which concerned the increased engagement of independently sponsored western social scientists working in the Russian North and the fact that this research was becoming difficult to track and monitor. A motion was adopted urging foreign social scientists working in Russia to share information with colleagues and indigenous communities and organizations in Russia. The motion recommended that such sharing of information be extended to social science research in all areas of the North.

Apart from these points of business, the meeting discussed principal objectives of IASSA such as the relations with northern aboriginal peoples, an IASSA code of ethical principles and IASSA/IASC relations. How could communication and exchange of opinions be guaranteed, knowledge shared and participation in conferences for interested representatives of indigenous organizations and others be helped along? Ethical principles were discussed. A group was designated to review existing principles and produce material for discussion at ICASS II, during which ethics would be a central theme.

The workshop about 'the future of Arctic cultural and social sciences' went on over the next two days, engaging in discussions about IASSA in relation to the international division of work among organizations, about indigenous cultural institutions and collaborative research, about the history of expeditions, Arctic research and human rights, indigenous peoples in Russia and ethical issues in the Arctic social sciences. Participants came from philosophy, law, archaeology, anthropology, geography and economics.

Finally, the relation with IASC, which was a major issue for IASSA during the first several years of its existence: IASSA had proposed to serve as an advisory board to IASC on social science issues, and this had now been accepted and an invitation returned to IASSA to function as such. – As far as I remember, different council members would have different assignments and act in different contexts. The only decision reported in the Newsletter, however, was that Noel Broadbent was designated as the regular liaison person with IASC and I as the alternate.

This brings me to the other meeting. I want to consider what went on in this connection with what I observed attending the IASC Global Change Working Group meeting in Stockholm during the same fall. The purpose

<sup>21</sup> Reported in *IASSA Newsletter* Spring/summer 1994 ("Editorial" by L. Müller-Wille and S. Dybbroe: 1-2)

<sup>22</sup> I reported on the meeting in the *IASSA Newsletter* Fall/Winter 1994: 5-6.

of this meeting was to set science priorities in global change research in the Arctic. The IASSA liaison person was invited. As Noel Broadbent could not attend, I attended as his alternate – and less (than alternate), in fact, quite inexperienced in the context of this meeting, interacting with glaciologists, physicists, climatologists, - earth sciences of all fractions and breeds, and a few biologists as well.

I cite from my own report in the IASSA Newsletter (Fall/Winter 1994: 5): "The working group meeting took place [...] over three full days. The main objective of the meeting was to [...] decide on a strategy for the Working Group in relation to IASC's Science Priority Agenda. On this background IASSA was invited to 'advise and help formulate appropriate research priorities in Global Change to be pursued by IASC, particularly in relation to and as part of the priority areas: 'Terrestrial Ecosystems and Regional Cumulative Impacts'". In other words, the Working Group wanted to formulate interdisciplinary research projects and to discuss procedures for establishing linkages between research projects and groups of researchers.

It was very interesting to be part of this discussion. I learned a lot. Seen from the perspective of the IASSA/IASC relation, what I think was particularly interesting was the discussion during a workshop in the session concerning 'Arctic Impact Assessment'. The assignment during this session was to design how to go about an impact assessment. It was discussed which regions might lend themselves to integrated impact studies, and in plenum it was mapped out what was discussed in small working groups concerning relevant contributions from the natural and social sciences. Two scenarios were constructed and compared with respect to estimates of data requirements, namely BESIS (Bering Sea Impact Study) and BASIS (Barents Sea Impact Study), whose specific requirements of disciplinary expertise from particular natural and social sciences led to the proposal of members of two working groups. Further work was left for elaboration and discussion at the ICARP (International Conference for Arctic Research Planning) meeting in Hanover, New Hampshire (USA) in December 1995.

Not surprisingly, the help social sciences could provide here was quite minimal (I am afraid I never dared ask the question as to what contributions were made by social science expertise during the Hanover meeting!). In the morning of the second day of the meeting I had given a presentation that was supposed to describe the contribution by social sciences to the study of processes in global environmental change. At this time, I do not remember particular details. One question asked afterwards (the only comment) I remember, at least partly. It asked me to describe when, assuming external factors made it difficult for villagers to live in a particular place, these people would decide to move away. Which variables would be most important in making the decision? In the light of the discussion of climate change, which kind of environmental changes could produce such action and how would I describe the process. I hope participants of that meeting in Stockholm on October 6, 1994, will forgive my bad memory.

However: My point can be made even without a very precise and detailed description of my – possibly totally misplaced – initial presentation. I remember with reasonable clarity that I answered something to the effect that a situation like this could develop from different causes, and also that same causes could not be expected to produce same results – depending upon other and interconnected factors such as state's involvement in reparatory measures, ensuing demographic change (who leave first – women or men, young or old, single or married, what level of resilience (morals), etc. etc.?)

I remember that I described a case from personal experience in South Greenland in 1982, during which the cod disappeared and from one year to the next left the village with almost no income from women's work. One year 16 women worked salting fish. The next year three young women worked once in a while. The rest moved away. Children were taken care of by the grandparents or young fathers. Not many people were involved, i.e. less than 20 moved, perhaps less – nothing much!!! But a whole village was touched. It does not make any sense to try and figure out in general terms what might cause people to move away, so I remember describing the situation in South Greenland in very practical fashion – talking about fish and seals and young couples breaking up and old people losing their hope for the future - etc. I realize this was a far shot from a model predicting local impact of global change.

I also remember that I felt a disappointment on both sides. The poor anthropologist! However, then and now it is important for me to stress that our two "families" have different concerns and different strengths. The fact that the IASSA council accepted to be an advisory body to IASC was probably a mistake. It should at the very least have been a conditional response, making it clear that advisory functions would have to be discussed each time the question was raised. As university professors supervising students working in cross-disciplinary fields well know, we don't send students in the field after two half courses hoping her/him to return with 1/1 good (integrated) field study. It takes a social scientist to construct a case that can be worked

in a model-like fashion, if at all. Just as it takes several full days for a cross-disciplinary group to produce a simili of an integrated impact study and isolate possible interdisciplinary contributions.

I quote my old report once more: "The social sciences may come up with interesting general viewpoints based on theories of the dynamics of [social] change. However, in the context of global social change, the mass of social, cultural and natural factors interrelated so as to produce the final outcome vastly outdoes any attempt to grasp the concrete patterns in generally valid [and predictable] terms." And: "For these and other reasons – i.e. the contextual nature of 'facts' and dimensions of 'choice' and 'value' entering into all social science explanation (based indeed to a high degree of interpretation) – making the integration of data sets difficult and forecasting of limited value, I believe that cooperation between natural and social scientists must be based on the full appreciation of differences in perspective and organization of our respective scientific traditions." (ibid.)

### **Jointly or separately – concluding remarks**

The two meetings went along according to traditions in their different research environments. The one in the social science family discussed questions and pertinent issues relating to the social and political and economic conditions in the regions in which we work. The meeting in the natural science family provided the context for a close and collective work process, commissioning working groups with assignments leading forward to the next meeting of the working group. In this process, discussing how to reach a particular goal and probing the possible input from – in this case – the social sciences – is part of the same process and asked to contribute to the same kind of overall knowledge. So it seemed at the time.

Topics discussed in Århus to some extent carried over into ICASS II in Rovaniemi, expressed the close relationship among members of the family on the one hand, and their respective fields of study and the people in them on the other. The acuteness of knowledge, including science (for brevity) in Arctic peoples' drive for full participation is part of the scene all researchers deal with in the North. Some more than others, some also during encounters in the field. For the social sciences the engagement is an ongoing discussion. It is reflected clearly by the procedures and discussions concerning application for access to do research. It is a social contract. Members of the other family have other procedures, the same in some principled way yet different. It must have been conducive to the organization in the extended natural science family that collaborative approaches are a much larger part of research designs than what was usually found and is usually still the case in the social sciences.

Looking back on these two occasions in 1994 from a perspective grounded in 2010, I wonder about the ambition to 'add social science and stir' (the other way around is another possibility) as a motive in the interaction of the two associations. Maybe it was just a game we fell for to bridge an avoidance relation. It is interesting, because an important trend in university-based humanism and social sciences today is the opposite, a movement to override this dichotomy, in the form of interdisciplinary projects as well as in the form of changing paradigms.

Noting these differences among the families, it is interesting also that social scientists could move so fast to establish an association with a good membership base. The 7<sup>th</sup> ISC provided a very good basis for the take-off of this new association – a large gathering of Arctic human- and social scientists with many Russian scholars attending for the first time. Many factors were conducive to this project, whose initiators did not otherwise frequent the ISC but who met a gathering that was ready to move in a new direction. By spreading out over a larger field of engagement, the new organization has probably affected a de-centering of the more strictly humanist focus.<sup>23</sup> It has also engaged a new kind of pragmatism, for better or for worse, which can be seen as an attribute of scientific organizations, and which is part and parcel of the way research is nowadays organized and funded. All said, I believe that the forming of IASSA and the discussion of what the Arctic human and social sciences 'can do' has contributed greatly to enlarge the discussion room for all students of the Arctic.

### **Acknowledgment**

I would like to thank Ludger Müller-Wille for his editorial comments and suggestions on drafts of this essay.

---

<sup>23</sup> Participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inuit Studies Conference in Québec in 1980, I remember listening to a variety of presentations, including lectures by administrators, medical doctors, Inuit organizations, individual testimonies etc. in what was a mind-blazing and highly stimulating door to me into the world of Inuit studies. The background of course being that the organizers saw the significance of providing a meeting ground for locals and researchers alike through membership of the association as well as at conferences. This tradition is an important part, too, of the foundation of IASSA, which is open to membership by all interested in the Arctic.





Chukchi women racing in a "badaira" (skin boat) on the Chukotka coast (Russia) in 2004

Photo: Galina Diatchkova

*To my IASSA Fellow Members:*

*For about a decade I have been associated with IASSA as a member and with its Council. I have very warm feelings for the people who founded this wonderful organization as well as for the scholars who have dedicated themselves to the Arctic and its peoples. Their sincere love to this severe land and the ability to address competently developments in the Arctic regions is very much appreciated by many people including myself.*

*I would like to take the opportunity of IASSA's 20th anniversary to convey my warmest greetings to all the colleagues from different countries. I would like to wish IASSA and all of you future success.*

*Galina Diatchkova*

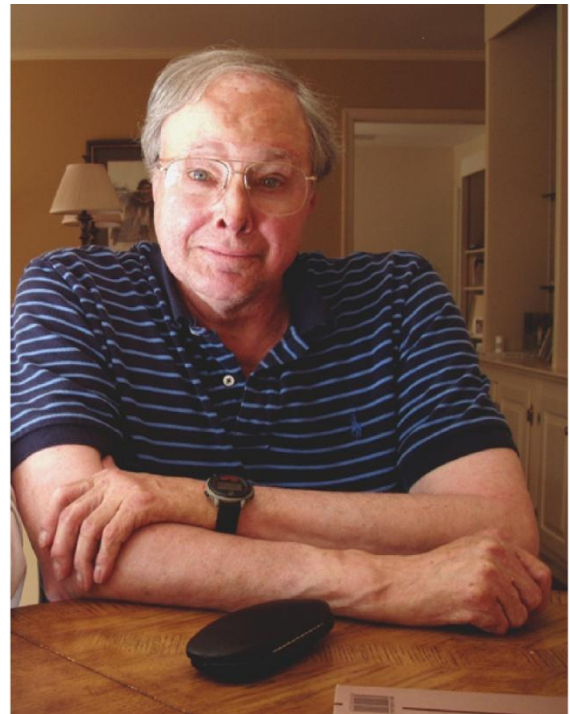
<sup>24</sup> IASSA Council Member (2001-2008), Museum Center "Chukotka Heritage" (*Nasledie Chukotki*), Anadyr, Russia.

## Ernest S. Burch, Jr. Selected Publications, 1970-2009

*Editor's note:* The list below has been compiled from the full list of Ernest S. Burch's publications on file at the Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. It was prepared and formatted by Burch himself in September 2007, in addition to his full CV. Later additions for 2008–2010 were sought from other files or known publications, so that the current record may be incomplete. The 2007 list cites 10 books and edited collections, 59 volume chapters and journal papers (including several reprints), 13 'special papers, reports, and miscellaneous,' and 23 book reviews. For this special issue we reorganized the 2007 list slightly and selected books/special volumes/collections, 'major' papers and chapters (without reprints), and most substantial special reports and miscellaneous publications. We hope to publish the full list of Burch's contributions elsewhere (Igor Krupnik).

### Books/Special Volumes/Edited Collections

- 1975 *Eskimo Kinsmen: Changing Family Relationships in Northwest Alaska*. Saint Paul, MN: West Publishing Company. (American Ethnological Society Monograph No. 59.)
- 1981 *The Traditional Eskimo Hunters of Point Hope, Alaska: 1800-1875*. [Barrow, AK]: The North Slope Borough.
- 1984 Editor, The Central Yupik Eskimos. *Études/Inuit/Studies*, Vol. 8, Supplemental Issue.
- 1988a *The Eskimos*, with photographs by Werner Forman. London: Macdonald & Co. Ltd./Norman: University of Oklahoma Press (German edition 1998; Norwegian edition 1990; Japanese edition 1991; Finnish edition 2000)
- 1988b Co-editor (with Inge Kleivan) of l'Oeuvre de Knud Rasmussen; The Work of Knud Rasmussen. Special issue of *Études/Inuit/Studies*, Vol. 12, Nos. 1-2.
- 1994 Co-editor (with Linda J. Ellanna) of *Key Issues in Hunter-Gatherer Research*. Providence, RI: Berg Publishers.
- 1998 *The Iñupiaq Eskimo Nations of Northwest Alaska*. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.
- 2005 *Alliance and Conflict: The World System of the Iñupiaq Eskimos*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press. Co-publication with the University of Calgary Press and the Arctic Institute of North America (Northern Lights Series no. 7).
- 2006 *Social Life in Northwest Alaska: The Structure of Iñupiaq Eskimo Nations*. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.
- n.d. Caribou Herds of Northwest Alaska, 1850-2000. Major new book in preparation (2002–2010).



Ernest (Tiger) Burch, June 2008.  
Photo: Deanne Burch.

### Major Articles/Chapters

- 1970a The Eskimo Trading Partnership in North Alaska: A Study in "Balanced Reciprocity." *Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska* 15(1):48-80.
- 1970b Marriage and Divorce Among the North Alaskan Eskimos. In Paul Bohannon, ed., *Divorce and After*, pp. 152-181. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co.

- 1971 The Nonempirical Environment of the Arctic Alaskan Eskimos. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 27(2):148-165.
- 1972a Alliance and Conflict: Inter-Regional Relations in North Alaska (with Thomas C. Correll). In D. L. Guemple, ed., *Alliance in Eskimo Society: Proceedings of the American Ethnological Society, 1971, Supplement*, pp. 17- 39. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- 1972b The Caribou/Wild Reindeer as a Human Resource. *American Antiquity* 37(3):339-368.
- 1974 Eskimo Warfare in Northwest Alaska. *Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska* 16(2):1-14.
- 1975 Inter-Regional Transportation in Traditional Northwest Alaska. *Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska* 17(2):1-11.
- 1976 The "Nunamiut" Concept and the Standardization of Error. In Edwin S. Hall, Jr., ed., *Contributions to Anthropology: The Interior Peoples of Northern Alaska*, pp. 52-97. Ottawa: National Museum of Man. (Archaeological Survey of Canada Paper No. 49.)
- 1977 Muskox and Man in the Central Canadian Subarctic, 1689-1974. *Arctic* 30(3):135-154.
- 1978 Caribou Eskimo Origins: An Old Problem Reconsidered. *Arctic Anthropology* 15(1):1-35.
- 1979a Chipewyan and Inuit in the Central Canadian Subarctic, 1613-1977 (with James G. E. Smith.) In James G. E. Smith, ed., *Indian-Eskimo Relations: Studies in the Inter-Ethnic Relations of Small Societies*. *Arctic Anthropology* 16(2):76-101.
- 1979b The Ethnography of Northern North America: A Guide to Recent Research. In Henry N. Michael, ed., *The Peopling of the New World*. *Arctic Anthropology* 16(1):62-146.
- 1979c Indians and Eskimos in North Alaska, 1816-1977: A Study in Changing Ethnic Relations. In James G. E. Smith, ed., *Indian-Eskimo Relations: Studies in the Inter-Ethnic Relations of Small Societies*. *Arctic Anthropology* 16(2):123-151.
- 1979d Native Claims in Alaska: An Overview. *Études/Inuit/Studies* 3(1):7-30.
- 1979e The Thule-Historic Eskimo Transition on the West Coast of Hudson Bay. In Allen P. McCartney, ed., *Thule Eskimo Culture: An Anthropological Retrospective*, pp. 189-211. Ottawa: National Museum of Man. (Archaeological Survey of Canada Paper No. 88.)
- 1980 Traditional Eskimo Societies in Northwest Alaska. *Senri Ethnological Studies* 4:253-304.
- 1983 Sociodemographic Correlates of House Structures in Three Beringian Populations: An Exploratory Study. In Henry N. Michael and James W. VanStone, eds., *Cultures of the Bering Sea Region: Papers from an International Symposium*, pp. 112-139. Published for the American Council of Learned Societies and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR by the International Research and Exchanges Board, New York, 1983.
- 1984a The Central Yupik Eskimos: An Introduction. *Études/Inuit/Studies* 8 (Supplemental Issue):3-19.
- 1984b Kotzebue Sound Eskimo. In William C. Sturtevant, general ed., *Handbook of North American Indians*; David Damas, ed., Vol. 5, *Arctic*, pp. 303-319. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.
- 1984c The Land Claims Era in Alaska. In William C. Sturtevant, general ed., *Handbook of North American Indians*; David Damas, ed., Vol. 5, *Arctic*, pp. 657-661. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.
- 1986a The Eskaleuts—A Regional Overview. In R. Bruce Morrison and C. Roderick Wilson, eds., *Native Peoples: The Canadian Experience*, pp. 98-106. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.
- 1986b The Caribou Inuit. In R. Bruce Morrison and C. Roderick Wilson, eds., *Native Peoples: The Canadian Experience*, pp. 106-133. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.
- 1988a The Work of Knud Rasmussen Among the Inuit: An Introduction (with Inge Kleivan.) *Études/Inuit/Studies* 12(1-2):5-10.
- 1988b Knud Rasmussen and the "Original" Inland Eskimos of Southern Keewatin. *Études/Inuit/Studies* 12(1-2):81-100.

- 1988c The End of the Trail: The Work of the Fifth Thule Expedition in Alaska. *Études/Inuit/Studies* 12(1-2):151-170.
- 1988d Modes of Exchange in Northwest Alaska. In Tim Ingold, David Riches and James Woodburn, eds., *Hunters and Gatherers 2: Property, Power and Ideology*, pp. 95-109. New York: Berg Publishers Ltd.
- 1988e Toward a Sociology of the Prehistoric Inupiat: Problems and Prospects. In Robert D. Shaw, Roger K. Harrett and Don E. Dumond, eds., *The Late Prehistoric Development of Alaska's Native People*, pp. 1-16. *Alaska Anthropological Association. Aurora Monograph No. 4.*
- 1988f War and Trade. In William W. Fitzhugh and Aron Crowell, eds., *Crossroads of Continents: Cultures of Siberia and Alaska*, pp. 227-240. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.
- 1991 From Skeptic to Believer: The Making of an Oral Historian. *Alaska History* 6(1):1-16.
- 1992 Estimating the Economic Value of Subsistence Harvest of Wildlife in Alaska (with Thomas C. Brown.) In George L. Peterson, Cindy S. Swanson, Daniel W. McCollum, and Michael H. Thomas, eds., *Valuing Wildlife Resources in Alaska*, pp. 203-254. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- 1993 The Organization of Arctic Social Sciences. In Louis-Jacques Dorais and Ludger Müller-Wille, eds., *Social Sciences in the North: Keynotes Presented at the Eighth Inuit Studies Conference and the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences*, pp. 31-114. Ste-Foy, PQ: International Arctic Social Sciences Association and Groupe d'Études Inuit et Circumpolaires. (Topics in Arctic Social Sciences 1.)
- 1994a The Future of Hunter-Gatherer Research. In Ernest S. Burch, Jr. and Linda J. Ellanna, eds., *Key Issues in Hunter-Gatherer Research*, pp. 441-455. Providence, RI: Berg Publishers.
- 1994b Rationality and Resource Use Among Hunters. In Takashi Irimoto and Takako Yamada, eds., *Circumpolar Religion and Ecology: An Anthropology of the North*, pp. 163-185. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press.
- 1994c The Inupiat and the Christianization of Arctic Alaska. *Études/Inuit/Studies* 18(1-2):81-108.
- 1995a The Di'haŋŋi Gwich'in: Mystery People of Northern Alaska (with Craig Mishler). *Arctic Anthropology* 32(1):147-172.
- 1995b The Caribou Inuit. In R. Bruce Morrison and C. Roderick Wilson, eds., *Native Peoples: The Canadian Experience*, pp. 115-142. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
- 1998a Boundaries and borders in early contact north-central Alaska. *Arctic Anthropology* 35(2):19-48.
- 1998b The North Alaskan Eskimos: A Changing Way of Life. In Melvin Ember, Carol Ember, and David Levinson, eds., *Portraits of Culture: Ethnographic Originals*, Vol. I, pp. 89-118. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- 1999 The Ethnogenesis of the *Kuuvaum Kapiagmiut* (with Eliza Jones, Hannah P. Loon and Lawrence Kaplan.) *Ethnohistory* 46(2):291-327.
- 2002 The history of Arctic ethnography: Some personal reflections. In William W. Fitzhugh, Stephen Loring, and Daniel Odess, eds., *Honoring Our Elders: A History of Eastern Arctic Archaeology*, pp. 33-46. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Arctic Studies Center. (Contributions to Circumpolar Anthropology 2.)
- 2005 Sociocultural Anthropology in Alaska, 1972-2002: An Overview. *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* 3(1):9-103.
- 2007a Rationality and Resource Use Among Hunters: Some Eskimo Examples (revision of 1994 paper). In Michael Harkin and David Rich Lewis, eds., *Native Americans and the Environment: Perspectives on the Ecological Indian*, pp. 123-152. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- 2007b Traditional Native Warfare in Western Alaska. In Richard Chacon and Ruben Mendoza, eds., *North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*, pp. 11-29. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- 2008 (Review) *Travelling passions: The hidden life of Vilhjalmur Stefansson*, by Gísli Pálsson. In *Current Anthropology* 49(2):348-349.

2009 Smithsonian Contributions to Alaskan Ethnography: The First IPY Expedition to Barrow, 1881-1883. In Igor Krupnik, Michael Lang, and Scott Miller, eds. *Smithsonian at the Poles. Contributions to International Polar Year Science*, pp.89-98. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press.

### Special Papers, Reports, Miscellaneous

- 1983 *Peoples of the Arctic (ca. 1825)*. Map compiled for the National Geographic Society, Washington, DC.
- 1985 *Subsistence Production in Kivalina, Alaska: A Twenty-Year Perspective*. Juneau: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence. (Technical Paper No. 128.)
- 1988 Selected Works by Knud Rasmussen (with Inge Kleivan, Rolf Gilberg, and Jean-Loup Rousselot.) *Études/Inuit/Studies* 12(1-2):205-221.
- 1990 The Cultural and Natural Heritage of Northwest Alaska. Vol. I, Geology [479 pp.] Kotzebue, AK: NANA Museum of the Arctic.
- 1994 The Cultural and Natural Heritage of Northwest Alaska. Vol. V. The Iñupiaq Nations of Northwest Alaska. 472 pp. Kotzebue and Anchorage: NANA Museum of the Arctic and U.S. National Park Service, Alaska Region (130 copies).
- 1997 International Directory of Arctic Social Scientists. Washington, DC: National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs (NSF 97-94).
- 1998 The Cultural and Natural Heritage of Northwest Alaska. Vol. VII. International Affairs. 338 pp. Kotzebue and Anchorage: NANA Museum of the Arctic and U.S. National Park Service, Alaska Region (130 copies).
- 2003 The Cultural and Natural Heritage of Northwest Alaska. Vol. VI. The Organization of National Life. 580 pp. Kotzebue and Anchorage: NANA Museum of the Arctic and U.S. National Park Service, Alaska Region (130 copies).
- 2007 (Rachel Mason). An Interview with Ernest S. Burch, Jr. *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* 5(1): 147–153.



Tiger Burch playing the accordion on the 1954 Donald MacMillan expedition.  
Courtesy, Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution





## Northern Notes

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

### **Issue 33 • 2010 • Anniversary Issue**

Published by the IASSA Secretariat  
c/o Stefansson Arctic Institute,  
Borgir, Nordurslod, IS-600 Akureyri, Iceland

Tel.: +354 4608980 • Fax: +354 4608989  
E-mail: [iassa@svs.is](mailto:iassa@svs.is) • Website: [www.iassa.org](http://www.iassa.org)

ISSN 1816-9767 (online)  
ISSN 1817-0404 (print)