

# Northern Notes

The Newsletter of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association

Issue 35 • Spring/Summer 2011



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

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)  
Editors: Joan Nymand Larsen, Lára Ólafsdóttir and Jón Haukur Ingimundarson

## In this Issue

FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARIAT .....	2	• Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA) – A New International Research Project .....	16
ICASS VII Program .....	4	• The 2011 Scott Polar History Colloquium: Issues of Historical Practice in the Polar Regions.....	19
Candidates for IASSA Council 2011-2014.....	4		
IASSA Secretariat Bids 2011-2014 .....	5		
<b>FEATURES</b>			
• International Polar Decade (IPD) Workshop Held in St. Petersburg.....	11	CONFERENCES .....	22
• IASSA: As Academics What Is Our Role in Society and Do We Have a Responsibility to Engage? .....	13	ANNOUNCEMENTS .....	27
		NEW PUBLICATIONS .....	30
		ON THE WEB.....	35

## FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARIAT

### From the President



ICASS VII – the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences – takes place in Akureyri, Iceland, in less than two weeks. All final preparations are well underway and we

expect more than 400 delegates. This will be a sizeable ICASS with an interesting, stimulating and diverse programme that we can all look forward to. It will be the main venue for sharing and discussing Arctic social science and humanities research, and for networking. Further below you can view the ICASS VII programme in brief, or you may go to [www.iassa.org](http://www.iassa.org) and view the full programme including names of presenters and titles of presentations.

If you have not yet registered for ICASS VII please go to the ICASS website and complete your registration right away at [www.iassa.org/icass-vii](http://www.iassa.org/icass-vii).

In this issue of Northern Notes we would like to bring your special attention to the IASSA Council elections. For a brief overview of IASSA elections, candidates for council, and confirmed contenders to host the next IASSA secretariat please read the sections on *Candidates for IASSA Council* and *IASSA Secretariat Bids*.

In the section on *IASSA Secretariat Bids* please read the contributions by Chris Southcott, Gail Fondahl and Jessica Shadian. In their contributions they briefly introduce themselves and provide an overview of their individual bids for the next IASSA secretariat. The host and location of the next IASSA secretariat (2011-2014) will be determined after the elections at the General Assembly which will be held on Saturday June 25 at 10:30-12:30 at ICASS VII. Three bids for the IASSA secretariat have been received, and they are:

- Yukon College, Whitehorse, Canada - submitted by Chris Southcott
- University of Northern British Columbia, Canada - submitted by Gail Fondahl
- University of Nordland in conjunction with the Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway - submitted by Jessica Shadian. Please read their contributions in the “*Bids*” section.

If you are participating in ICASS VII you will be able to vote in the elections at the IASSA General Assembly. After the ballots have been counted the

IASSA council (2011-2014) will be announced, and so will the next IASSA president and the location and host of the IASSA secretariat. In preparations for the elections you may wish to get to know more about the candidates running for council, and you can do so by reading the sections on *Candidates for IASSA Council* and *IASSA Secretariat Bids*.

On April 14, IASSA signed together with IASC and UArctic a letter of agreement (LoA) to help foster future collaborations between the three organizations (please see announcement also in this issue of Northern Notes). IASSA has now signed three LoAs: LoA between IASC and IASSA (2007); between APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists), SHARE (Social Sciences and Humanities Antarctic Research Exchange) and IASSA (2010); and the recent LoA between IASC, UArctic and IASSA (2011).

The IPY ended officially in June last year, and informal discussions looking ahead to a possible International Polar Decade (IPD) has now begun. An IPD workshop was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on April 14-15 to discuss and exchange views on a proposed IPD initiative and its possible development. Roshydromet hosted the IPD Initiative workshop at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) of Roshydromet, cosponsored by WMO. The workshop represented the first multi-stakeholder consultation on the IPD initiative. IASSA participated in this workshop and some brief highlights from the workshop will be presented at the ICASS VII panel discussion on “Arctic Social Sciences beyond the IPY”. The informal report from this workshop is now available at [www.iassa.org](http://www.iassa.org). An excerpt from the workshop report is provided in the feature section of this newsletter. At the recent Congress of the WMO the Congress approved the WMO participation in the IPD if it is endorsed by international organizations and stakeholders. Also, in the Nuuk Ministerial Declaration of the Arctic Council, [http://arctic-council.org/article/2011/5/arctic\\_council\\_ministers\\_sign\\_agreement](http://arctic-council.org/article/2011/5/arctic_council_ministers_sign_agreement), support is provided for a possible IPD initiative: “Decide to task the Senior Arctic Officials to consider maximizing the legacy of the IPY by supporting a proposal to arrange an International Polar Decade in light of the rapid climate change of the Arctic and the need for further coordinated research of Arctic environment and its human dimension” (you can read the full declaration at the link provided here). The one hour ICASS VII panel on “Arctic Social Sciences beyond the IPY”, June 25, will include a special focus on the question of the role and involvement of Arctic Social Sciences

and IASSA in a possible IPD. We hope that this post-IPY panel will help stimulate discussion on the future of Arctic social sciences and the future course of our association.

We look forward to welcoming many of you to Akureyri for those important ICASS June days just around the corner – June 22-26.

Joan

Joan Nymand Larsen  
President  
International Arctic Social Sciences  
Association  
[jnl@svs.is](mailto:jnl@svs.is)



---

## From the Secretary



After months of preparations ICASS VII is around the corner! I hope those of you who visit us in Akureyri will enjoy your stay and have a successful congress.

Wishing you all welcome!

Lára Ólafsdóttir  
IASSA Secretary  
[larao@svs.is](mailto:larao@svs.is), [iassa@svs.is](mailto:iassa@svs.is)



---

## From the Convener of ICASS VII



Please check out the programme here below and on-line. The book of abstracts and the programme will be going to print later this week, and then posted on the IASSA website.

I look forward to meeting you all in a couple of weeks.

Jón Haukur

Jon Haukur Ingimundarson – ICASS VII  
Congress Convener  
Senior Scientist  
Stefansson Arctic Institute  
Akureyri, Iceland  
[jhi@svs.is](mailto:jhi@svs.is)







**IASSA**  
INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL  
SCIENCES ASSOCIATION

## ICASS VII Program: Preliminary Schedule of Sessions

09.06.2011

www.iassa.org

WEDNESDAY • 22 JUNE 2011													
08:00-10:00	Registration												
10:00-11:45	<b>PLENARY – Welcoming addresses:</b> Stefán B. Sigurðsson, Rector of the University of Akureyri Svandís Svavarsdóttir, Minister for the Environment, and Acting Minister of Education, Science and Culture, Iceland Joan Nymand Larsen, President of IASSA  <b>PLENARY - Keynote presentation by Gisli Pálsson</b>  <b>Information on Montréal IPY 2012 conference by Peter Harrison (Chair IPY 2012 Conference)</b>												
11:45-13:00	Lunch break & Launch of The Polar Journal												
<b>To the right:</b> Theme no & subjects. <b>Below:</b> Sessions by theme no, session no & organizers	<b>Theme 01</b> Climate and environmental changes - impacts, adaptation and narratives	<b>Theme 02</b> Economic and social development	<b>Theme 03</b> Living conditions, community development, quality of life and human resources	<b>Theme 04</b> Population, mobility, migration and borders	<b>Theme 05</b> Governance, politics, legal issues, and resource management	<b>Theme 06</b> Health and wellness	<b>Theme 07</b> Culture, art, knowledge, values, images, creativity, ideology, history religion, heritage and archaeology	<b>Theme 08</b> Communication, media, and film- making	<b>Theme 09</b> Education	<b>Theme 10</b> IPY lessons and legacy; inclusive topics; research methods and collaboration; and data management	<b>Special sessions and side events</b>		
13:00-15:00	<b>Theme 01</b> <b>01.46</b> Organizers: Ogilvie and Crate	<b>Theme 02</b> <b>02.25 (1)</b> Organizers: Koester, Kishigami and Colombi	<b>Theme 03</b>	<b>Theme 04</b> <b>04.01 (1)</b> Organizers: Heleniak and Huskey	<b>Theme 05</b> <b>05.74</b> Corell and Young	<b>Theme 06</b> <b>06.40 (1)</b> Organizer: Rhonda Johnson	<b>Theme 07</b> <b>07.21+29 (1)</b> Organizers: Usenyuk and Petrov & <b>07.52</b> Organizers: Martin, Bibaud Chartier and Joliet	<b>Theme 08</b>	<b>Theme 09</b>	<b>Theme 10</b> <b>10.20 (1)</b> Organizers: Pulsifer, Gearheard and Schweitzer & <b>10.22 (1)</b> Organizers: Wråkberg and Avango			
15:00-15:30	Coffee break												
15:30-17:30		<b>02.25 (2)</b> Organizers: Koester, Kishigami and Colombi & <b>02.31</b> Organizers: Rodon, Abele, Dorais and Schotts	<b>03.57 (1)</b> Organizer: Grete K. Hovelsrud	<b>04.01 (2)</b> Organizers: Heleniak and Huskey		<b>06.40 (2)</b> Organizer: Rhonda Johnson	<b>07.21+29 (2)</b> Organizers: Usenyuk and Petrov & <b>07.49 (1)</b> Organizers: Ísleifsson and Schram			<b>10.20 (2)</b> Organizers: Pulsifer, Gearheard and Schweitzer & <b>10.22 (2)</b> Organizers: Wråkberg and Avango	<b>IASC Social and Human WG information session (open)</b> 15:30-16:30  <b>IASC Social and Human Sciences WG meeting (open)</b> 16:30-17:30		
18:00- 20:00	<b>Reception in Hof Cultural Center, hosted by:</b>											<b>Town of Akureyri • Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland Icelandic Ministry for the Environment • Embassy of the United States in Reykjavik</b>	

THURSDAY • 23 JUNE 2011											
08:00-10:00	Registration										
08:30-10:00	PLENARY: Keynote presentations by Kirsten Hastrup and Sven Haakanson										
10:00-10:30	Coffee break										
10:30-12:00	Theme 01	Theme 02	Theme 03	Theme 04	Theme 05	Theme 06	Theme 07	Theme 08	Theme 09	Theme 10	IASC Social and Human Sciences WG meeting, continued (open) 10:30-11:30
	01.33 (1) Organizer: Jessica Graybill	02.36 (1) Organizers: Nakhshina and Krause	03.57 (2) Organizer: Grete K. Hovelsrud		05.53 (1) Organizer: Natalia Loukacheva & 05:67 (1) Organizers: Stammler and Shadian	06.40 (3) Organizer: Rhonda Johnson	07.47 (1) Organizer: Igor Krupnik & 07.49 (2) Organizers: Ísleifsson and Schram	Film and video Screenings		10.20 (3) Organizers: Pulsifer, Gearheard and Schweitzer & 10.22 (3) Organizers: Wråkberg and Avango	IASC executive meeting (closed) 11:30-12:00
12:00-13:30	Lunch break										
13:30-15:30	01.33 (2) Organizer: Jessica Graybill	02.36 (2) Organizers: Nakhshina and Krause & 02.68 (1) Organizers: Jóhannesson and Hansen		04.11 (1) Organizer: Maria Lähteenmäki	05.53 (2) Organizer: Natalia Loukacheva & 05:67 (2) Organizers: Stammler and Shadian	06.40 (4) Organizer: Rhonda Johnson	07.47 (2) Organizer: Igor Krupnik & 07.49 (3) Organizers: Ísleifsson and Schram	Film and video Screenings	09.01 (1) Organizers: Hirshberg, Berger and Møller	10.62 (1) Organizers: Larsen and Fondahl	
	Coffee break										
16:00-17:30		02.36 (3) Organizers: Nakhshina and Krause & 02.68 (2) Organizers: Jóhannesson and Hansen			05:67 (3) Organizers: Stammler and Shadian		07.49 (4) Organizers: Ísleifsson and Schram	Film and video Screenings	09.01 (2) Organizers: Hirshberg, Berger and Møller	10.62 (2) Organizers: Larsen and Fondahl	

**FRIDAY • 24 JUNE 2011**

Registration

**PLENARY:** Keynote presentations by Nikolay Vakhtin and Igor Krupnik

---

---

Coffee break

10:30-12:00	Theme 01	Theme 02	Theme 03	Theme 04	Theme 05	Theme 06	Theme 07	Theme 08	Theme 09	Theme 10	Poster Session (All Themes)	
	<b>01.27</b> (1) Organizer: Amy Lovecraft	<b>02.26</b> (1) Organizer: Daniela Tommasini  &  <b>02.58</b> (1) Organizers: Weiss and Eiriksson		<b>04.34</b> (1) Organizers: Habeck and Bronz	<b>05.41</b> Organizers: McComber, Laugrand and Rodon			<b>07.32</b> (1) Organizer: Stefan Donecker	<b>08.23</b> (1) Organizer: Thomas Ross Miller	<b>09.01</b> (3) Organizers: Hirshberg, Berger and Møller		<b>10.62</b> (3) Organizers: Larsen and Fondahl  &  <b>10.73</b> (1) Organizer: Thomas H. McGovern

Lunch break

13:30-15:30	<b>01.27 (2)</b> Organizer: Amy Lovecraft	<b>02.26 (2)</b> Organizers: Daniela Tommasini & <b>02.58 (2)</b> Organizers: Weiss and Eiriksson	<b>03.63 (1)</b> Organizers: Larsen and Schweitzer	<b>04.34 (2)</b> Organizers: Habeck and Bronz	<b>05.43</b> Organizer: Graham White		<b>07.32 (2)</b> Organizer: Stefan Donecker	<b>08.23 (2)</b> Organizer: Thomas Ross Miller	<b>09.01 (4)</b> Organizers: Hirshberg, Berger and Møller	<b>10.73 (2)</b> Organizer: Thomas H. McGovern	<b>IPY 2012 Montréal Information Session (open)</b> chaired by Fisher, Meakin and Fondahl 13:30-14:30
-------------	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	--	---	--	---

Coffee break

**PLENARY:** Shaping your Arctic Social Sciences Career, chaired by Gerlis Fugman and Tristan Pearce

ICASS Banquet in Hof Cultural Center

**SATURDAY • 25 JUNE 2011**

08:00-10:00	Registration										
09:00-10:00	PLENARY: Arctic Social Sciences Beyond IPY, chaired by Igor Krupnik										
10:00-10:30	Coffee break										
10:30-12:30	IASSA General Assembly										
12:30-14:00	Lunch break – Lunch on own. University Cantina open and serving food.										
14:00-15:30	Theme 01	Theme 02	Theme 03	Theme 04	Theme 05	Theme 06	Theme 07	Theme 08	Theme 09	Theme 10	Poster Session (All Themes)
		02.56 (1) Organizers: Huijbens, Müller and Jóhannesson	03.54 (1) Organizer: Tina Dam Rasmussen & 03.70 (1) Organizer: Southcott and Abele 03.63 (2) Organizers: Larsen and Schweitzer	04.37 (1) Organizers: Elimsteiner- Saxinger and Stammli	05.28 (1) Organizers: Roto and Rasmussen & 05.35 (1) Organizers: Tasch, Gerhard, Keul, Nyman, Steinberg and Weber			07.32 (3) Organizer: Stefan Donecker	08.19 (1) Organizer: Andrei Golovnev		
15:30-16:00	Coffee break –										
16:00-17:55		02.56 (2) Organizers: Huijbens, Müller and Jóhannesson	03.54 (2) Organizer: Tina Dam Rasmussen & 03.60 Organizers: Collings and Pearce & 03.63 (3) Organizers: Larsen and Schweitzer	04.37 (2) Organizers: Elimsteiner- Saxinger and Stammli	05.28 (2) Organizers: Roto and Rasmussen & 05.35 (2) Organizers: Tasch, Gerhard, Keul, Nyman, Steinberg and Weber			07.32 (4) Organizer: Stefan Donecker	08.19 (2) Organizer: Andrei Golovnev		Poster Session (All Themes)





## CANDIDATES FOR IASSA COUNCIL 2011-2014

### Candidates for IASSA Council

The General Assembly (GA) of IASSA will be held during ICASS VII on Saturday June 25th, 2011, at 10:30-12:30. At the Assembly IASSA members will elect a new Council for the term 2011-2014. Earlier this year the IASSA secretariat encouraged IASSA members wishing to run for Council to submit a brief introduction of themselves for inclusion in this issue of Northern Notes. Two candidates availed themselves of this opportunity, both of whom are current councillors – Alexander King and Florian Stammer. Please read their contribution here below. In addition, Chris Southcott, Gail Fondahl and Jessica Shadian are also running for Council. Their introductions are presented in the section on *IASSA Secretariat Bids*, because in addition to running for a seat on the Council they have also submitted bids for hosting the next IASSA secretariat and ICASS, and are running for IASSA president, 2011-2014. Please read their contributions in the following which include an overview of their bid for the secretariat.

At ICASS you may nominate yourself or another IASSA member for the IASSA Council. Please look for the IASSA Council nomination list at ICASS VII. To get a seat on the Council you need to be nominated, be a member of IASSA, and be elected at the GA. All candidates for IASSA Council will be asked to give a brief 2-3 minute presentation to the GA introducing themselves and saying a few words on why they would like to be on the IASSA Council, which may include e.g. their vision for the future of IASSA and what they see their role or contribution to be. Following this the GA will vote for the next IASSA Council. Each voting IASSA member will vote for 8 councillors. The current IASSA president will remain on the Council as past president and is therefore not one of the candidates. The new Council will have 9 members; 8 members elected by majority vote during the 2011 GA plus the past president.

IASSA Council election in brief:

- Candidates for the next term of Council, 2011-2014, can be proposed at ICASS VII until Friday June 24 at 4 pm.
- Candidates must be members of IASSA
- Candidates must nominate themselves, or can be nominated by others, with their explicit agreement.
- Candidates must present themselves in person at the GA Saturday June 25.
- Candidates for IASSA Council must be ready to

participate in Council meetings (face-to-face or via Skype or teleconference call), and commit a substantial amount of time for IASSA affairs including extensive discussions via email correspondence.



### Alexander King

I am now finishing my first 3-year term on Council and would like to continue serving IASSA for another term. I bring an international perspective, educated in the United States (Ph.D., University of Virginia)

and working in Europe for the last decade (8-1/2 years in anthropology at University of Aberdeen). My research is based primarily in Kamchatka, Russia, and I supervise Ph.D. students working in Karelia, Siberia, and Alaska. I will continue to work for an Association that includes scientists from around the globe in a wide spectrum of disciplines. IASSA's strength is its ability to be a 'big tent' for all people interested in scholarly work in the Arctic. I collaborate closely with indigenous scholars in Kamchatka in my anthropological and linguistic research. I believe that most social scientists working in the Arctic foster such collaborations as a way to improve the scholarly value of our work, and I will continue to support IASSA's work to bring these values to the wider academic and scientific community. I will also continue to work for an Association that is at the cutting edge of scholarly exchange, collaboration, and outreach to non-specialists.

Dr. Alexander King  
Lecturer of Anthropology  
Anthropology Department  
University of Aberdeen, UK  
Email: [a.king@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.king@abdn.ac.uk)

### Florian Stammer



Florian Stammer is a social anthropologist based at the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi, Finland, where he coordinates the anthropology research team ([www.arcticcentre.org/anthropology](http://www.arcticcentre.org/anthropology), <http://arcticanthropology.org/>).

He is also an institute associate at the Scott Polar Research Institute of the University of Cambridge, UK, where he has worked previously as a post-doctoral researcher and still has common projects and plans. Moreover, Florian has a Russian

affiliation as a member of the scientific council of the Russian Reindeer Herders Union.

His main interests are on processes of industrialisation and technological change in the Arctic, human-animal relations, relocation, Arctic Urban anthropology and reindeer nomadism as a livelihood. Florian has worked extensively in several regions of the Russian North, particularly West Siberia, the European North, and the Sakha Republic. His published books reflect his research interests and include the monograph "Reindeer Nomads Meet the Market" (2005), and the edited volumes "People and Reindeer on the Move" (2006, jointly with Hugh Beach, *Nomadic Peoples* NS vol 10), *Sibirica* special issue on Russian Northern Oil Industry impacts (2006, jointly with Emma Wilson, *Sibirica* 5.2), "Good to eat - good to live with: nomads and animals in northern Eurasia and Africa" (2010, jointly with Hiroki Takakura), and "Biography, Shift Labour and Socialisation in a Northern Industrial City" (2010, jointly with Gertrude Eilmsteiner-Saxinger).

Florian has been serving on the IASSA council since 2008, when he co-founded at the last ICASS congress the Extractive Industries Working Group, which has since grown into an IASSA accredited unit that sees its main task as a clearing house of information on all issues in social sciences related to extractive industry development in the Arctic, and as an interface relating information from communities, the state, companies and science to each other. If you want to be included in the EIWG mail list, please drop a line to [fms36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fms36@cam.ac.uk). For more information on EIWG, see the Northern Notes Newsletter number 30. More recently, some key members of EIWG have teamed up to develop a PhD course related to the social science of Arctic Extractive Industries Development. We shall report on this and other EIWG activities in our session during ICASS in Akureyri (session number 67).

In case of a continued membership in the IASSA council, Florian would see his role as the bridge between the IASSA executive and the EIWG, representing IASSA on meetings and conferences related to industrial development and its impacts on communities, as well as making IASSA known among those people living and working in his Russian northern field regions.

Dr. Florian Stammler  
Senior Researcher  
Anthropology Research Team  
Arctic Centre, University of Lapland  
Rovaniemi, Finland  
Email: [fms36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fms36@cam.ac.uk)

## IASSA SECRETARIAT BIDS 2011-2014

### Yukon College

#### ICASS VIII in the Yukon

Consider this: attending the 2014 ICASS meetings in a fertile green valley surrounded by majestic mountains with a historic river running through it that leads to gold. On behalf of Yukon College and the many social scientists doing research in the Yukon it is my pleasure to announce that Yukon College, in partnership with a long list of researchers and organizations, would like to host the next ICASS meetings in 2014.

34,000 people make Yukon Territory their home and we are fortunate that many accomplished researchers in the social and natural sciences work and live here. The City of Whitehorse is known internationally for its hosting capacity and its infrastructure is second to none.

#### **Yukon College - a strong commitment to social science research and a strong team of organizers**

The Northern Research Institute at Yukon College hosts the main coordination office for two of the largest Arctic social science projects currently operating – the Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada (SERNNOCa) and Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA). In addition, Yukon College has helped facilitate a long list of social science research projects over the last decade as well as hosting many international and Arctic conferences. These projects have helped build strong social research networks linked to the College. These networks will be mobilized to ensure that ICASS VIII in the Yukon will be one of the most successful conferences in recent memory. In addition to the strong support of the College and the Yukon Government, organizers who will be involved with coordinating ICASS VIII in the Yukon include David Natcher of the University of Saskatchewan, Brenda Parlee of the University of Alberta, Frances Abele of Carleton University, Amanda Graham, Val Walker and Clint Sawicki of Yukon College and myself. We are especially pleased to note that Yukon First Nations will be actively involved in the organization of the conference.

#### **Whitehorse and the Yukon – Easy destination, great accommodation, and plenty of things to do**

Whitehorse is a location of legends in the Circumpolar North. Building on its history, every year the Yukon hosts thousands of tourists who

come to follow the dream of the Gold Rush. Whitehorse is easy to access. Because of its summer tourist industry, there are regular direct flights from Frankfurt and Zurich, and daily flights from Vancouver, Calgary, and Edmonton. In addition, there are regular flights several times a week from Fairbanks, Alaska and Inuvik, NWT. Of course, if you have time you could also come to Whitehorse by driving the historic Alaska Highway.

For those interested in a more leisure journey you could travel north along the British Columbia and Alaska coast through the Inside Passage with BC Ferries and the Alaska Marine Highway System, or by cruise ship, to Skagway, Alaska. Regular connections between Skagway and Whitehorse are available.

The timing of the conference in early June would mean that conference participants would come when the summer tourist season has begun, but before the stampede. You will be able to choose from hotels ranging from luxury to economy. Yukon College will reserve its new student residences for the use of those on a limited budget. Whitehorse offers numerous excellent restaurants, shopping, as well as self-directed interpretive trails, museums and historic sites.

Organizers will ensure that participants have access to a range of activities outside of the conference. Visit famous Dawson City; hike the Chilkoot Pass; ride the Whitepass & Yukon Route train; take a boat trip on the Yukon River; climb a mountain in beautiful Kluane National Park; or just relax by spending the afternoon soaking in the nearby Takhini Hot Springs. You will not be disappointed. We especially urge you to visit some of the Yukon's First Nations communities and their cultural centres to see firsthand how land claims and self-government functions in the Yukon.

### **Continuing to build a strong IASSA**

Yukon College is excited at the prospect of hosting IASSA and is ready to help it grow. IASSA has had tremendous success over the past years at promoting social science research in the Arctic. We hope to build on and continue this success. The IASSA office in Whitehorse will have the necessary resources to support the work of IASSA and its Council members. The office will be located in the Northern Research Institute at Yukon College and will be staffed by a coordinator working a minimum of 20 hours a week. Researchers connected to Yukon College have shown that they have been very successful in obtaining research resources. We are committed to increasing the resources needed to support the

new roles that IASSA is playing in the international research community. New funding will enable us to ensure that IASSA can continue to be an effective voice for the promotion of Arctic social research.

Chris Southcott, Chair, Yukon College ICASS VIII Bid Committee

*Chris Southcott is an adjunct professor at Yukon College and professor of sociology at Lakehead University. Raised in Northern Canada he has been involved in community-based research in the Circumpolar North for over 25 years. Southcott has led several major national and international research initiatives dealing with the North. He has helped to build various programs for the University of the Arctic having led in the development of its social science courses, served as the Chair of the Mobility program, and as a leader of the Research Outreach program. In 2006, Chris Southcott was the principal investigator responsible for the creation of the Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada (SERNNNoCa). Currently he is the principal investigator for the Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA) project.*

---

## **University of Northern British Columbia**

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to make a bid for the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) to become host to the next IASSA secretariat, and to organize and host ICASS VIII.

Located on Lheidli T'enneh traditional territory, in the center of British Columbia, UNBC is Canada's most Northern research university. A university "in the North, for the North", it is committed to research and teaching about the Circumpolar North, and about First Nation and Indigenous issues. Its creation myth is motivating: in the late 1980s, 16,000 Northerners in British Columbia each paid \$5 to sign a petition demanding a university in the North, so that their children would not have to travel so far to university. They also understood the utility of a research institution that could help address northern community needs. Their demands were heard by the Province, and UNBC opened in 1994. Approximately 10% of the student body is Indigenous. Many students are the first in their family to attend university.



UNBC has for the last three years rated in the top three universities in Canada in its category (small, mainly undergraduate institutions), both generally and specifically in research, and last year was rated #1 in research. It won North America's top university sustainability award in 2010 (tying with Harvard for 1<sup>st</sup> place), as the main campus has moved to renewable (bio)energy, reducing its GHG emissions by 85%. This dedication to a 'greener' way is captured in its motto – *En cha huña* – Dakelh (the local indigenous language) for 'respect all living beings'.

Along with a commitment to hiring founding faculty with northern expertise across disciplines, UNBC was involved early with University of the Arctic, initially hosting its registrar. Dr. Jim McDonald of UNBC is the currently Chair of the Council for U Arctic, and President George Iwama joined the Rectors' Forum Planning Committee in 2010. UNBC will be hosting the 2014 U Arctic Council meeting, which presents the possibility for holding that and ICASS back-to-back.

A bit about my own background: the first decade of my post-PhD research career I focused on Indigenous rights in the Russian North. This included leading a collaborative project with colleagues from UNBC, Sakha State University and the Institute for the Numerically Small Peoples of the North, on land rights and self-government. In the late 1990s I decided to pursue research closer to home (to avoid missing a month of my daughter's life to Siberian field work annually!), and established a research program with a local First Nation on criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. This led to a five-year, co-managed project on "Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management" with Tl'azt'en Nation (see <http://cura.unbc.ca>). I continued to work a bit in Russia, helping Natalia Novikova to organize two International Summer Schools on Indigenous Rights under the aegis of Russia's Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (2001, 2007), and carrying out fieldwork on the proposed Tran-Siberian pipeline near Lake Baykal in 2007 with Anna Sirina.

In the mid-2000s, I became involved in the Arctic Social Indicators (ASI-1) project, joining the project's executive team and co-editing its report. This role has continued with ASI-2. I am very excited to be co-leader of the Arctic Human Development Report-2. In addition to these projects, I represent Canada on IASC's Social and Human Working Group, serving as one of the S&HWG's Vice-Presidents, and am the Social Science representative on the Joint Bipolar Committee for Scientific Research (SCAR/IASC).

I served for five years (2003-2008) as Chair of the Geography Program and Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management Program at UNBC. In 2008 I was asked to assume to role of Vice President Research. These administrative roles have provided me with invaluable experience, although I admit to looking forward to returning to the professoriate (mid 2012). (For more info see [www.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/fondahl/](http://www.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/fondahl/))

I have a long involvement (19 years!) with IASSA – Dr. Ludger Müller-Wille generously invited me to join the organizing committee of ICASS-1 in 1992 as an early-career scholar. I have frequently declared to colleagues that ICASS is my favorite conference: bringing folks from a variety of disciplines together to talk about issues in one region of the world is highly stimulating, and I find I always leave ICASS inspired and revitalized. In the past couple of years I have had the privilege of attending an Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group meeting, as part of the IASSA delegation, and of representing IASSA at two IPY 2012 planning meetings. I have watched the organization grow and flourish over the past two decades and attain a new level of visibility and respect under the capable and highly active leadership of President Joan Nymand Larsen. My pledge would be to maintain this stature, and explore new avenues for increasing the profile of Arctic Social Sciences internationally.

I would be greatly pleased to see UNBC host ICASS-VIII and to play a lead role in the future of IASSA. UNBC is committed to hosting the Secretariat and willing to provide resources to do so.

Sincerely,  
Gail Fondahl  
University of Northern British Columbia  
Canada

---

## University of Nordland/ Nordland Research Institute

Bid for IASSA Council/Presidency and IASSA Secretariat: University of Nordland<sup>1</sup> in conjunction with the Nordland Research Institute<sup>2</sup> Bodø, Norway.

### Why IASSA President?

Increased global interest in the Arctic over the past years has compelled me to become more involved in the policy implications of our research endeavours. Debate over the policy/science

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hibo.no/index.php?lang=nor>

<sup>2</sup> <http://nordlandsforskning.no/>

interface occupied significant discussion at our last ICASS congress in Nuuk. IASSA's collaborations with other research associations as well as the policy world have since only grown exponentially. In addition to my academic studies as a political scientist, I have continuously been involved in policy related issues (reaching back to my undergraduate years when I was elected as the University Affairs Vice Chair and later Chair of the California State Student Association (CSSA).<sup>3</sup> The recent "discovery" of the Arctic by the broader international community has both reinforced my beliefs that IASSA has a critical role to play in these discussions and my own desire to be part of these efforts.<sup>4</sup> Subsequently, after talking with colleagues in Bodø and a number of IASSA members I have decided to run for the IASSA Presidency as part of a bid for University of Nordland and the Nordland Research Institute to co-host the next IASSA Secretariat.

### **IASSA Secretariat: Why Norway and the University of Nordland (UIN) /Nordland Research Institute?**

**Background:** On January 1, 2011 UIN became the 8<sup>th</sup> University in Norway making it one of only two Universities above Norway's Arctic Circle.<sup>5</sup> Located in coastal town of Bodø, UIN is home to 5,500 undergraduate and graduate students. UIN has state-of-the-art classrooms, study areas, laboratories, a new library, computer labs with 24-hour access, as well as national research facilities including the Mørkved Bay aquaculture research centre. UIN offers high quality, internationally recognised bachelor, master and PhD programmes, both in English and



Norwegian, attracting students from all over the world. UIN co-operates academically with over 90 partner institutions all around the world in study programs, research projects, and student exchange

Another major draw to Bodø is the amazing natural surroundings. In summer months, the city experiences the midnight sun during which the sun does not set below the horizon. In winter, the breathtaking Aurora Borealis, often lights up the skies. In addition to Bodø's considerable sailing community, the nearby mountains offer

remarkable hiking, running, biking and skiing opportunities.<sup>6</sup>

### **Reasons why UIN/NRI should host the next IASSA Secretariat**

- University of Nordland became Norway's eighth university on 1st January 2011. This is a very exciting time for the new University as it is now one of only two Universities in Arctic Norway. The promotion was due to the University's ability to carry out extensive and high quality research in conjunction with its PhD programs.
- Hosting the IASSA Secretariat and the next ICASS in Arctic Bodø has been met with great enthusiasm by the University. The opportunity is considered a critical means for demonstrating that top quality research remains at the heart of UIN's mission.
- Co-host *Nordland Research Institute* is also located at the UIN Campus and works in close connection with the University of Nordland. Long standing IASSA Council Member Grete K. Hovelsrud is a Research Director at NRI and has committed to be actively engaged in the activities of the Secretariat. Having a highly experienced IASSA Council member will be an invaluable asset in the workings and success of the Secretariat as well as the next Congress in 2014.
- Norway has yet to have the opportunity to host the IASSA Secretariat. The Norwegian government highly supports higher education. Additionally, one of the major foci of Norway's foreign policy concerns is its High North Policy. Hosting the IASSA Secretariat in Norway's newest Arctic University will be looked upon with

<sup>3</sup> Duties included chairing and organizing monthly meetings which included California state University provosts, professors and other officials. Official representative of the California State University student body (representing approximately 600,000 students) to the bi-monthly Board of Trustees meetings held in the state's capital, and official liaison and lobbying representative to the California state legislature. As an association CSSA lobbied bills on behalf of CSU student body, which often included calling, writing, and conducting press releases.

<sup>4</sup> See Shadian, Jessica article in this edition of Northern Notes

<sup>5</sup> See: <http://www.sikunews.com/News/Norway/New-university-for-the-Arctic-region-8253>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN0Fr\\_GeqE0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN0Fr_GeqE0)



great favourability. This in turn provides considerable opportunities to seek government support for varying activities which may be taken on by the next Secretariat, including Congress support.

- UIN is an active member of the University of the Arctic. UIN maintains an Arctic Studies Program (ASP). The University of the Arctic President, Lars Kullerud, is also located in Norway. UIN has a close collaboration with University of the Arctic and Lars Kullerud in particular regarding a number of University of the Arctic projects.<sup>7</sup>

- For the next two years, the University of Nordland will be located in the same region as the Arctic Council Secretariat in Tromsø, Norway. As IASSA holds observer status on the Arctic Council, hosting the IASSA Secretariat in Bodø will offer significant opportunities to take advantage of this close proximity to strengthen the ties between IASSA and the Arctic Council.

- The High North Center for Business and Governance and the Graduate School for Business at University of Nordland has a long standing partnership with several major Russian Universities. This includes the joint MA Program in Energy Management between UIN and MGIMO in Moscow.<sup>8</sup> Likewise, the MA in Sustainable Management Program is a collective joint program between UIN and 5 Northwest Russian Universities.<sup>9</sup> These collaborations will be actively used to help increase the number of Russian members in IASSA.

- Hosting the IASSA Secretariat is of great interest for Nordland County. Congruent with the reality of many towns, villages and cities across the Arctic region, Nordland County realises the importance of higher education for successful regional development. Nordland county works in close collaboration with UIN and NRI pertaining to the development of Norway's High North; particularly relations with Russian Universities and businesses. Nordland County will seek collaboration with the Secretariat to help ensure the Secretariat's success.

<sup>7</sup> E.g. the *Energy in a New Time* Thematic Network. See:

<http://www.uarctic.org/compactArticles.aspx?m=593>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.english.asf.hibo.no/index.php?ID=4740&lang=eng&displayitem=1667&module=studieinfo&type=studieue>

<sup>9</sup> See:

<http://www.english.hhb.no/index.php?ID=14591&lang=eng>

## **UIN/NRI Secretariat Platform**

**IASSA in a global Context:** In the past three years the demands of IASSA to connect with the policy world have grown exponentially. How active IASSA wishes to be in these policy relevant discussions and how active *should* we be will be a major point of interest for this next Council. Nevertheless, while the significance of the Arctic in global politics may be undergoing a profound shift, the roots and mandate of IASSA remains the same. At its roots, IASSA is a science association and the research we produce, the opportunities it provides to help us network, and most importantly the ability to gather together every three years for the ICASS congress have become the lifeline of IASSA and foundation of its success thus far.

Despite these achievements, it does not imply that IASSA should ignore the political changes taking place at the global level as regards role of the Arctic in the world. In fact, IASSA should take advantage of this moment - to view it as a major turning point in which we can advance the relevance of our research and in turn help generate new and increased funding sources for our research endeavours. Increased attention to the Arctic offers an ideal moment to make evident to policy makers, NGOs, global companies and other non-science bodies that the Arctic is an inhabited place and not merely a laboratory for climate research nor a vast terra nullius for exploiting the last of the worlds remaining natural resources. Taking in account the social realities that Arctic social scientists have written about over the decades and continue to do so in growing numbers, we need to take seriously the question as to how we can better highlight our achievements and utilise the growing number of non-scientific, Arctic interested entities as a means to generate increased funding for the Arctic social sciences.

Simply stated, we are no longer the only players in town. Increasingly so, major (non- Arctic) research institutes and private entities are engaging in their own research and policy reports on the Arctic. Often times, these research institutes, NGOs and private entities have significant amounts of money and are well connected with the policy leaders in the countries in which they are located (e.g. Aspen Institute, Alfred Wegner Institute, WWF). While some have a longstanding interest in the Arctic, many others are now just creating an Arctic appendage of their existing interests. At the same time, they do not necessarily call on IASSA members to take part in their research and report efforts.

As an association we must create a comprehensive strategy to engage the policy world and ensure we are a well-known, respected and necessary

repository of Arctic knowledge. We need to establish a means to engage with these policy focused institutions to not only to reinforce our relevance as a science association but more importantly to use these liaisons to help increase our own funding opportunities to carry out our own research of interest.

**A Time for Organisational Self Reflection:** To address these possibilities we need to begin with the internal dynamics of IASSA as a science association. The former issue of engagement beyond the sphere of science speaks to a much larger and equally as significant question as to whether or not, in its current form, the structure of IASSA provides a sufficient means for the growing policy/science relationship. Perhaps it is a good time to think about how we might want to change the structure of the IASSA council in order to address our growing membership and importance among a host of new intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions. Perhaps it is necessary to add new layers into our governance structure which can focus specifically on certain issues and meet the growing challenges that IASSA faces as it inevitably becomes more politically engaged.

**Funding:** Internal organisation is only one aspect. One of the biggest challenges facing IASSA in the coming years is the issue of funding. How can we work to better fund IASSA? Can the IASSA membership be one such avenue? Where else can we look for new sources of funding? This issue needs to be addressed systematically as its own entity within the organisational structure of IASSA.

One essential means to help generate revenue for IASSA is to promote the Arctic social sciences within the Arctic science world itself. IASC for instance, has a council where countries are representatives and provide income for IASC. Is there anything that can be emulated from this model? Or, perhaps the organisation of IASC is not something which we wish to borrow structural aspects from and instead view as a source of continued and enhanced collaboration. Another avenue is the EU. The EU spends significant resources for funding Arctic research projects. The latest research call from the EU Commission was 11 million Euros. It would be in our interest to lobby for an IASSA seat on the European Polar Board. This would provide a means to become

more generally engaged at the European policy level and therefore ensure that the money that the EU spends on Arctic research not only adequately incorporates the Arctic social sciences, but additionally, addresses fundamental (as the BOREAS project did) as well as policy relevant research (as the latest Oceans for Tomorrow call did). The US NSF, for example, has its own social science component within its Office of Polar Programs. Becoming a member of the European Polar Board or establishing a closer relationship to EU research policy makers more generally would help steer the types of funding made available and better address the types of questions that we as an Arctic social science community are interested in pursuing.

**Partners, Collaborations and MOUs:** We need to be more strategic and organised in the way we go about collaborating with other institutions

including our existing MOUs and the means by which we obtain future MOUs. An MOU is only the beginning. We need to ensure that we use these MOUs to the best advantage for IASSA. Namely, how do we use MOUs to elevate our relevance in the eyes of grant funders?



### **Preserving and**

**Strengthening the Roots of IASSA:** All of this said, it is equally important to remember that IASSA is a professional organisation and not a lobbying institution. IASSA was founded as a grass roots movement and this aspect needs to be preserved. One way to maintain its fundamental character is to continue the strong legacy of the ICASS congress. Financial and other non-monetary institutional support will be vital to ensure that the next Congress is an invaluable time for IASSA members to get together and share our ongoing research. The location and support by the host institution of the next Secretariat will be vital for this success. It is for this reason that the University of Nordland and the Nordland Research Institute, in Norway is a perfect space to host this upcoming Secretariat. Hosting the Secretariat will be met with great enthusiasm by both, the University and Nordland County. Being a first for Norway and a means to promote Norwegian Arctic research internationally, hosting the next IASSA Secretariat in Bodø makes the possibilities for funding and other support for IASSA look very promising.

## Main Initiatives for next IASSA Council

- To build on the hard work and successes of this past Council and particularly the policy work, contacts and MOUs established by current President, Joan Nymand Larsen.
- To formulate a strategy for IASSA's science-policy interface. How do we use current events to help ascertain future funding opportunities and more of them? How do we approach non-scientific and non-policy oriented institutions? Additionally, how can we take advantage of our existing collaborations such as the Arctic Council, IASC, and University of the Arctic to enhance our research opportunities?
- To establish a data base of our publications and enhance the role of public relations relating to its dissemination. This data base should be made available for policy makers, private companies, NGOs, other interest groups etc. and should be incorporated directly into IASSA's strategy planning for increased funding opportunities for IASSA research. This move would increase the value of our work in and of itself. Yet, beyond the academic sphere it will also help provide knowledge and materials for the policy world and private sector, which in turn will reify the need for us to continue producing new research.
- To begin immediately planning for the next ICASS Congress. Such issues include (but are not limited to): fund raising; whether or not we would like to incorporate our MOU partners; entertaining the idea of guest speakers from outside of IASSA; and deciding whether or not we want to invite IASC and if so in what capacity. Essentially, the incoming Council needs to focus on how we can use the Congress as a means to highlight our work internationally and to safeguard the future relevance of IASSA as a scientific organisation.

Submitted by:

Jessica M. Shadian, Ph.D.

Political Science and International Relations

Senior Researcher

High North Center for Business and Governance

Bodø Graduate School for Business

University of Nordland, Norway

[jessica.shadian@uin.no](mailto:jessica.shadian@uin.no)

Full CV:

[www.hibo.no/index.php?ID=19&lang=nor&displayitem=30744&module=admin](http://www.hibo.no/index.php?ID=19&lang=nor&displayitem=30744&module=admin)



## FEATURES

### International Polar Decade (IPD) Workshop Held in St. Petersburg

An IPD workshop was held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on April 14-15. With permission we present here a direct excerpt from the informal report produced after the workshop. For the full report please go to the IASSA news section at [www.iassa.org](http://www.iassa.org).

Excerpt of final report submitted by Vladimir Ryabinin, WMO, on behalf of the IPD report drafting committee:

#### Introduction

In June 2010 the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the WMO Executive Council (EC) recommended to its EC Panel on Polar Observations, Research and Services (EC-PORS) to consult with other relevant organizations to assess interest and scope out an International Polar Decade (IPD) Initiative. To support this recommendation, Roshydromet hosted a Workshop at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) of Roshydromet in St. Petersburg 14 and 15 April 2011, cosponsored by WMO.

The workshop was well attended and represented the first multi-stakeholder consultation on the IPD initiative. The workshop was chaired by Dr. David Hik (President of IASC) and Dr Jan-Gunnar Winther (Director of the Norwegian Polar Institute). The list of participants and the program of the Workshop are given in Annexes 1 and 2. These individuals participated in a personal capacity and their contributions were not expected to reflect the position of their respective organizations. Before the Workshop, WMO/WCRP Secretariats and AARI distributed an Information Note on IPD and John Calder (U.S. NOAA) forwarded some ideas on IPD to the Workshop participants. These documents are included in Annexes 3 and 4.

#### Workshop Overview

On the first day, workshop participants reviewed from their perspectives the lessons, structures, results and legacies of International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY), followed by many of the existing scientific, practical and societal challenges of the Polar Regions. In particular, they considered the WMO polar activities and initiatives; polar climate, its predictability and role in global climate; current capabilities of polar weather forecasting and climate prediction; existing and emerging observing initiatives and systems in the polar regions; Arctic air pollution; contaminants influence on biology and human health in the Arctic; perspectives from

indigenous and local communities in relation to the “Opening of the Arctic”; the role of the Southern Ocean and Antarctica in global climate and climate change, and threats to Southern Ocean biodiversity, social processes in relation to peoples, societies and cultures in the polar regions; education, outreach, and new generation of polar researchers; and coordination and resource mobilization of national, regional and international scientific, funding, and operational agencies for a potential IPD. There was a recognition in these discussions that both Polar Regions contribute substantially to the Earth System and that a balanced approach to observing both the Arctic and Antarctic would also be required in an IPD.

Substantial research investments were made by many countries in IPY. This has resulted in new research infrastructure and scientific knowledge, including new technologies and models for observations, including human based observing and monitoring systems, analysis and prediction of all Earth System components, and similar advances in social observations and sciences focusing on peoples, societies, and cultures. Apart from the investments, also closer international cooperation and coordination of research efforts were a successful outcome of IPY. Substantial societal benefit can be gained by capitalizing on these IPY investments by improving services including better prediction capabilities, for example, in securing shipping routes, managing risks related to resource mapping, exploration and development (oil and gas, fisheries), protecting the fragile environment, and strengthening partnerships with polar communities and other stakeholders.. This formed an early, key conclusion of the workshop that any scientific efforts under the auspices of an IPD must be aligned to meeting broad societal needs such as those identified by WMO and the ICSU Grand Challenges for Earth System Science for Global Sustainability, and be anchored on delivering better, more reliable scientific information for risk management and policy-making and other societal relevant activities in both Polar Regions.

Most of the participants had an opportunity to present their views on their potential commitment to participate in and support an IPD. There were points made on the differences between an IPY and an IPD. The former was a “snapshot” in time, reaffirming or establishing new scientific baselines and was therefore broad in focus. An IPD would have more focused goals and objectives. There were also concerns on timing (following on the heels of IPY) and the appropriateness of calling on funding

institutions and governments for additional resources at this time. However, it was also evident that there were substantive investments currently being made in Polar Regions, and that some governments were continuing to make added commitments, particularly in the Arctic. All Arctic Council countries have produced or are preparing strategies for the Arctic and or the North, which include economic development, environmental stewardship and support to local and indigenous communities to adapt to changes in their environment as well as pointing to the importance of gathering relevant knowledge about the region. The Arctic Council has also commissioned a study on the legacy of the IPY that may provide an important guidance for the development of an IPD. This supported the second key conclusion that there is consensus among the workshop participants to support an IPD that would begin beyond 2015 to permit existing programs and available resources to align to a set of dedicated decadal scale polar initiatives.

The second day was reserved for scoping out an IPD which was facilitated through three breakout groups where participants discussed:

1. Existing science challenges in Polar Regions and possible objectives of IPD (Chair: David Grimes, WMO EC PORS; Rapporteur: Cynan Ellis-Evans, NERC UK)
2. IPY achievements and legacies, how to sustain them and use as opportunities and platform for IPD development (Chair: Vladimir Romanovsky, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA; Rapporteur: Eduard Sarukhianian, WMO)
3. Potential stakeholders, governance, design and preparation process, resource mobilization, next steps (Chair: Paul Egerton, European Science Foundation/European Polar Board; Rapporteur: Vladimir Ryabinin, WMO/WCRP)

For the full report please go to [www.iasa.org](http://www.iasa.org) and read the report in the IASSA news section.





# IASSA: As Academics What Is Our Role in Society and Do We Have a Responsibility to Engage?

by Jessica M. Shadian

What is our role as social scientists in engaging with the important public debates of our time? Where do we draw the boundary between our engagement in society as citizens and our traditional expectations as researchers (tasked to produce new knowledge) and professors (who are mandated to help educate the next generation of scholars)? Do we have a responsibility to act when it comes to public debate concerning our own field and if so, in what capacity do we engage the public?

The role of intellectuals in society is an age old discussion perhaps most overtly brought into the public sphere through the trial and death of Socrates. While Leo Strauss believed that political change was the duty of an enlightened few, the role of intellectuals (as well as what actually constitutes an intellectual) in public life has been a subject of major philosophers from Gramsci to Edward Said and Jürgen Habermas. While all had or have varying views on the precise role of the intellectual, they all agreed that there is moral obligation in society to act.

For Arctic social scientists, encounters with real world societal events - namely the Cold War and its dissolution - promoted the intersection between Arctic research and public policy. Perestroika in the Soviet Union in particular can be construed as a main genesis of IASSA itself including the term Arctic social sciences.<sup>10</sup> Its precursor was the IGY and the creation of the Polar Research Board in the United States – the official means for US participation in the IGY.<sup>11</sup> Building off of these foundations, thirty years later the Board Commissioned a report entitled: “Arctic: Contributions to Social Science and Public Policy”. The consequences of the report were the creation of an official community of Arctic social

*The intellectual is an individual endowed with a faculty for representing, embodying, articulating a message, a view, an attitude, philosophy or opinion to, as well as for, a public...*

Edward Said

*Intellectuals ...are the people who write history.*

Noam Chomsky

science researchers as well as platform for policy makers and funders.<sup>12</sup>

In the waning years of the Soviet Union and propped up by the initiative of Mikhail Gorbachev, IASSA found its roots.<sup>13</sup> Parallel to the founding of IASSA in 1990, was the making of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). For varying reasons, IASC became an official arm of Arctic states which was accompanied by official representatives and state funding. IASSA, on the other hand, became a more informal scientific organisation and played only an advisory role within IASC. While IASSA's chosen structure allowed for its main purpose to be open ended research collaboration among Arctic social scientists, the outcome, some argue, greatly minimised the policy space in which Arctic Social Sciences could formally play in defining official research agendas concerning the Arctic. According to Susanne Dybbroe, IASSA's acceptance to play an advisory role “should have at the very least been a conditional response, making it clear that advisory functions would have to be discussed each time the question was raised.”<sup>14</sup>

Since the early years of IASSA's inception (and a turn for the better in the IASC and IASSA relationship), the Arctic has moved up the ranks of strategic importance for policy makers and other non-academic players. Whereas early global attention came about from growing attention to climate change, in the more recent years the Arctic has attracted significant geopolitical attention for its economic and political possibilities. Subsequently, the central debates in the founding years of IASSA as to whether its mission should be an open and grassroots means for academic collaboration and/or a more formalised structure with direct links to the policy world has resurfaced. As the

<sup>10</sup> Igor Krupnik. 2010. “Arctic Social Sciences: The beginning” *Northern Notes*. 33: 9-11. Even the term “Arctic” itself was chosen on political grounds (superseding the normative use of Northern or circumpolar studies in certain circles). See: Broadbent, Noel. 2010. “Concepts for an International Association of Arctic Social Sciences and the Foundation of IASSA, 1987-1990” *Northern Notes*. 33:16 and Muller-Willie, Ludger in the same volume: 20.

<sup>11</sup> Igor Krupnik. 2010. “Arctic Social Sciences: The beginning” *Northern Notes*. 33: 9-11. For an expanded discussion of the early years of IASSA see *Northern Notes* Special Anniversary edition, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid: 11-12.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid:13.

<sup>14</sup> Dybbroe, Susanne. 2010. “IASSA and IASC: Reminiscences on a relationship” *Northern Notes*. 33:49.



need for understanding the social aspects of the Arctic (including the whole of the social sciences) has steadily advanced the question once again comes to the surface: As a scientific organisation, what do we see as our role and relevance in the most recent discussions about the Arctic? And, as an intellectual community are we obliged to engage?

### **From student to academic: Déjà vu?**

It was September 11, 2001. I was one and half years into my PhD program in the United States and completely immersed in my intensive seminars on IR theory leaving me virtually disengaged from the real world (newspapers were only a distraction from the hundreds of pages of reading expected every week). However, on this day the real world sprang back into my life. I arrived on campus and to the IR department and found myself speechless alongside my fellow classmates and professors as the television played and replayed two planes crashing into the twin towers. In the days that followed news spread that those responsible were a group of globally dispersed persons (not a state, something other than a Diaspora and not entirely a territory-less nation either) with the name of Al-Qaeda. It seemed that all of my hours studying theory were suddenly brought directly into the real world through this horrible and tragic event. Since I began my PhD program I had spent the majority of my waking hours engaged in the pressing debates in our discipline of our time – how do we make sense and understand the rise of new non-state actors who were attaining a real sense of power in global politics? What is different and how exactly has the world changed?

In the following days I was baffled to watch as my own government, obviously decoupled from the theoretical debates going on in academic hallways, decided to respond to this decentralised group by attacking a country and particularly its government. At the time, I could not begin to understand why our leaders had not grasped that the world has changed since the Cold War and, moreover, why did it appear that the academic community was not responding? Why were military officials dominating CNN everyday and not the academics who study these issues? Where were all of the authors I had been reading? And, moreover, what was the point of pursuing a PhD if we have no ability (or perhaps responsibility?) to apply our knowledge to real world events.

Six years later and with my PhD completed, Artur Chilingarov planted a titanium flag on the sea bed floor of the North Pole. In the days and weeks which proceeded I was amazed to see how so many scholars, pundits and NGOs, suddenly

morphed into Arctic experts. Perhaps it could seem logical for many since most of these sudden experts were new to the field and therefore often had no idea that the Arctic possessed a very long social science history brought to life through the political reality of the Arctic's thousands of inhabitants.

Once again I found myself a spectator as international maritime lawyers, military professors, journalists, marine biologists, environmental scientists and NGOs were, overnight, invited to speak at the burgeoning number of conference panels dedicated to whether or not an impending war was coming to the Arctic and who should be in charge of governing this last remaining *terra nullius*. Likewise, a number of journalists who were quick to take advantage of the hype soon published popular accounts of a newly discovered Arctic on the verge of a possible resource war. What was most interesting was that for many of these accounts, the Arctic was viewed for the first time as a globally resource rich region where, previously unknown to the world, thousands of indigenous peoples also lived.

The fact that so many people were suddenly interested in the Arctic could, in fact, be viewed as a positive thing for Arctic social scientists. When was anyone outside our disciplines interested in our research before? The troublesome factor, instead, was that most of the emerging analyses and reports failed to grasp the longstanding social histories about the Arctic that Arctic social scientists have been publishing for decades. Essentially, the wealth of knowledge generated by so many Arctic social scientists seemed to go unacknowledged, and was not visibly impacting what was fast becoming a global discussion concerning the role of the Arctic in the world. Once again, similar questions emerged. What is the role of social scientists in society? If years of accumulated knowledge are lost in these discussions, then what is my role – now as an academic – in society, and do I have a responsibility to be engaged?

While my interest in the Arctic emerged from the field of global politics, prior to the famous August day in 2007, my research could scarcely be considered of interest to the real world of politics. The often cited response from others when I stated I was doing my research on Arctic governance was: What? There are politics in the Arctic? But no one lives there. At *the one* panel dedicated to all politics on the Arctic at the annual International Studies Association (ISA) conferences there were, routinely less than a hand full of academics that joined us in our discussions. More recently however, many in the global

community have begun to slowly realise (beginning with the discovery that there are Arctic social scientists) that Arctic social scientists might have something to contribute to these discussions. The question, as such has now become one of what kind of knowledge do we have and how can non-academic groups from policy makers to industry, policy institutes and NGOs, sufficiently make use of our knowledge?

In the last few years, I (and many of us) have been confronted by a host of private corporations and policy makers who say, you know, you academics have so much to contribute to these discussions and we need your knowledge. They proceed to make an argument that our job is to basically turn our knowledge into more digestible pieces for policy makers or for industry to use. My reply: but that is not our job. We do not get paid to write reports; we are paid to publish in academic journals and to make our students think about the larger theoretical and topical questions behind these policy discussions.

While I may disagree with the understanding of our duty by policy makers, corporations and others (these duties are for the research done by policy advisors and consultants) it does not render such questions unwarranted. Can we or should we abstain from these societal debates? Or, is it in our interest, not merely as individual scholars (for those that wish to be engaged) but as an academic community to join the public discussions? How as a scientific community can we best ensure that our knowledge is valued on its intellectual merits in and of itself? And, if the mere act of the production this knowledge is not enough how do we best convey our knowledge to society?

As a scholar in global politics the boundaries of my profession between my obligations to teach and write and to become politically engaged are always a hazy distinction. Yet, this question is not only for political scientists to grapple with. Rather, it is a question for us, as an academic community to reflect upon. What is our role in society as an academic association and do we have a responsibility to share and disseminate our knowledge? Yet, most importantly, how do we not only safeguard but elevate the importance of our knowledge in and of itself.

As the Arctic as a region moves from an apolitical periphery to the centre stage of global politics, as an academic community, we might want to take the time to reflect these issues. Does society have the right to benefit from the knowledge we have generated over the generations of Arctic social science research? As major policy decisions are

being made which will profoundly affect the social reality of the Arctic should we be doing more? How do we balance advocating the vital value of intellectual freedom, put into practice by our ability to pursue our own research and the need to engage in the policy world which often views our research as not applicable and too full of jargon to be policy relevant? And, perhaps most importantly, do we risk being left on the sidelines as funders invest money into the major research institutions and research programs (e.g. Aspen Institute, the Alfred Wegener Institute, or EU Framework programs) to carry out grand policy interested research reports rather than for Arctic social scientists to carry out the less policy oriented and more fundamental research questions on the Arctic?

The recent “discovery” of the Arctic seems like a golden opportunity to reflect how we might highlight our work and the importance of our intellectual knowledge in and of itself. As an intellectual community we should perhaps consider how we can we can better disseminate our knowledge in order to increase future funding opportunities for new research projects, both primary and more policy relevant research (and move away from being the footnotes of multimillion dollar Arctic natural science projects)? This upcoming ICASS in Iceland presents itself as a perfect place to begin this discussion. As the role of IASSA is already on the rise in policy relevant arenas how should we make the most of this moment in history to best benefit the future of Arctic social sciences and IASSA in particular?

I will end with a comment on a review article written recently by Oran Young. Young’s review sought to address the surge of journalistic style books focusing on the Arctic. In his conclusion, he states that while many of the books have sensible conclusions we are “still in need of a coherent narrative to provide a basis for understanding the profound changes now eroding the existing order in the region, and for devising innovative governance arrangements capable of ensuring the future of the Arctic as a zone of peace.” To Oran’s remark I will reply. There are already existing libraries full of coherent narratives written by our colleagues over the many years. Many more are just arriving and a host of others are waiting for publication. The problem is not finding a coherent narrative it is why not enough people seem to be reading our narratives.

## Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA) – A New International Research Project

by Chris Southcott

As global demand for the Arctic's natural resources increases so too has the need to find ways that allow Arctic communities to benefit more directly from resource development. Too often in the past it has been the residents of the North who have bared the burden of development rather than accruing the benefits. In response to this inequity a new research project is about to be launched. Recently the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) announced that it will provide core funding of \$2.5 million over 7 years to fund a new international research initiative into this issue. In addition to this core funding the project, known as Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic, or ReSDA, has mobilized an additional commitment of \$3.7 million in funds and in-kind from a range of partners. Currently the project includes over 50 researchers at 28 institutions in all eight circumpolar nations.

### Background to the project

Events of the past 20 years have shown that as the world economy continues to expand, demand for energy and other natural resources is increasing. Reserves of some resources such as oil are becoming more difficult to replace. Natural resource industries are increasingly interested in new sources of supply in non-traditional yet politically stable regions such as the Arctic. This is occurring at a time when climate change has the potential to make Arctic resources increasingly accessible.

While northern resources have the potential to produce great wealth for circumpolar nations in the future, past experience has showed that Arctic communities have benefited little from resource extraction. Indeed, northern communities have experienced enormous social and economic challenges over the past half century and these challenges can be closely linked to impacts associated with natural resource development. Resource dependence is seen as one of the most important challenges facing Arctic communities. In the past this dependence has failed to produce sustained benefits and the "resource curse" identified in other regions of the world has been very much present in the Arctic. Communities have often had little say in the types of development that occurs and have benefited only marginally through employment where much of

the employment is awarded to transient labour, creating obvious tensions and social problems. Benefiting little from industrial development, northern communities are forced to deal with the legacy of negative impacts, from exploration to closure. Despite attempts to diversify the regional economy, Northern communities remain heavily dependent on the exploitation of natural resources, even when benefits are few. Most projections for the future point to a continued dependence on these resources. Adding to these challenges are attempts by the region's Indigenous population to ensure that their traditional activities and cultures are maintained in the face of multiple stressors. Resource development has often been linked to the disruption of 'traditional' economies leading to a variety of social and health challenges. Resource production often represents a threat to the northern environment upon which the traditional economy of the region's Indigenous population still depend.

The main objective of this project is to find ways of ensuring that resource exploitation benefits rather than hinders the well-being of northern communities. There is some indication that the worst aspects of resource dependence can be countered through the introduction of new policies and models of development that increase local control of development and ensure a higher share of resource rents are passed on to northern communities. New land claims agreements, impact-benefit agreements, and co-management boards may offer the potential for the development of natural resources in the Arctic in a manner that increases the benefits of these developments for local communities and helps ensure that development is done in an environmentally sound manner.

It is in this context that ReSDA will establish a network of researchers working closely with communities and stakeholders to conduct leading-edge research on the best ways of developing northern natural resources in a manner that maximizes benefits to communities and minimizes dangers to the environment. This research will lead to the development of major new and innovative models of development that could have a far-reaching impact not only in the Arctic but throughout the world.

### The Research Plan

ReSDA will bring together researchers from a broad range of disciplines and organizations representing communities, government, the private sector, and non-profit organizations to conduct and mobilize research aimed at the sustainable development of Arctic natural resources. The primary objective will be to find the best ways of

using these resource developments to improve the well-being of northern communities while preserving the region's unique ecosystem.

The research plan envisaged for ReSDA will be based on four themes: sustainable regions, sustainable communities, sustainable cultures, and sustainable environments. Within these themes research subprojects will examine various resource sectors such as oil and gas, mining, wildlife management, fishing, and forestry. All subprojects will be committed to ensuring a central place for traditional knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in their activities. In addition to these themes, the research subprojects will also be categorized according to the types of research questions: those looking at measuring the impacts of resource development, those analyzing the impacts of resource development, and those finding ways to use the previous two types of projects to develop policies that help Arctic communities deal with these impacts.

Projects will use a range of methodologies but in order to ensure true partnerships between researchers and stakeholders participatory action research (PAR) and other collaborative research methodologies will be key aspects of most projects.

### **The Team**

A complete list of the researchers involved so far is found below. We hope to add even more researchers as more funding is secured. The project director for ReSDA is Chris Southcott. Raised in Northern Canada, he has been involved in community-based research in the Circumpolar North for almost 25 years. He has led several major Canadian and international research initiatives dealing with social and economic development in northern regions including being the Chair and Research Director for the Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada and being the Lead for the University of the Arctic's Knowledge and Dialogue programs.

The Sustainable Regions theme is led by Frances Abele of the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University. She has written widely on Canadian public policy and the northern political economy, publishing over 80 books, articles, book chapters and technical reports. David Natcher leads the Sustainable Cultures theme. Former holder of the Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies at Memorial University, Natcher is now Associate Professor and Director of the Indigenous Land Management Institute at the University of Saskatchewan. He is a widely consulted authority on Indigenous land use,

harvesting and the analysis of the mixed economy, with projects in many parts of the North, from Labrador to northwest Alaska. The leader of the Sustainable Environment theme is Brenda Parlee. She is Canada Research Chair in Social Responses to Ecological Changes at the University of Alberta. An active and engaged community researcher, Parlee's publications are based upon a number of studies of Indigenous health perspectives, caribou, and traditional ecological knowledge in resource management.

ReSDA builds on several existing networks and partnerships. Foundational to ReSDA is the networking and partnership model established by the Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada (SERNNNoCa). Along with similar initiatives such as the Arctic Health Research Networks (AHRNs), SERNNNoCa is demonstrating the value and effectiveness of having northern institutions play key roles in Arctic research initiatives. ReSDA will borrow heavily from the model of collaborative coordination and management structure already established by SERNNNoCa. A main coordination office will be established at the Northern Research Institute at Yukon College with regional offices established at the Aurora Research Institute in the Northwest Territories, the Nunavut Research Institute, the Nunavik Research Centre at Makivik and the Labrador Institute. In addition to these coordination offices ReSDA has received funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to establish regional social science laboratories in the various regional offices mentioned above. These regional laboratories will ensure that researchers have dedicated space for their research and the necessary equipment.

### **Building international connections**

An important strength and unique contribution of ReSDA will be its international connections. Many of the subprojects represent the mobilization of pre-existing international research projects. International collaboration will also be enhanced by ReSDA's partnership with the University of the Arctic. ReSDA researchers will be able to utilize the synergies of the University of the Arctic's international Thematic Networks. These pre-existing networks will enable ReSDA researchers to easily access a range of comparable international research initiatives. ReSDA researchers will be able to share their research findings with international researchers at the meetings of the Thematic Networks and graduate students involved in ReSDA will be able to join pre-existing graduate student activities. ReSDA researchers will also be able to have their findings translated into pedagogical materials by the

knowledge transfer activities of the Networks. Students involved in ReSDA will be able to benefit by north2north, the UArctic's international student exchange program, in order to share their research findings with students and communities in other areas of the Circumpolar North. The Undergraduate Studies office of the University of the Arctic will assist ReSDA researchers in transferring the results of their research into material that can be used by northern students in all eight circumpolar countries that take Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies courses.

ReSDA will also benefit by links with the International Arctic Social Sciences Association, the International Arctic Science Committee, the Northern Research Forum, and key Working Groups of the Arctic Council such as the Sustainable Development Working Group. In addition to the above, several new international research networks have been established as a result of International Polar Year activities. These will also be invited to partner in ReSDA activities.

### **Activities**

ReSDA will be able to provide Arctic social science researchers with core and seed funding for projects. These projects will be spread out over the next seven years. As these projects start ReSDA will seek out more funding to enable a wider range of projects. In addition to this research, ReSDA will coordinate a range of other activities to communicate research results between researchers and communities and to increase the visibility of Arctic social science research. These would include:

- National partner/stakeholder workshops: Every year a national workshop will be organized in one of the five regions of the Canadian North (and perhaps in an international location) in conjunction with the annual ReSDA Steering Committee meeting. The workshop will invite representatives of the main partner groups along with the stakeholder groups representing the region where the workshop will be held. The groups will listen to presentations of on-going research. They will be asked to validate and comment on the findings.
- Regional partner/stakeholder workshops: In collaboration with regional partnership advisory committees, the regional coordinators will organize a regional partner/stakeholder workshop in various locations in their region. All regional partners and regional stakeholders will be invited to these workshops. Presentations will be made on research being conducted in this particular region and participants will be asked to validate and comment on the findings.

- Web-site: A web site will be maintained where all information pertaining to the project and subprojects will be made available to the public. This web site will make available regular reports on research through a plain language newsletter, and plain language research summaries translated into several languages, as well as web-based training sessions. Where possible, presentations made at workshops will be recorded and placed on the web-site. New dialogic technologies will be experimented with to develop better ways of involving stakeholders in the research process and in the transfer of knowledge to the communities.
- Plain language newsletter: At least twice a year ReSDA will publish a plain language newsletter that will be sent to all partners and all stakeholders. This newsletter will contain information on ReSDA activities as well as research summaries of subprojects. Each subproject will be expected to produce a plain language summary for this newsletter.
- Learning materials: As mentioned above, ReSDA will work with the University of the Arctic and the northern colleges to produce learning materials that can be used for education and training purposes. Web-casting and other technologies will be used to produce learning materials that can be used for specific purposes such as the training of community researchers.

### **An invitation to all Arctic social science researchers**

The potential exists for finding new ways of developing resources that will ensure greater benefits for and build capacity in these northern communities. Rather than being something that threatens their vitality the development of natural resources can be done in a way that will ensure the long-term sustainability of northern communities and the surrounding environment. By facilitating research around the themes mentioned above ReSDA hopes to assist communities and stakeholders to achieve these goals. We invite all Arctic social science researchers who have an interest in these objectives to participate in our activities. More information can be obtained by contacting: Valoree Walker, ReSDA Coordinator, Northern Research Institute - Yukon College, Box 2799, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5K4, Phone: 867-668-8857 Fax: 867-456-8672. Email: [sernnoca@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:sernnoca@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

### **Current list of ReSDA researchers:**

#### **Principal Investigator**

Southcott, Chris - Lakehead University

#### **Theme Coordinators**

Abele, Frances - Carleton University

Natcher, David - University of Saskatchewan

Parlee, Brenda - University of Alberta



### Co-investigators

Aarsaether, Nils University of Tromso, Norway  
Adamowicz, Wiktor University of Alberta  
Beaulieu, Michel Lakehead University  
Berger, Paul Lakehead University  
Berman, Matt University of Alaska Anchorage  
Bradshaw, Ben University of Guelph  
Caine, Ken University of Alberta  
Coates, Ken University of Waterloo  
Cameron, Emilie University of British Columbia  
Chatwood, Susan University of Toronto  
Dowsley, Martha Lakehead University  
Duhaime, Gerard Universite Laval  
Espiritu, Aileen Barents Institute, Norway  
Fondahl, Gail UNBC  
Ford, James McGill University  
Furgal, Chris Trent University  
Gibson, Virginia University of British Columbia  
Harpelle, Ron Lakehead University  
Heininen, Lassi University of Lapland, Finland  
Heleniak, Tim University of Maryland  
Hesseln, Hayley University of Saskatchewan  
Huskey, Lee University of Alaska Anchorage  
Keeling, Arn Memorial University  
Lauckenbauer, Whitney University of Waterloo  
Lemelin, Harvey Lakehead University  
Mills, Suzanne McMaster University  
Martin, Stephanie University of Alaska Anchorage  
Martin, Thibault Université de Québec en Outaouais  
Noble, Bram University of Saskatchewan  
Nuttall, Mark University of Alberta  
Nymand Larsen, Joan University of Akureyri, Iceland  
Petrov, Andrey Univ. of Northern Iowa  
Poppel, Birger University of Greenland  
Riabova, Larisa Kola Science Centre, Russia  
Rodon, Thierry Université Laval  
Sandlos, John Memorial University  
Schott, Stephan Carleton University  
Schweitzer, Peter University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Simmons, Deborah University of Manitoba  
Smith, Peggy Lakehead University  
Stammler, Florian University of Lapland, Finland  
Westerlund, Olli Umea University, Sweden  
Wilson, Gary UNBC  
Winther, Gorm University of Aarhus, Denmark  
Young, T Kue University of Toronto

Chris Southcott

Ph.D., Professor

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay  
and Yukon College, Whitehorse  
Canada

[csouthco@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:csouthco@lakeheadu.ca)

## The 2011 Scott Polar History Colloquium: Issues of Historical Practice in the Polar Regions

Scott Polar Research Institute,  
University of Cambridge, UK  
29 March 2011

Reviewed by:

- Shane McCorristine (Department of English, NUI Maynooth/Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge)
- Christina Adcock (Department of History, University of British Columbia)
- Michael Bravo (Department of Geography/Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge).



**Scott Polar Research Institute**  
University of Cambridge

What challenges are confronting historical researchers writing today about the Arctic? This colloquium, hosted by the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) of the University of Cambridge, aimed to create an intra- and interdisciplinary space in which to contribute to a wider international discussion around this question. With climate change pressing harder upon worldwide public consciousness and debate, physical and social scientists are cast in the roles of spokespeople and experts. Meanwhile, scholars in the humanities, facing an accelerating diminution of funding for our research, are increasingly called upon to clarify the “relevance” of our contributions to scholarship. This seems a critical time to consider how historians can, and should, use the specialized tools and methods of the profession to advance public and scholarly understanding of the Arctic and Antarctic, and thus create distinctive and valuable positions from which to inform current political, economic, socio-cultural, and environmental debates.

The colloquium attracted over thirty researchers: postgraduate, postdoctoral, and senior researchers from disciplines including history, geography, anthropology, and international relations. The colloquium began with a work-in-progress roundtable comprising twelve presentations detailing current research projects. These included: a project to establish a database of

whaling voyages from Britain to the Arctic, 1733-1910 (Bernard Stonehouse); the impact of aerial technology on Arctic place (Marionne Cronin); the cosmo-politics of the human as a new species in Antarctica (Guilherme de Assis); the performances of tourism in Alaska (Sam Kirsop); the transition from colonial to Cold War geopolitics in Antarctica (Peder Roberts); the geopolitics of Arctic gas fields (Teresa Shirkova); the poetic space of Scott in the Antarctic (Philip Sidney); the representation of exploration in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (Claire Warrior); fur trapping in the Canadian North of the early twentieth century (Christina Adcock); concepts of space and place in contemporary Nunavut (Jackie Price); and indigenous knowledge in Arctic governance regimes (Alison Weisburger).

This was followed by three panel sessions in which each of the organisers discussed a pressing topic with invited guests before opening up the issue to all participants for criticism and debate. The aim of generating broad and lateral thinking from all kinds of disciplinary backgrounds and research experiences was fulfilled, and the responses received were thought-provoking and engaging.

In the first panel Shane McCorristine (SPRI) discussed the notion of enchantment with Vanessa Heggie (Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge) and Janne Flora (SPRI). The polar scientist Matthew Sturm has highlighted the notion of an Arctic “spell” as being crucial to future research on the region, especially from the next generation of researchers (Sturm, 2000). While many are familiar with the rhetorical fascination of the northward gaze and the “glamour” of the Arctic among writers, explorers, artists, tourists, and dreamers, McCorristine asked whether our attraction as historians to a geographic and cultural space can be similarly constructed. In a critical atmosphere in which Max Weber’s thesis of the progressive “disenchantment of the world” has been relentlessly challenged, what would it mean to re-enchant our work on the history and governance of the Arctic? Are critical viewpoints already too naïve and romantic? Issues of self-reflective practice may help to inform historical research in a manner which discounts neither the importance of pragmatic motives (interest, funding, academic fashions and trends) nor the “draw factors” of regions which have been characteristically framed as *unique* or *exceptional* in a variety of discourses, including those of climate change, ethnography, and geopolitics.

Drawing on her research on concepts of emotional inter-relatedness in Greenland, Flora outlined how Greenland became re-enchanted in the twentieth century, while warning about projecting our own local concepts of what is “traditional” on to descriptions of practices in the Arctic. Heggie’s background in the history and culture of sports science and bodies in extreme environments led to a lively discussion on attachments to one’s research, and whether or not this is a form of enchantment or merely professional investment. Certainly, as various participants argued, the rhetoric of enchantment is a very strong currency in a variety of polar disciplines, but some criticisms also raised were: do we sell enchantment at the risk of seeming kitsch? Is the discourse of re-enchantment merely another element of the necessary sequence of enchantments that colonialism offers the metropolitan citizen? Can we oppose such a discourse by reaffirming *senses of place* with a linked awareness of the embodied nature of cultural activity?

In the second panel, Christina Adcock (University of British Columbia) posited that the matter of circumpolar fieldwork would become more important for the next generation of researchers in the polar humanities. In an age of digital repositories, accompanied by the growth of relevant archival material and a significant corpus of secondary sources, what does “historical experience” of the Arctic mean? Does the distance between the historian and the material and everyday life of Arctic inhabitants and their environment reinscribe a utopian ideal of objective historical research? Should historical practice seek closer forms of presence and engagement? The crux of the matter is whether or not we, as historians, should necessarily follow our subjects into the Arctic or Antarctic. We might take our cue from social and gender historians, who regularly venture beyond archives to obtain a greater range of historical human experience through the tools of oral history, or from environmental historians, who often undertake “archival fieldwork” within landscapes of historical interest. These examples suggest that going there can enable the recovery of different perspectives and voices that enrich our interpretation of the past. Yet it is also possible, as the environmental historian Adrian Howkins (2010) has recently done, to make a valid case for *not* going there. Adcock suggested that historians should approach northern fieldwork in a critical and self-reflective spirit. If we go into the field, we must foreground the distance and difference between ourselves and our subjects in order to ward off the easy and uncritical elision of

experience with authority. We must also pay due attention to our manner of going North, whether it be with the help of military, scientific, aboriginal, or other groups or institutions. We must choose our modes of experience with care and not neglect to appropriately contextualize our own Arctic or Antarctic activities.

Responding on this panel were Marionne Cronin (Oxford University Press) and Peder Roberts (Université de Strasbourg). Cronin outlined both the benefits and the dangers of engaging in Arctic fieldwork as historians: the issue may be complicated by the differences between histories *from* the north and histories *about* the north. Roberts argued that the choices we make influence the history we write: one should go where one's research questions can be answered most fully. "Going there" can be helpful; talking to people who have "been there" can be equally beneficial. The danger, all panellists agreed on, was that of imagining a "real" Arctic out there – a totalising ontological reality that the historian can fully access, either in the field or in the archive. These points generated a lively response from participants, with some making the point that "going there" is something you can only do once, while others bemoaned the over-confidence and guru-like aura accredited to people as soon as they have visited the Arctic once. The contrast in Enlightenment culture between the natural philosopher in the field and the writer collating information in the private library at home was raised.

In the third panel Michael Bravo (SPRI) posed the question: what purpose do the humanities and social sciences in the Arctic serve? The past decade has seen a radical reappraisal of the definitions of the circumpolar Arctic. The constitution of Arctic space as an object of study has been subject to economic, social and political transformations, particularly in relation to navigation, resource exploitation, global interests, and governance. New readings of Arctic space have invoked different ways of understanding the past across a range of disciplines, some instrumental and others the product of a deeper historical understanding. If this is an important moment in time for historians to reassert the centrality of the Arctic as a region in which human endeavour is integral to its character, then it is also appropriate to reflect more closely on what makes it so. The renewed rendering of the Arctic Ocean as a neoliberal space has been challenged by a recognition on the part of international scientific institutions (e.g. Arctic Council, International Polar Year, ESF BOREAS Eurocores programme) that the Arctic is rich in

human ecological relations and nothing less than a fully inhabited region. But what does it mean to assert the primacy of human occupation? To what extent are historical approaches that recognise the importance of the agency of Arctic peoples and landscapes making an impact on present-day debates? If the Arctic is distinct from the emergence of Atlantic history, do environmental history or world history offer alternative paradigms?

Responding to this, Alun Anderson (author of *After the Ice*) offered specific predictions concerning future tensions between stakeholders in the Arctic. Local autonomous people increasingly want oil, gas, and mineral exploitation in their territories in order to benefit their communities, Anderson opined. The clash between indigenous peoples and environmental NGOs such as Greenpeace is well known and dislocates easy assumptions that might seek to conflate their interests. Bravo suggested that indigenous peoples, notably the Inuit, have a good political understanding of the legal frameworks in which scientific expertise operates – in effect, an indigenous sociology of science. When large economic interests are involved, legal frameworks enable disparate knowledge traditions to come together – but on what terms and to what cost? Some agendas designed for the Arctic are not conducive to hearing voices from the Arctic. In conventional geopolitical discourses, one might well ask, following Lassi Heininen in *Arctic Geopolitics and Autonomy*, where are the people of the Arctic? The impending arrival of Far Eastern shipping interests in the Arctic are foreshadowed by the investment of such states, including South Korea and China, in scientific research in Spitsbergen. Bravo argued that greater attention to political economy can provide a crucial framework for bringing the Arctic into world history. Focusing on the conditions in which negotiations over access to resources and regulation of extraction and transportation, provides a means of revealing the political and economic frameworks transforming the Arctic.

Overall, this was an extremely stimulating and provocative meeting that laid out some of the challenges researchers face as they seek to explore the forces shaping and informing histories of the polar regions. Whereas for anthropologists fieldwork is generally a necessity, not a choice, historians have flexibility and choices informed by the opportunity to learn from past experiences and practices that may cross boundaries in the humanities and social sciences. Indeed, with the type of funding required to allow historians to travel and research for sustained periods in the

Arctic and the Antarctic growing more scarce, collaborative approaches to research in conjunction with self-reflexive qualities of recognising strengths and limitations become increasingly necessary as well as desirable. If this entails a re-enchantment of historical practice, one which uses the “spell” of the Arctic in a constructive and complex way, then the idea of the field and fieldwork may become transformed. Just as an Alaskan tour guide can purchase a Starbucks coffee and then urge that tourists respect the spirits of the mountain, so too the historian who engages with concepts of enchantment must remember that we are all embodied actors and our dreams come with social, material, and environmental histories and consequences attached.

## References

Howkins, Adrian. “‘Have You Been There?’: Some Thoughts on (Not) Visiting Antarctica”. *Environmental History*, 15, 3, (2010), pp.514-9.

Sturm, Matthew. “The Spirit of the Arctic and the Next Generation of Arctic Researchers”. *Arctic*, 53, 3, (2000), pp.iii-iv.

## CONFERENCES

### IPY 2012 from Knowledge to Action Conference

Montréal, Canada  
22-27 April 2012  
[www.ipy2012montreal.ca](http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca)

Researchers working in the areas of Arctic social sciences and humanities played a prominent and significant role in International Polar Year 2007 – 2008. With over 200 international projects involving researchers from 63 countries, IPY was the largest program of polar research ever undertaken. While previous International Polar Years focused largely on the physical sciences, including glaciology, oceanography and meteorology amongst others, the most recent IPY placed priority on interdisciplinary cooperation and the holistic study of the polar regions, with special emphasis on Arctic societies and cultures and the active involvement of Arctic peoples in planning and conducting research. The pressing concern of climate change fostered collaborations and new approaches to understanding the rapid changes faced by the communities and people who call the Arctic home. With the close of IPY, it will be important for researchers to come

together to review the many findings and discuss the future direction of their work.

The IPY 2012 Conference From Knowledge to Action will be hosted in Montréal, Canada from April 22-27, 2012. The Conference will bring together Arctic and Antarctic researchers from around the world working in the physical, social, health sciences as well as indigenous knowledge to share the highlights of their work. This Conference is an opportunity for the Arctic social scientists to network with policy makers, business leaders, circumpolar indigenous participants and scientific experts from other disciplines. The Conference will engage participants on how polar research can be used to advance programs, policies and contribute to actions on critical global issues, such as climate change and human and environmental health, community well-being, resource development and Arctic governance, amongst other topics.

Meeting together with policy- and decision-makers, and a broad range of interested parties from academia, industry, non-government, education, Northern communities, and circumpolar indigenous peoples, the Conference will address the challenges, share and apply knowledge of the polar regions and discuss a range of topics on global change and the impacts on Arctic communities. The IPY 2012 Conference will contribute to the translation of new polar research findings into an evidence-based agenda for action that will influence global decisions, policies and outcomes over the coming years.



Montréal skyline from Mount Royal  
©Tourisme Montréal, Stéphan Poulin

To bring together the important topics for the social sciences to be included in the IPY 2012 Conference, a session is being held at ICASS VII to explore the application of scientific results of IPY and the most recent polar research. Kathleen Fischer, Executive Director of the IPY 2012 Conference Secretariat, will be organizing a session on the afternoon of Friday, June 24, 2011

in Akureyri and welcomes your contribution to this discussion.

### Conference Program

For more information on the Conference program, please see the Second Circular posted at [www.ipymontreal2012.ca](http://www.ipymontreal2012.ca). If you have questions or would like to provide input to the content or scope of the program sessions, please contact the Conference Secretariat at: [IPY2012montreal@inac.gc.ca](mailto:IPY2012montreal@inac.gc.ca) or the Program Committee Chairs:

#### Area 1 - Science Highlights

Chair, Dr. Ian Allison (Australia)  
International Association of Cryospheric Sciences  
[Ian.Allison@utas.edu.au](mailto:Ian.Allison@utas.edu.au)

#### Area 2 - Science Synthesis and Integration

Chair, Dr. Louis Fortier (Canada)  
Scientific Director, ArcticNet- Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada  
[louis.fortier@bio.ulaval.ca](mailto:louis.fortier@bio.ulaval.ca)

#### Area 3 - Knowledge to Action

Chair, Dr. Bernard Funston (Canada)  
Chair, Canadian Polar Commission  
[bernard.funston@polarcom.gc.ca](mailto:bernard.funston@polarcom.gc.ca)

Co-Chair, Dr. Paula Kankaanpää (Finland)  
Director, Arctic Centre University of Lapland  
[paula.kankaanpaa@ulapland.fi](mailto:paula.kankaanpaa@ulapland.fi)

#### Area 4 - Public Engagement

Chair, Ms. Linda Capper (United Kingdom)  
Head of Communications, British Antarctic Survey  
[lmca@bas.ac.uk](mailto:lmca@bas.ac.uk)

### Conference Activities and Side Events

For students and early career scientists, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the ArcticNet Student Association are working together on a career development workshop entitled From Knowledge to Careers to be held April 19-22 2012. For more information see [www.apecs.is/workshops/ipy-montreal-2012](http://www.apecs.is/workshops/ipy-montreal-2012). Planning for other events underway include a Polar educators' workshop, Polar film festival,

APECS Networking event and local public events to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2012.

### Business Meetings

A number of business and side meetings are being organized in conjunction with the IPY 2012 Conference. Arctic Science Summit Week 2012 meetings will be held in Montréal from April 20-22. Other meetings and events are being scheduled for the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), Northern Contaminants Program (NCP), ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting, Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health, International Network for Circumpolar Health Research, APECS Networking meetings, Arctic Archaeologists and Polar Archaeology Network. Contact the Conference Secretariat to reserve space for your meeting at [IPY2012montreal@inac.gc.ca](mailto:IPY2012montreal@inac.gc.ca).

### Support for Students

Students and early career scientists will have a reduced registration fee of \$400 to attend the IPY 2012 From Knowledge to Action Conference.

Key dates	Opens	Closes
Call for Abstracts	June 15, 2011	September 30, 2011
Application for Student and Early Career Scientist travel grants	June 30, 2011	October 31, 2011
Early Bird Registration opens	September 15, 2011	February 28, 2012
Late Registration	March 1, 2012	April 27, 2012
Request a Side Meeting or Event	April, 2011	February 15, 2012
Conference Dates	April 22-27, 2012	

Travel support will be available to students and early career scientists on a competitive basis to support their travel and accommodation to attend the conference. Further information will be made available on the criteria and application process when the Call for Abstracts is issued in June 2011.

### Registration & Fees

Registration	Date	Fees
Registration Opens	September 15, 2011	
Early Bird Registration	until February 28, 2012	CAD \$700
Late Registration	from March 1st – April 27, 2012	CAD \$800
Student and Early Career Scientists		CAD \$400

### Montréal: An Outstanding Conference City

Montréal, Quebec is a beautiful, historic city with a population of over 3 million in the metropolitan area. Both French and English are widely spoken and the city is renowned for its rich cultural and artistic life. The Conference is being held at the Palais des congrès located in the heart of downtown, within walking distance of Old





## Participation

Presentations (oral/poster) related to energy projects, as well as studies with an overall focus on the energy sectors in the Arctic Regions, including the impact of the activities of these sectors, are welcome. Methodological papers are also invited.

Energy projects include the *production* of energy from fossil sources, hydroelectricity and other renewable sources, projects that are highly energy-consuming, or influences energy-production or consumption in other ways, for example the use of petroleum as a raw material in manufacturing.

The Call for Papers will be announced in the beginning of June on the Arctic Frontiers homepage.

For more information on the Arctic Frontiers Conference 2012: [www.arcticfrontiers.com](http://www.arcticfrontiers.com).

---

## 2011 LOICZ - Open Science Conference Coastal Systems, Global Change and Sustainability

Yantai, China  
12-15 September 2011  
[www.loicz-osc2011.org](http://www.loicz-osc2011.org)

Organised by Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ), hosted at the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Centre for Materials and Coastal Research, Germany and the Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research, China.

The aim of the LOICZ OSC 2011 on “Coastal Systems, Global Change and Sustainability” is to bring together the international research community working on land-ocean issues, showcase the width and scope of ongoing research, help to build a community in this highly interdisciplinary field, and to inspire new research, theory building and applied science. The conference is integrative in nature, amalgamating different experiences and disciplinary “angles” worldwide to generate new levels of understanding and improve decision making in policy and practice. LOICZ particularly invites innovative approaches, coastal practitioners and early-stage researchers to a special forum parallel to the conference, the Young LOICZ Forum (YLF). The YLF is a well-balanced combination of OSC sessions and specific targeted activities

for early-career scientists and young coastal managers, including training workshops and practical exercises. It brings together senior scientists, international organisations, early-career scientists and young coastal managers ([www.loiczosc2011.org/page.asp?id=85](http://www.loiczosc2011.org/page.asp?id=85)).

The LOICZ OSC is arranged around the overarching topic on “Coastal vulnerability and sustainability to support adaptation to global change”. Underlying the scientific scope of the conference are recent global discussions of the scientific community on future challenges for Earth system sciences that have been initiated by ICSU’s visioning process ([www.icsuvisioning.org](http://www.icsuvisioning.org)) and are reflected in five grand challenges (forecasting, observing, confining, responding, innovating). These challenges connect to a conclusion by some of the major research funding agencies (the Belmont Forum) putting priority future focus on the vulnerability of coastal systems. In light of this global discourse, LOICZ invites contributions to the following scientific themes and encourages the study of vulnerability, dynamics and resilience of land-ocean systems at local, regional and/or larger scales:

- Social-Ecological Systems and Scales,
  - Vulnerability and Resilience,
  - Adaptive Capacity and Mechanisms,
  - Spatial/Temporal Scales,
  - Earth Observation and Monitoring, Assessing, Modelling and Scenario Building,
  - Coastal Economics, Ecosystem Goods & Services,
  - Science-Practice-Policy Interface and Knowledge Transfer,
  - Coastal Governance,
- River-Mouth Systems,
- Small Island Developing States,
- Arctic Coastal Zones,
- Coastal Urbanization.

For registration, session outline and Scientific Committee in detail please visit the conference website:

[www.loicz-osc2011.org](http://www.loicz-osc2011.org)

Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht  
Centre for Materials and Coastal Research  
LOICZ IPO (International Project Office)  
Geesthacht, Germany  
[b.goldberg@loicz.org](mailto:b.goldberg@loicz.org)  
[www.loicz.org](http://www.loicz.org)



## Wa(h)re "Kultur"? Kulturelles Erbe, Revitalisierung und die Renaissance der Idee von Kultur

Wien, Austria

14-17 September 2011

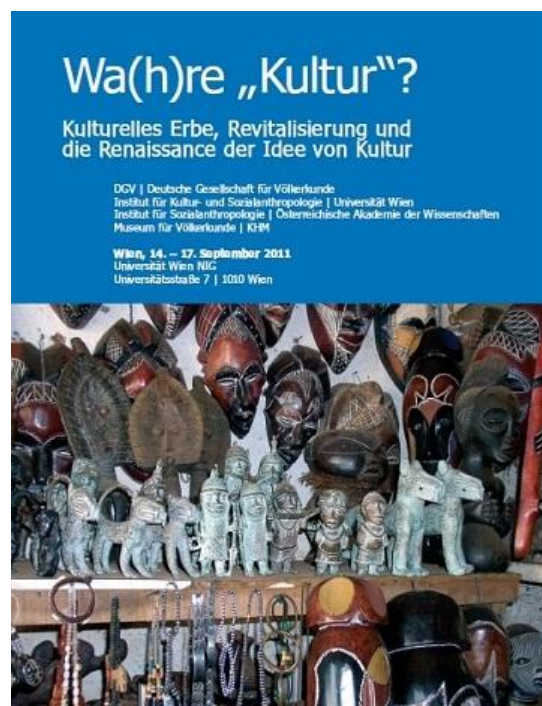
[www.dgv-net.de/](http://www.dgv-net.de/)

The DGV Regional Working Group Circumpolar Regions and Siberia of the German Anthropological Association (DGV) invites cordially to the panel "Cold culture(s)? Commodification and change in circumpolar communities" at the DGV bi-annual conference which is held in September 2011, 14th-17th, in Vienna, Austria.

In this panel we will discuss themes and questions relating to the overall conference theme "Wa(h)re Kultur." In current anthropological discussions of the (sub-) arctic regions of the USA, Canada, Scandinavia and Russia, culture as a societal dimension has come to the fore with regard to issues of belonging and identities, and various political perspectives and claims. Cultural practices appear particularly relevant not only with respect to so-called "traditional cultures" but for a far wider field of social and cultural themes. These may include, for instance, migratory processes in mining districts, or state-induced relocations and deportations. The study of cultural practices and material culture may show the intertwinement of these social processes with contextually constructed understandings of culture, on both a micro and macro level. This workshop shall focus in particular on cultural changes, the construction of cultural identities, and such themes as indigeneity, hybridity, and "culture" as a resource, to name just some examples.

Climate change is an obvious example. It was and is influential in reshaping livelihoods in arctic regions, with future changes expected to be much more massive. Climate change as an ecological phenomenon impacts not only on perceptions of the Arctic from the outside (being purported by the media as the most illustrative case of global threats) but also in very immediate ways on internal processes and the quality of life. Particularly afflicted are indigenous populations such as the Inuit, who claim their *right to cold* with increasing fervency in order to be able to pursue traditional social, cultural, and economic practices in the future. The shrinking of the Arctic Ocean's sea ice also awakens political and economic expectations about new sea routes and resource extraction. This gives rise to new discourses about demographic developments, the

legitimacy of non-indigenous claims to "homelands," and constellations of power in the domestic colonies, i.e. the peripheral Arctic areas of the respective nation states. Against this backcloth, indigenous populations demand the formulation and safeguarding of "cultural rights" more than ever. These demands manifest themselves in many different forms including, for example, nativist movements striving for cultural revitalisation, political activism, and calls for autonomous territories. Within the framework of these discourses, new forms of collective self-presentations and "lifestyles" play an important role.



In his keynote speech, Florian Stammer (Arctic Centre, Rovaniemi, Finland) will discuss examples on reindeer nomads' use of contemporary telecommunication, information, and transportation technologies. Additionally, he will address how changes in reindeer migration routes can be analyzed through interdisciplinary methods including remote sensing.

With kind regards,  
Verena Traeger, Aline Ehrenfried, Gerti Eilmsteiner-Saxinger  
DGV Regional Working Group Circumpolar Regions and Siberia  
[zirkumpolaregebiete-sibirien@dgv-net.de](mailto:zirkumpolaregebiete-sibirien@dgv-net.de)





## 18<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference 2012

Washington, DC, USA  
24-28 October 2012



### Call for Session Proposals

The 18<sup>th</sup> Inuit Studies Conference, organized by the Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institution, will be held in Washington, DC on the National Mall from October 24 to October 28, 2012 in various Smithsonian museums. Several special Inuit-themed exhibitions will be displayed across the Institution. Opportunities for visiting collections, archives and laboratories are available.

The biennial Inuit Studies Conference serves the critical function of drawing together scholars and Inuit representatives to share research results in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, linguistics, political governance, environmental science, health, education, and culture.

### Conference Theme: *Inuit/Arctic/Connections: Lessons from the Top of the World*

We believe this broad theme inspires discussion about important Inuit issues and how they impact the rest of the world. Sub-themes include: Heritage, Museums and the North; Globalization: An Arctic Story; Power, Governance and Politics in the North; The 'New' Arctic: Social, Cultural and Climate Change; Inuit Education, Health, Language and Literature

### Call for Session Proposals

Titles and abstracts for proposed sessions (including prospective 'invited sessions,' panels, and round-tables) should be sent to the conference coordinator, Lauren Marr, by email or postal mail by Friday, September 16, 2011. The working language of the conference will be English. The Program Committee will guide selection of plenary sessions, panels, and papers.

### Conference Website

A conference website will be live in the coming months. In the meantime, check the Arctic Studies Center website for information:  
<http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic>

### Contact Information

Lauren Marr, Conference Coordinator

Arctic Studies Center  
Tel.: 202.633.1889 Fax: 202.357.2684  
[marrl@si.edu](mailto:marrl@si.edu)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Letter of Agreement Signed between IASC, UArctic and IASSA

The University of the Arctic (UArctic), IASSA and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) have formalized their partnership in a Letter of Agreement (LoA). All three organizations recognize that there are many common interests regarding international and multi-disciplinary cooperation in Arctic research, education and outreach. Increased cooperation between the organizations is expected to be of mutual benefit, and contribute to enhancing the



From left: David Hik (IASC), Joan Nyman Larsen (IASSA),  
Lars Kullerud (UArctic)

legacies of the IPY. The LoA was signed at a WMO organized workshop on the International Polar Decade (IPD) in St. Petersburg, Russia in April 2011.

### International Polar Decade. Informal Report from IPD Workshop

The informal report from the WMO-Roshydromet Workshop on International Polar Decade Initiative, held in St. Petersburg, Russia, 14-15 April 2011 is available at  
[http://iassa.org/images/stories/IPD-workshop\\_informal\\_report.pdf](http://iassa.org/images/stories/IPD-workshop_informal_report.pdf)

### Center for Alaska Education Policy Research

The University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) is launching the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR) this spring.



CAEPR's mission is as follows:

The Center for Alaska Education Policy Research enhances decision-making by policymakers, education professionals, and the public through collaborative, interdisciplinary research, analysis, and dissemination. The center conducts non-partisan research on policy issues around educational access, equity and excellence in the Alaska context, across early childhood, primary and secondary, higher and adult education.

CAEPR start-up funding was provided by generous donations from BP and ConocoPhillips through UA President Patrick Gamble and the UA Foundation.

For information on CAEPR, please contact Diane Hirshberg, Associate Professor of Education Policy, 907-786-5413 or [Hirshberg@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:Hirshberg@uaa.alaska.edu)

Diane Hirshberg, PhD  
Associate Professor of Education Policy Institute of Social and Economic Research University of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508, USA  
[hirshberg@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:hirshberg@uaa.alaska.edu)  
[http://iser.uaa.alaska.edu/profiles/faculty/diane\\_hirshberg.html](http://iser.uaa.alaska.edu/profiles/faculty/diane_hirshberg.html)

---

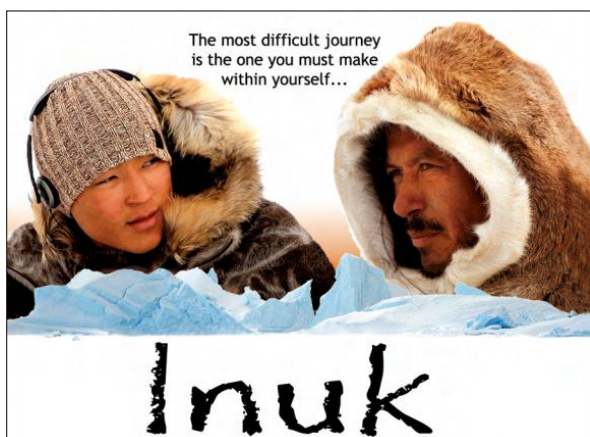
## INUK

A film by Mike Magidson

Producer: Sylvie Barbe

[www.inuk-film.com](http://www.inuk-film.com)

The film is going to be screened during the ICASS VII conference.



### The Story

In Greenland's capital, sixteen year-old Inuk lives a troubled life with his alcoholic mother and violent step-father.

One morning, after pulling the half-frozen boy out of an abandoned car, the social services decide to

send Inuk north, to a children's home on a tiny island in the middle of the Arctic sea-ice. There, Inuk meets Ikuma, a local polar bear hunter, who has his own share of problems. Haunted by his troubled past, his extraordinary hunting skills are mysteriously disappearing.

The children's home's warm-hearted director, Aviaaja, asks Ikuma to take Inuk on his annual seal-hunting trip. She is certain that despite the risks of such a long and dangerous voyage, Inuk will learn that he has a valiant past and a hopeful future.

So, when Inuk, the city boy, joins Ikuma, the great hunter of the North, on the epic dogsled voyage, they face much more than the bitter cold and fragile sea-ice. The most difficult part of the journey is the one they must make within themselves...

### AWARDS

After two awards in Woodstock Film Festival, New York, and two others in Paris Polar Film Festival, INUK won two new awards in the last Nashville Film Festival in April:

- New Directors Grand Jury Prize: "Inuk" (Mike Magidson, Greenland/France)
- Special Jury Prize for Breakout Performance by an Actor: Gaba Petersen, "Inuk".

"The caliber of the New Directors field this year was impressive," said the New Directors jury in a joint statement. "With storytelling full of heart, sensitivity and extraordinary settings breathtakingly filmed in Greenland, 'Inuk' epitomizes the power of filmmaking to open us to new worlds. Director Mike Magidson's devotion to this story raises it to an exceptional level of first-time feature filmmaking."

Created as an original road-movie on the sea-ice, "Inuk" is both an authentic story of Greenland today, a country torn between tradition and modernity, and a universal story about the quest for identity, transmission and rebirth after the deepest of wounds.

The authenticity of the film was intensified by the exceptional performance of the nonprofessional Inuit actors: teenagers from a home for neglected Inuit children and local seal hunters. "Inuk", Magidson's first feature-length narrative, is the fruit of a unique friendship with them.

## APECS: June is for Social Sciences!

Written by Rosa Rut Thorisdottir

The APECS Research Activity Committee has inaugurated as a new feature the Discipline of the Month. And this coming June is for Social Sciences!



June is going to be filled with Social Sciences events. We have put together a

working group of dynamic Social Sciences APECS members from diverse areas of the field including polar policy and law, tourism, arts, anthropology, and human geography focusing both on the Arctic and Antarctic. Our webpage will be updated for the occasion and filled with information on what APECS members are doing and how to find out more about research in polar social sciences. We will also be holding a virtual poster session focusing on social sciences and a career-development workshop in connection with the ICASS VII in Akureyri, Iceland. The workshop in Akureyri will include several sessions: on June 21 we will focus on "Informing policy and policy makers" as well as "tips and tricks for presenting at conferences"; on June 24, we are holding a panel discussion on "Shaping your social sciences career" as part of the ICASS VII program. To register and to find out more about the workshop please visit <http://apecs.is/workshops/icass2011>

If you're interested in APECS "June is Social Sciences" we want to hear from you! Tell us what you are working on, share a publication, link to your research blog or any other cool stuff we could add to our page [www.apecs.is/research-fields/social-sciences](http://www.apecs.is/research-fields/social-sciences). If you have ideas for "June is Social Sciences" highlights, or are interested in actively participating in the event, email us at [rosa.thoris@gmail.com](mailto:rosa.thoris@gmail.com).

## Polar Geography – Call for Papers

Polar Geography is a quarterly publication that offers a venue for scholarly research on the physical and human aspects of the Polar Regions.

The journal seeks to address the component interplay of the natural systems, the complex historical, political, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and security issues, and the interchange amongst them. As such, the journal

welcomes comparative approaches, critical scholarship, and alternative and disparate perspectives from around the globe.

The journal offers scientists a venue for publishing longer papers such as might result from distillation of a thesis, or review papers that place in global context results from coordinated national and international efforts currently underway in both Polar Regions. The journal also offers a section for book reviews and invites such submissions or suggestions.



### Recent articles have included the following:

- Migration in Northern Russia and Alaska  
*Wayne Edwards*
- Moving or staying for the best part of life: theory and evidence for the role of subsistence in migration and well-being of Arctic Inupiat residents  
*Matthew Berman*
- Community migration in Alaska's north: the places people stay and the places they leave  
*Lee Huskey*
- The role of attachment to place in migration decisions of the population of the Russian North  
*Timothy E. Heleniak*
- The effects of female out-migration on Alaska villages  
*Stephanie Martin*
- Patterns of migration in Arctic Alaska  
*E. Lance Howe*
- Neoliberalism in the North: the transformation of social policy in Russia's northern periphery  
*Michael Rasell*
- Ten decades of transits of the Northwest Passage  
*R.K. Headland*
- A review of the International Northern Sea Route Program (INSROP) 10 years on  
*R. Douglas Brubaker and Claes Lykke Ragner*
- Post-staple bust: modeling economic effects of mine closures and post-mine demographic shifts in an arctic economy (Yukon)  
*Andrey Petrov*
- Interorganizational coordination in oil spill emergency response: a case study of the Murmansk region of Northwest Russia  
*Maria Ivanova and Are Kristoffer Sydnæs*
- Shifting ground: archaeological surveys of upland Adak Island, the Aleutian Islands, Alaska and changing assumptions of Unangan land use patterns  
*Diane K. Hanson; Debra G. Corbett*

### Submissions

All submissions should be made online at the Polar Geography ScholarOne Manuscripts site at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tpog>

Associate Editor, Timothy Heleniak ([heleniak@umd.edu](mailto:heleniak@umd.edu)) will be at ICASS VII in Akureyri, Iceland in June and available for questions about submissions to the journal, including special issues based on papers presented at the conference.

Free Online Access to the journal *Polar Geography*! As an example of the high quality research published in *Polar Geography*, we would like to offer you 14 days free online access to the entire back catalogue of the journal! To take advantage of this offer, please visit [www.informaworld.com/vouchers](http://www.informaworld.com/vouchers) and enter the following code: VTPOGFA0001B34C.

---

## New Master's Program in Northern Governance and Development

The International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (University of Saskatchewan) is accepting applications for the fall 2011 term of their new Master's in Northern Governance and Development (MNGD) program.



The MNGD program is designed for students passionate about northern issues and who are preparing themselves for a career (or promotion) in industry, government, or entrepreneurship in some of the world's most northernmost regions including Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States. Featuring an interdisciplinary approach, courses cover a range of subjects such as Political Studies (Governance), Economics (Development), Native Studies, Communications, and Environmental Science.

Students can take classes on campus or off through the use of a state of the art video-conferencing studio. Full funding support is also available, taking away the cost barrier that may otherwise deter qualified applicants. The full project-based program is designed to be taken over 16 months.

Nathan Ray, a resident of northern Saskatchewan and a student in the 2010 cohort of the MNGD program said: "I value the program because it provides distance education to northern communities which will open so many doors; especially for individuals with families who cannot move to the city to further their education."

Ilya Lipin, an international MNGD student hailing from Syktyvkar Russia said: "I expect to gain a firm grasp of key concepts as they relate to northern topics and issues, as well as some good practical skills from this program. I've had a really positive experience with the MNGD so far – excellent instructors and coordinators. In particular, I've found the trips to northern regions useful in allowing me to make comparisons about northern issues in different parts of the world."

Some other attractive features of the Master's in Northern Governance and Development program include a fully funded international study experience and guided internships with government or industry. Administrators have already received positive feedback about these components.

To qualify for admission to the MNGD program, students will need: a passion for northern affairs and a 4-year undergraduate degree with a grade point average of at least 70% over the last 60 credit units completed (or equivalent).

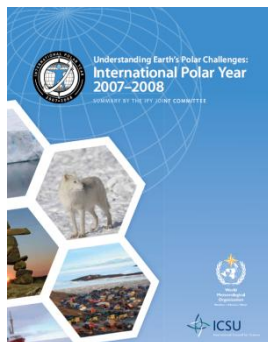
If you or someone you know would be a good match for this program, please contact us today: [audra.krueger@usask.ca](mailto:audra.krueger@usask.ca) or 306-966-8433. You can also visit [www.artsandscience.usask.ca/icngd](http://www.artsandscience.usask.ca/icngd) for more information.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Understanding Earth's Polar Challenges: International Polar Year 2007–2008

Editors: Igor Krupnik, Ian Allison, Robin Bell, Paul Cutler, David Hik, Jerónimo López-Martínez, Volker Rachold, Eduard Sarukhanian and Colin Summerhayes

Summary by the IPY Joint Committee  
Publisher: Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the University of the Arctic  
Publication year: 2011  
ISBN: 978-1-896445-55-7



The International Polar Year (IPY) 2007–2008 co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) became the largest coordinated research program in the Earth's polar regions. Following



in the footsteps of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Polar Year 1882–1883, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Polar Year 1932–1933 and the International Geophysical Year 1957–1958, it engaged 50,000 researchers, local observers, educators, students, and support personnel from more than 60 nations in 228 international projects (170 in science, 1 in data management, and 57 in education and outreach) and in many related national efforts. IPY generated intensive research and observations in the Arctic and Antarctica over a two-year period, 1 March 2007–1 March 2009, with many activities expanding beyond that date. Also, IPY 2007–2008 was the first among the International Polar/Geophysical Years to feature substantial “people” component focused on social sciences, human health, indigenous issues and local ecological knowledge in the polar regions. IPY data will influence our understanding of polar processes, of global ocean, climate and environmental change for decades ahead.

The broad overview of the IPY 2007–2008 program has been recently presented in 720-page ‘Summary’ produced by the IPY Joint Committee. The volume of 38 chapters with over 350 colour illustrations is organized in five parts: *Planning and Implementation* (Chapters 1.1-1.7), *Research* (Chapters 2.1-2.11), *Observations and Data Management* (Chapters 3.1-3.11), *Outreach* (Chapters 4.1-4.3), and *Legacies* (Chapters 5.1-5.6), plus 11 Appendices, including a detailed IPY *Timeline*. The book covers the development of IPY for almost a decade, from 2001 till 2010. Some 300 contributing authors and reviewers from more than 30 nations were engaged in its preparation spearheaded by nine-member Editorial team of Igor Krupnik (Smithsonian Institution), Ian Allison (University of Tasmania), Robin Bell (Columbia University), Paul Cutler (ICSU), David Hik (University of Alberta), Jerónimo López-Martínez (University of Madrid), Volker Rachold (IASC), Eduard Sarukhian (WMO) and Colin Summerhayes (Scott Polar Research Institute). This most extensive overview of IPY 2007–2008 provides an inspiring window into the capabilities of modern interdisciplinary and international science and a prospective blueprint for the next IPY.

The digital version of the IPY 2007–2008 summary volume is disseminated by the University of the Arctic and will be used as basic course material for many local universities and colleges within the University of the Arctic and International Antarctic Institute systems. It is available for free download at [www.wmo.int/pages/themes/wmoprod/index\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/themes/wmoprod/index_en.html) (WMO), [www.icsu.org/publications/reports-](http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/ipy-summary/ipy-summary)

[and-reviews/ipy-summary/ipy-summary](http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/ipy-summary/ipy-summary) (ICSU) and [www.arcticportal.org/ipy-joint-committee](http://www.arcticportal.org/ipy-joint-committee) (Arctic Portal).

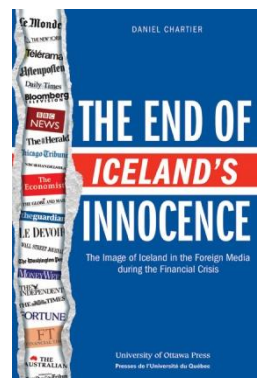
## The End of Iceland's Innocence - The Image of Iceland in the Foreign Media during the Financial Crisis

Author: Daniel Chartier

Publisher: The University of Ottawa Press

Publication year:

ISBN: 978-0-7766-0760-3



In the space of a few days, one of the world's richest and most egalitarian nations, Iceland, toppled into financial chaos and sunk into an economic, ethical, moral and identity crisis. The vast empire built by Iceland's young entrepreneurs, the “new Vikings” — who had propelled the country to

the top of wealth, equality and happiness charts — collapsed under the combined effect of the failure of its banks and astronomical debt (more than ten times the country's gross domestic product). Iceland became, in the midst of the global economic crisis, an icon of disaster that troubles all Western countries seeking to understand how the Scandinavian model could collapse so suddenly.

In this book, Daniel Chartier traces, through thousands of articles appearing in the foreign press, the fascinating reversal of Iceland's image during the crisis. Citizens of a country now humiliated, Icelanders must deal with a number of significant issues including the quest for wealth, sovereignty, ethics, responsibility, gender and the limits of neoliberalism.

Daniel Chartier is a professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal and Director of the International Laboratory for the Comparative Multidisciplinary Study of Representations of the North.

Order online at [www.press.uottawa.ca/book/the-end-of-icelands-innocence](http://www.press.uottawa.ca/book/the-end-of-icelands-innocence). Also available at Amazon.com, Amazon.ca and Chapters.Indigo.ca.

Instructors may request an examination copy at [www.press.uottawa.ca/info/exam-copy-request-form?isbn=9780776607603](http://www.press.uottawa.ca/info/exam-copy-request-form?isbn=9780776607603).



For further information, contact: Jessica Clark,  
marketing manager [jessica.clark@uottawa.ca](mailto:jessica.clark@uottawa.ca)  
613.562.5800 (1311), University of Ottawa Press,  
Canada [www.press.uottawa.ca](http://www.press.uottawa.ca)

---

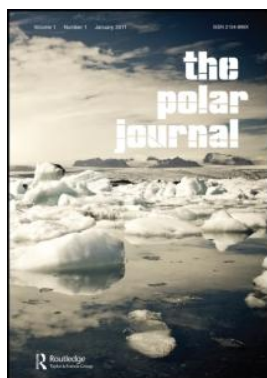
## The Polar Journal

Publisher: Routledge

First publication year: 2011

Print ISSN: 2154-896X

Online ISSN: 2154-8978



The Polar Journal is a biannual, multi-disciplinary social science and humanities journal, under the general editorship of Dr Anne-Marie Brady and published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis. The Polar Journal welcomes papers from all the fields of the

social sciences and humanities on polar affairs.

The first issue, edited by Marcus Haward, will be published in June 2011. The first papers in this issue of The Polar Journal provide a number of new perspectives on the Antarctic Treaty (and treaty system) with June 23 2011 marking the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty.

This issue is also published in the centenary year of major heroic era expeditions, particularly the Australasian Antarctic Expedition led by Douglas Mawson (1911-1914) and Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole (1910-1913), with papers addressing under-researched aspects of these expeditions. The issue also has contributions on the management of Antarctic heritage sites, including heroic era historic sites and artefacts.

In keeping with the focus on contributions on both Arctic and Antarctic topics this issue includes a paper on Arctic reindeer herding.

The second issue of The Polar journal, edited by Elizabeth Leane, will be published in December 2011. This issue will focus on "Antarctic visions", perspectives from the arts on Antarctica, as well as having individual papers on other topics. The third issue, edited by Mark Nuttall, will be published in June 2012. It will focus on "The Arctic in Global Context", as well as having room for individual papers. The fourth issue will be edited by Arctic politics and history specialist

Urban Wråkberg and published in December 2012.

Each issue of our journal is guest-edited by our international team of twenty-five polar specialists. The Polar Journal welcomes papers from all the fields of the social sciences and humanities on polar affairs. Each issue of the journal will either feature articles from different disciplines on polar affairs or else feature a topical theme from a range of scholarly approaches. The aim is to break down the silos between the different disciplines in polar studies and between Arctic and Antarctic affairs. The "special issue" section of the journal will take up at least fifty percent of each issue, with room left over for papers on other topics submitted independently of the special issue theme. This will allow for timely publication of research which reflects current concerns. It will also ensure that each issue of the journal is both specialised and aimed at the wider body of polar scholars and those interested in polar affairs. The Polar Journal includes book reviews and conference reviews and announcements, sections that will provide a useful and ongoing record for readers and researchers.

Those interested in subscribing to The Polar Journal should follow the links here:  
[www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=2154-896X&linktype=145](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=2154-896X&linktype=145)

We warmly welcome submissions to the journal. Essays should be 6000-7000 words in length. Those interested in submitting an essay to the journal, or in discussing a submission with the editors, should contact the journal at:  
[ThePolarJournal@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:ThePolarJournal@canterbury.ac.nz)

---

## Cooperation of Conflict in a Changing Arctic?

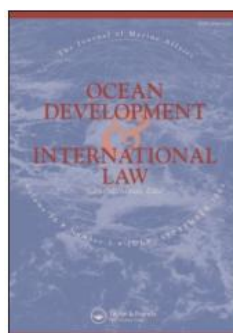
Authors: Ian G. Brosnan, Thomas M. Leschine, and Edward L. Miles, School of Marine Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Article in: *Ocean Development and International Law*, 42 (2011): 173-210

Publisher: Routledge

Publication year: 2011

ISSN: 0090-8320 print, 1521-0642 online



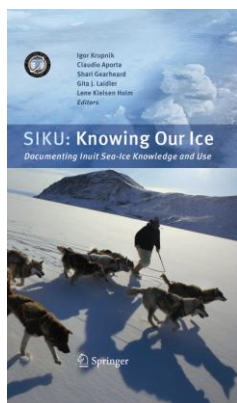
Abstract: The possibility of conflict among nations has dominated discussions of the future of the Arctic. Are there no opportunities for cooperation? This article explores the avenues and incentives for Arctic cooperation through the

common issues outlined in the strategy statements of the five coastal Arctic states. Incentives to cooperate can be found in all the thematic areas examined: sovereignty, scientific research, resource development, shipping, and environmental concerns. Cooperation is already occurring on some salient issues. Additional cooperation may occur as issues become increasingly pressing. From this perspective, Arctic conflict is by no means inevitable. Numerous avenues for cooperation exist.

---

## SIKU: Knowing Our Ice. Documenting Inuit Sea-Ice Knowledge and Use

Editor: Igor Krupnik, Claudio Aporta, Shari Gearheard, Gita J. Laidler and Lene Kielsen Holm  
 Publisher: Springer  
 Publication year: 2010  
 ISBN: 978-90-481-8587-0



SIKU (“Sea Ice Knowledge and Use: Assessing Arctic Environmental and Social Change”) was a collaborative international study under the IPY 2007–2008 program (IPY #166). It brought together participants from six nations – Canada, US, Russia, Greenland, France, and UK, including local partners

from over 30 indigenous communities from over half of the circumpolar zone. The project’s acronym, SIKU, is the basic term for sea ice (*siku*) in all Eskimo/Inuit languages and perhaps the best known indigenous word from Bering Strait to Greenland. The project was launched in 2006–2007 as a consortium of various nationally-funded studies, local initiatives, and graduate student projects. The new 500-page collection with 135 illustrations presents the first extensive summaries of various SIKU activities and related efforts in a major volume published under the editorship of the former five-member SIKU steering committee.

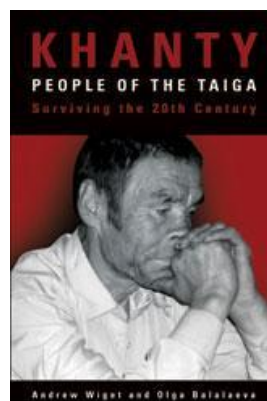
The SIKU collection with its 20 constituent chapters written by more than 50 contributors, including indigenous experts from Alaska, Canada, and Greenland, covers all main areas of the SIKU operations, including indigenous observations, documentation of traditional sea ice terminology, contemporary use of sea ice in northern communities, status and preservation of

indigenous knowledge and languages, and matching indigenous knowledge with scientific models, observation and modern data-management technologies. Geographically, six chapters address SIKU research in Canada; six are focused on Alaska; three on Greenland; and five are circumpolar in scope. A companion special issue of the *Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe Canadien* (Vol. 55, no.1, spring 2011) includes seven more contributions stemming from the SIKU and related efforts, primarily in Canada and the results of the Russian SIKU studies are being prepared for a separate Russian collection addressed to the Russian audience. The SIKU project embodied the collaborative and cross-disciplinary spirit of IPY 2007–2008. It also broke new ground in polar residents’ participation in research and in advancing the role of local knowledge and observations of indigenous experts on the rapidly changing Arctic ice.

---

## Khanty, People of the Taiga. Surviving the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Authors: Andrew Wiget and Olga Balalaeva  
 Publisher: University of Alaska Press  
 Publication year: 2011  
 ISBN: 978-1-60223-124-5



Drawing on nearly twenty years of fieldwork, as well as ethnohistory, politics, and economics, this volume takes a close look at changes in the lives of the indigenous Siberian Khanty people and draws crucial connections between those changes and the

social, cultural, and political transformation that swept Russia during the transition to democracy. Delving deeply into the history of the Khanty—who were almost completely isolated prior to the Russian revolution—the authors show how the customs, traditions, and knowledge of indigenous people interact with and are threatened by events in the larger world.

Andrew Wiget is professor of English and director of the New Mexico Heritage Center at New Mexico State University. Olga Balalaeva is a folklorist and specialist in Finno-Ugric studies who has been working in Siberia since 1988.

# Arctic Geopolitics and Autonomy

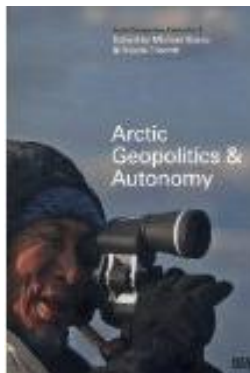
Editors: Michael Bravo and Nicola Triscott

Publisher: Hatje Cantz

Publication year: 2011

ISBN: 978-3775726818

Free download: [www.artscatalyst.org](http://www.artscatalyst.org)



**Arctic Politics and Autonomy** reveals that Arctic peoples have a tradition of technological experiment. They are now using digital technologies to be leaders in the transition to a low carbon economy, while powerful multinational and state interests race to secure oil and gas reserves.

## Summary

As the dominant discourses of Arctic geopolitics are blind to the realities of life in the Arctic, its peoples and ecosystems are repeatedly trivialized in both geopolitics and the arts. This book explores how technologies have transformed relationships between environment and politics for Inuit and other northern peoples. The key question seen from five distinct vantage points is to what extent we should look to experiments in technology to bring autonomy to the citizens of the Arctic. Is a strategy to develop new green technologies for Arctic societies coherent and likely to succeed as a means to reduce dependence on hydrocarbons? The authors argue that the liberating potential of technologies to build lasting autonomy depends on the kinds of mobility and transformations of political economy that they make possible. Together the essays reveal a new approach to the study of technology and mobility that may allow us to rethink Arctic geopolitics from the ground up.

## Contents

1. Introduction – Michael Bravo with Nicola Triscott
2. Critical Art and Intervention in the Technologies of the Arctic – Nicola Triscott
3. Building Autonomy through Experiments in Technology and Skill – Michael Bravo
4. Traveling through Layers: Inuit Artists Appropriate New Technologies – Katarina Soukup
5. Trails and Tales: Multiple Stories of Human Movement and Modernity – David Turnbull
6. Post-Cold War Arctic Geopolitics: Where are the Peoples and the Environment? – Lassi Heininen

## Extracts from the book

“As well as being a source of imagination and survival, technology then, when wrongly used, has created a deep structural legacy that has excluded indigenous peoples from full political and economic participation”.

“In the face of global environmental change, there is a grave danger that the autonomy of ordinary people who actually live in the Arctic is being sidelined by much more powerful strategic interests”.

“Representations [of the Arctic] are overwhelmingly fixated with striking images of polar bears, to the exclusion of any political complexities”.

“Spaces of tundra, coast, and sea are the Inuit Arctic, and in the new logic of the cross-platform digital world not being digitally connected means economic marginalization. No wonder Kunuk's (Zacharis Kunuk, winner of Camera 'Or, Cannes Film Festival, 2001) top priority is to have a full media centre capability at his traditional camp.”

“There is an enormous gulf separating the experience of those who live in the Arctic and those who do not but are employed to advise or lobby for regulating it”.

## The Authors

- Michael Bravo [mb124@cus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mb124@cus.cam.ac.uk) (Cambridge University) is an engineer, anthropologist, and cultural historian. He has spent 30 years visiting the Arctic and working with Inuit artists and leaders in Northern Canada. His advice on Arctic governance is regularly sought after by international conservation and political organizations.
- Lassi Heininen is an internationally recognized authority on the geopolitics of the Arctic and globalization. His work is widely read in academic, policy, and political circles.
- Marko Peljhan (Slovenia) and Matthew Biederman (Canada) are internationally renowned artists developing a zero-carbon mobile habitat for the Arctic. Their inexpensive airborne instrument arrays can enable indigenous people to monitor the environmental impact of multinational mining developments.
- Katarina Soukup has worked with Igloolik



Isuma, the award-winning Inuit owned video production company.

▪ Nicola Triscott [nicola.triscott@artscatalyst.org](mailto:nicola.triscott@artscatalyst.org) is director of Arts Catalyst (U.K.), leading innovators in contemporary arts-science collaborations.

▪ David Turnbull is a leading theorist of technology and sustainability. He has designed and built sustainable housing, and is currently exploring how to design for diversity as a property that emerges over time.

---

## State of the Arctic Coast 2010 – Scientific Review and Outlook

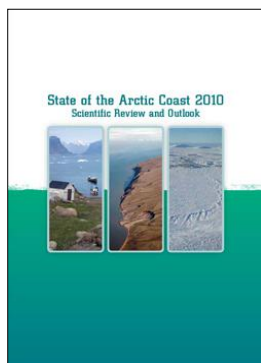
Published online by IASC, LOICZ, IPA and AMAP

Link to LOICZ website:

[www.loicz.org/press/index.html.en](http://www.loicz.org/press/index.html.en)

Direct link to the report: [www.arcticcoasts.org](http://www.arcticcoasts.org)

ISBN: 978 3 9813637 2 2



The report is a collaborative effort by 47 lead and contributing authors from 10 nations including all those bordering the Arctic coast and others with Arctic interests. It focuses on sensitive coasts and thus represents an update of the two

previous reports covering the entire Arctic region that examine the impacts of climate change, “Arctic Climate Impact Assessment” (ACIA, 2005), and the current social processes, “Arctic Human Development Report” (AHDR, 2004). It draws an initial interdisciplinary picture of the scientific understanding of the interplay between humanity and the rapidly changing nature on the coasts.

### ON THE WEB

#### Frontier Scientists

[www.FrontierScientists.com](http://www.FrontierScientists.com)



Frontier Scientists is a new website and online community, launched on April 26th 2011. The project connects Alaska field scientists with people curious about

Arctic discoveries. It features first-person accounts from leading Arctic scientists, displaying and explaining their groundbreaking work through written articles and short films.

With an aim of making field science from the Alaskan Arctic more accessible to the public,



FS Paleo Open Pit

Frontier Scientists hopes to encourage interest in, and support for, future scientific discovery. Their affiliated scientists are from fields including: Archaeology, Geology, Anthropology, the Humanities, Biology, Marine Biology, Ecology, Chemistry and more.

Visitors to the site can watch video vodcasts on Alaskan topics including:

- Grizzly Bears
- Petroglyphs of Cape Alitak
- Paleo-Eskimo Archaeology
- Cook Inlet Volcanoes
- Alutiiq Basket Weavers
- Climate Change Watch

Also, anyone who wishes can take the opportunity to send questions about the scientific studies featured on the site to the scientists featured [Ask A Scientist]. Utilizing social media via Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, blogs and direct email, in addition to the main site, Frontier Scientists opens venues for dialogue in a way appropriate to our increasingly connected world.

“We want to let travelers, teachers, students, aspiring scientists, and anyone else interested in science feel as if they are along when scientists are tracking a grizzly or documenting how climate change is disrupting Alaskan ways of life.” -- Greg Newby, Chief Scientist of the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Frontier Scientists is a project of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the video production company WonderVisions. Funding provided by the National Science Foundation, with additional support from the National Park Service and 360 Degrees North.

Laura Nielsen, Editor, Frontier Scientists



## Naasautit Shares the Numbers

[www.naasautit.ca](http://www.naasautit.ca)



The newly launched “Naasautit: Inuit Health Statistics” project provides comprehensive statistics and knowledge about the health of Inuit.

For many years Inuit leaders in Canada discussed the difficulty in finding and understanding health information, particularly health statistics, in a useful format. Naasautit: Inuit Health Statistics, which went online in March 2011, brings this often hard-to-find information and data that is important to Inuit to one central place.

Naasautit: Inuit Health Statistics was created and is managed by six partners. The partnership consists of the four Inuit land claim organizations/governments in Canada: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, and the Nunatsiavut Government; and two national organizations: Inuit Qaujisarvingat: The Inuit Knowledge Centre – Inuit Tapiirit Kanatami, and Inuit Tuttarvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization.

### **Turning statistics into knowledge about health**

Visitors to [www.naasautit.ca](http://www.naasautit.ca) will be able to explore, at a single glance, a larger number of Inuit-specific statistics than ever before.

The partners of the Naasautit project collected and synthesized information from existing sources, such as the Aboriginal Peoples Survey and the Aboriginal Children’s Survey, and presented it as an interactive statistics directory that is easy to understand and use. Users can view graphs and tables for a wide range of health determinants and conditions and also custom design and compare graphs based on the statistics available.

By organizing and presenting data that is important to Inuit, Naasautit: Inuit Health Statistics is helping to develop new knowledge about the many determinants of health, and the factors that impact and change people’s health. Naasautit: Inuit Health Statistics provides a picture of the status of Inuit health in Canada today.

Inuit health statistics can be used by decision-makers to better understand health issues. This can lead to better policies and programs to improve living conditions for Inuit and,

ultimately, to improve Inuit health status. By making statistics easier to find and use, Naasautit: Inuit Health Statistics also helps build the capacity of Inuit land claim organizations/governments and communities to conduct their own research, analysis and advocacy.



## IASSA Council Members 2008-2011



**Joan Nymand Larsen**, president  
Ph.D, Senior Scientist  
Stefansson Arctic Institute  
Akureyri, Iceland  
[jnl@svs.is](mailto:jnl@svs.is)



**Yvon Csonka**, ex officio (immediate past president)  
Federal Statistical Office,  
Neuchâtel, Switzerland  
[ycsonka@gmail.com](mailto:ycsonka@gmail.com)



**Grete Kaare Hovelsrud**  
Ph.D., Senior Researcher  
Centre for International Climate and  
Environmental Research Oslo/CICERO  
Norway  
[g.k.hovelsrud@cicero.uio.no](mailto:g.k.hovelsrud@cicero.uio.no)



**Lene Kielsen Holm**  
Director for Research and Sustainable  
Development  
Inuit Circumpolar Council  
Nuuk, Greenland  
[lene@inuit.org](mailto:lene@inuit.org)



**Alexander King**  
Lecturer of Anthropology  
Anthropology Department  
University of Aberdeen  
United Kingdom  
[a.king@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.king@abdn.ac.uk)



**Birger Poppel**  
Head of Project  
Survey of Living Conditions in the  
Arctic/SLiCa  
University of Greenland  
[bipo@adm.uni.gl](mailto:bipo@adm.uni.gl)



**Peter Schweitzer**  
Director, Alaska EPSCoR  
Professor of Anthropology  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
USA  
[ppsweitzer@alaska.edu](mailto:ppsweitzer@alaska.edu)



**Florian Stammler**  
Ph.D., Senior Researcher  
Anthropology Research Team  
Arctic Centre, University of Lapland  
Rovaniemi, Finland  
[fms36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fms36@cam.ac.uk)



**Anne Sudkamp**  
Owner, Sudkamp Associates, LLC  
Fairbanks, Alaska, USA  
[anne.sudkamp@gmail.com](mailto:anne.sudkamp@gmail.com)



### Northern Notes

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

Issue 35 · Spring/Summer 2011

Published twice a year

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.gl](http://www.iassa.gl)

Editors: Joan Nymand Larsen, Lára Ólafsdóttir  
and Jón Haukur Ingimundarson

Photo on cover page: Sigurgeir Haraldsson

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