

**“School of Arctic Dialogue”**

**Final Report**



***Non-state actors and circumpolar  
regionalization***

*In Rovaniemi, Kiruna, Kautokeino, Alta, Kirkenes, and Inari*

*June 11-18, 2023*

**TN on Geopolitics and Security (UArctic)**

**<https://arcticpolitics.com>**

# Contents

<b>ABOUT THE IDEA OF THE CALOTTE ACADEMY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PROCEDURES OF THE CALOTTE ACADEMY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ABOUT THE 2023 CALOTTE ACADEMY.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SUNDAY, 11 JUNE IN ROVANIEMI .....</b>	<b>9</b>
SESSION 1: “NON-STATE ACTORS & REGIONALIZATION” .....	9
RECEPTION BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATION OF ROVANIEMI .....	10
17:00-18:30 AT ALARUOKASEN TALO (VALTAKATU 8, ROVANIEMI).....	10
<b>MONDAY, 12 JUNE IN KIRUNA .....</b>	<b>11</b>
SESSION 2: “THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE” .....	11
09:00 – 11:30 AULA SEMINAR ROOM (MALMFÄLTENS LOGI & KONFERENS AB, KIRUNA).....	11
EXCURSION 1: VISIT AT LKAB KIRUNA MINE.....	13
EXCURSION 2: VISIT AT SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF SPACE PHYSICS .....	14
<b>TUESDAY, 13 JUNE IN KAUTOKEINO .....</b>	<b>15</b>
SESSION 3: “THE ARCTIC YEARBOOK PRESENTS: INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY AND SAAMI” .....	15
SESSION 4: “ABOUT PRACTICALITY & ETHICS: HOW TO MAKE RESEARCH PLAN, PROJECT DESIGN, FUND- RAISING AND NETWORK-BUILDING?” .....	20
<b>WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE IN ALTA .....</b>	<b>25</b>
SESSION 5: “SMART SPECIALISATION, DE-COLONISING TOURISM AND SAMI GOVERNANCE” .....	25
SESSIONS 6: “MARINE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE” .....	26
EXCURSION 3: THE ALTA DAM... OR NOT!.....	30
<b>THURSDAY, 15 JUNE IN KIRKENES .....</b>	<b>30</b>
SESSION 7: “NON-STATE ACTORS & REGIONALIZATION” .....	30
VISITING TOWNHALL OF KIRKENES .....	36
SESSION 8: “UNVEILING TRUTH IN THE FACE OF CENSORSHIP: (CROSS-BORDER) JOURNALISM IN THE EUROPEAN NORTH” .....	38
<b>FRIDAY, 16 JUNE IN INARI .....</b>	<b>41</b>
SESSION 9: “THE ARCTIC YEARBOOK PRESENTS: INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY AND SAAMI” .....	41
SESSION 10: “ARCTIC GEOPOLITICS, SECURITY & COOPERATION” .....	44
13:30-15:30 AT JEERA.....	44
<b>SATURDAY, 17 JUNE IN INARI .....</b>	<b>49</b>
SESSION 11 (ONLINE): “SUSTAINABILITY AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC, AND WESTERN- RUSSIAN RELATIONS” .....	49
SESSION 12: “THE SAAMI CULTURAL PERFORMANCE AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT EVENT - ZOOM WORKSHOP FOR CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES STUDENTS” .....	52
<b>SUNDAY, 18 JUNE IN INARI - ROVANIEMI.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>ABSTRACTS .....</b>	<b>57</b>

FROM SCHOLARS' JOURNEY TO THE NORTH INTO A SCHOOL OF DIALOGUE - 31 YEARS OF CALOTTE ACADEMY .....	87
<i>SELECTED ARTICLES OF CALOTTE ACADEMY – A TRAVELLING NORTHERN SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE AND POLITICS</i> .....	90
ABOUT TN ON GEOPOLITICS AND SECURITY .....	91
ARCTIC YEARBOOK.....	93
ROUTE OF CALOTTE ACADEMY 2023 .....	95
SPONSORS & PARTNERS .....	96

<https://calotte-academy.com>

## About the Idea of the Calotte Academy

The Calotte Academy is an annual traveling symposium and international forum in Europe's North Calotte region, designed to promote interdisciplinary discourse, and implement the interplay between senior and young researchers for to train and supervise early-career scientists in circumpolar Arctic studies (see, a short history in this booklet). It is a "school of dialogue" and participatory by nature with an idea to share knowledge and experiences with communities, and foster academic and policy-oriented dialogue among members of the research community and a wide range of other northern stakeholders. It is also an interdisciplinary brainstorming meeting to bring researchers and other experts from different fields, regions and countries together for to discover and implement new methods and applications.

The Calotte Academy is for established researchers and early-career scientists (ECS), particularly PhD candidates and post-docs, with different academic and/or knowledge backgrounds to participate and present their work in the 2023 Calotte Academy.

## Procedures of the Calotte Academy

The Calotte Academy is structured so that there are academic sessions with scientific presentations and brainstorming discussion in each location, as well as a public session, based on invitations, in one or two of the locations. Since dialogue and application of science are the most important goals of the Calotte Academy, it is recommended to remember and apply the open-ended nature of a dialogue and how to cross disciplines, sectors and other borders. A fundamental precondition for this is to have time enough for questions, comments and open discussion as well as enough patience for listening to others' argumentation.

Following from these principles, the sessions will be structured as such that each **presentation** will be allocated altogether 30-40 minutes out of which a **maximum of 15 minutes** will be reserved for the presentation and the rest for questions and comments, and open discussion.

The Academy is also an interdisciplinary brainstorming meeting for scholars and other experts from different fields and disciplines all over the circumpolar North to discover new methods and plan possible research project(s), as well as to know more about the aims and activities of the TN on Geopolitics and Security. In addition of academic sessions, there will be a devoted session for research plan / project design, fund-raising and other more practical issues of research; and second, a possible role play

game (a simulation of international negotiation) on a state of Arctic governance and geopolitics, where each participant has her / his own role.

Afterwards, a Final Report including the abstracts, and main findings, highlights and ideas for the future of the 2023 Academy's sessions will be produced (see Final Reports on previous Calotte Academies in address: <https://calotte-academy.com>). The Report will be based on notes and reports on sessions written by rapporteurs chosen for each session during the Calotte Academy tour.

## **About the 2023 Calotte Academy**

The theme of the 2023 Academy, "Non-state Actors and Circumpolar Regionalization" is inspired by the rich circumpolar cooperation and regionalization by local & regional non-state actors - Indigenous peoples' organizations, sub-national governments, non-governmental organizations, civil societies - and their important contributions for multi-level governance. These contributions, as well as the entire work, are done under an emerging pressure of the environmental catastrophe and climate crisis, as well as the new (East-West) great power rivalry and the related power politics. Local & regional actors also face, by concrete ways, a paradox of Arctic development whenever a balance has been sought between environmental protection & climate change mitigation and economic activities due to 'political inability' of the Arctic states to make hard decisions.

In general, the 2023 event continued interdisciplinary, multi-theoretical and multidimensional discussion on perceptions, visions of, and discourses on Arctic development, governance, geopolitics and security in globalization. Furthermore, the Academy continued the discussion on the future of the region and its peoples and communities, by describing, analyzing and debating different – cooperative, competitive and conflicting – perceptions, discourses and trends, as well as impacts of their interrelations / complexities in globalization. A special focus was on the environment & climate change, development & governance, geopolitics & security, non-state actors and transnational influences, and the related issues, as well as their combinations in the successful transformation of the Arctic from confrontation into geopolitical stability based on constructive cooperation, and in that of the unprecedented, as the pan-Arctic cooperation is temporarily paused.

All presenters were asked to take into consideration, in their presentation, the achieved state of constructive cooperation across national borders, and the role & influence of non-state actors, based on common interests, and how to maintain geopolitical stability and continue the successful cooperation, when the Arctic region is facing the climate crisis and great power rivalries.

## **Co-organizers, Acknowledgements & Contacts**

The 2023 Calotte Academy was organized by Saami Education Institute (SAKK), and Faculty of Social Sciences at University of Lapland (in Finland); Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (HSL) & Barents Institute at UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and International Center for Reindeer Herding Husbandry (EALAT) (in Norway); University of Stockholm (in Sweden); in cooperation with UArctic's Thematic Network (TN) on Geopolitics and Security.

The 2023 Calotte Academy was sponsored by the 21Century Borders Partnership (led by Emmanuil Brunet Jailly of University of Victoria), the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and University of Lapland (vice-rector Soili Nysten-Haarala), as well as contributions from the Global Arctic Leadership Initiative for Research and Education (Memorial University), the Symons Trust (Trent University), and Promoting Arctic Knowledge and Understanding through the Arctic Yearbook grant by the Nordic Arctic Cooperation Programme (The Nordic Institute in Greenland).

For more information, please contact with Prof. Lassi Heininen (lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi), Prof. Laura Junka-Aikio (laura.junka-aikio@ulapland.fi), and Academy's co-coordinators, PhD Candidate Daria Mishina (dmishina@ulapland.fi), PhD Candidate Salla Pasula (salla.pasula@ulapland.fi) and PhD Candidate Zhanna Anshukova (zanshuko@ulapland.fi), at University of Lapland.



# PROGRAM

## Sunday, 11 June in Rovaniemi

We gathered together Guesthouse Borealis by 14:00, and the bus departed from there at 16:30.

### Session 1: “Non-state Actors & Regionalization”

*14:00-16:30 at Guesthouse Borealis*

- Opening words by Lassi Heininen
- Introduction of participants & that of the program of 2023 Calotte Academy
- Heather Nicol: Borders, Mobility, Transnationalism in the Circumpolar North: A North American Focus
- Daria Mishina: Business in the Arctic. Arctic regional or its central development

(Rapporteur: Auni Haapala)

The very first session of the Calotte Academy took place at a local guesthouse Borealis in Rovaniemi, Finland. Two perspectives on non-state actors and regionalization in the Arctic were covered: borders and mobility in the North American Arctic, and the role of businesses in the Arctic regional development.

Heather Nicol's presentation called for a rethinking of mobility in the Arctic within contemporary and future challenges such as changing migration patterns brought by global warming. She elaborated on the inter-regionality that has always characterized Indigenous Peoples' culture, such as fishing and hunting traditions, in northern America. The ongoing social-environmental changes call for a better understanding of the contemporary relationship between Indigenous Peoples, colonial relations, and firm nation borders, as well as rethinking transnational regional mobilities.

The follow-up discussion of Heather's talk evolved in many directions. The different (state/indigenous) interpretations of what is considered 'land' or 'sea' was pondered in relation to e.g. Inuit using the sea ice for traveling. Perceived citizenship and state border regulations for indigenous peoples in the context of transnationalism were also discussed, as Inuit lands cover areas in four different nation-states. Furthermore, the discussion evolved to the implications of borders, and wide border zones, on food security. For example, the 30 km wide border zone between Alaska and Canada expands on the fishing and hunting lands of indigenous communities. Heather elaborated on how over

the past decades more strict border surveillance control and regulations have been put in place e.g. in the aftermath of 9/11.

Daria Mishina presented her research project on regional business development in the Arctic. She elaborated on various social, environmental, and cultural conditions that often influence business development in the northernmost regions, such as long distances, shortages of labour, and potential rules/laws related to indigenous populations. One of the aims of her ongoing study is to investigate whether the level of business activity in the Arctic actually correlates to regional development.

The discussion that followed circulated around the potential beneficiaries of business development in the Arctic (to whom the region is developed), and the practical means to measure regional development quantitatively. It was highlighted, that the idea of regional development is often used as a rhetorical means to justify and legitimize business developments in the area. Heather gave some critical examples of this regarding the issues between land, indigenous people, and business development in the Canadian Arctic. Furthermore, the discussion evolved to ponder how to create suitable criteria for measuring 'development'; how regional development should be defined, and what implications different types of definitions may have for the outcome of a study.



*(Photo: Daria Mishina)*

#### Reception by the City Administration of Rovaniemi

17:00-18:30 at *Alaruokasen talo* (Valtakatu 8, Rovaniemi)

- Welcoming words by Mayor Ulla-Kirsikka Vainio, City of Rovaniemi



*(Photo: Zhanna Anshukova)*

During the reception in the 'Alaruokanen House' (a semi-detached house built in the 1860s and one of the oldest buildings in Rovaniemi), the mayor warmly welcomed us and provided a captivating overview of the city's recent development. She highlighted the city's approach to sustainable urban planning, fostering a thriving economy while preserving its natural beauty. As the evening unfolded, the dinner by GUSTAV Kitchen & Bar showcased a delightful fusion of traditional Lappish cuisine and modern gastronomic delights.

## Monday, 12 June in Kiruna

### Session 2: "The Environment & Climate"

09:00 – 11:30 *Aula seminar room* (Malmfältens logi & konferens AB, Kiruna)

- Michaela Louise Coote: Arctic Interdisciplinary Research as a Tool for Environmental Decision-Making
- Guglielmo Migliori: Leveraging the Arctic's Frozen Assets: A Critical Path to EU Energy Security and Transition in a Changing Energy Landscape
- Virga Popovaitė: Maps and Safety in the Arctic: more-than-human interactions in a Search and Rescue response
- Tom Gabriel Royer: Questioning the Holisticness of Space Sustainability Law: a Critical Examination of Arctic and Scottish Commercial Spaceports

(Rapporteur: Sharon Beaucage-Johnson)

The 2nd session was held in Kiruna, Sweden. There were four presentations in the morning that discussed research, policy, safety, and regulations in the Arctic.

Michaela Coote highlighted how an interdisciplinary approach to decision-making, in and for the Arctic, provides effective methodologies to address the changing environmental concerns, sustainability, and role of science, in the region. An understanding of the various interdisciplinary methodologies and their uses in responding to concerns around conservation, power and privilege, is essential to create a plan for the Arctic's future. It was argued that interdisciplinary methodologies are essential in order to create meaningful policies driven by both the needs of the inhabitants, and the environment.

Michaela's presentation initiated group discussion in four areas. One, the politicalization of science for political gain is a concern for the future of the Arctic. The Arctic Council is a direct result of an attempt to give the health of the Arctic precedence over political agenda. Two, how technology needs to be incorporated into decision-making without the influence of either industry or the military. Three, an acknowledgement that traditional Indigenous knowledge and science sometimes view a situation in different ways. It doesn't mean that the results of one outweighs the value of the other, but that they are simply different. Four, transdisciplinary requires researchers to re-examine their approach to research. But, are researchers ready to abandon known and habitual methods to incorporate a transdisciplinary approach?

Guglielmo Migliori's presentation focused on policy research. How does the European Union (EU) view the Arctic, and policy development? To what degree does the EU consider the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the need for renewable energy sources, as well as critical raw materials when developing policy pertaining to the

Arctic region? The Arctic is a space containing much needed sources of renewable energy. The EU needs those resources. Going forward, what does the relationship look like between the EU and the Arctic, and how can policy support ensure the safety and security of the fragile Arctic region.

The subsequent discussion challenged the notion of sustainability. What is sustainable mining? Sustainable development? Perhaps the sustainable goal at this point, is two-fold: take the path of least harm, and the route supported by the local community. Sustainability does come with a warning that it is the short-term response to a major energy security issue, and sustainability may allow for time to transition into a cleaner option. The group acknowledged that the perspective is pre-colonial in nature; and the traditional knowledge voice, which may present a very different opinion, is absent.

Virga Popovaitė began her presentation on Search and Rescue (SAR) response in the Arctic with a recent emergency situation that offered a good example of the difficulties faced by first responders in the north. Not only do emergency responders encounter logistical issues such as extreme weather, an absence of necessary infrastructure, and technical concerns, but also stakeholders and territorial negotiations need to unfold when time is of the essence. Geographically, Virga's research focus is the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard. Topic-wise, Virga is exploring the concept of maps as processes. Due to the fluidity of landscape, maps can be outdated, and not a true reflection of a given area. Maps are also constructs with limitations because of multiple, and inconsistent sources.

The presentation raised some interesting questions about issues faced by Search and Rescue response teams. What is considered neutral when referring to territory and issues within the Arctic? What happens when SAR encounters problems accessing pertinent information such as dated maps, incorrect relaying of information, or technical issues. At what point is a SAR no longer a local mission but a major event requiring a larger, more multifaceted response. Who makes the decision and when is it made? It was evident in Virga's presentation and the discussion that collaboration is crucial for SAR to function in the Arctic.

Tom Royer's presentation combined space, law, and the environment. The commercialization of space is increasing and creating major concerns. Research suggests the infringement on space is impacting every level of the atmosphere, and people are justifiably concerned about the future of the environment and climate. There are also questions regarding the spaceports. Spaceports pollute the surrounding area, affect wildlife, and disrupt ecosystems. How should commercial spaceports be regulated? Will creating regulations enable a continuation and expansion of space travel? International law is not holistic however a holistic mindset allows for consideration to be given to protecting the affected regions.

The discussion following Tom's presentation focused on security, knowledge sharing, and defining borders. With the current global climate security in the north is a strong consideration. For example: the spaceport in Scotland is focused on the polar orbit

and trying to secure Europe. There was also discussion around space activity as a new form of war; and what is peace, and how does space activity fit into peace time. How borders are defined in space. Spaceports create data: how much of that knowledge is shared and who is it being shared with. As data is sold to third parties, who has control of the information? The discussion concluded with an understanding that more research is needed in the area of spaceports in the Arctic.

### Excursion 1: Visit at LKAB Kiruna Mine

*12:30-14:30 Underground the LKAB mine*

Starting at the entrance of LKAB's facilities, a bus took us through an underground tunnel leading to the LKAB Visitor Centre. After donning our helmets, we ventured into the earth's depths, in the world's largest underground iron-ore mine, at an astonishing 540 meters below the surface (amazing considering the mine's staggering total depth of 1365 meters!)

Guided by a knowledgeable expert, we delved into the world

of mining, gaining insights into the mining operations and the profound impact it had on the city of Kiruna. Learning about the city's displacement due to the expansion of the mining area shed light on the complex relationship between industrial progress and urban development.

Venturing deeper, we encountered colossal machines that seemed almost otherworldly. Their wheels' diameters surpassed the length of our outstretched arms!

We were treated to a documentary on 'green mining', highlighting LKAB's commitment to environmentally friendly practices and showcasing their sustainability efforts. It made us reflect on the delicate balance between meeting society's resource needs and preserving the natural world for future generations.



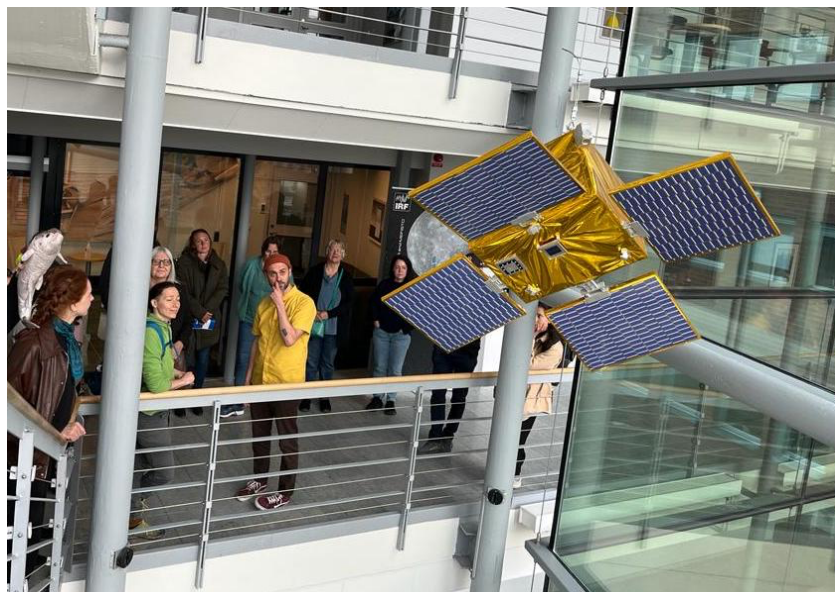
*(Photo: Tatiana Petrova)*

Finally, we enjoyed a hot beverage and, for some, biscuits, in LKAB's Visitor Centre's café, and were allowed to take home a handful of beautiful iron pellets. We felt like happy crows!

## Excursion 2: Visit at Swedish Institute of Space Physics

15:00-17:00

- Introduction by Information Officer Martin Eriksson



(Photo: Tatiana Petrova)

Information Officer Martin Eriksson offered a comprehensive overview of the Swedish Institute of Space Physics, shedding light on its fundamental objectives, missions, and scientific endeavors, e.g. in collaboration with the European Space Agency. He eloquently explained the cutting-edge research projects that the Institute is currently undertaking.

- Presentation by Philipp Wittmann on *The Jovian Plasma Dynamics and Composition Analyzer (JDC) for ESA's JUICE Mission*

Philipp Wittmann delved into the JDC's technical aspects, explaining its innovative design. He clarified the challenges involved in developing a robust instrument capable of operating in the harsh environment around Jupiter. He shared invaluable insights into the meticulous testing and calibration procedures that guarantee the instrument's accuracy and reliability. As a captivating visual backdrop, the presence of a replica of the JUICE satellite filled us with awe—reminder of the remarkable progress made in the realm of scientific exploration.

- Presentation by Uwe Raffalski on *Ozone monitoring at IRF in Kiruna*

Uwe Raffalski invited us to explore the world of ozone monitoring by introducing the IRF's KIMRA millimetre wave radiometer. He explained the radiometer holds a clear advantage due to its location above the polar circle. This place is ideal for studying the development of polar stratospheric winter chemistry both within and outside the polar vortex. Moreover, the curve drawn to represent its results somewhat resembles Barad-dûr. Just lacks an eye!

## Tuesday, 13 June in Kautokeino

### Session 3: “The Arctic Yearbook Presents: Indigenous Sovereignty and Saami”

*09:00-13:30 at EALAT*

- Anders Oskal: Welcoming words & introduction to EALAT
- Heidi Maarit Pietarinen & Amna Qureshi: Life Between Art and Blood
- Larry Ibrahim Mohammed: Snowy Owl or Indigenous Concerns; An analysis of the Kvalsund Wind Power Project in Northern Norway
- Laura Junka-Aikio: Military colonialism? Building critical approaches to the militarization of Northern Finland in the era of NATO membership
- Jacob van Haaften: Decolonized Nature Relatedness and Indigenist Mixed Methods Research Design and Implementation

(Rapporteur: Eleni Kavvatha, Olivia Wynne Houck)

Looking out onto the magnificent landscape of Kautokeino, we spent our Tuesday morning thinking through issues of Indigenous Sovereignty and the Saami.

Another theme is the questioning of forms of knowing and the means and metrics of data collection and assessment, especially in relation to accurately representing the needs and interests of indigenous communities.

A particular way this is discussed is in the dichotomy between science and indigenous knowledge and a main theme in these presentations is how these two frameworks and concepts can work together to adapt methods of analysis to be more reflective of the indigenous communities' needs, interests, and culture.

Relatedly, another theme is the examination - from Laura's discussion of militarization of the landscape through infrastructure to Jacob's wrestling with how to use the western scientific method of psychology - of the imposition of top down frameworks - from infrastructure for military purposes to the means and methods of psychology - that at best are ineffective and at worst are destructive.

The questions really alluded to the larger issue of how do we, as researchers, speak to both groups - the indigenous communities and other stakeholders?

Also argued were that the tools and means of analysis, impact assessments, and other methods which are involved in both the research and policy processes are infused with power dynamics - and not only do we need to rethink the content and focuses of our inquiries, but also interrogate the ways that they are designed.

Many of these presentations are about the intersection of, and sometimes tension between, culture and politics. They necessitate starting with an understanding the often complicated nature of cultural positionality.

The presentations, particularly Oskar's, made the argument that explanations of their cultural (as well as political and economic) identities and processes are extremely important in making themselves legible to other political and governing bodies, such as the state.

Another theme is interconnection, with the resounding argument that it is insufficient that we just think of one element (political, economic) in isolation when creating policies and laws. It is imperative that we have to consider these factors, along with environmental and ecological ones, in connection to each other.

In the composite, these projects interrogate the interconnected dimensions and effects of legal regimes, of the patterns of herders, of boundaries, of systems of land claims and regimes of land ownership and use.

Anders Oskar: "Welcome words and introduction to EALAT"

The presentation begun with a few information on the region, discussing geopolitics as Kautokeino used to be part of Sweden. It also revolved around the heritage of the region, the division of the border and the problems it created. Anders described the region and the Sami as an original Nomadic civilization of the Arctic, who follow the reindeer not the other way around. The reindeer is the one who permits the Sami to survive these ecosystems. It is a way of utilizing marginal resources with mobility. The presentation also revolved around adaptation challenges. Increasing human activity has been a major challenge. Another issue is that there are multiple ways of knowing Traditional Indigenous Knowledge but there is no definition of local knowledge. The impacts on Indigenous Peoples are exacerbated by their lack of voice in the development of governance strategies, management and adaptation. There was a specific mention on the Fosen case – which is a breach of human rights of the Sami. The presentation also revolved around the sustainability of science.



(Photo: Tatiana Petrova)

In the questions, the discussion was shaped around possible knowledge sharing between indigenous – the example of Mongolia. Anders indicated that today there is communication and commented that the possibility of travel makes it possible for reindeer herders to share the knowledge and discover similarities. There was also a discussion on the transboundary functions of science: We have some small institutions ex Sami University College that try to take on a transboundary role in trying to bridge the different ways of knowing. It is important to use the best available knowledge to face the biggest challenge of mankind and probably it is wise to see how knowledge systems can be best used all together. This is easy to talk about but not easy to do. On the issue of sustainable reindeer herding management – the focus being into ecology and culture – Anders answered that in the policy for reindeer herding in Norway there is a notion that this is not a circle but a scale – everything starts and ends with ecology – but he thinks it would be a dream if there where the three dimensions and points out to a holistic approach. There's also a lot of unspoken politics within reindeer herding and vis a vis other local communities – like that the reindeer herders rule the discussion. In order for the system to function (capitalism) you had to have 3 inventions: capital, paid labor and ownership to land. As human beings we tend to see the world as we are and not as it is. Anders pointed out we need to go deeper in ways in which the indigenous ways of living evolved in a completely different way than the capitalism world function. The indigenous need to fight cases in courts that are not even their own. Regarding food issues, regulations from the EU are not so much the problem, as in Europe there seems to be a favoritism on small scale farming. But it is their interpretations that are problematic.

#### Heidi Maarit Pietarinen & Amna Quershi: "Life between Art and Blood"

In their project, entitled "Life between Art and Blood," artist-researchers Heidi Maarit Pietarinen and Amna Qureshi create bioart as a means to "utilise reindeer blood as a reindeer herding by-material instead of treating it as waste material." Their methodological framework is working with a "living design medium" - where material production incorporates "simple living organisms" and material-driven design and art practice. The aim is to utilize reindeer blood as material instead of waste – as a design medium as a tool where they experiment into bio art (a dialogue between art and science) – and use it as a medium of artistic approach. The discussion revolved around themes of political responses to public problems and whether these change if we consider the vitality of materiality. The presenters also talked about textiles and reactions of people when they saw them in expeditions. They exhibited a piece of textile created with dried blood used as a pigment. There were also workshop discussions on tools and a description of the biolab work. The audience agreed with the use of all animal products so nothing goes to waste but considers reindeer blood not a waste but a product used therefore challenging the word waste. It was also indicated that reindeer blood has symbolically different value perhaps for the Sami.

Larry Ibrahim Mohammed: "Snowy Owl or Indigenous Concerns; An analysis of the Kvalsund Wind Power Project in Northern Norway."

In his presentation, Larry Ibrahim Mohammed used the case of the Kvalsund wind power plant as a means to analyze "the extent to which Sami concerns were actually reflected in the decision of the Norwegian Water and Energy Directorate." Starting with the contention that "energy consumption is a factor in climate change," he explains that his project, in its broadest sense, looks at the status of Sami in Norway and what rights are accorded to indigenous peoples. In thinking through why the Kvalsund Wind Power Project land claim was rejected. He asks: why was this rejected and at what level of impact did Sami participation have on the outcome of the "policy case?" He expands these questions to think through who is respected in this process and what knowledge systems are respected. In the simplest methodological terms, his project looks at the categorization and explanation of the policy process through a case study. His findings, through an analysis of the case application documents and the NVE correspondence, show that even though there was an "extensive participatory framework for Sami institutions in the wind power licensing process," the "inputs from Sami representatives" were not equally considered as the inputs from other state institutions. His recommendation is that there needs to be a "clear delineation between the notion of stakeholders and rights holders," as well as reassessing the "Impact Assessment document as a domain of pure scientific enquiry to cater to traditional ecological knowledge and other forms of knowing." The audience commented that the law stipulates the need for impact assessments if development is over a certain size and that this is being exploited - based on who is paying for and conducting the assessment. He is reiterating Larry's point that the impact assessments are "mechanisms full of intentions and motives that are not pure." Another comment warned Larry about his use of language, and especially about the addition of "green" to other processes and concepts. For example, the "windmills are not green from the perspective of reindeer herders." Overall the discussion ended with the common theme of the power of the industry, the quality of impact assessments, who pays for them and how they are used.

Laura Junka-Aikio: "Military Colonialism? Building critical approaches to the militarization of Northern Finland in the era of NATO membership."

Laura Junka-Aikio presented her new research project, which is at an early stage, and looks at the local particulars of militarization of the Finnish Arctic, especially with regards to NATO's increased presence in the region, and the theoretical concept of "militarized colonialism." She discussed that NATO exercises are taking place in areas marketed as "empty land", vast areas where there is no human presence. But this is untrue, there are actually Sami villages in certain areas and people had to leave and they are compensated. No training during the calving season in May and June – but this keeps happening in other areas. It is a very lucrative business for areas to be open for weapons testing. This also happens in Sami areas which is something that should be very carefully regulated. In Lapland Rovajarvi there are reindeer herding districts - and the reindeer learn to avoid pasture land where weapons have been used. Local communities used it for everyday activities and there is rich cultural history area and also very beautiful area

lots of water and forest. These groups living there are struggling as Finland is more and more in favor of military policy. Their experience is that there is lack of communication between them and the defense forces and a change of behavior since 2006 and they get more and more restricted on the time they are allowed to spend in their cottages in the region. It is important to remind that these are not empty areas. Because this means that the policies that are designed now will be really inadequate. These policies have to be subject to transparent discussion. Laura argued that it is important to build critical approaches to the militarization of land in Sami and Northern Finland - and focuses on the recent accession of Finland into NATO to explore this through three case studies: the VIDSEL Test Range in Sweden, the Rovajärvi Shooting Range in Finland, and a location in Norway. In explaining that "militarization" can be done in a variety of ways - from establishing military bases and training grounds to the building of other "permanent and temporary structures" - she explains that "Critical Arctic" and "Arctic/Circumpolar settler colonial studies" have not considered this process in a substantive way. To speculate on the potential impacts on the environment, indigenous and local communities in Northern Finland, she positions militarization as a contemporary colonial process. In public discourse, it is considered that colonialism has passed - but she argues that this concept is a useful way to understand what is happening now in the region. Militarization of the Arctic, in terms of space and the appropriation of land, air and water, includes an extension of military values - logics that impact society, economy, etc. Infrastructure, she says, is needed to support these activities. This is based, in large part, on the continuous understanding that the Arctic is terra nullius, empty space. In response, Lassi Heinonen brought up the social and environmental impacts of militarization in the Arctic, employing his own experience as one of the only scholars in the 1980s to research on the matter. This subject was something he was not allowed to mention. He continued, explaining that national security is the most fundamental issue of the state - it allows the state to use violence against its own citizens. Other questions revolved around the way militarization in Finland differs from other countries. This alone is not the most significant issue for reindeer herding but it adds pressure. This is nothing new it has been present universally. The relationship of the military and the environment is a very sensitive issue. Nature in this case is very important but of course different interests are involved and there is a conflict of interests. Who decides, how does he decide? Still this issue is sensitive today because the national security is the most important issue for a state. How hard must it be for the Sami to be an indigenous ethnic minority when already in Finland they are already involved into so many land disputes already? The audience stated that conflict of interest and conflict of rights exist in this case.

Jacob van Haaften: "Decolonized nature relatedness and indigenist mixed methods research design and implementation"

Starting out by positioning his own relationship to the work, his experiences as a child in this particular park, Jacob van Haaften positioned his project within environmental psychology, and particularly biophilia - both as a concept and a psych-metric tool, and within Indigenous Knowledges. His objective is to "understand the benefits of the nature connection more holistically, thereby promoting language translation between scholars, the public and governments." In his research, he employs a survey that creates a score

for someone's relationship to nature and how this connects to their well-being, someone's "nature-relatedness." He focused particularly on the nature connection of the Michi-Saagiig Anishinaabeg in order to "promote mutual flourishing in the academy and in a local First Nation community." He then articulated his presentation around two questions. First, how have historical and contemporary issues regarding land and nature affect Michi Saagiig? And second, how can we bring knowledge systems together to create more comprehensive and stronger relationships with nature? In order to interrogate these questions, he employed a mixed media methodology and, in discussing his relationship and interactions with the indigenous community he is working with, he explains how knowledge is relational. As part of his research methodology, he is facilitating research circles - where the researcher positions themselves in the conversation and brings their own knowledge to the table. In terms of his proposed academic and community benefits - he proposes this novel methodology construction, enhancing human-nature relationships, validating and expanding western measures in knowledge systems but within a lens of traditional knowledge. The discussion revolved around questions on the QR code proposed as a method to evaluate this relationship based on the metrics of quantification. Is it possible to capture different knowledge and language with this kind of tool? A second question asked about language - do the communities prefer "land" or "nature"? Van Haaften responded that all of the language in his project is subject to change based on the research process and he is interested in capturing the community's concepts. He finds it important to use the community's own terms and concepts. This is the starting point.

Overall, these presentations really interrogated the desire for interdisciplinarity and questioned what such collaboration would and should look like.

#### Session 4: "About Practicality & Ethics: How to Make Research Plan, Project Design, Fund-raising and Network-building?"

*14:30-16:30 at EALAT*

(Rapporteur: Tom Gabriel Royer)

- Zhanna Anshukova: Cross-Border Challenges in Arctic Research: The Differences of Ethical Reviews in Sweden, Norway, and Finland
- Discussion & brainstorming

First, Zhanna Anshukova, a PhD Researcher at the University of Lapland, provided an insightful overview of the ethical review processes and systems in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, which have become increasingly centralized. Zhanna raised an important question about the necessity of ethical assessments for researchers: while they are crucial for protecting participants, what benefits do researchers themselves derive from them?

In Finland, applications for ethical reviews are carefully evaluated by a committee, typically at the university level, such as within the University of Lapland. The committee

issues a decision accompanied by recommendations for improvements if needed. The process is free for researchers affiliated with universities, but there may be a fee for external applicants. It is worth noting that language-friendly resources, such as videos in Russian, are available.

In Norway, the National Research Ethics Committee is overseeing ethical considerations. There is a dedicated website, available both in both Norwegian and English (<https://www.forskningsetikk.no/>), which allows researchers to submit their applications. The Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (SIKT) offers resources on data management plans (DMPs), including phone-based guidance. However, these services are limited to students enrolled in Norwegian universities. For broader access, the website <https://sikt.no/en/home>, provided by SIKT, is available in both Norwegian and English too. In Sweden, researchers can use the website <https://etikprovningsmyndigheten.se/en/> for ethical reviews. The cost of an ethical review in Sweden ranges from approximately 500€ to 1600€ (5000-16000 SEK), and the response is typically provided within sixty days. The research project is registered upon approval, and any subsequent amendments incur a fee of approximately 200€ (2000 SEK). It is important to note that while the website is language-friendly, all annexes must be translated into Swedish. Zhanna emphasized that this requirement could potentially introduce issues, as translations may alter the meaning of sensitive words, and questionnaires may become unusable.

Overall, Zhanna's presentation shed light on the ethical review processes in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, providing valuable insights into the procedures and considerations involved.

Lassi Heininen, Emeritus Professor at the University of Lapland & Editor of Arctic Yearbook, chimed in, adding a thought-provoking comment regarding Zhanna's presentation, raising the question: "How ethical is it to charge when speaking about ethics?"

This was followed by a passionate discussion encompassing various aspects of ethics, and the scientific nature of research, particularly within the context of Arctic research.

At the beginning of the discussion, the topic of 'sensitive research' was brought up. Zhanna provided an example, mentioning her thesis on sexuality as a subject that could be considered sensitive.

Laura Junka-Aikio, Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Lapland (Global Northern Societies), highlighted the challenges posed by bureaucracy and data protection regulations. Marlene Payva, researcher at the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, emphasized that in Norway, ethical reviews were not mandatory in the field of social sciences, and she inquired about the situation in Sweden. Zhanna responded that in Sweden, with the decision usually resting with the researcher.

Serafima Andreeva, Junior Researcher at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway, clarified that despite the lack of ethical reviews in Norway, researchers still had to adhere to data protection requirements. For instance, they were not allowed to use their personal smartphones for conducting interviews. Zhanna acquiesced, mentioning that the same rules applied in Finland.

Larry Ibrahim Mohammed, PhD Research Fellow at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, provided clarification to the audience that the Norwegian Centre for Research Data (NSD) had transformed into SIKT as of last year.

Lassi then posed a question to the gathering, asking about the primary necessity when conducting an ethical review. Serafima and Tom responded with ‘independence’ and ‘transparency,’ respectively.

Lassi further questioned the audience, asking, ‘Is it better now that you can copy everything?’ The question of AI was then brought. Lassi stressed that research is centred around providing credit and building upon the knowledge of previous researchers. He also raised the point that ethics education for PhD students in the Nordics came at a later stage. He then asked the attendees to raise their hands if they had received a lecture on Ethics during their PhD studies.

Heather Nicol, Director of the School for the Study of Canada at Trent University, commented on the place of ethics in Canada, saying that values were central to the process, and that researchers needed a federal certificate before applying for an ethical review in Canada.

Laura Junka-Aikio raised an important point about cross-border Canada-Sápmi research, emphasizing that guidelines formulated in Canada cannot be imposed on the Sámi people.

#### · Discussion & brainstorming

After the discussion on Zhanna Anshukova’s presentation, Lassi raised an interesting question about whether the idea or the money comes first in a research project, with the audience unanimously agreeing that the idea takes precedence. Eleni Kavvatha, Research Officer at CReSPo (Centre of Research in Political Science, Brussels), emphasized the importance of genuine passion for the project, while Marlene Payva added that expanding knowledge on a specific issue is crucial. Lassi Heininen then pondered how many potentially great ideas have been turned away due to lack of funding. Laura Junka-Aikio mentioned the occasional lack of motivation but highlighted the joy of autonomy and independence. Llucia Mascorda-Cabre, PhD candidate at the University of Plymouth, chimed in, noting that the order of idea and money depends on the country or type of research, sometimes favouring money before the idea.

Shifting to another topic, Zhanna highlighted the challenge of articulating goals and values and stressed the importance of being ‘in truth’ in the Foucauldian sense, rather than necessarily ‘true’. Lassi intervened, stating that, in order to be ‘in truth’ in the eyes of funding foundations, it is often essential to shape grant applications according to the

vocabulary used in the specific call. Eleni argued that this alone is not sufficient, as luck also plays a role, with certain foundations showing preferences for specific nationalities or genders. Lassi agreed, jokingly referring to fundraising as a “lottery.”

This led to a discussion about whether the term “science” accurately describes the research activities conducted by the participants to the Calotte Academy. Heather Nicol posed a thought-provoking question, asking who actually does science. Lassi responded that the Finnish word “tiede” accurately encompasses science. Lassi then suggested the need to clarify what science truly is, directing the question to Heather and emphasizing that it mostly refers to Western science.

Laura Junka-Aikio argued that science represents “proper knowledge,” so they are indeed conducting science but in their own terms, as there is no absolute truth. Lassi then questioned whether independent knowledge qualifies as research. Jacob van Haaften, from Trent University, kindly retorted, “define research!” According to Laura, the answer to Lassi’s question is positive, but she wondered if it was the most relevant question in this context. Lassi argued that it is crucial because there are instances where questioning is restricted to avoid conflicting with national conceptions, for example national security. Laura contended that funding organizations like to take risks, citing the example of “Nordic colonialism” becoming a trendy concept for securing funding. This led to a discussion between Laura and Heather on the fulfilment of all the criteria set by funding foundations.

#### Session 5: “A Personal Account on Reindeer Herding in Sapmi”

*19:00-20:30 at UiT Alta Campus: Building 3, Room A105*

- Reindeer herder Aslat Heandarát Eira & Advisor at Alta municipal planning and development office Ingrid H. Fredriksen

(Rapporteur: Jakub Wambach, Marie Crikova)

#### The Finnmark Act and Finnmark Estate, Jan Olli

On the beginning of this session, we heard a few words from Jan Olli about the recognition of the land rights for the indigenous people of Sami in Finnmark. For theoretical base we heard a lot of facts about Finnmark, its land size and inhabitants. After this we discussed the Finnmark act, how it affected the Sami people and the meaning of state ownership of the land. We went through the history of land owning and all the problematics that comes with it. Should the land be in hands of the government or the indigenous people? In this session the topic of migration was opened in the discussion and the problematics that young people do not want to stay in this far north areas and are leaving in more urban dense areas. And the presentation was ended with a big question and that is if indigenous people can live a modern life and still have still have their origin within them. The main question in the discussion was if there are some Sami knowledge keepers, people who are keeping the traditions alive. There are some people who keeps the traditions, but it varies from area to area, not many people are actually speaking Sami

and one of the solutions could be to enforce the language and create identity so the Sami people would be heard. In some places the culture vanished or is on very low level.

A personal Account on Reindeer Herding in Sapmi, Aslat Heandarar and Ingrid H.Fredriksen

After the first presentation we smoothly went to the topic of Reindeer herding and how it works in practice and the information were distributed directly from one of the reindeer herders Aslat. They showed us a map showing complexity of reindeer herding in Finnmark region. The map can be found on [kilden.nibio.no](http://kilden.nibio.no) and indicate the regions in which the reindeers are mobile and from where to where they travel. Each reindeer herder needs to mark their reindeers every year so everybody knows to whom they belong. There were questions if there were attempts to industrialize reindeer herding but the answer was that it is still very traditional craft and that there is a lot of ways how indigenous people are organizing the area but there were no attempts to industrialize the craft on a full scale. Another question was on the activities of the reindeer herders, what are they doing throughout the year. In summer the reindeers are as said "on vacation" so they are not going so far and the need to observe them every day is not necessary. On the other hand, in the winter the reindeer herders need to herd every day. They need to herd the reindeers at one place. One of the last discussed questions was more psychological and was about the society attitude. Aslat thinks that people from the south know very little about the reindeer herding and how it actually works, and it feels very exotic for them but people in north have a lot of respect for reindeer herders, but some people dislike that reindeer herders have different rights than them. Last question was on Ingrid and the question was about whether gender matters in reindeer herding. Reindeer herding is more of a male organized activity. Women join the herding, but it is very tough and difficult. Sometimes herders stay in freezing and dangerous conditions outside for a long period of time and not many women want to even do that. Women rather go get an education somewhere in the south and not go back. More and more men are doing the same because getting education and well paid job is more profitable and easier than for youngsters to herd the reindeers. People really need to have interest in it and be raised by the family to be a reindeer herder from the beginning.

## Wednesday, 14 June in Alta

Session 5: "Smart Specialisation, De-colonising Tourism and Sami Governance"  
*09:30-11:30 at UiT, Campus Alta*

- Opening address by Prof. Urban Wråkberg, Northern Studies Research group of UiT Alta
- Sveinung Eikeland: Smart Specialisation for the achievement of SDGs in European Arctic regions
- Peter Haugseth: Sàmi electoral system and cultural revitalization processes: Some consequences of inclusion/exclusion

(Rapporteur: Jakub Wambach, Marie Crikova)

In this session we heard some welcoming words from the officials of Research group of UiT Alta which focuses on Northern studies. We were introduced to research topics and some connections with education. There were discussions about reevaluation of the relationship between Norway and Russia as one of the key things to strategical development. In this first session there were issued many problems connected to the northern part of Scandinavia one of them the energy crisis but also climate crisis and the inconvenient population decline. UiT wants to fight these problems and they will do so according to new strategy which points out three areas of focus that will solve major societal and development challenges. One of the applications of the strategy is restructuring of study programs and subject portfolio. The government play a vital role in the restructuration to they know that they need to do more economical incentives and that there are three areas in which there are weaknesses. That is a need to educate more health professionals, computer scientist, and people with visions to a shift to a sustainability.

Sveinung Eikeland: Combining Regional Innovations Strategies and Global Sustainable goals – An arctic way?

Sveinung Eikeland was talking about his report he created for European commission about mining innovation strategies in arctic and sustainable goals. The UN sustainable development goal agenda 2030 was mentioned same as European green deal and EU partnership for regional innovation. We learned how Europe work from the administrative perspective and how we divide it into the regions. The regions we divide Europe into are called NUTS and it is a system of dividing Europe into territories, categorizing them and putting similar regions together. Regionalization is the key part in innovating Europe, and we cannot just think about the front runners and the high developed parts of Europe. The keyword for Europe is leave nobody behind and we are talking here about the not so developed regions that are struggling with their growth. It is important to find these regions, describe them and comprehensively help them. Sveinung said that there is need

to find synergies on regional level in Northern Norwegian regions as they face many local challenges as Lack of batterie and electrical outlets, bottle necks in coastal zone, waste from process industry and enormous energy use in steel production.

Frida Marie Omma Jorgensen: Traditional and Local Ecological Knowledge in nature-based tourism: A toll for sustainable futures?

This presentation was all about sustainable tourism and if there even is such a thing. Frida was mainly aiming on conceptual framework of nature to local guides. She emphasized on travelling with care towards the land and sea and doing so with ethics. People should be careful towards heritage of the place they visit and should not make any harm to the area – geological or archeological. But to do so guides need to have a good knowledge of the place.

Peter Haugseth: Sami electoral system and cultural revitalization processes: Some consequences processes of inclusion/exclusion

In this session we discussed who the Sami actually are. Do they need indigenous background, or do they need to live the way of Sami to be Sami? Can we describe Sami based on various aspects? The most important and most convincing answer is when somebody says, “I consider myself Sami”. Am I a real Sami? Am I Sami enough? Many questions related to Sami which are based on a subjective personal definition. There are also a various regional language differences and each group has its own unique knowledge to the region. So, are we different Sami? Peter says that scattered population of Sami had actually gradually developed into collective self-understanding. So the answer if you are a Sami is based on a personal identification of being Sami.

Sessions 6: “Marine Environment & Climate”  
*12:30-14:30 at UiT, Campus Alta*

- Auni Haapala: Making an Arctic city: urban (in)visibilities of global fisheries in Tromsø, Norway
- Llucia Mascorda-Cabre: Offshore shellfish aquaculture: sustainable protein while enhancing marine biodiversity - A Brexit case study and how lack of cooperation and political will can influence food security
- Anna Margarete Pluschke: The Arctic Council – Ready to tackle the balance between marine environmental protection and the impacts of climate change?
- Serafima Andreeva: Clearing the Air: Understanding the Use of Knowledge on Black Carbon through the Arctic Council in Norway and Canada

(Rapporteur: Jacob van Haaften, Owen James Harrison)

Session 6 began on a sunny afternoon at UiT in Alta. With topics ranging from the current state of the Arctic Council to novel aquaculture practices that promote conservation, it was a truly interdisciplinary day of inquiry and conversation.

Our first presenter, Auni Haapala, shared research on the many intersections between politics, culture, and modernism in the Tromsø fisheries in Northern Norway. Haapala provided context for her PhD research by comparing Tromsø fisheries to the Kiruna mine we visited as group on this trip. Like the mine, the Tromsø fisheries are excellent examples of extractivist practices promoting the flourishing of a city and community. Haapala's research involved interviews with key informants, casual conversations with other citizens and extensive document review and archival research. In the work she found several common narratives among Tromsø locals. One of these narratives was that the fishing industry is part of the past. This is supported by the fact that the fisheries are appearing in smaller quantities, with smaller fishing ships being replaced by larger freights. Additionally, the processing of fish has virtually left the city of Tromsø further creating an appearance that the fishing industry is not present.

During the discussion Haapala was asked some interesting questions regarding her research. In her presentation, Haapala mentioned that these large-scale fisheries appeared greener. Someone brought up that the larger boats are often much more detrimental to the environment and participate in borderline illegal practices. Haapala responded that the research regarding the larger fisheries being greener was referring to the energy consumption within Tromsø rather than the environmental effects of the ships in the Ocean. This is another narrative Haapala discovered during her research: the idea that greener practices only matter to the city in which you reside, not the rest of the world. Another interesting point of discussion was the desire for Tromsø to be recognized as an urban city. There were a few questions surrounding this topic and the overarching answer was that the citizens see the process of urbanization as a positive move towards promoting more sustainable futures. The issue with this is that the large fishing companies will be able to control the narratives regarding the sustainability of their practice which could result in misleading information about how sustainably these companies operate. Additionally, it removes the smaller fishing companies from the picture. These companies have been advocating for their sustainability practices with proof that they are greener than the large companies, but these voices are being ignored.

The second presenter of the session was Anna Margarete Pluschke. Her work focuses on evaluating whether the Arctic Council is up to the task of managing environmental pollution as emissions are rising and sea ice is melting at rapid rates. The emissions Pluschke is focusing on are solely land-based emissions and the environmental impact they have. After providing a brief overview of the history of the Arctic Council, Pluschke began evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the organization. Some of the identified weaknesses are the lack of funding and the low level of participation from sub-national members. There was one characteristic of the Arctic Council which serves as both a strength and a weakness and that is the fact that they are not an International Organization. This means that they have no legal binding to the agreements that are made. While this could be seen as a negative, Pluschke identifies this characteristic as a positive as soft law can provide pressure that pushes governments

to adopt hard law. Going forward, Pluschke identifies that the Arctic Council must encourage more participation from non-state actors, increase the inclusion of subnational members, and to focus on Arctic Environmental concerns as they are of common interest for all Arctic Council members.

The discussion generated from this presentation surrounded the possibility of the Arctic Council's survival and its ability to make a difference in the Arctic. One of the first questions was asking for more clarification surrounding the strengths and weaknesses of soft law developed by the Arctic Council. Pluschke maintained that the soft law agreements made in the Arctic Council will be crucial in ensuring the climate crisis as it will add pressure to the states to implement hard law. The main concern is that there are no consequences to a state that does not commit to the soft law agreement. As the discussion continued it was brought up that much of the legal binding that holds the arctic council together has been made behind closed doors. A prime example of this being the Polar Bear Agreement. This information provides insight into the importance of relationships between the members of the Arctic Council. By establishing strong working relationships between members, soft law holds more weight as members who are not following the directive will feel harsh pressure from their peers who are following the directive.

Herein lies a large issue regarding the current geo-political situation in the European Arctic: Russia is extremely limited in its participation with the Arctic Council. Despite the Russian delegates expressing interest in continued participation in the Arctic Council, the relationship is strained as the closed-door meetings are increasingly difficult to participate in. Considering how important these relationships are in maintaining the Arctic Council and holding all members accountable, the limits on Russia's participation could prove detrimental to the efficacy of the Arctic Council moving forward. Again, with the geo-political situation in mind, it is becoming exceedingly difficult to find common interests on which the Arctic Council can focus. Towards the end of the discussion a question was raised regarding the efficacy of the Arctic Council in implementing and enforcing preventative measures to combat the climate crisis. Following Pulschke's research should provide the answer to this question as her research is ongoing.

Our third presentation was delivered by Serafima Andreeva who compared the Canadian and Norwegian scientific knowledge on black carbon emissions. The presentation began by explaining black carbon and the dangers it poses to the arctic climate, human, and animal life. It is a tiny molecule, PM2.5 in size, which is smaller than a blood cell, and lives for 12 days. Despite its short life span, black carbon contributes to one third of the arctic warming due to local emissions. The reason for this is when it lands on snow and ice, it turns it black and prevents the ability for the ground to reflect the sun rays. The Arctic Council has two task forces who are focused on the effects of black carbon with the focus being on the human health risks rather than the climate change effects. Both Canada and Norway are participants in these task forces and have a similar history of pushing for environmental concerns. The main difference is Canada has reportedly used Indigenous knowledges to shape their understanding of environmental damage.

One of the first questions during the discussion period was about how Canada is using Indigenous knowledges to help shape their understanding. Andreeva revealed that there are Indigenous people who hold roles in advisory positions. The issue that they are facing right now is navigating how they can reduce Black Carbon emissions in the Canadian Arctic because the infrastructure relies so heavily on diesel fuel. The discussion period also focused on the survival of the Arctic Council and specifically on Norway's plans after taking the lead from Russia. The general feeling was uncertainty regarding the role Russia will be able to play in the Arctic council right now. Although, it was noted by Andreeva that the leadership transition from Russia to Norway was very smooth as it was in both countries' best interests. This demonstrates that the members in the Russian Arctic council express an interest in the work that the Arctic council is doing. The discussion ended with an interesting point about how many countries do not always implement the recommendations by the Arctic council which was then followed by a comment on the importance of non-governmental bodies to put pressure on their governments to implement the recommendations. Andreeva responded to these points with a hopeful explanation that there are such conversations taking place from individuals in Russia. Her hope is that these individuals may form an organization that can assert their position and put more pressure on Russia to follow the recommendations made by the Arctic council.

The final presentation of the session was delivered by Llucia Mascorda-Cabre who shared her case study on shellfish aquaculture off the coast of the United Kingdom and the impacts cooperation has on food security. Mascorda-Cabre began her presentation by explaining how the shellfish aquaculture project she was working on created a sustainable source of protein and enhanced the marine environment. This statement is not true for all forms of aquaculture, as when we think of aquaculture, we often think of mass fish farms that have huge negative consequences on the marine environment. Instead, the aquaculture project which Mascorda-Cabre presented on was a small scale, lightly monitored area which after seven years saw the return of coral, increased fish activity, and an increase in plankton. The second portion of the presentation focused on the impacts of Brexit on the UK's fishing economy. Prior to leaving the European Union, the UK exported approximately 90% of their fish to European countries. Brexit has damaged the trade system that existed prior, and there is a lack of cooperation between the UK and the EU in working to reestablish a positive trading relationship.

In the discussion period, Mascorda-Cabre was asked if the Common Fisheries Policies were a valid reason for the UK to leave the EU. The response to this was dependant on what new policies the UK develops. As of right now, they have yet to establish any new fishing policies. A follow-up question about when the UK will be able to develop their policies was asked and the answer was again uncertain. Once the UK has developed the data, then they can move forward with creating policies. Unfortunately, it could be decades before enough data is compiled. A couple questions about aquaculture itself were asked. These questions were, are there other places where muscle farms exist? And are there similar farms that use different species? The answers are that there are muscle farms off the coasts of Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, and China. The industry is still very young but is growing in popularity in coastal regions. There are other aquaculture farms that grow kelp and seaweeds but none that raise fish as of

right now. Another point of discussion was examining the international legal frameworks that exist surrounding fishing. Mascorda-Cabre explained that fishing is easy, but aquaculture requires a lot of preliminary planning. Additionally, there are management challenges due to there being multiple stakeholders and disputes over who owns the seabed. There is also more research required to prove that this form of aquaculture is safe and beneficial.

Overall, the presentations in this session demonstrated many different issues at play when it comes to marine environmental conservation. The solutions to these problems lie in international efforts to reduce emissions of pollutants into the ground, air, and water. As well as a global effort to move towards more sustainable methods of using the resources the Oceans provide us with.

### Excursion 3: The Alta Dam... or not!

15:00-17:30

Our original plan was to explore the captivating Alta Dam, but sometimes life takes you on unexpected detours. Turns out, our trusty bus was a tad too long for the length restrictions of the road leading to the dam. But hey, adventure beckoned, and we embraced the change with open hearts! Our impromptu route led us to the Norwegian-Russian border instead. The thrill of reaching the border was immense! Some even ventured into the small souvenir shop filled with Matrioshki, miniature Lada cars, postcards, stamps, and many other Russian marvels!

## **Thursday, 15 June in Kirkenes**

### Session 7: “Non-state Actors & Regionalization”

09:00-12:30 at *Barents Institute*

- Victoria V. Tevlina: Welcoming words & about the book project “From Northeast Passage to Northern Sea Route. A history of the waterway North of Eurasia”
- Jakub Wambach & Marie Crikova: Cross-border cooperation in the North Calotte Region: observing and application of the approaches to Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa
- Alma Karabeg: Non-state actors in the Arctic – research institutes on the multi-level governance scene
- Tatiana Petrova: Bridging youth and regional development through a dialogue

- Gleb Yarovoy: When a dream does not come true. Re-interpreting regional cooperation in the Euro-Arctic Rim

(Rapporteurs: Heidi Pietarinen and Amna Qureshi)

Victoria V. Tevlina: Welcoming words & about the book project From Northeast Passage to Northern Sea Route: A history of the Waterway North of Eurasia (slide show incl. text and illustration)

Introduction of the topic:

Victoria Tevlina welcoming words from the Barents Institute (founded 2006), staff 7 people, part of the UiT – The Arctic University of Norway (Faculty of Humanities, social sciences and Education). Bask is made up of a number of tasks, i.e. research (interdisciplinary research, development of arctic region, border areas in different countries as a sort of “inviting” context).

Since 2006, the Barents Institute has undertaken approximately 35 projects. These projects have focused on publishing books in various languages and organizing multiple conferences each year, including in countries such as Norway, Sweden, and Russia. Among the most significant events are the Christmas seminar in Oslo and the Cross-Border seminars, as noted by Tevlina.

Tevlina is involved in two significant projects. The first one is the book project entitled "From Northeast Passage to Northern Sea Route: A History of the Waterway North of Eurasia (2022)"<sup>1</sup> with Volume Editors Jens Petter Nielsen and Edwin Okhuizen, and scientific coordinator Victoria Tevlina. The second one is the international Northern Sea Route Programme (1993-1999), which involved institutions in Russia, Japan, and Norway, led by Fridtof Nansen Institute in Oslo.

The book titled "From Northeast Passage to Northern Sea Route: A History of the Waterway North of Eurasia" was a collaborative effort between Norway, Sweden, the USA, Netherlands, the UK, and approximately 110 institutions and organizations (additional details can be found in a slide show).

This book contains 73 illustrations, including paintings by famous artists such as A.A. Borison. Borison's paintings capture the essence of the northern landscape and the daily lives of people living in the Arctic, while other artists may focus on big cities. These illustrations also highlight the importance of the northern route for various countries and cultures. Its portrayal emphasizes its international and multicultural significance.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/226364207\\_History\\_of\\_the\\_Northern\\_Sea\\_Route](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/226364207_History_of_the_Northern_Sea_Route)

## Questions and discussions:

The book has widened our understanding of how sea routes have developed over the years. It highlights the crucial importance of cooperation in the Barents area. The publishing process was a learning experience that raised questions and inspired new research ideas, such as exploring the development of urban areas, translating the book into other languages (like Russian), expanding the illustrations, and even considering publishing a book about maps. The book demonstrates how the history of circumpolar research remains relevant to this day.

The Barents Institute aims to maintain its publication of books in multiple languages, foster connections with diverse scholars, and expand cooperation in various fields pertaining to northern regions. Specifically, they prioritize discussions on climate change, including its impact on sea ice and port areas, and strive to find effective solutions along the Northern Sea Route.

Jakub Wambach & Marie Crikova: Cross-border cooperation in the North Calotte Regional observing and application of the approaches to Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa

## Introduction of the topic:

Masters students from university CZ. Exploring another cross-border region in Europe. Although there are differences between distant regions, there are also similarities in terms of cross-border challenges and benchmarking. Efforts are being made to enhance collaboration in the Neisse-Nisa-Nysa region. A comparative approach has been adopted for this research. The idea is to improve the strategies.

## Approach (Cross-border cooperation):

In geographical terms, the border areas are considered peripheral regions with smaller and sometimes overlooked centres in comparison to the capital cities that are located at a distance. Hence, the primary goal is to unite historically divided regions and resolve any conflicts present. "We are not defined by our borders but our bonds." (Obama, 20XX). The relationship between borders can foster cooperation. They can establish a stronger connection by getting to know each other better as neighbours. The identity of the border areas is defined by the people using it. How can you explain what euro regions are? The definition is quite complex as there is no clear-cut explanation. Currently, there are 214 euro regions, 13 of which are situated near the borders of CZ. Additionally, the status of each region differs. In essence, it may be more beneficial to view them as frontiers instead of strict boundaries.

## Challenges:

The presenter's bachelor thesis focused on cross-border cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic, as travel restrictions hindered movement across borders. Navigating the post-pandemic world is a complex matter. During the height of the COVID-19 outbreak, cooperation was at an all-time high. However, a major issue was the regional approach, with open discussions about who was in and out causing divisions within

Europe. Different crises had occurred within the continent over the past few years, leading to a divided Europe. The commuting solution also faced setbacks, with companies and academics suffering due to the pandemic. Poor border situations added to the challenges faced during this time.

Possible solutions:

A solution was presented but was never heard. The focus has shifted entirely to the war, with COVID being largely forgotten.

Questions and Discussions:

1. Regarding immigration and its impact on cross-border business relationships, how do you envision a sustainable future? Do you have any recommendations to share?  
Answer: The Euro region has a non-profit project available for developing business infrastructure.

2. Did you notice any changes in the company's attitudes during the pandemic?  
Answer: Many companies made face masks, but not enough. However, one university developed a Nano mask. Unfortunately, the government did not purchase the Nano masks and instead opted to buy from China. The trade was only focused on masks.

3. Do you know of any possible multilingual or educational lessons for this?  
Answer: The regions of Slovakia, Poland, and the Czech Republic are interconnected on a smaller scale due to their shared language.

4. What are the theoretical grounds of your presentation?  
Answer: During the COVID pandemic, there was a shift in cross-border effectiveness, with states taking a backstep and regions taking charge. However, as the pandemic recedes, we are returning to a previous state of affairs.

5. How do you perceive Ukraine in this current time and era?  
Answer: CZ has already been providing assistance to Ukraine, as they share a common identity and do not recognize the need for borders.

Alma Karabeg: Non-state actors in the Arctic – research institutes on the multi-level governance scene (slide show incl. text and illustration)

Introduction of the topic:

At the start of her talk, Alma Karabeg, a veteran of Calotte Academy, gave a brief overview of her topic. She discussed science diplomacy, which involves using dialogue, negotiation, and representation in international relations (Ruffini 2017). She explained that science connects two policy domains of foreign affairs and science policy (Leijten 2017), and that researchers' agendas are focused on current social and economic challenges. This is in line with the Polar Activities Promotion Act enacted in 2021.

The Korean Polar Research Institute (KOPRI) has been playing a crucial role in supporting the government's policy development and conducting polar research. While the Northern Sea Route is not the top priority due to geopolitical situations and the laws

governing the route, experts in the Republic of Korea have formed their own KOLAC network and are moving in different directions. The Korean expertise is valuable for collaborative projects, however, many of their joint ventures with Russia are currently on hold, and individual collaborations across borders remain challenging.

Utilizing science diplomacy is crucial in addressing shared challenges, and the Republic of Korea and other actors are actively promoting international scientific collaboration through this approach. In conclusion, Karabeg emphasizes the need for a comprehensive understanding of science diplomacy as a valuable tool during times of geopolitical instability.

Questions and discussions:

The government of the Republic of Korea is sharing details about their upcoming research, with a focus on science. They are emphasizing the significance of environmental concerns, particularly those affecting inhabitants of the Arctic and climate issues. This research appears to be a step towards exploring economic opportunities in the Arctic, in line with other countries like Japan, China, and India. It is important to remember both the Arctic and Antarctica in these discussions.

Tatiana Petrova: Bridging Youth and regional development through a Dialogue

Introduction of the topic:

To provide insight on connecting youth and regional development. A presenter, who also serves as a project specialist, explained the Kainuu region. The project, which is supported by Interregaurora from the EU, aims to provide a platform for youth to participate in regional development. The inspiration for this project came from the challenges faced by remote regions and demographics.

Framework used:

Ladder of youth participation by Roger Hart.

1. manipulation
2. decoration
3. participation
4. young people in front
5. adult guide them
6. adult's initiative and joint decision

Methods:

Recently, a webinar was conducted on a theoretical topic. Some participants expressed their inability to actively participate but requested to be involved in decision-making processes. The webinar covered the use of the iceberg example to discuss trust, openness, equality, and honesty, along with the timeout method for dialogues. The latter involved the implementation of six ground rules.

Plan for the future:

A project application is in process

Questions and Discussions:

1. The presenter was shown appreciation and extended an offer to collaborate by someone in the audience.

2. What are your further ideas and where it is taking you?

Answer: Answer was vague

3. Let's establish a connection between research and community by taking a hands-on approach to learning. But are you currently storing data, and if so, how do you ensure proper follow-up?

Answer: Through the use of indicators, we can gain insight and understanding.

4. Can you provide information on the potential for cross-border activities between Russia and Norway?

Answer: It does not seem to be happening now. The presenter was not sure!

5. do you have in general an idea why younger people are leaving?

Answer: We have collaborated with the Russians on several projects, but now we are exploring opportunities to work with other neighbouring countries.

6. Why Italy? is that a substitution for Russia?

Answer: Due to the lead partner's strong networks.

Gleb Yarovoy: When a dream does not come true. Re-interpreting regional cooperation in the Euro-Arctic Rim (slide show incl. text and illustration)

Introduction of the topic:

Gleb Yarovoy's PhD research delves into the interpretation of cross-border cooperation throughout history. His work marks one of the pioneering books in this field. In 1998, Käkönen and Heininen raised questions about the sufficient factors to make the European circumpolar north a region and how horizontal cooperation affects political and economic geography, as well as theories of international politics.

Various hypotheses and theories emerged during that era, including regionalism, decentralization, regional cooperation, spill-over, and soft security. The Cold War was forgotten as money from different sources, including the EU, appeared to be effective. While there were disagreements on several issues, there was a consensus on the importance of Barents cooperation.

The Euregio Karelia strategy for 2021-2027 focused on promoting high-quality education and research, but unfortunately, it was not successfully implemented. This was likely due to the emergence of a new cold war, sparked by Putin's regime invasion of Ukraine. The situation in the Russian Barents serves as a clear example of this.

- ... but did not come true: *Komi governor Uiba*
- ... but did not come true: *NARFU rector Kudryashova*

- ... but did not come true: *Sami from Murmansk*
- ... but did not come true: *Karelian governor Parfenchikov avoided saying Finland (...looting of resources and huge social problems... to keep their no-colonial system.)*

There is a need for re-interpretation, as discussed in Scott's 1986 work on subaltern studies and the search for "hidden transcripts." It begs the question as to why former CBC actors would agree to the abolition of the EU-Russian CBC. Could it be due to a methodology and hypothesis based on subaltern studies? Or is it a result of a colliding neo-colonial project?

#### Questions and Discussions:

1. What are the factors or preconditions to do this research? we have to recognize non-stake actors as real actors, then how to find something new?  
Answer: yes and no mixed feelings about the unified state system. Based on the states it does not provide all the answers. EU can be as colonisers as the states.

2. Better infrastructure on border crossing. but there are many pros and cons with high expectations. there was trust on a regional level. it has to have high aims in circumstances to adapt to new situations.

3. How the lack of trust is affecting the collaboration among the stake structures across borders?

Answer: Still some trust remains. But trying to look for it how to approach it in a more scientific way.

4. Suppress para diplomacy

Answer: it's a vision.

#### Visiting townhall of Kirkenes

13.00-14.00

(Rapporteur: Michaela Louise Coote)

Located in the East of Finnmark, Sør-Varanger is the only county in Norway with three neighbouring counties and therefore they have 3 nations meeting (Norway, Russia and Finland) and 3 border rivers. Sør-Varanger is the second largest power producer in Troms og Finnmark county having four hydroelectric power plants. 5500 people live in the town of Kirkenes which is the administrative centre for Sør-Varanger and the other 4500 people live in the surrounding areas. The town of Kirkenes has about 70 children born each year but the town has about 70 people leaving therefore the town is not growing. In 2015, there was a big increase in the population as the mine started working again. The mine has a very big impact on the municipality. In the past ten years the population has roughly halved. The majority of the population are of working age although there are more and

more elderly people. The municipality therefore needs to meet the needs of the ageing population. There is education in Kirkenes which reaches to masters level including in



(Photo: Tatiana Petrova)

engineering, economy, nursing, teaching and organisation and leadership. There will be new courses soon in energy and security studies. Sør-Varanger is trying to diversify their business sectors - especially in the tourism, fishing and service industries. Currently, the municipality are in a financial deficit - spending more than they are getting in. The most expenses are put into sports buildings and sports facilities to make good

conditions for the inhabitants (especially the young ones). Schools and healthcare make up a lot of the expenses. There are not enough healthcare staff in Sør-Varanger so they have to be rented from other counties which is very expensive. Sør-Varanger is located between Finland and Russia with strong cooperation in the environment, business and culture. Russia is still an important trading partner for the local municipality. Many local businesses rely on trade as Russian travellers were spending 1 million NOK a year on tourism. Therefore the closing of the border is severe for the community. EU sanctions are in place and for Sor Varanger the local businesses are suffering. The sanctions include restrictions on trade, finance and travel. The municipality sees a very large reduction in the number of Russian tourists in the municipality and therefore trade is reduced, if not eliminated. The shipyard in Sør-Varanger is not allowed to fix Russian boats any more. Sør-Varanger could possibly lose 200 workplaces because of that. Dan Robert explains: "The cross border cooperation that we had: no longer exists'. Nothing Hill (a disused hospital) has been bought by investors in order to be transferred to an innovation and student campus. The vision is to increase talent density in the Arctic focusing on the triple E approach (education, entrepreneurship and entertainment). The project was created due to the municipality's strategic location and to encourage people to stay in the area. Reopening the mine has also been considered as a potential option and there is some plan to open the mine again in three years. The Northern Sea Route may provide opportunities. Sør-Varanger used to be the only NATO border with Russia but now Finland has joined NATO, they are a large border too. There could be cross border cooperation collaborations with Finland regarding NATO activities now that Finland has joined NATO. Dan Robert presents a difficult situation for Sør-Varanger municipality due to an ageing and declining workforce, high expenses, energy deficit and the issues associated with the war in Russia. Although there seems to be some

pessimism about the future, there is some hope that the situation will be resolved particularly through tourism development and education. In addition, Nothing Hill will hopefully motivate people to be entrepreneurs moving the municipality in the needed direction.

### Session 8: “Unveiling Truth in the Face of Censorship: (Cross-Border) Journalism in the European North”

*14:00-16:00 at Barents Institute*

- Anna Jarovaja: Independent Russian journalism in the North - is there life after death?
- Thomas Nilsen & Alte Stålesen: Cross-border journalism from Kirkenes in times of censorship
- Georgy Chentemirov: The Journalist Union of [Russian] Karelia: free journalism in a restrictive state

(Rapporteur: Marlene Payva, Virga Popovaitė)

Anna Jarovaja: Independent Russian journalism in the North - is there life after death?

Anna started her presentation by introducing her career as a journalist in a local TV channel in Russia (2007) and then as a reporter and independent journalist of a website. She left Russia in 2017 and currently lives and works in Finland. She joined a website project, ‘Freedom in Russia’ but she wanted to focus on her integration into Finland so she quit. However, she still sometimes writes as a freelancer.

Anna presented the changing situation of journalism in Russia. Since 2022 the availability of media sources in Russia has deteriorated rapidly, with censoring, banning, and labelling media sources as foreign agents. Reacting to this crack down, circa 500 journalists have fled Russia and 30 + media outlets relocated abroad. How did this come to be like so? It all started with Putin’s decision in 2004 to restructure the NTV channel, setting off a new era of censorship. The claw has tightened since then by killing off journalists stepping on Putin’s toes. For example, Anna Politkovskaya, who critically inquired about Chechnya and Putin (2006). With the annexation of Crimea in 2014, and the beginning of the “small scale” war, freedom of the press has continuously deteriorated. In 2017, the foreign agent (FA) law in Russia was expanded. After the war escalation in 2022 02 24, large numbers of journalists and media outlets relocated abroad. The journalists move all over the world, facing difficulties related to border crossing and visa. Some larger clusters are in Riga, Latvia, and Vilnius, Lithuania, there is also a big Russian media hub in Germany. Despite the pressure, some journalists are

still working in Russia. There are also foreign NGOs helping out with, for example, relocation of the journalists, etc.

Q and A session:

- How do Russian journalists communicate/coordinate? – They move to social media because Russian journalists do not trust Russian networks.
- The people in Russia – they have to know they are not getting access to information/ How are they reacting? Those who understand, they use VPN, some projects moved to social media, other channels. But those who believe, they do not care. They are happy not to trust the foreign agents.
- What happens if you are considered an FA in Russia? There are some... some rules, according to that you have to put a disclaimer before each post in your social media. "This material was created by ... FA and something". You have to put that also in front of every personal post.
- If a journalists is declared to be an FA and comes to the EU, do they receive any relocation help? Yes, for example, the first five people in Russia to be called the FA, they received help – one of them now lives in the US. But with more people getting the status, there is not so much of help. Other help from abroad entails project funding, for example, to get journalists from Finland and Russia together.
- How well the other media is balanced? From the Western side we might not be getting all the colours of the picture. Do you feel that? It is a big discussion among Russian exiles in Europe. They cannot go to Russia, most of them. And they cannot read of report about the places where they do not have an access. For foreign journalists it is like a double trouble nowadays – you should live in Russia for a while to understand what is happening in the country.

Thomas Nilsen & Alte Stålesen: Cross-border journalism from Kirkenes in times of censorship

Alte and Thomas presented the Barents Observer (BO) as the cross-border journalism example. Some of the key points: BO started in 2002 as a journalist owned initiative, in a kitchen. To this day it remains a journalist owned newspaper. In 20 years there were some key points. In 2005, the BO was invited to the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, a part of which they were until 2015. This was a period of great bilateral relation development, with belief in cooperation, business, etc. Had top politicians visiting the town. Then things changed. It was a gradual change, but the 2014 was dramatic – the annexation of Crimea and war in Donbass. Events affected relations up here as well, making it hard for journalists to work in a state institution. Russian authorities tried to influence what stories should the BO do on Russia. Since it was impossible to do an independent journalism, the BO parted ways with the Secretariat. In 2016, Thomas was banned from entering Russia as a persona non-grata, and in 2019 the BO was blocked in Russia, leaving the news outlet with no direct access to the people. They had to be creative to circumvent this situation. In 2022, the BO received a letter from a general prosecutor of Russia, requesting that BO close down. Not being able to travel to Russia challenges writing about its everyday live, but is not impossible.

Q and A session:

- How it could happen so that media in 2015 was owned by Norwegian regional authorities, and was banned from doing independent journalism with an input from Russian officials? What is the interplay here? The background is complex. The owners of the Barents Secretariat are the Northernmost regions in Norway, in close cooperation between politicians of Norway and Russia. There might have been some signals from Russian side that the BO was not writing enough positive stories. They do not know.
- Lots of history, struggles.. but why not to look to other parts of the circumpolar? To connect with other agencies in the west? For the last 10 years the BO has been part of a wider network. But the core of the reporting is the Russian and Norwegian Arctic because it is the border region. It is impossible to look at the Arctic and not look at Russia. There are many things happening of global importance, which are important to know about.
- Do you have any access to the news in Russia? If you have restricted access, how are you sure it is accurate what you are reporting? We do have access, Russians still have access to internet. The best tool are the colleagues from Russia working in Kirkenes, with access to the locals. They know whom to trust, have networks. It is hard, but still possible, as long as people are crossing the border, telephones and internet are working. And with checking the sources always.
- Media now is full of demonising stories about Russia, aiming to dehumanise their society. How do you relate your vision to polarisation and demonisation? The world is dark, these overall news headlines. But there are good things happening. Like the story with the Northernmost SAR mission with Norway and Russia. It is a very good question. In many stories the BO humanises the people, and talks about the people who actually stand up tall against the war and end up with huge problems. It is a way of showing Russia is a big country, and it is not a black and white situation.
- Do you involve experts in commentary? It is a challenge, because officials and academic experts do not always want to give an interview, quoted by names or etc. Officials have the legal right to deny the comments.
- Why the BO has a lot of attention from Russia? Because we are in this corner of Europe, informing for Russians in Russia.

Georgy Chentemirov: The Journalist Union of [Russian] Karelia: free journalism in a restrictive state

Georgy starts his story from the end – the union of journalists in Karelia were the only ones who spoke out against the censorship, just after the war started, in March 2022, when Russian authorities banned the use of word “war” and the usage of sources other than those of the Ministry of Defence. The union appealed and pointed to the illegal nature of these bans. This was the most notable action of an organisation and led to its destruction after more than 60 years of existence.

Prosecution has strengthened the community. When Crimea was annexed, the journalists started doing things with the union what they felt they should do. During the

pandemic they protested. And with the military censorship they did the same. Some journalists onboard the organisation were pressured by their employers, and prosecutions forced them to flee Russia. For example, Georgyi was claimed to be a foreign agent and was expelled from the journalist union in Russia. With mounting up pressure, 40 Karelian journalists, the active ones, left the union of Russian Journalists. The situation revealed an independent and united community of journalists in Karelia, capable of uniting. But there are not so many such examples in Russia. Karelian journalists have many close ties with Finland, lots of cross-border contacts. And the region is small, making the network tight. For example, they have a common chat among the journalists in Karelia, where they share information about events, journalists have a group with members from opposing outlets to share and publish news or certain pictures. It is an informal and horizontal communication, fuelled by beliefs and values of each individual.

Q and A session:

- Can you please give us examples of the biggest investigations, or articles, of cooperation between the journalists? There are no articles in Russia made by different media outlets, but there were some big investigations. Investigations about tortures in prisons, stories about Gulag systems, etc. It is difficult nowadays, so people communicate and share who could publish what stories or pictures.
- Proximity to Finland does not work as an explanation for the number of FA in Karelia. How else would you explain it? Maybe because of the community – they write lots of articles and investigations, maybe FSB is so active. It could also be a matter of the union of the journalists, because there is an active political society there.

## **Friday, 16 June in Inari**

Session 9: “The Arctic Yearbook Presents: Indigenous Sovereignty and Saami”  
*09:00-12:30 at Jeera*

- Pasi Jaakonaho: Puukko, sámieniibi, kniv – ultimate tools in the Arctic
- Eleni Kavvatha: Controlling the narrative: The ability of non - state actors to influence policy related to indigenous tourism in the European Arctic – the case of the Sámi in Norway, Sweden and Finland
- Owen James Harrison: An Individuals Role in Reconciliation
- Sharon Beaucage-Johnson: The Effects of Colonization on Indigenous Women’s Relationality
- Marlene Payva: Rethinking Nature in the Context of Climate Change and ‘Green’ Transformation: An Indigenous Peoples’ perspective

(Rapporteur: Aleksandra Paris, Alma Karabeg)

The ninth session took place at the Sami Education Institute in Inari, Finland. It offers basic vocational training programmes and language courses in various Sami languages. It was the best place to present the indigenous culture of the Arctic and its challenges.

We began with a presentation by Pasi Jaakonaho, a doctoral student at the Faculty of Art and Design at the University of Lapland. He is interested in the distinctions and similarities between the different Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Sami knives. Their main uses and their etymology. In the Saami community, knives were used for a variety of purposes, unlike in modern times, where knives have their own specific use: kitchen knives, carving knives, wood knives, etc. The aim of the study is to increase our knowledge of knives and to maintain and understand the cultural and community aspects of knives in the Arctic. The speaker will focus on small knives, not special knives.

A few questions were asked about decoration and spiritual attachment to the knife. Spiritual attachment was not necessary, although spirituality can be identified in certain decorations, but it is less and less visible these days.

The following presentation was given by Eleni Kavvatha, a researcher at the Centre for Political Science Research. Her research focuses on the capacity of non-state actors to influence policies relating to indigenous tourism in the European Arctic. She works with the Sami people in Norway, Sweden and Finland. Her research uses a participatory approach to assess the Saami people's trust in their government and their level of influence.

Sámi parliaments have their own tourism policy documents and national policies incorporate Sámi perspectives, but not all Sámi are equally represented in discussions, with some groups being more represented than others. In Sweden, the Sami perspective is not mentioned, whereas in Norway it is clearly mentioned. Emphasis should be placed on the ethical development of tourism by the Sami and legitimacy should be given to Sami educators. Ethical guidelines for indigenous tourism should be followed by those who are not indigenous. Sami handicrafts must be protected by maintaining their authenticity. It is important to involve the indigenous community in the organisation of tourism projects in their area. The research will examine how tour operators perceive these tourism policies, as indigenous tourism is different and is based on storytelling and cultural visits are only carried out by the Sami people.

Some thought has been given to the legitimacy of teaching tourism. Who can teach tourism to the Sami? Questions about labels? How can Sami know-how and ways of life be better protected?

Tourism can also be seen as a tool to help young people stay in their community and as a way for the Sami to represent themselves. What needs to be done? Improve and develop tourism education and encourage more discussion on the subject.

The presentation ended with a good example of a Sami camp in Norway, where the Sami control their narrative through tourism.

The next session was held by Owen James Harrison of Trent University, who posed the question of the role of the individual in the reconciliation between settlers and the indigenous population in Canada. A lot of research looks at what institutions do, but this research focuses on what the individual can do. What could be done by government? by individuals? by institutions? has it been successful? what do indigenous peoples want to do? Reconciliation work is an ongoing process that involves a reciprocal relationship. The researcher works with indigenous and non-indigenous groups, and the aim is to find out what indigenous groups would like to see and what works for them. This topic has been presented in the national media, but people don't really understand what it means because the settler has been portrayed as just being there and looking after himself, so we need to change our perspective and look at what it means to be a settler from the indigenous point of view. There is a need to reveal the shameful truth of what Canada has done to indigenous peoples and what ordinary settlers can do for reconciliation and to understand their role in that reconciliation. During the discussion, it was mentioned that in Finland, the emphasis is on reconciliation, not truth. Some similarities were noted as both the current President of Finland and the former Prime Minister of Canada have stated that there was no colonialism in their countries.

Some key challenges: How to improve indigenous rights without provoking a backlash? Acknowledging genocide would be a major step towards raising awareness.

Then another researcher from Trent University, Sharon Beaucage Johnson, talked about the importance of the indigenous women as a prior role in society. She presented her research on effects of colonization on indigenous women's relationality. Indigenous people might have been better for using their language. All relationships we have create reality and they are not just relationships in the present. Before European settlers came the indigenous woman was at the center. She would choose the man she wanted but not from the same clan, and he would come to her home and be the provider. She would teach the children and she was at the center for home growing food, teaching values, and making medicine. Aunts had a great responsibility. Women decide how food is distributed and who becomes chiefs. Then the Europeans came, and the men were dominating as it says in the Bible. This changed the community, and the new relationships changed the women. A man could marry a non-native woman and she would keep her status while native woman who marries a settler loses her status. Many social problems arose such as drugs and alcoholism and stereotypes depleted the value of women. Sharon is looking at two fictions written by non-indigenous authors to find strong stories. Usually, stories have a woman at the center and in all ceremonies the women are creators. Even indigenous women are empowered today and hold higher positions; those are still patriarchal values and perspectives of success. Indigenous women take those roles that they would have before contact with settlers, but the roles are called something else. Language can change behavior. The indigenous language is pretty gender neutral, but the indigenous people are renamed by the settlers while their traditional names are given by elders.

Marlene Payava, from the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law, concluded the session by presenting her research on rethinking nature in the context of climate change from the perspective of indigenous peoples. According to the scientists,

we are a long way from achieving global targets such as limiting warming and reducing emissions, while countries continue to follow these models and nature is presented in law as a reservoir of natural materials to be exploited for human needs. Man is not presented in the law as a part of nature, but as an actor above nature. The emphasis is on economic growth and the use of nature. Human rights are not a climate change issue, as resource extraction is ubiquitous and does not lead to sustainability in the Arctic. This vision is the opposite of the indigenous peoples' definition of nature and use of the land. During the discussion, the focus was on how laws and declarations are made at meetings, but create a misconception such as sustainable green mining. How can climate change and the role of nature fit into the rigidity of the law? Knowledge comes from Western knowledge and laws are made on that basis. So we can see the use of the concepts of green washing and green colonialism in the legal frameworks that govern our oceans.

### Session 10: “Arctic Geopolitics, Security & Cooperation”

*13:30-15:30 at Jeera*

- Olivia Wynne Houck: Norway, The Soviet Union, and the Specter of Bases on Svalbard
- Mari-Anna Suurmunne: Conflicts / geopolitical tensions – challenges for global engagement of higher education institutions
- Lassi Heininen: Common interests vis-a-vis special features – (re)structuring (Arctic) geopolitics

(Rapporteur: Serafima Andreeva, Llucia Mascorda-Cabre)

«Norway, NATO, the Soviet Union and the Spectre of Bases of Svalbard», Olivia Wynne Hauck

Olivia explores NATO as a territorial project, focusing on military bases in the Arctic region, delving into the communication dynamics with domestic territories, the relationship between NATO and the national environment, as well as its impact on industries. The Spitzbergen Treaty, which governs the Arctic region, is discussed, emphasizing its geopolitical significance. Furthermore, the presentation highlights how the Arctic, particularly Svalbard, became a focal point in great power politics. The establishment of the Spitzbergen Treaty by Norway prohibits any naval bases and military purposes on Svalbard, yet the Soviet Union's attempts to gain military presence raised tensions within NATO and international relations. The Arctic region has become a crucial area for global connectivity, presenting opportunities for development and capitalization. The Spitzbergen Treaty plays a significant role in governing the region. The treaty strictly forbids the establishment of naval bases and the use of the territory for war-like purposes. Despite this, the Soviet Union attempted to establish military presence in the Svalbard archipelago during the 1940s and 1950s, citing the principle of fairness in their approach. Their demands included the first line of defense in the archipelago and approval to

establish military bases. The relationship between NATO and Svalbard became a focal point in great power politics, particularly during the 1950s. Accusations arose, with the Soviets portraying NATO as aggressive and claiming that joining NATO would place nations under the jurisdiction of the Americans. Svalbard was considered a critical element of NATO's strategic defense, leading to implied military measures by the United States. However, Norway maintained its commitment to the Spitzbergen Treaty, refusing to place fortifications on the archipelago to avoid violating the treaty. This highlighted the Soviet Union's fear of NATO's presence and showcased Svalbard's geopolitical significance in shaping international relations. NATO's engagement in Arctic geopolitics with Norway and the USSR impacted the creation of international laws and norms. The tensions surrounding Svalbard revealed NATO's duplicity as both a tangible organization and a geopolitical area. These actions by NATO and Norway solidified their investment in the Arctic. They contributed to the "if you build it, they will come" mentality, prompting other nations to consider their regional interests. In conclusion, NATO's territorial project in the Arctic, particularly its military bases in Iceland, Greenland, and Svalbard, has significant geopolitical implications. The Spitzbergen Treaty plays a vital role in regulating the region, emphasizing its importance in shaping international relations. The USSR's attempts to gain a military presence in Svalbard raised tensions and highlighted the geopolitical significance of the Arctic in great power politics. NATO's actions and investments in the region have shaped international laws and norms, solidifying its position in Arctic geopolitics. The Arctic remains a valuable, vulnerable, and threatened space, representing both opportunities and challenges for the global community.

The questions and the discussion of the panel were oriented around the use of maps, the relevance of science diplomacy, and further explaining the function of NATO as a territorial project. The map of Svalbard was used because of the available aircraft technology at the time, and then later on still used because of the threat of ballistic missiles. Science diplomacy in the Arctic and in Svalbard has been a core incentive for regional cooperation. When asked about the meaning behind calling NATO a territorial project, it was clarified that it reflects on the scholars that thinks about NATO as a high level interaction with the USSR. NATO was not intended with the project of ending the Soviet Union, but to 'keep communism out of its territories'.

#### The Arctic Railway in the Current Geopolitical Situation, Soili Nysten-Haarala

This project is a case regarding transportation in the Arctic, with its main focus area being the Arctic railway. In Finland, the Arctic region does not have a coastline, which is a contributing factor to the focus on railroad development. During the second world war, there was a railway planned from Helsinki to the Arctic Ocean in Kirkenes, this railway would go further south, through Tallinn, Riga, Latvia, Lithuania and down to Warsaw. Initially, the plan was to build a tunnel from Helsinki to Tallinn, and hence the railway would be able to interact with this tunnel. There were two reports written about this, both in Norway and in Finland, however, the conclusion was that due to high expenses, the project didn't initiate. This was easier to forget in the south than in the north, and in Lapland, the project took a longer time to 'bury'. The railroad would have passed through sensitive reindeer herding areas and districts, and it would be built through and interfere with the Sami homeland. Many activists were against this, as the reindeer herding is

threatened. However, now, after the Russian war against Ukraine, these railroad plans have showed up again due to security reasons, as the Russian border is now closed, much trade is coming from Denmark. This creates a vulnerability, if there would be a shipwreck or other transport issues. In addition, as Norway is planning on extending railway paths to the coast of Tromsø, their interest in the Finnish railway would be diminished in contrast to the previous plans. Having a way of transport to Murmansk used to be an alternative railroad, but due to the Russian war against Ukraine, these plans are at halt. As Finland has joined NATO, the NATO membership will also potentially reveal the necessity for several new transportation routes, and then be a threat to the Sami people, however there are doubts regarding financing, and if it could even be enough money to build it.

During the discussion it was mentioned that not only the reindeer herding Sami were against this, it counted for the Skolt Sami as well, as it would have affected the river. Initially, the railroad plans had much to do with the mining industry. Another discussion point was which autonomy the Sami had, and whether the fact that the Sami resisted had to do with the decision to not built the railroad. The answer was difficult to say, but still she would say that they to some degree did influence it. There was also a discussion regarding the railway tracks, and the European union.

#### Geopolitics and higher education, Marianne

This presentation is not mostly based on academic research, but of her experiences with geopolitics and realpolitik. Geopolitics indeed affect higher education institutions, especially when it involves realpolitik. The speaker, with 15 years of experience in higher education, highlights the recent disruptions in the past five years due to COVID-19, Russia, and China. China's rise in power presented challenges for smaller countries, as American partners insisted on non-cooperation with China if they wanted to collaborate with the US. This issue had implications for higher education institutions, as seen in Finland's case, where a 2021 document provided recommendations for cooperation with China. Similarly, Russia's invasion of Ukraine prompted Finnish institutions to reach a consensus on pausing institutional cooperation with Russia, while individual contacts remained acceptable. However, this decision raises the question of how long such cooperation can be paused and whether research communities can still find ways to collaborate. Regarding the Arctic Council, there are difficulties in political cooperation with Russia, but room for maneuver exists to address the relationship with Russia in a clean and predictable way. Notably, concerns were raised about maintaining climate communication open despite political tensions. The speaker emphasized the importance of continuing good cooperation, particularly in the context of climate crises. When it comes to dealing with Russia, finding acceptable ways of collaboration is challenging, as rules are not well-established. Stricter rules in academia have been suggested, but implementation is still limited. In terms of addressing geopolitical issues in higher education, science diplomacy can play a vital role. Scientists have the ability to address these challenges, make policy recommendations, and foster international cooperation. Regarding the urgency of environmental issues, it is clear that action must be taken with Russia, but finding acceptable solutions may be difficult. The situation with China is somewhat clearer, as the threats are more defined. To conclude, while challenges exist

in navigating geopolitics and higher education, scientists and research communities can contribute to addressing these issues and finding ways to cooperate despite political tensions.

The discussion was oriented around themes regarding science diplomacy, as there have been voiced calls in Nature 2022 that Arctic science cannot afford a new coldwar, and there have been voiced concerns to keep climate communication open. As the necessity of holding on to the 'good' cooperation has been mentioned in the presentation, the discussion centered around what this meant, and if it would eventually lead to a question of 'climate crisis versus war', and whether there are any ways around this dichotomy. It was mentioned that this topic was a theme on Arctic Encounter conference, without many concrete responses, and everyone knows that there is a necessity to address this. Listening to researchers regarding that environmental issues are urgent are part of these 'good' cooperations.

Special Features vis-a-vis Common interests - (re)structuring (Arctic) Geopolitics,  
Lassi Heininen

Geopolitics is often misused and politicized, with many misconceptions surrounding its meaning. While some policymakers may acknowledge that geopolitics involves more than just power, applying this understanding can be challenging. Geopolitics is essentially a combination of geography and politics, where knowledge itself holds significant power in addition to military and economic might. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, several significant changes have shaped geopolitics, including geoeconomics, the rise of China, the events of September 11th, the impact of COVID-19, and ongoing conflicts. It's crucial to remember that geopolitics involves both forces of change and forces of continuity, and neglecting the latter can distort our perception of reality. The Arctic region holds importance in the realm of geopolitics, but it is also a backdrop to great power rivalries. While some believe the Arctic could serve as a space for peaceful transformation, interpretations vary. Lassi's concept of Arctic exceptionalism emphasizes that the region cannot be detached from world politics. Constructivist approaches suggest that reality can be reshaped and reconstructed, as demonstrated by Arctic states transitioning from the Cold War era to the post-Cold War period. Principles of peace studies advocate focusing on cooperation even amid conflicts. Various theoretical approaches, such as functional cooperation and region-building, have been explored as successful strategies. Lassi's work highlights special features of Arctic governance, like the absence of armed conflicts or serious disputes, a high degree of international legal certainty, devolution and self-governance, and flexible agenda-setting. Identifying common interests remains crucial for Arctic states. These interests include reducing military tension, enhancing political stability, promoting transboundary cooperation for environmental protection, search, and rescue agreements, fostering international scientific collaboration, engaging states as major actors in region-building, encouraging inter-regional cooperation by non-state actors, and fostering economic cooperation. Evaluating which of these interests are still relevant and maintaining common ground is essential. In the past, Arctic states reconstructed their reality through cooperation rather than confrontation, focusing on low politics through functionalism and finding consensus among all parties. As we look to the

future, determining the first baby step towards continued cooperation in the Arctic becomes a significant question.

The questions and debates were, as the previous panel, centered around science policy. Scientific independence was mentioned as a theme at the beginning of the academy and was regarded as a necessary prerequisite for science, and its role was questioned in the discussion. In addition, as Lassi mentioned the dangers of misunderstanding geopolitics and by proxy indicating the dangers of politicization, the question arose of what politics in the Arctic is not. As with a constructivist positioning, politics would be intertwined with everything in the social world. Lassi answered this by emphasizing that all relations of two or more parties are political and that states have the legitimacy to use power is political. Knowledge is one of those factors, and the scientific community is an actor in creating knowledge. One aspect of critical science is to appreciate courage. Regarding how to measure autonomy, or define scientific independence, Lassi mentioned that scientific independence could be seen if someone does not follow the mainstream, one would be independent.

#### Excursion 4: Testing of Cars & Tires

*16:30-18:30 at UTAC Ivalo*

As we all had missed the sweet cold of Lapland's winters, we needed this excursion. After following (in UTAC's traditional wood hut) a fascinating presentation of the firm's activities, we explored their indoor track, with an air maintained at a temperature of -7°C (19.4°F). We also had the chance to see what their outdoor ice tracks look like in the summer: rectangular artificial lakes!



*(Logo: [www.utac.com](http://www.utac.com))*

## Saturday, 17 June in Inari

### Session 11 (online): “Sustainability and Alternative Energy in the Russian Arctic, and Western-Russian Relations”

*09:00-12:30 at Jeera*

- Alina Cherepovitsyna & Ekaterina Kuznetsova: Sustainability of industrial complexes in the Russian Arctic: moving to CC(U)S deployment
- Svetlana Tuinova: Linking alternative energy to the development of technological and environmental security in the Arctic
- Yulia Zaika: Multilevel international science cooperation in the Arctic at times of geopolitical turbulence: critical review
- Upasak Bose: The future of cooperation between Russia and the Western world for socio-economic development of the Arctic in the context of sanctions and geopolitical crisis
- Alexander Sergunin: Evaluating the effectiveness of Arctic science diplomacy of Russian universities: some practical proposals

(Rapporteur: Anna Margarete Pluschke, Guglielmo Migliori)

#### Introduction:

This report discusses the sustainability of industrial complexes in the Russian Arctic, focusing on the implementation of carbon capture technologies and the challenges associated with it. The case study conducted in the Murmansk region sheds light on the progress made in addressing climate change and global warming in the region.

#### Findings:

- The development of climate policy in Russia has been slow, but progress has been observed in the implementation of CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies.
- Questions were raised during the discussion regarding the source of coal and the sufficiency of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the technology.
- It is expected that natural gas from the coast will replace coal as a fuel source in the future.
- The main challenge lies in the high cost of CO<sub>2</sub> capture technology, as well as limited access to international technologies due to sanctions.
- Currently, CO<sub>2</sub> capture is not cost-effective in Russia, and there is a lack of governmental funding and tax allowances for the technology.
- The environmental considerations and aftereffects of CC(U)s were not addressed in this study.

## Linking Alternative Energy to the Development of Technological and Environmental Security in the Arctic

### Introduction:

This section explores the connection between alternative energy sources and the development of technological and environmental security in the Arctic. A case study conducted in Svalbard examines the transition to distributed energy resources (DERs) and the importance of a reliable energy supply during this transition.

### Findings:

- The energy transition in Svalbard is driven by energy policy, energy justice, and climate change concerns.
- The study compares diesel-based systems with hybrid DERs (diesel plus renewable energy microgrid systems), highlighting the advantages of the latter in terms of resilience and reduced dependence on diesel generators.
- Proven renewable energy solutions specific to the Arctic are not yet available.
- The proposed solution for meeting future energy demand in Svalbard involves a combination of rooftop photovoltaic panels, offshore and onshore wind farms, and can be financed within a shorter timeframe.
- Geopolitical changes and tensions have increased the importance of energy transition projects in Russia.
- The cessation of coal usage in Svalbard is expected, but no data is available regarding the energy source for the region.

## The Future of Cooperation between Russia and the Western World for Socio-Economic Development of the Arctic

### Introduction:

This section focuses on the possibilities of future cooperation between Russia and the Western world in the socio-economic development of the Arctic, despite sanctions and geopolitical crises. It highlights the potential areas of collaboration and the importance of indigenous involvement.

### Findings:

- The "Arctic Laboratory" concept is proposed as a platform for cooperation beyond political conflicts, encompassing energy collaboration, environmental sustainability, research, science diplomacy, and student exchange programs.
- Climate change's disproportionate impact on the Arctic and the diminishing effectiveness of EU-supported actions in the region are discussed.
- Key areas of potential cooperation include technological collaboration, regional fisheries management, reindeer herding, biodiversity agreements, Arctic monitoring systems, climate science, and maritime research.

- The importance of continuity of collaboration with indigenous groups and the need for a political and social environment that disconnects indigenous people from geopolitical issues are emphasized.
- Collaborations between universities, particularly online programs, and mobility programs such as the Arctic Youth initiative are seen as essential.
- Practical challenges regarding academic freedom in Russia and the need for partial collaboration are acknowledged.

## Evaluating the Effectiveness of Arctic Science Diplomacy of Russian Universities

### Introduction:

This section proposes criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of Arctic science diplomacy undertaken by Russian universities. It focuses on various aspects of international engagement and research activities.

### Criteria for Evaluation:

1. International project activities of universities.
  2. International publication activity of universities.
  3. Participation in major international fora and organization of regular academic conferences.
  4. Presence of a developed scientific and organizational infrastructure.
- Organizational and international polar expeditions on land and at sea.

### Discussion:

- The participants discussed the possibility of shifting science diplomacy from a bilateral to a global level.
- Examples of multilateral cooperation, such as the urban sustainability project with George Washington University, were cited.
- Multidisciplinary research collaborations combining natural, social sciences, and humanities were highlighted.

### Q&A Session with Yulia Zaika

During the Q&A session, several questions were addressed, including the division of regional and global Arctic, the challenges of regional cooperation, the flexibility of research institutes, and the importance of expert-to-expert cooperation. Financial and funding constraints were identified as hindrances to collaboration, while the Calotte Academy was cited as an example of successful expert-to-expert cooperation.

The discussions and case studies presented in this report provide valuable insights into the sustainability of industrial complexes, the integration of alternative energy sources, the potential for cooperation between Russia and the Western world, and the evaluation of science diplomacy in the Arctic. While challenges persist, there are opportunities for progress and collaboration in addressing the unique environmental and geopolitical dynamics of the Arctic region.

## Session 12: “The Saami cultural performance and student engagement event - Zoom workshop for Circumpolar Studies Students”

*16:45-19:00 at Jeera*

This workshop will bring together circumpolar students from across the University of the Arctic to participate in an evening workshop highlighting cultural performance, traditional knowledge, and other elements of Sami culture. Over the course, students will listen to Sami speakers, performers and films, and have a chance to ask questions and explore the significance of what they are viewing.

- Pigga Keskitalo
- Inker-Anni Linkola-Aikio: Linguistic landscape in Sámi education
- Laila Aleksandersen-Nutti
- Line Reichelt Förelund
- Saami films introduced by Liisa Holmberg

(Rapporteur: Zhanna Anshukova)

First, the projects connected to Sami education, especially distance education, were presented by Pigga Keskitalo. This topic is important and relevant as starting from children 6-8 years of age living in remote area currently study language remotely using devices. We were told that the main challenges of Sami language teaching in suburban areas are lack of teachers and lack of resources. The projects on distance Sami education exist in Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Some ways used in the projects to enhance student's motivation were mentioned, for example, bringing Sami cultural background and context, such as traditional practices and knowledge. Moreover, teachers chose playful learning, traditional storytelling and land-based education. It is important that some new projects start focusing on the digital solutions in education.

The goal is to support indigenous people of any ages with learning Sami language, keep the language alive and find out linguistically responses teaching Sami different languages.

During discussion the issues of disconnecting the teaching Sami language projects with Russia were raised. Also, variety of existing Sami languages were discussed.

Second, the linguistic landscape PhD project studied from the 10 years ago was presented by Inker-Anni Linkola-Aikio. The “linguistic landscape” is a visual written language we see around us in public space. Usually linguistic landscapes are studied on the examples of city centers with signs and advertisements in different languages, but this research is about the school as a public institution. This also demonstrates to the language policy in practice. Monitoring and studying language landscapes is important as people connect their identity with the language and when they see their language written around, it strength the identity as a language speaker or part of the language group. They

can see that the language is accepted in this area. Languages also clearly show borders, for instance, the official language of signs change as you cross the border of the states.

Language is a powerful tool for education and meaningful for language learning. We learned that linguistic landscape can be used in education, to learn the language from the signs. It can be the way to teach the diversity, bilingualism, or that one language being more dominant in the area and what this implies.

Plans of using languages in school were studied during the research, such as the language of the signs as well as their size and the purpose. Interviews with students of the secondary school was held, they were asked about their experience in language in school. The school was a Sami school, so Sami language was the mother tongue of the majority of students, about 10 percent of students spoke Norwegian as their first language. At the same time, about 76 percent of the teachers and staff spoke Sami. The example of the signs from the school were demonstrated during the presentation, they demonstrate the dominance of the Sami language as the first language on the sign and written in bigger front in some cases.

During the discussion after presentation there was a question about when Sami language became the written language. We learnt that the first texts were written after the Christianity came and they were religious texts. And the fact that the way of writing the Sami language was mostly discussed and decided by colonizers but not Sami people themselves. Also, the existing interest to Sami language was talked about.

Third project presented by Line Reichelt Förelund was about game based learning. It began in 2020, the aim is to use games to teach students more about Sami perspectives. Teachers creates their own Minecraft world demonstrating indigenous perspectives. The game indicates some texts that are in Sami and Norwegian. The latest version of the game was released in January 2023. It has a Sami parliament building and can lead to other different places. There are teaching resources which are mainly available in Norwegian.

We were given reasons for using Minecraft as a tool, first of all it is possible to have a lot of content there, also, Minecraft is included in office package purchased by many schools, so schools do not have you purchase any additional tools to add the game to the study program.

During the discussion after the presentation of the project providing technical support in different languages was discussed. Then there was a question about how often the game was planned to be upgraded. We were told that the game has been updated and is planning to be update, however, it depends on how much new is going to be added. Creators of the game want to focus on adding more details and also focus on languages.

The forth presentation was about studying yoiking from pedagogical perspective presented by Laila Aleksandersen-Nutti. Yoik is a very old traditional music and singing way. But traditionally yoik was much more than just performance. In many indigenous

traditions it is more about the ways of using the voice, it could be repeating, often it is communication with yoik. Yoik was also used pedagogically in many ways.

At some point, as it happened with most of indigenous groups, yoik became a sin from when the Christianity came. As a result, Sami themselves started to adapt the attitude to yoik as something sinful, something that is not supposed to be done. This is a demonstrative example of how colonization works. This attitude is still presented and is informally called a “yoiking police”. This situation may cause issues if teacher yoiks in the classroom using it in pedagogical purpose.

Yoiking can demonstrate the person, the landscape, mountains, lakes, whatever surrounds the person, as it is describing something with sounds. Today there are music yoiks, heavy yoiks, pop yoiks, whatever kind of yoiks. It is very popular. However everyday yoik is an important part of the culture. People yoik when they chopping woods or doing laundry. However, as it is still considered to be sin, yoik sometimes has lots of different rules, such as it is not allowed to yoik inside the house or it is not allowed to yoik if the person is married. Those rules can also cause difficulties with using yoik in educating children.

There was a question “Are there any lyrics in yoiking or is just sounds?” during the discussion. We learnt that in the northern Sami yoiking it is often repeating of certain syllables which are the melody, but there are lots of different kind of yoiks. When, for example one yoik the person, they can yoik their name.

The final presentation was about Sami film making presented by Liisa Holmberg. It was started by mentioning the fact that now there is not lots of work with Russia, but there is a hope to keep connection in future. Then we were shown the map. It demonstrated the groups of indigenous people with their own languages, own ways of living and cultures, but they are not recognized in any of the countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden, Canada, US, Russia), the only exception is Greenland.

Then, switching to filmmaking itself, we were told about the importance of stories shown in movies. Despite the fact that there are lots of non-indigenous filmmakers tries to make movies about Sami, it is important to make film Sami themselves. The reason is that when Sami are telling their stories, they are telling the future. The better the story - the better the future. That’s why it is important for Sami to tell their own story. Moreover, indigenous people have been often misrepresented in movies.

We were told that the first movie made about Sami by Sami was *Ofelaš* made in 1987 and it was nominated for the Oscar.

For everybody who is interested, there are guidelines for responsible film making about Sami (available on the website <https://isfi.no/>). And there is growing interest in Sami culture and experience in filmmaking around the world. For example, Disney was consulting with Sami filmmakers when producing *Frozen 2* and there is ongoing Netflix project which is connected to Sami.

## Sunday, 18 June in Inari - Rovaniemi

*Travelling from Inari to Rovaniemi*





## Abstracts

**Serafima Andreeva**

Junior Researcher, Fridtjof Nansen Institute  
sandreeva@fni.no

### **Clearing the Air: Understanding the Use of Knowledge on Black Carbon through the Arctic Council in Norway and Canada**

The Arctic region is warming four times faster than the rest of the world, with Black Carbon emissions identified as a significant contributor to this alarming trend. The Arctic Council (AC), as an intergovernmental and consensus-based promoter of cooperation between Arctic states, indigenous peoples, and other actors interested in Arctic challenges, has prioritized the issue of short-lived climate pollutants, including Black Carbon, in the region. Through the establishment of the Arctic Black Carbon Case Studies Platform and the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane, the works of the AC have been proactive with ties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. However, the geopolitical shock waves following the Russian full-scale war against Ukraine significantly altered the landscape of cooperation in the Arctic Council. As Norway assumes the chairmanship of the Arctic Council after Russia, an increased focus on Black Carbon and Methane are considered priority areas for the chairmanship plans. Norway shares similar traits with Canada in the AC, as coastal states, and liberal democracies with a long tradition of advocating for climate and environmental regulations in national and international contexts. Against this backdrop, this paper seeks to explore how the selective emphasis and production of knowledge on Black Carbon in the Arctic Council promotes specific values, norms, goals, and interests in Norway and Canada. By drawing on perspectives on the co-production of scientific knowledge, this study employs a comparative approach to Norway and Canada in handling Black Carbon issues in the Arctic Council, seeking to broaden the understanding of the production, dissemination, and use of climate knowledge. The analysis will draw on a range of Norwegian and Canadian official documents and Arctic Council strategical documents and is supplied by expert interviews with scientists, stakeholders, and policymakers to analyse similarities and differences in Norway and Canada's use of Arctic knowledge in addressing Black Carbon emissions. By examining the extent of consensus-based knowledge, issue-area conflicts, and organizational setup, among other factors, this research seeks to identify patterns in the use of Arctic scientific knowledge.

\*\*\*

**Zhanna Anshukova**

PhD Researcher, University of Lapland  
anshukovazhanna@gmail.com

### **Cross-Border Challenges in Arctic Research: The Differences of Ethical Reviews in Sweden, Norway, and Finland**

Sweden, Norway and Finland have a long history of scientific collaboration in the Arctic region. The universities of these countries are actively involved in various networks and

collaborations aimed at sharing knowledge, developing education, and conducting research related to the Arctic region. For instance, the universities of these countries are members of networks such as The University of the Arctic (UArctic) and the Arctic Five, which provide opportunities for academic and scientific cooperation across the region. Through these networks and collaborations, the universities are working to create innovative solutions that support the sustainable development of the Arctic and promote the well-being of its inhabitants.

Nevertheless, despite the countries' close collaboration, they have significant differences in their research ethical review procedures, including cost, translation requirements, application form and attached documents, guidelines and feedback provided. For instance, Sweden mandates research materials to be translated into the Swedish language, even if they are presented and used in any other language. Whether the procedure is free or paid and its cost depends on the country, the field of study and in some cases affiliation. These variations can be time-consuming and costly, which can pose a significant challenge for researchers working in the Arctic region and hinder cross-border scientific collaboration. The main aim of the ethical reviews is to protect human dignity through respect for rights, freedoms, equality, and self-determination, protecting against potential harm and undue burden, and ensuring fairness in the distribution of both benefits and burdens. The ethical reviews also aim to enhance research quality, ensure compliance with regulations, and provide researchers with valuable guidance, assessment and support. Therefore such challenges caused by variations of the processes in different countries may impede efficient research. Thus, examining ethical review processes in Sweden, Norway and Finland provides an understanding of the challenges facing researchers conducting their study in the Arctic region.

\*\*\*

**Sharon Beaucage-Johnson**

Student, Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies, Trent University  
sbeaucagejohnson@trentu.ca

**The Effects of Colonization on Indigenous Women's Relationality**

Relationships are powerful and essential. Prior to colonization, Indigenous women maintained balanced relationships in that she held a prominent role in society, and her responsibilities crucial to survival. The foundation of women's relationships was with partner, family, and the land. As Indigenous scholars and Indigenous thought gain credibility within the academy there is an increased awareness in the significance of relationality when discussing Indigenous peoples. There is a growing body of research that suggests it is the relationships to other beings, past, present, and future, that defines the person. If that is indeed correct, the relationships that defined First Nations women prior to colonization were their connections to their family, community, society, and the land. There is strong evidence to indicate those relationships suffered disruption through colonization. This research utilizes the theory of relationality from Shawn Wilson, of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation of Northern Manitoba in Canada, to discuss the effects of colonization on Indigenous women of Turtle Island (now known as Canada and the United

States). The paper will begin with a brief discussion of Indigenous women prior to European contact focusing on the women's relationships with; partner and family, community, and the land; and argue that women held a valuable role in society. This study does not want to suggest or proclaim that life pre-contact was perfect for Indigenous women; but to accentuate the balanced relationships that existed between the women and their families, communities, and territories. The Indigenous social structures began to erode when the gender roles within the family and communities were influenced by the European hierarchical system. Where the Indigenous gender balance was built on respect and common good, the colonizers asserted male dominance. This study reviews existing academic literature from Indigenous scholars as well as Indigenous knowledge keepers for the historical foundation. The effects of colonization specifically on Indigenous women is an area that is understudied in current academia. Note: This research is part of my larger thesis project currently in progress: The depiction of Indigenous women in contemporary mystery fiction by non-Indigenous.

\*\*\*

### **Upasak Bose**

PhD Student of Economics (Regional Economics), Higher School of Economics and Management, South Ural State University, Chelyabinsk, Russian Federation  
upasakbosegre@gmail.com

### **The future of cooperation between Russia and the Western world for socio-economic development of the Arctic in the context of sanctions and geopolitical crisis**

The global geopolitical environment is undergoing significant changes in recent times due to western sanctions on Russia. As a result of this sudden turmoil, one of the worst affected regions has been the Arctic region. The Arctic is one of the most fragile territory in the world in terms of biodiversity, industrial development and ecological balance. Cooperation in the sphere of science, technology, education and culture are imperative for balanced and sustainable development of the Arctic across all the eight Arctic states. However such cooperation in academics and research seems far-fetched as of now amidst geopolitical tensions and conflict. In this article the author analyzed the opportunities of continuation of cooperation between Russia and the remaining western Arctic member states with regard to scientific research and exploration. Focus has been given on the steps that can be taken to keep academics out of the purview of geopolitical turmoil and conflicts. The Arctic states have cooperated long since 1996 to achieve this level of expertise and specialization on this fragile geography. Each of them has benefited from cooperation and at the same time has been successful in maintaining their national sovereignty on Arctic waters. Russia had rightly mentioned earlier that the autonomy of the Arctic should lie solely with the Arctic states only. The Arctic should not turn into a zone of uncontrolled and unsustainable economic activities but a region of balance where economic activities should be restricted only to a level that helps in socio-economic development of the country with minimum negative effect on environment and biodiversity. A common consensus among all the members of the Arctic council is necessary on protection of common interests irrespective of geopolitical upheavals and

political differences. In this article, the author analyses the chances, future opportunities, possibilities and risks of cooperation between Russia and the Western world regarding sustainable development of the Arctic.

\*\*\*

**Llucia Mascorda-Cabre**

PhD candidate, University of Plymouth

llucia.mascordacabre@plymouth.ac.uk

### **Offshore shellfish aquaculture: sustainable protein while enhancing marine biodiversity - A Brexit case study and how lack of cooperation and political will can influence food security**

A growing human population coupled with the need to protect marine ecosystems, requires sources of sustainable protein. Finfish aquaculture can produce a range of environmental impacts while shellfish aquaculture reports fewer effects. As ecosystem engineers, mussels can positively contribute to carbon storage, nutrient remediation, coastal defence and biodiversity enhancement. The development of mussel farming has been limited by competition for coastal space and intensification of the industry causing environmental impacts. Offshore aquaculture has the potential to overcome such issues and be a climate positive industry but knowledge on its impacts is limited. The long-term ecological and oceanographic monitoring of the UK's first large-scale offshore mussel farm shows its potential to increase habitat value and biodiversity. Designed as an interdisciplinary study, my results show that offshore mussel farms act as a fish aggregation device, increasing pelagic and benthic species, including those commercially valuable, with the potential to spillover into adjacent fishing grounds. My project provides the first account of biogenic reef creation by an offshore mussel farm located in degraded seabed after years of mobile fishing damage. The complex habitat formed provides hard substrate, refuge, and shelter from predation, enhancing seabed recovery, ultimately showing its potential to act as a de facto marine protected area. These results address essential evidence gaps supporting policy-makers and managers foster a sustainable offshore aquaculture industry while conserving our oceans, with vast implications for national food security in the UK and worldwide. Due to Brexit and lack of political cooperation across European nations, the expansion of this industry is threatened. Although it can provide one of the most sustainable sources of protein to feed our growing population, geopolitical instabilities can hindrance this novel industry. With Climate Change and the continuous decline of marine biodiversity, it is paramount to reconcile nature conservation and the sustainable development of the oceans and the communities that live within. If we want to meet international marine conservation targets such as Aichi and SDGs by 2030, the Blue Economy and in particular aquaculture as the fastest growing food industry must move forward together. This requires geopolitical stability and cooperation at international level.

\*\*\*

**Georgy Chentemirov**  
The Barents Observer  
georg.chentemirov@gmail.com

### **The Journalist Union of [Russian] Karelia: free journalism in a restrictive state**

I will talk about the community of journalists in the Republic of Karelia. It is unique in its cohesion, courage, and desire for independence from government institutions. In March 2022, the Journalist Union of Karelia became the only regional journalist union in Russia who officially and publicly spoke out against the military censorship introduced in the country. A year later, in the spring of 2023, the Russian authorities labeled the chairman of the Union (that is, me) and one of the board members “foreign agents”. This provoked a mass withdrawal of journalists from the trade union. Obviously, it means that the Journalist Union of Karelia stops to exist as an independent organization.

For Karelian journalists - at least, a large and noticeable part of them - it is common to support colleagues and stand up for each other, which in the conditions of modern Russia is akin to heroism. How did this phenomenon appear? How does it help improve the quality of journalism and fight for freedom of speech even in a totalitarian state? Did the territorial proximity to Europe influenced this? – I will look for answers to these questions during my presentation.

\*\*\*

### **Alina Cherepovitsyna**

Senior Researcher, Luzin Institute for Economic Studies—Subdivision of the Federal Research Centre, Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Apatity, Russia  
iljinovaaa@mail.ru

### **Ekaterina Kuznetsova**

Junior Researcher, Luzin Institute for Economic Studies—Subdivision of the Federal Research Centre, Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Apatity, Russia  
katia11911@gmail.com

### **Sustainability of Industrial Complexes in the Russian Arctic: moving to CC(U)S deployment**

The socio-economic development of the Arctic regions is highly dependent on traditional industrial facilities and resources. Despite this, operations of most industrial facilities are not consistent with decarbonization agenda and climate change policies, which are particularly relevant in the northern regions. The responses to these problems require implementation of low-carbon measures, including CC(U)S (carbon capture, utilization and storage) projects. In order to increase the performance of low-carbon measures, these projects must comply with all sustainable development priorities - economic, environmental and social. This paper examines the theoretical case study on the implementation of CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies at coal-fired power plant in Murmansk region (Russia). The CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies implementation costs are calculated, their

comparison with world analogues is carried out and the ways to increase the project's viability are analyzed. The public perception of CC(U)S projects has been studied and recommendations for its improvement have been developed; the importance of non-state actors contributions for low-carbon initiatives deployment is identified. The importance of constructive cooperation on climate agenda in the Arctic are emphasized.

\*\*\*

**Michaela Louise Coote**

PhD Candidate International Relations, University of Lapland  
michaecalouisecoote@gmail.com

**Arctic Interdisciplinary Research as a Tool for Environmental Decision-Making**

This paper will explore the potential for interdisciplinary methodologies to provide direction for Arctic environmental decision-makers and will research; which structures support interdisciplinary Arctic environmental decision-making in a changing Arctic. Given the complexity of environmental challenges in the Arctic and globally, multidimensional frameworks are needed for successful environmental decision-making which often involves an interdisciplinary approach. Practitioners face numerous challenges in undertaking interdisciplinary projects such as difficulties in finding a common language and selecting appropriate approaches. However, key actors, such as the United Nations (UN), remain committed to interdisciplinary methodologies as a solution to grand environmental issues. Decision-makers are faced with the challenge to achieve conservation and sustainable development simultaneously which involves multiple trade-offs and competing interests. Therefore, interdisciplinary methodologies are of high importance in order to create policies and programs that reflect the multidimensional needs of people and the wider environment. The Arctic Councils' Working Groups (which provided the driving force of the organizations' work) frequently utilized interdisciplinary research which crossed scientific disciplines and knowledge systems through their inclusion and promotion of Indigenous Knowledge through cooperation with the Permanent Participants (PPs). Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Arctic Council (AC) has been paused. Therefore, *prima facie*, the paper will consider through what processes and frameworks provide an avenue for interdisciplinary Arctic environmental decision-making and; what is the potential of the scientific community to undertake environmental decision-making that solves wicked environmental problems? The paper will rely upon a literature review utilizing a critical approach to explore how interdisciplinary research can impact approaches to environmental decision-making; understand the impact of interdisciplinary research on Arctic environmental decision-making to date and; consider where and how there may be room for interdisciplinary environmental decision-making in the future, with emphasis on the role of the scientific community.

\*\*\*

**Sveinung Eikeland**  
Researcher, UiT IRN

### **Smart Specialisation for the achievement of SDGs in European Arctic regions**

Smart Specialisation strategies are the core European place-based, territory-relevant, innovation-led transformation agendas for growth and sustainability, more and more in the framework of European Green Deal. 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and Smart Specialisation on regional level share the same objectives and approaches including innovation, mobilisation, co-creation, localisation, prioritisation, co-investments, and cooperation. The contribution on CA will present a report analysing how sustainability challenges and Sustainable Development Goals are embedded in ongoing Smart Specialisation processes in the European Arctic at regional and local level. The report provides insights into Arctic smart specialisation strategies and offers illustrative case studies of projects and initiatives relevant to achieving sustainable development in Arctic Finland, Arctic Sweden and Arctic Norway

\*\*\*

**Jacob van Haaften**  
Trent University  
jacobvanhaaften@trentu.ca

### **Decolonized Nature Relatedness and Indigenist Mixed Methods Research Design and Implementation**

Research in environmental psychology has contributed to the scientific understanding of how humans connect with the natural environment. Similar scholarship in the humanities and social sciences has focused on affective relationships between people, the land, and nature. However, research investigating the intersections between Western scientific measures and Indigenous Knowledges (IK) is limited. Bridging Western academics with IK presents an opportunity to understand the benefits of nature connection more holistically, thereby promoting knowledge translation between scholars, the public, and governments. Existing research on other traditional knowledge systems has contributed to increased understandings of the benefits of nature connection. However, the current research presents a unique opportunity to engage with, learn from, and promote mutual flourishing in and with Indigenous communities in Canada. Likewise, the research also presents an opportunity to promote reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through practicing respect for and promotion of traditional knowledges in research. The resurgence of IK in Western academic and public sectors also supports new opportunities for Indigenous-settler allyship. The current paper explores initial findings from a mixed-methods, community-informed research project with the primary goals of promoting knowledge translation and identifying key aspects of Michi-Saagiig Anishinaabeg nature connection to promote mutual flourishing in the academy and in a local First Nation community. Extending beyond cursory investigations into IK and Western inquiry synthesis, this project identifies community priorities related to nature connection, including the negative impacts that stem from the removal of self from traditional lands and nature-related practices; the need for IK-informed policy regarding land use and natural resources; and the ongoing and perpetually redefined relationships between

Indigenous scholars, the crown, and Western researchers. Ultimately, this paper provides a preliminary overview of an interdisciplinary research project that endeavours to examine how knowledge translation can contribute to a more wholistic understanding of the importance of nature connection.

\*\*\*

**Auni Haapala**

Junior Researcher, University of Lapland  
auni.haapala@ulapland.fi

**Making an Arctic city: urban (in)visibilities of global fisheries in Tromsø, Norway**

Northern wild fisheries often tend to be perceived as sustainable, traditional, and local resource utilization in the Barents Arctic, in particular in the fishery nation Norway. Fisheries and urban are not often associated with each other, yet the current, globalized fisheries practices – in the Arctic and elsewhere – are increasingly operating in connection to cities through complex and often subtle flows of capital, material, imaginaries, knowledge, and labor. In this paper, I build on feminist discussion and urban studies to examine how contemporary large-scale fisheries are negotiated with reference to urban/city through different material-discursive practices. I draw upon observation and interviews conducted in the “Arctic capital” Tromsø – a key site for northern fisheries – and discuss how the fish and fisheries are simultaneously made both visible and invisible in the urban spheres, resulting in particular kinds of urban spaces and mentalities. Through the feminist lens, I pay attention to the gendered structures and valuations organizing the city-fisheries relations to review what becomes seen as relevant and rational development in the city. In particular, I trace how the historical and cultural masculine narratives of mastering Arctic nature frame the fisheries practices as they expand through Tromsø. Seeing a city not as static local administration, but as an open, dynamic process and as a relation, opens up avenues to critically review the co-constitutive makings of cities and natures. The study connects to the emerging research on Arctic cities with an aim to highlight the need to better integrate analyses of the urban in the social science research regarding natural resource extraction. The ways how a city and the economic activities and life-modes that are organized through it interact with nature and ecological systems, is intrinsically a contextual and political question, which should not be undermined in the efforts to address the ever-increasing climate and ecological concerns in an increasingly urbanized world.

\*\*\*

**Owen James Harrison**  
Student, Trent University  
owenharrison@trentu.ca

## **An Individuals Role in Reconciliation**

Discourse surrounding reconciliation between settlers and Indigenous peoples is very popular in the current Canadian context. Canada is not the only country that has an Indigenous population that have been victimized by settler colonialism. This paper aims to explore what it means for settler people to meaningfully contribute to reconciliation efforts. Using the Canadian efforts as a framework, this paper will demonstrate that the foundations of reconciliation are based in creating meaningful and trusting relationships between settler and Indigenous populations. There are varying opinions on when reconciliation started in Canada, but in my opinion, reconciliation started when the Canadian government demonstrated an effort to renew its relationship with the Indigenous populations in Canada. This demonstration took place when the Canadian government began working on the 94 Calls to Action that were drafted by National Truth and Reconciliation Commission (NTRC). Looking at the efforts that Canadian institutions and government organizations have done this paper aims to explore what individuals can do to meaningfully contribute to reconciliation. Through this paper I also aim to emphasize that true reconciliation is not something that can be attained and then pushed aside. Reconciliation is an ongoing process that involves a reciprocal relationship between two or more parties. Therefore, to contribute meaningfully to reconciliation, one must ensure they are consistently engaging in the relationship. This paper will explore the avenues Canadian organizations have taken to engage in this continuous relationship. From that an exploration of how these avenues can be translated to an individual effort. After Canadian institutional and government reconciliation efforts have been explored, I aim to interview individuals who are currently working with reconciliation organizations. These individuals will come from two different groups in Canada, one being Indigenous led and the other will be settler run. In these interviews I will look to find commonalities in the efforts that people are doing outside of working for these groups. I will also look to see what has been helpful and what has not been based on the amount of times an action is taken and how it is talked about by the interviewees.

\*\*\*

**Peter Haugseth**  
Assistant professor/Phd candidate UiT, IRN  
peter.haugseth@uit.no

## **Sàmi electoral system and cultural revitalization processes: Some consequences of inclusion/exclusion**

To be able to vote in the Sàmi parliament election (Sámediggi) you have to register in the Sàmi electoral roll (Sametingets valgmantall). In order to do so you must fulfill two criteria: 1) you have to perceive yourself as Sámi 2) you or one of your ancestors (going back to great-grandparents) spoke Sámi when growing up. It is argued that the Sámi system

building with a representative body does not only open up who belongs to the Sámi political community or not, but moreover to a wider discussion on cultural invention and revitalization. In the following presentation two very contrasting cases are being introduced to illustrate different notions of being Sámi today and some of its challenges.

\*\*\*

### **Pigga Keskitalo**

Professor, University of Lapland, Faculty of Education  
pigga.keskitalo@ulapland.fi

### **Presenting current Sami education research projects**

I will present two current projects concerning Sami education. First, talking about the ADVOST project which concentrates on co-developing in a culturally sustain way Sami language distance teaching in small children's context. In that project, we created three innovations with teachers, playfull, traditional story-based and land-based learning projects in endangered Sami languages distance teaching contexts. Second, I will talk about new forthcoming LINCOSY-project that emphasises on co-creating of linguistically responsive teaching in endangered Sami languages contexts in Nordic countries, Finland, Sweden and Norway. First phase consists of document analysis and survey, second phase school ethnography and third phase, teaching innovations in collaboration with teachers. Currently language awareness is a topic that promote diverse pupils' linguistic competency. Teachers need then ability to promote multilingualism, take into account diverse backgrounds of pupils, tackle diverse linguistic contexts and learning contexts. Also language ideologies and ideas effect on teaching and learning. The idea is to scaffold the learning so that we can promote every individuals linguistic capacity in a positive way. Ideas of Sami pedagogy with holism, trust, care and inclusivity help teachers to create learning atmosphere where every youth is in the center of they learning and feeling belonging to the group, kin, society and their land. Belonging creates health self-esteem and well-being of every child and youth as a basis of emansipation in education. Bilingualism/multilingualism should be seen in a wider perspective as a possibility, not hindring or negative thing on learning. Both projects are funded by the Academy of Finland.

\*\*\*

### **Lassi Heininen**

Emeritus Professor, University of Lapland & Editor of Arctic Yearbok  
lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi

### **Common interests vis-a-vis special features of geopolitics – (re)structuring (Arctic) governance**

In reality, all innovations are not strictly technological in the way that modern societies understand technology. In the end of the Cold War period, there was an inspiring sense that we were in a “New North” in terms of ideas and innovations (e.g. initiatives for arms control, disarmament, sustainability; those for trans-boundary cooperation; knowledge as

a new geopolitical factor). Yet some of the outcomes indicating common interests between Arctic states – e.g., cooperation on environmental protection, that on science, search-and-rescue, region-building, circumpolar regionalization - are impressive, as the Arctic was transformed from the ‘military tension’ to ‘geopolitical stability’ based on functional cooperation to build mutual confidence. This wouldn’t be possible, however, without special features of Arctic geopolitics / security – e.g., original nature of the military, instead of armed conflicts high degree of legal certainty, soft ways of governance -, as prerequisites for trans-boundary cooperation and geopolitical stability. It might be hard to recall now, how Indigenous peoples and multiple civil societies, increasingly concerned about their environment, once pushed the Arctic states to act, and how the Arctic states consciously made a paradigm shift on security. This presentation will first, briefly describe the “common interests” and the “special geopolitical features”; second, discuss theoretically the motivation for common interests and an ultimate aim to decrease tension; and finally, analyze, if these common interests and special features are still valid, after another significant transformation when facing great power rivalries and new ‘East-West’ tension, and if so, which ones.

\*\*\*

### **Olivia Wynne Houck**

Doctoral Candidate, History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
owhouck@mit.edu

### **Norway, The Soviet Union, and the Specter of Bases on Svalbard**

In 1949 and 1951, the Soviet Union sent a series of notes to both Norway and NATO, accusing the former of building military bases on the archipelago of Svalbard. Since the militarization of the islands would go against the 1920 Svalbard Treaty, which awarded sovereignty to Norway as long as the island remained de-militarized, this set of accusations was meant to demonstrate that Norway was breaching international law by its membership in the alliance. The Soviet Union assumed that by joining NATO Norway, most likely by default, would be giving the other member nations, particularly the United States, access and ownership to its northernmost territory, which would inevitably result in its militarization. This opinion underscored a larger understanding that NATO was inherently aggressive and thus, despite language to suggest otherwise, would thwart postwar international norms that aimed for a peaceful society. With these notes, and other public statements, the Soviet Union is positioning the concept of the military “base” as a means to undercut high-level, ambiguous political language and prove its larger point - that NATO was inherently “aggressive.” The building, or even the potential building, of structures such as airfields, ports, harbors, barracks, is positioned as proof of intention, ambition, and duplicity, even if such construction doesn’t automatically result in the stationing of troops and weapons. This dynamic is still present in current discourse about the Arctic, especially in the discussions surrounding the positioning of NATO forces in Finland. Relying primarily on newspaper articles and internal NATO meeting transcriptions and memos, this paper not only seeks to narrate this interaction, and underscore the Soviet Union’s palpable anxiety around Norway’s choice to join the alliance, but also to argue that the built environment, namely anything that is (or is meant

to be) spatial, material, and environmental, is a useful focal point for exploring moments of geopolitical tensions.

\*\*\*

### **Pasi Jaakonaho**

Doctoral Candidate, Faculty of Art and Design, the University of Lapland  
pjaakona@ulapland.fi

### **Puukko, sámeniibi, kniv – ultimate tools in the Arctic**

Living in the Arctic is very much based on surviving in everyday life and living side by side with nature's conditions. One big milestone for all mankind's surviving skills has been inventing a tool which what you could cut, skin, carve, make more tools etc. Beginning from blades made of bone, stone or bronze and finally ending up making steel from iron ore or even using ceramic blades.

Up in the North knife is an absolute necessity for people – people still need it for all purposes mentioned above. Sámi, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish have each their own types of knives, which all are very much like near relatives but not quite the same when comparing closely with each other. Nowadays it seems that even terms like sámeniibi, puukko and kniv are getting mixed up and even used incorrectly and this may lead to their absorption to all-around term "knife".

The aim for this study is to get background information to future researches in the field of knives. This will also help to identify, maintain and develop these tools in their cultural and communal contexts.

Since this point no this kind of studies have been made from knives. In this study different types of knives in the Arctic (sámeniibi, puukko and kniv) are compared and as a result got similarities and differences by function, design, used materials and construction.

The study is based on various different sources: literature and interviews with both users and makers. Furthermore the author has personal experience in the field of knives for 30 years and as a lecturer in the Sámi Education Institute located in Inari, Finland for 14 years.

\*\*\*

### **Anna Jarovaja**

Barents Press Finland  
anna.yarovaya87@gmail.com

### **Independent Russian journalism in the North: is there life after death?**

Over the past 20 years, freedom of speech in Russia has been gradually replaced by (state-driven) propaganda. After February 24, 2022, independent journalism in Russia was completely banned, in fact, it is dead. But independent journalists remained. In my paper, I will try to answer the question of whether Russian journalism has a future, a life after death.

I will start with a brief description of the history of pressure on independent journalism in Russia and the main problems of Russian journalists faced over the past 20 years:

repressive censorship legislation, labelling of “foreign agents” and “undesirable organizations”, criminal prosecution and physical violence against journalists, etc. Further on, I will provide examples of the situation in some regions in the North of Russia - in Karelia, Murmansk and Arkhangelsk. Finally, in search of an answer to the question posted above, I will give some examples of how the Nordic countries, state and non-state organizations support independent Russian journalism now that it has found itself in virtual exile.

\*\*\*

**Laura Junka-Aikio**

Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences. Global Northern Societies

[laura.junka-aikio@ulapland.fi](mailto:laura.junka-aikio@ulapland.fi)

**Military colonialism? Building critical approaches to the militarization of Northern Finland in the era of NATO membership.**

Colonization of land through militarization – i.e. through the establishment of military bases, defense systems, training grounds, and other permanent and temporary structures - is a central aspect of colonization that has so far received surprisingly little attention within Critical Arctic or Arctic/Circumpolar settler colonial studies. During the Cold War, the Arctic region was heavily militarized as an arena for the development of nuclear and military capabilities and defense by both sides. Instead of taking place in an imagined “terra nullius”, these activities demanded concrete appropriation of Indigenous lands and resulted also in various other forms of harm, including serious environmental pollution and social changes that promoted assimilation. Today, the new intensification of superpower tensions is again promoting the militarization of lands that have traditionally belonged to the Arctic region’s various Indigenous peoples, but critical discussion on the social, cultural and environmental impact of these developments remains nearly absent. This paper addresses the gap by inviting timely attention to the potential impacts that the ongoing re-militarization of the Arctic may have on local communities in Northern Finland, including the Indigenous Sámi people. Since joining NATO, Finland’s geopolitical position has significantly changed, turning Northern Finland into a new focal point for the military alliance’s defense considerations and strategy. While some people in Northern Finland welcome this development also in civilian terms, seeing NATO membership as an opportunity for instance to improve the region’s logistical and transport infrastructure, there is an urgent need to explore and discuss critically also the risks and challenges that militarization and the growing prominence of security considerations in the context of regional development and governance may pose locally. Building on a review of existing interdisciplinary research on militarization of Indigenous lands and the environmental impact of militarization in the Arctic region, on formal statements made by various actors affected by militarization, and on preliminary ethnographic fieldwork and interviews, the paper explores some of these challenges in order to build ground for new critical and decolonial approaches to the study of Arctic militarization. Consequently, the paper explores the relevance of the concept of “military colonialism” for exploring critically the military-colonial complex in the context of growing world political tensions and with particular emphasis on Northern Finland.

\*\*\*

**Eleni Kavvatha**

Research Officer, CReSPo Centre of Research in Political Science  
ekavvatha@yahoo.gr

**Controlling the narrative: The ability of non - state actors to influence policy related to indigenous tourism in the European Arctic – the case of the Sámi in Norway, Sweden and Finland.**

As the global interest in the Arctic is rising, so are the new common challenges and opportunities in various economic development fields in the region. In the tourism sector, this has been strongly felt in rising tourism numbers, which has subsequently led to the overcrowding of visitors in fragile environments and in places that lack sufficient infrastructure, as well as the means to regulate the tourism business. The growth in tourism, however, has also brought new opportunities for entrepreneurs and attracts businesses from outside local communities, who in the name of profit do not hesitate to create false stereotypes regarding the indigenous culture they so eagerly advertise. The concept of sustainable tourism, has been more and more present in policies adapted by states and the Nordics are not an exception (Nordic Council of Ministers, 2021). However, the economic development that may appear as sustainable and beneficial in a short – term perspective – such as the fast expansion of a region's infrastructure by building roads for better access - might have negative effects on the long – term, especially when certain policies or initiatives are put in place on indigenous land. Moreover, in those new Arctic tourism destinations the challenge for local tourism entrepreneurs is not only to attract sufficient amounts of tourists to make their businesses economically viable, but also, when they are indigenous, to ensure that their culture is presented intact and in its true dimensions, rather than being exploited under false stereotypes for economic purposes. The project aims at evaluating to what extent non - state actors such as the Sámi manage to control the narrative on how indigenous tourism is presented in this time of booming touristic activities in the Arctic, whether their culture is being exploited for economic purposes and whether their concerns and proposals regarding how tourism activities should be undertaken, are taken under consideration. It also aims at looking into whether there is potential for further influence on policy formation in the current international context, following examples from other parts of the Arctic (Canada, Greenland, US).

\*\*\*

**Alma Karabeg**

PhD student, The Arctic University of Norway  
aka088@post.uit.no

**Non- state actors in the Arctic – research institutes on the multi-level governance scene**

The environmental catastrophe and climate crisis in the Arctic in the current geopolitical context are bringing the role of non- state actors in the Arctic to the surface through offering cooperation possibilities by using the means of science diplomacy. One of such non-state actors is research institute KOPRI from the Republic of Korea doing polar research in the Arctic whose area is increasingly disputed, and the area is experiencing warming four times faster than the rest of the world. In the context of global warming, the need for collaboration is crucial. Another factor connected to future-oriented cooperation of importance is under what global conditions will this cooperation take place because international science dialogue is being disturbed by different geopolitical events and global level for science diplomacy is not functioning. The engagement of countries like the Republic of Korea in the Arctic will significantly influence the evolving dynamics in the region, and since the collaboration in the Arctic Council is not functioning properly, there is a need for reaffirming the global relevance of science as a tool of diplomacy, reflecting a common interest to promote scientific cooperation even when diplomatic channels among nations and international bodies are unstable. RoK and KOPRI have turned towards bilateral level of science diplomacy that provides a framework for enhancing the efforts of scientists working on cutting-edge issues. The research institute as a non-state actor will contribute with scientific research to support the environmental pillar of sustainability. Non-state actors can thus use science diplomacy as a key to solve common challenges, and as actors in facilitation of international scientific collaboration through science diplomacy. We must avoid serious knowledge gaps in the Arctic and must examine the entire Arctic because it is one ecosystem. We must have holistic understanding of the development in the Arctic and non-state actors can be a beneficial tool in the times of geopolitical turbulence especially on bilateral level.

\*\*\*

**Linkola-Aikio Inker-Anni**

Inker-Anni.Linkola-Aikio@ulapland.fi

**Linguistic landscape in Sámi education**

In my presentation I will introduce the concepts of linguistic landscape (Landry & Bourhis 1997) and schoolscape (Brown 2005) in Sámi context. I will discuss the role of Sámi language in different visuality on levels of education and its educational use as well as language visuality as a part of language policy and planning.

\*\*\*

**Guglielmo Migliori**

Policy Officer (Arctic, Energy and Climate), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) - Baltic Sea Commission (BSC)  
guglielmo.migliori@outlook.it

**Leveraging the Arctic's Frozen Assets: A Critical Path to EU Energy Security and Transition in a Changing Energy Landscape**

The EU's goal of transitioning towards a green energy economy is at odds with its need for energy security and sovereignty, especially in the wake of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The EU's ambitious strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and phase out Russian fossil fuels under the EU Green Deal, the Fit for 55 packages and the RePower EU Plan necessitates a quick shift to renewable energy sources and the electrification of transportation, leading to an increased dependence on critical raw materials (CRMs) and rare earth elements (REEs). The Arctic region, with its abundant natural resources including oil & gas reserves, REEs, CRMs, and untapped potential for renewable power generation, offers a solution to these challenges. However, its remoteness, harsh climate, and disconnected infrastructure impede its potential. Likewise, the EU's latest Arctic Communication fails to establish a regional strategy or comprehensive framework to enhance Brussels' role in the Arctic in the face of growing Sino-Russian activism in the High North. This paper analyzes the challenges and implications of the energy transition for the EU and examines the potential role of the Arctic region in coping with energy security challenges in the age of transition and climate change. The paper also discusses the importance of cooperative energy projects and initiatives, such as the Nordic Battery Belt and the North Seas Energy Cooperation, in the region. The author argues that EU policymakers must refine the EU's Arctic Strategy and invest in developing infrastructure and energy projects to harness the region's potential for a green shift while preserving pan-European energy security.

\*\*\*

**Daria Mishina**

PhD researcher, University of Lapland  
dmishina@ulapland.fi

**Business in the Arctic. Arctic regional or its central development**

Arctic business and business in the Arctic are vulnerable topics for every Arctic actor as locals, politicians, stakeholders, NGOs etc. Due to the Arctic geopolitical, economic, environmental and cultural significance, business in the Arctic could be accompanied by national, governmental and even international interests. Therefore, behind the Arctic business there are always several indicators with those we can analyze the influence and interdependence between Arctic business, Arctic regions and Arctic capitals: What is the status of a company: private, international, state own? Where is its headquarters and how is the company staff assembled?? Is a company sustainable and does it follow and respect the Arctic culture? What are the general national rules and benefits to maintain a business in the Arctic? What are the companies' strategies and goals? These sub

questions are followed from two main research questions of this paper: Does the number of businesses in the Arctic regions correlate to the Arctic regional development? And where does the money from the Arctic business go to? Even though business in the Arctic is a scientifically and widely researched topic, there is a research gap in the comparative statistical analysis of the Arctic regions. This article provides statistical analysis of businesses in the following Arctic regions: Lapland (Finland), Finnmark (Norway), Yamal (Russia), Yellow Knife (Canada) within 2012, 2015, 2019, 2022. The analysis will also demonstrate economic interdependence between Arctic regions and centers as well as the role of the current Arctic centralization and regionalization.

\*\*\*

**Larry Ibrahim Mohammed**

PhD Research Fellow, Department of Social Science, UiT- The Arctic University of Norway  
lmo049@uit.no

**Snowy Owl or Indigenous Concerns; An analysis of the Kvalsund Wind Power Project in Northern Norway**

The Kvalsund wind power case is heralded as one of the very few wind power application cases to be rejected in Norway'. The Norwegian Water and Energy Directorate (NVE) cited both Nature Diversity issues, specifically the effect on the snowy owl on the one hand and Reindeer herding concerns on the other. While Northern Norway has about 70 per cent of the wind power resources of Norway, Sami reindeer herding concerns have normally come to the fore due to competing land use. Through an in-depth content analysis of the case application documents and NVE correspondence from 2011, the paper examines the extent to which Sami concerns were actually reflected in the decision of the NVE. Both domestic and international law recognize the significant place of indigenous peoples to be consulted on matters which affect them. As a way of ensuring that decisions are not arbitrary, Environmental impact assessments serve as one of the fundamental theoretical reference points for taking decisions by state authorities. The paper reveals that despite an extensive participatory framework for Sami institutions in the wind power licensing process, inputs from Sami representatives do not weigh equally with other state institutions. The analysis of the NVE's decision is also fraught with inconsistencies and knowledge uncertainties. To enhance the quality of participation in the licensing process, the paper recommends a clear delineation between the notion of stakeholders and rights holders. It also recommends a rethink of the impact Assessment document as a domain of pure scientific enquiry to cater to traditional ecological knowledge and other forms of knowing.

\*\*\*

**Heather Nicol**

Director, School for the Study of Canada, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario,  
Canada heathernicol@trentu.ca

**Borders, Mobility, Transnationalism in the Circumpolar North: A North American Focus**

This paper explores new ways of understanding the relationship between mobility and national borders in the circumpolar North, with a particular focus on North America. It begins with an historical focus on the imposition of colonial borders on mobile northern populations, and then moves towards a larger discussion of contemporary circumpolar border structure. The point is to examine the way that mobility challenges state-centered cultural, historical, political, economic and security-related rationales supporting state-centered border management.

The paper suggests that the North has been a place of constant movement for millennium. Mobility is at the heart of both the maintenance of colonial relationships, as well as the centre of the current resurgence of the region's Indigenous Peoples cultures, as they become more engaged in governance and sovereignty relationships. While the details differ from place to place, the fact of mobility and its role in regional governance is a common historical thread within all of the eight Arctic states. Today, new forms of Indigenous now challenge current forms of border management, while speculation about climate change suggests that in the future, new patterns of mobility will be emerge. What does that mean for border management? What does it mean for those non-state actors who position themselves in the circumpolar region within its structure of national and international governance?

This discussion orients and is oriented by themes within the Borders in Globalization 21st Century Partnership project and its examination of the future of borderlands studies. It addresses this project's broad orientation and interest in global trends through the exploration of relevance of new forms of transnational regional engagement.

\*\*\*

**Thomas Nilsen & Alte Stålesen**

The Barents Observers  
thomas@thebarentsobserver.com  
atle@thebarentsobserver.com

**Cross-border journalism from Kirkenes in times of censorship**

Why was the small regional Norwegian-based Barents Observer already in 2014 targeted by Russia's FSB with a request to shut down? And how has the non-profit independent news-online managed to circumnavigate the Kremlin's censorship wall since it was blocked four years ago?

The Barents Observer has since 2002 published news stories from inside the Nordic North and the Russian Arctic. Over the last six months, four exile-Russian journalists have joined the team of reporters and are daily finding ways to get hold of reliable sources and

information from inside Russia in times of deep war-propaganda and indoctrination. This short presentation will give a insight to how the work is still done.

\*\*\*

**Laila Aleksandersen Nutti**

[lailaan@samas.no](mailto:lailaan@samas.no)

### **The importance of "everyday joik"**

This talk will introduce "everyday joik", a component of my PhD thesis on the pedagogical use of joik. Joik - *luohtija juoigán*, the Sámi people's traditional vocal music form, is a unique kind of cultural expression that incorporates traditional knowledge, yet almost invisible in educational settings. I will discuss the pedagogical potential in "everyday joik" and the way children may express and experience aesthetic sensibilities through joik, as part of Indigenizing Sámi education.

\*\*\*

**Marlene Payva**

The Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law, Arctic Centre University of Lapland

[marlene.payvaalmonte@ulapland.fi](mailto:marlene.payvaalmonte@ulapland.fi)

### **Rethinking Nature in the Context of Climate Change and 'Green' Transformation: An Indigenous Peoples' perspective**

While an intimate, respectful and harmonious relationship with the land is core to Indigenous Peoples' understanding of nature, for colonizers, looking for "new" lands for expansion had a totally opposite meaning. Colonizers saw the land as an object of appropriation over which to exercise authority for its exploitation as a source of wealth. This is a central point where these two diametrically different understandings of the world collide. As occurred in other colonized lands, the Arctic natural world and its peoples were subjected to outsiders' authority who ignored and disparaged Indigenous relationships with their lands and forcefully imposed theirs. As a result, otherwise indivisible lands were parcelled and their peoples separated, causing widespread destruction and suffering. One of the long-lasting implications of the Arctic (and global) history of colonization, intertwined with the ongoing climate and ecological crises, is the utilitarian assumption of nature as a depository of 'resources' to be exploited in order to satisfy human needs oriented to unlimited growth. This prevailing understanding of nature implanted during the colonial enterprise has been materialized across the Arctic (and globally) through development projects. Persisting in pursuing an agenda of economic development at all cost, even in its refurbished 'sustainable' version, will only continue and accelerate the effects of the climate and ecological crises that are leading the world and, in particular, vulnerable ecosystems like the Arctic to collapse. Yet, despite being at the forefront of climate change impacts, state-led Arctic governance does not reflect the urgent need of changing the current ('sustainable') development path. The search for and exploitation of

resources in the Arctic will likely only grow, along with the demand of Arctic resources necessary for the 'green' global transformation, and the increased accessibility to the Arctic due to the melting of Arctic sea ice. In this context, my research contribution aims to interrogate whether traditional states' apparatus - embracing colonial understandings of nature- are still the ideal actors to lead much needed far-reaching actions, where the preservation of (Arctic) ecosystems and its peoples prevail; and how Indigenous Peoples' relationship with the natural world can inform the development of laws and policies oriented to address climate change impacts in the Arctic and beyond.

\*\*\*

**Tatiana Petrova**

Project Specialist, the Kajaani University of Applied Sciences & The Regional Council of Kainuu.

Tatianapetrova@kamk.fi

**Bridging Youth and Regional Development Through Dialogue**

The modern world is made of contrasts, conflicts and changes. Changes require awareness on the most important resources we have: people and knowledge. Many remote areas of the northern parts of Scandinavia are facing demographic issues and lack of skilled labor. Young people tend to leave for studies to the bigger cities and stay there. Bridging Youth and Regional Development Through Dialogue is project, which aims to build a common ground for collaboration and co-creation of joint methodology focusing on bridging young people and local public authorities in two regions in Finland in Kainuu & Northern Ostrobothnia and in Norwegian region Nordland, as well as to build cohesion and contribute to resilience of the remote areas. Project partners together with young people explore several different dialogues methodologies and based on the best practices create joint written recommendation on further steps of bridging youth & regional development actors. In a rapidly changing environment, it is crucial to engage various stakeholders to work on community resilience. Resilience and trust make people united and help tackle unexpected challenges in the upcoming years, while helping communities to become more attractive for living, working, studying. Public sectors need to involve youth in their planning processes. The point of view of young people is growing more and more important for the regional development. For the remote region to stay vital, it is crucial to attract young people and make them also stay. In that context, the constructive dialogue is a tool to engage young people to decision-making, produce mutual understanding and raise the level of knowledge. Too often young people feel unable to make change because "change only happens at a high level, with big organizations". But that is not true. Most of the time, change must start with simple step, on a small scale. The aim of the project activities is not only to give a voice to the younger generation, but to prepare them for future participation and active citizenship.

\*\*\*

**Heidi Maarit Pietarinen**

Professor, textile art and design, University of Lapland, Faculty of Art and Design, Rovaniemi, Finland.

heidi.pietarinen@ulapland.fi

**Life Between Art and Blood: Chaos with Trash**

Artist-researchers Heidi Pietarinen and Amna Qureshi from the University of Lapland Finland have conducted in-depth work on the innovative BioARTEch laboratory environment and utilisation of available resources for a bioart project called Life Between Art and Blood. The aim and focus of the project was to utilise reindeer blood as a reindeer herding by-material instead of treating it as waste material. Both artist-researchers were curious to see how nature as a living design medium becomes perceptible to humans. Working with one theme but offering different perspectives and approaches is explored to understand conflicts that may occur while creating and connecting with 'other' living forms and materials. In this study, a living design medium refers to material production that incorporates simple living organisms such as reindeer blood, material-driven design and co-designing, with an entity having its own agency. Bioart can be used to develop innovative design and art practice to work with nature (biology) and the non-human, such as live tissues (i.e. materials engineered by nature itself), microbes or living organisms (birds, insects, trees and blood), to bring about new design solutions and life processes. Design patterns convey the idea that nature is not composed of objects, but can be observed through the lenses of different life forms and co-creators. This means that our understanding of nature is contextual and ever-changing, depending on our viewpoint. We must recognize the importance of the many layers of life and interactions between them in order to create a holistic understanding of the natural world. The fundamental goal is to discover unconventional natural potential resources, to co-create more innovative, sustainable, and comprehensive ways to generate a dialogue that provides a possibility to express the dialectics between the different artists-researches and intelligence between man and nature. What kinds of knowledge is excluded from art-based research? Are there boundaries to bioart?

\*\*\*

**Anna Margarete Pluschke**

J.S.D. Candidate

University of Maine School of Law

anna.pluschke@googlemail.com

**The Arctic Council – Ready to tackle the balance between marine environmental protection and the impacts of climate change?**

The Arctic is facing crucial challenges on an environmental, economic, and geopolitical level. I will evaluate and discuss whether the Arctic Council as an international forum in its current form is up to the task tackling the balance between marine environmental protection and the impacts of climate change as declining sea ice and progressive viability of waterways endanger marine life. In a first step, I will briefly outline the current state of the forum established in 1996. It is the main regional inter-governmental forum in the

Arctic supporting co-operation on environmental protection and sustainable development and comprises eight Arctic States, Indigenous Organizations as Permanent Participants and non-Arctic states and organizations that have observer status. Six working groups conduct the main work. In a second step, I will address a set of structural obstacles the Arctic Council is facing that might hinder a proper tackling of marine environmental protection issues and the impacts of climate change, such as the low participation of sub-national governments as Alaska, Greenland and the Canadian territories in the work of the Arctic Council but also inadequate funding and the general tension between environmental protection and economic development in light of climate change. I will also focus on the role and the importance of the Permanent Participants and the non-state Observers. The current situation demands to focus on political problems. Russia will not be a reliable partner in the future. For the Arctic, this means that we will need to assess whether or not some form of co-operation could be compartmentalized. In a last step, I will discuss whether the organizational form of the Arctic Council is a hindrance or rather a benefit for solving issues in the Arctic region and reflect on current and emerging issues.

\*\*\*

**Virga Popovaitė**

PhD fellow, Nord University  
popovaitėvirga@gmail.com

**Maps and Safety in the Arctic: more-than-human interactions in a Search and Rescue response**

Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts in the Norwegian Arctic face challenging conditions: responders must consider unpredictable weather, surface features, infrastructure scarcity, technological capacity, and immediacy of finding the missing people. These challenges prompted the international agreement for SAR cooperation in the Arctic between the Arctic countries. However, a cancelled international SAR exercise in Barents sea shows that response collaboration is not free from the geopolitical tension. My research is about how maps are assembled through practices within the context of SAR operations in Northern Norway. I have noticed significant attention coming from the Norwegian mainland towards the availability of maps for Rescue Services in Svalbard. With this presentation, I want to explore how this direct line of maintenance affects the SAR capacity, and what it can bring to an international SAR collaboration. My study is based on New Materialism, which pays attention to interactions. I investigate maps as processes, focusing on how they are constituted through practices. Therefore, I follow heterogenous entanglements of more-than-human actors. In this presentation I focus on localities related to Svalbard archipelago and the mainland where maps are practiced, including the incident response in Svalbard, the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, and map modelling institutions in Northern Norway. Employment of maps cuts across different fields, such as remote sensing, avalanche tracking, funding, regulations, and infrastructure. Fluid landscape of the archipelago does not allow itself to be translated into a map. Gaps are filled in with knowledge collected through more-than-human networks. With increasingly evident change of weather patterns, a settlement's capacity for a timely response lingers on the effectiveness of these networks. Furthermore, technological capabilities of rescuers in Longyearbyen are highly interconnected with

what happens in the mainland. Continuous collaboration between the mainland and Rescue Services in Svalbard emphasizes Norway's responsibility over its Search and Rescue Region in the Arctic, thus strengthening its capacity to participate in collaborative SAR operations.

\*\*\*

**Line Reichelt Føreland**

line.r.foreland@uia.no

### **Game-based learning in Sámi education**

This presentation will present a PhD project about the collaborative research project "Minecraft as a teaching tool," which was initiated by the University of Agder in Norway and the Sámi University of Applied Sciences in Sápmi, Norway. In the project, the research team have utilized collaborative game design to create a Sámi Minecraftworld that is used in both Sámi and Norwegian-speaking schools. The game was designed to fulfill curricular goals while also serving as a medium for cultural knowledge. To date, the game has been downloaded over 40,000 times and is being adapted to several Sámi languages.

\*\*\*

**Amna Qureshi**

Researcher and Doctoral Candidate, University of Lapland, Finland

amna.qureshi@ulapland.fi

### **Life Between Art and Blood**

Bioart plays an important role in critically challenging emerging life science applications, stimulating scientific thinking, artistic practices, and methods to create artworks to contribute to new research questions and pioneering technologies. It can be used to develop innovative design and art practice to work with nature (biology) and the non-human, such as live tissues (i.e. materials engineered by nature itself), microbes or living organisms (birds, insects, trees and blood), to bring about new design solutions and life processes. (Pietarinen et al., 2022a; Pietarinen 2021, p. 275 - 284). Through the arts-based research (ABR) approach, this ground-breaking research aims to develop activities that integrate environmental biotechnology, bioart, surface pattern design, and science. There are a variety of ways to deal with waste materials. Using biochemistry techniques and biomaterials creatively can help create innovative products. Can design optimally allow chaos to form potential symbiotic relationships with natural waste? Can multidisciplinary working groups, like biochemists and artists-researchers, create a new life by equipping nature with the diversity of natural waste? To answer, this study uses reindeer herding by-products to design new patterns and to feed microbial life. Therefore, a circular process and value chain are created to maximize the reuse and recycling of industrial by-products. A BioARTech Laboratory (established 2021) at the Faculty of Art and Design of the University of Lapland in Finland focuses on developing new knowledge

about bio art. This laboratory seeks to develop activities that combine bioart, material study, textile art, creative research, biotechnology and science. The study aims to utilize reindeer blood as a reindeer herding by-product rather than treating it as a waste product. It also examines the concept of a living design medium, in which simple living organisms (reindeer blood) can be utilized for material production, material-driven design and co-design.

\*\*\*

**Tom Gabriel Royer**

PhD Candidate, University of Lapland, Faculty of Law  
troyer@ulapland.fi

**Questioning the Holisticness of Space Sustainability Law: a Critical Examination of Arctic and Scottish Commercial Spaceports**

The success of international space sustainability regulations is dependent on national implementation, and spacefaring nations are usually keen to comply. However, as commercial spaceports proliferate, the law of nations remains vague on the role of these structures in terms of Earth-space sustainability. While policymakers tout ‘space for the Arctic’, spaceports pollute pristine sites, scare wildlife or disturb fishers and reindeer herders, perpetuating colonial mechanisms. Moreover, by allowing affordable access to space, they reinforce space unsustainability, as some limits have already been reached, e.g. in terms of space debris and visibility of dark skies. They also contribute to global climate change, affecting already vulnerable regions such as the Arctic. A critical examination of space sustainability and spaceport regulations is therefore needed in light of the “environmental limits to the space sector’s growth” (Miraux, 2022). This article-based PhD project proposes two critical literature reviews on the respective topics of space sustainability and spaceport regulations, combined with doctrinal studies of relevant regulations and guidelines and various policy/implementation reports. The objective is to find lacunae of law by analysing the degree of comprehensiveness of space sustainability regulations, both with regard to sustainability on Earth and beyond Earth orbit and with regard to the role of commercial spaceports. Three case studies (Andøya in Norway, Esrange in Sweden, and the Sutherland Spaceport in Scotland) analyse the issues from the perspective of critical Arctic studies, illustrating the gaps in the regulation of these spaceports and the impact of these gaps on Arctic nature, peoples and communities. Finally, soft law, national legislation, and regional cooperation are gradually influencing the governance of space. As organisations such as the Nordic Council and the Arctic Centre enable constructive cooperation in the field of sustainable development, the project proposes to draft a policy brief on how Nordic cooperation could support a more holistic global mindset on the subject of space sustainability as applied to commercial spaceports in the Arctic and Scotland. The aim is to strengthen the protection of nature – including outer space – through space law.

\*\*\*

**Alexander Sergunin**

Professor of the Department of International Relations Theory and History, St. Petersburg State University  
sergunin60@mail.ru

**Evaluating the effectiveness of Arctic science diplomacy of Russian universities: some practical proposals**

The paper aims to suggest some criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of Arctic science diplomacy of Russian universities. Six main groups of criteria are identified: international project activities of universities (including a number of joint research projects and collaborations, duration of these projects, the amount of funding, etc.); universities' international publication activity (including a number of publications in the Scopus and Web of Science journals, as well as in the highly reputed international publishing houses); organization of regular scientific events on the Arctic problematique; the presence of a developed scientific and organizational infrastructure (including specialized departments, institutes, laboratories and research centers, as well as of polar research stations in the region); organization of international polar expeditions (land and sea) and participation in the work of international scientific organizations and professional associations of Arctic scientists. The negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's special military operation in Ukraine (in February 2022) on the state of university Arctic science diplomacy is analyzed.

Keywords: Arctic science diplomacy, Russian universities, criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of international scientific cooperation.

\*\*\*

**Soili Nysten-Haarala**

Professor, vice-rector of the University of Lapland  
soili.nysten-haarala@ulapland.fi

**Arctic Railway plans and Transportation Corridors in the Changing Geo-political Environment**

The Arctic railway connecting the northernmost Norwegian coast to the Finnish railway system is a planned megaproject that has been discussed for decades and actually predates the independence of countries. The latest attempt to build the railway started in 2017 but was later found economically unviable and harming local interests, including the Sami people. Sami people have mainly opposed this project vehemently on both sides of the national border as they see it as a risk to their traditional livelihood, ways of living and environment. Supporters of the Arctic railway see business opportunities and arguments for better security of supply. The melting Arctic Ocean and The EU's interest in knitting its regions more tightly together anyhow drive further the interest towards Arctic railway. Transforming geopolitics and Finnish NATO membership has brought the Arctic railway back on the agenda.

\*\*\*

**Mari-Anna Suurmunne**

Director of International Affairs at the University of Lapland  
mari-anna.suurmunne@ulapland.fi

**Conflicts/geopolitical tensions – challenges for global engagement of higher education institutions**

The current geopolitical situation also has a severe impact on academic collaboration and internationalization strategies of higher education institutions. How are geopolitical tensions and conflicts changing our work, how should we prepare for the future, and last but not least what kind of tools and good practices already in place tackle these challenges? What kind of role does science diplomacy and/or knowledge diplomacy have? What do we need to consider in the international cooperation in the Arctic?

\*\*\*

**Victoria V. Tevlina**

Professor, Barents Institute, UIT – The Arctic University of Norway

**About the Barents Institute and the book project «From Northeast Passage to Northern Sea Route. A history of the waterway North of Eurasia» (2022)**

The research activities of the Barents Institute deal with a whole range of inter-disciplinary topics concerning border relations in the North and in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, but also with borders between countries in a wider context. One of these large-scale projects, which were carried through as a joint project by scholarly institutions in Norway, Russia and the Netherlands, was the researching and writing of a collective monograph on the history of the Northern Sea Route between Europa and Asia, north of Eurasia. The book was published in October 2022 by the Brill publishers, the Netherlands. This book of some 500 pages is the first comprehensive publication on this topic to appear in English.

\*\*\*

**Svetlana Tuinova**

Researcher, Lulin Institute for Economic Studies of the Kola Science Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences (IES KSC RAS)  
tuinova@iep.kolasc.net.ru

**Linking alternative energy to the development of technological and environmental security in the Arctic**

This article examines small local generation systems in the Arctic - microgrids or mini-grids - a group of interconnected consumers and distributed energy resources (DERs). The DERs can either be connected to the centralised grid or can operate independently in "island mode". DERs are usually alternative energy resources placed near consumers in the distribution network, which can include: PV, wind, geothermal, combined heat and power (CHP), energy storage, demand response, electric vehicles, microgrids and energy efficiency. The purpose of the study was to prospectively assess the impact of alternative energy on the state of technical and environmental safety in the Arctic. The results have

led to the following conclusions: \* The growing number of DERs serving the electricity grid increases grid resilience in many cases. DERs provide grid resilience through components such as: dispatchability, response with little or no notice; islanding capability, critical load management during outages; geographical advantages such as location on critical points; decentralisation of the energy source; and operational flexibility. \* A comparison of six DERs with the "standby generator" option revealed that renewable DERs are less or equally likely to face: 1) fuel supply interruptions; 2) equipment damage; 3) capacity constraints; and 4) planned or forced outages during natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, forest fires, snow/ice than a standby generator. In case of high winds and extreme temperatures, on the other hand, the DER performed worse than the standby generator. \* Continued "close working" with local communities and indigenous peoples as key stakeholders is recognised as significant in the development of alternative energy projects in the Arctic, because it improves planning and project design, makes better decisions and ensures a more equitable distribution of benefits among local community stakeholders. \* Externalities and their value are often best realised when local communities are involved in the decision-making process. An integrated approach to Arctic energy systems includes careful consideration of sustainability-related externalities.

\*\*\*

### **Jakub Wambach & Marie Crikova**

M.A. students, Czech

[jakubwambach@gmail.com](mailto:jakubwambach@gmail.com)

[marie.cvikova@tul.cz](mailto:marie.cvikova@tul.cz)

### **Cross-Border Cooperation in the North Calotte Region: Observing and application of the approaches to Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa**

Our main field of research is focused on cross-border cooperation, particularly in the Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa. In the North Calotte region, cross-border cooperation has been facilitated through the establishment of a number of cross-border institutions and initiatives, including cross-border cooperation committees and interregional development programs. These institutions have helped to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between different stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, and indigenous people. Similarly, in the Euroregion Nisa, cross-border cooperation can be facilitated through the establishment of similar institutions and initiatives that promote dialogue and collaboration between different actors. This can include the establishment of cross-border cooperation committees, the creation of joint development programs, and the promotion of cultural exchange and dialogue. Despite being two distant regions they have similarities in social and cross-border challenges to overcome as well as the environmental ones. Moreover, the North Calotte region's experience with cross-border cooperation can also provide valuable insights into border governance and geopolitics, particularly with respect to issues related to territoriality, sovereignty, and security. By sharing experiences and knowledge, the North Calotte region can contribute to the development of innovative solutions to complex border-related challenges in the Euroregion Nisa, promoting greater cooperation and integration across borders. Using a comparative approach between the

North Calotte region and the Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa and subsequent benchmarking, we will identify best practices and opportunities for improvement in the Euroregion Nisa and then use the observed results and information in areas where the Euroregion is lagging behind others and to develop new strategies, processes or practices that can improve the region's performance.

\*\*\*

**Gleb Yarovoy**

Doctoral researcher, the University of Eastern Finland  
gleb.iarovoi@uef.fi

**When a dream does not come true. Re-interpreting regional cooperation in the Euro-Arctic Rim**

The (imperialist) war in Ukraine unleashed by the Putin regime poses multiple challenges for Europe. One of them is to explain the current changes in Russian politics and society, including the everyday life on the periphery. For many European countries, Russia is not an abstract source of threat, but a direct neighbor, both separated and connected with them by a common border that is undergoing the most significant transformation from an open border to a new Iron Curtain. The new spatial concepts of the 1990s-2010s, such as the “New North of Europe” or the “North European and Baltic space”, turned out to be obsolete, and numerous structures of regional cooperation, from the Barents region to the Euroregion Baltic, promoted by the EU normative power (e.g. within the framework of the Northern Dimension and Neighbourhood Policy), along with programs of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM cooperation strategy with North-West Russia) and individual countries, primarily Finland (e.g. Euregio Karelia) and Norway (Barents Euro-Arctic Region), failed to create a sustainable spillover effect. The aim of this paper is to (re)conceptualize this failure from the perspective of the northern Europe-Russia peripheral borderlands, known as the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, the region which were once intensively studied, but have been somehow forgotten by researchers in the recent years. With this aim in mind, the paper reconsiders the history of regional cooperation in the European North in search for new theoretical and methodological approaches for border studies and revision of the previous research paradigms and arguments that failed to meet the reality.

\*\*\*

**Yulia Zaika**

Researcher at the Institute for Economic Studies KSC RAS, Head International KSC RAS  
yzaika@inbox.ru

**Multilevel international science cooperation in the Arctic at times of geopolitical turbulence: critical review**

The Arctic region in the global context with its existing institutions of international cooperation has always been positioned in various political and scientific discourses as a model of successful interaction and a platform for a peaceful dialogue between states, cultures, and spheres of influence. Nevertheless, Arctic is manifested in its duality within the certain modality. And this modality is constantly transformed, moving from disaster

and rivalry (e.g., during the heroic times of geographic discovery and conquest/colonial past in the Arctic) to positive cooperation, triumph (manifestation of international human rights, indigenous peoples, tight scientific connections and initiatives, and, until recently, the functioning of the Arctic Council as a successful cooperation platform for all countries of the Arctic Eight as well as model for other regions).

Currently at times of geopolitical turbulence the Arctic, and in particular its scientific institutions, as drivers of international cooperation, began to play the important relevance in scientific research, forming new models and facets of relationships in a very important region of the Earth system, which involves a complex, comprehensive ontogenesis within the concept of sustainable development.

The broad multilevel architecture of international cooperation in the Arctic is based on the principle of complexity, interconnectedness, and organizational connectivity, when political, economic, scientific, and social institutions of interaction extend their competence and expertise on a particular issue to the borders of interaction with other institutions setting limits. When looking at practical examples of cooperation on the Arctic scientific arena, we can name multidisciplinary cross-border cooperation programs (for example, CBC Kolarctic, CBC Karelia and others), such institutions as the Arctic Council, the International Arctic Science Committee and others, global overarching programs such as IPY, planning processes as ICARP, ratification of bilateral and multilateral agreements (for example, the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation) and others. Only part of them have shown the partial sustainability and flexibility to the influence of external conditions such as current geopolitical crisis.

All these practical examples are linked by the commonality of their priorities for the sustainable development of the Arctic region, while examples of competition often use not so much the difference of scientific discourses, theoretical schools and visions of one or another scientific problem, as the creation of certain conditions that involve the development of competitiveness which at times create and reinforce the scientific fatigue from the certain agenda (climate change, covid, etc.). Moreover, the generational turnover shows the greater flexibility to the critical times of uncertainty.

In this presentation author will discuss the flexibility at different levels of science cooperation and its institutions in the Arctic at times of geopolitical crisis on the basis of active participant observation and involvement.



## **From Scholars' Journey to the North into a School of Dialogue - 31 Years of Calotte Academy**

This is a short version of a written Calotte Academy's history; the completed version is published in November 2021 as a part of the book *"Selected Articles of Calotte Academy – A travelling northern symposium on science and politics"* (eds. by Heininen and Huotari). As history is often been told chronologically, the story starts from the first event and goes towards the present time. Each annual academy, divided into three phases, is briefly described including theme(s), route, locations and feelings, as well as a summary of presentations & discussions. After this retrospective overview the aims, methods, procedure & structure of the Academy are been analyzed, and finally, outcomes & achievements specified and discussed.

In nutshell, the Calotte Academy is an annual international, travelling symposium and interdisciplinary academic seminar on Northern & Arctic issues with high expertise and policy-orientation, as well as strong educational & training components.

The 1st event took place in May 23-24, 1991 at Jeera (of Saami Education Institute) in Inari, Finnish Lapland - and since then it been arranged annually. This makes the Academy one of the oldest still running international academic institutions on circumpolar northern issues, and the oldest with sessions located in the Arctic region. Born and raised in Inari, and acted as Inari's special higher education component, it is a perfect example of the interplay between science, politics and business, and a 'Global-Local' interference.

The Academy is, so far, been surprisingly resilient, as it has continued as an international scientific seminar and school of dialogue on a wide variety of overarching themes of circumpolar & Arctic studies addressing globally, regionally and locally relevant issues, concerns and problems.

### **Three Phases & Several Places**

When looking chronologically the annual events of the Academy, it is possible (not planned in the beginning) to recognize the following phases within the (first) 30 years:

At 1st phase (1991-1999/2000): The Academy was established to act as a seminar of Tampere Peace Research Institute's international research project, and a platform for public discussion on relevant issues, covering security, ecology and sustainable development, between scholars and local & regional stakeholders, and also educate younger generation of journalists;

At 2nd phase (2001-2011): It acted as an international forum for scientific and policy-oriented dialogue on relevant issues – globally, regionally and locally – among members of research community and wide range of other stakeholders, and served as a regional sub-forum for the NRF & it's Open Assemblies, and an inter-disciplinary seminar for international organizations (e.g. Barents Press) and new institutes (e.g. Barents Institute);

At 3rd phase (2012- ): The Academy became mature enough to act as an annual travelling symposium & 'school of dialogue' for early-career scientists (PhD candidates and post docs) from the Arctic States and Central Europe, as well as served as a forum

for UArctic Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security and Arctic Yearbook brainstorming.

Among the Academy's co-organizers are Sámi Education Institute, Municipality of Inari, Arctic Centre & Faculty of Social Sciences at University of Lapland; Barents Institute & Department of Sociology, Political Science and Community Planning at University of Tromsø, The Arctic University of Norway; Lulin Institute for Economic Studies of RAS at Kola Science Centre & Faculty of Geography at The Lomonosov Moscow State University; and NRF & TN on Geopolitics and Security. It is been financially supported by Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Nordic Council of Ministers, International Arctic Science Committee, and Municipality of Inari, as well as by in-kind support of co-organizers.

### **Aims, Methods, Procedure & Structure**

Though, substance is the most important thing, it matters what kind of procedure & structure is there - in the case of the Calotte Academy it is simple and non-bureaucratic. This unorthodox & flexible format is neither common in the scientific community nor easily taken by established academic & funding institutions.

As a unique academic 'school of dialogue' the Academy's aim and efforts are to create, promote and enhance a lively dialogue with communicators' commitment & certain prerequisites and rules. To implement this the sessions are structured based on an 'open dialogue', which is interpreted as a cumulative process with an open-ended nature and inclusivity, to engage others arguments, and focus on issue domain. Further, there is time enough for open discuss after each presentation, as well as patience among the participants to listen to others' argumentation (having expertise in other disciplines, fields and knowledge).

Each annual event consists of a core group of open-minded people and talented minds, who are interested in substance and motivated, as well as committed to open-minded dialogue. In each location, there is an active local audience.

The Academy is no exclusive club, as participants are equal as presenters - no keynote speakers – and selected based on an open call for application. No registration fee, instead of a small grant to support travelling and accommodation of early-career scientists, mostly PhD candidates.

### **Outcomes & Achievements**

The Calotte Academy sessions in the European Arctic use to serve as platforms for scientific and other expert presentations, as well as an open and lively discussions between different stakeholders. This 'transdisciplinarity' is been successful in implementing the social relevance of science, and being attractive for early-career scientists.

As numerous outcomes of the three phases in the first 30 years of Calotte Academy: 28 annual events in 19 locations in Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Sapmi with a few hundred active participants representing more than 25 nationalities. Altogether almost 600 presentations in 160 sessions, covering all relevant northern and arctic issues and

themes, and innumerable number of comments and counter-arguments, questions and answers in discussions after each presentation.

Based on the presentations and discussions Final Reports are written, also published at Arctic Yearbook, and eleven scientific books & proceedings published (English or Finnish).

More importantly, the Academy has become a method with a strong educational component (without official duties) to implement an open and cumulative dialogue with focus on an issue, allocated time, and mutual confidence & respect. As well as, its aims, methods and experimental nature has made it an open, democratic forum for academic & policy-oriented activities, an alternative model for conventional academic gatherings (often lacking of time and patience for open discussion).

A participatory approach and by nature synergistic, not against anyone or anything (except maybe narrow-minded thinking & bureaucratic structures) is been taken as a welcome addition to the spectrum of existing platforms, fora, means & methods. According to the aims and based on the methods, procedure and expertise there is a certain philosophy of the Academy consisting of participatory approach and inclusivity, implemented by open discussion as a cumulative process between relevant stakeholders; critical approach across disciplines of science and expertise, implemented by the double Interplay: between science, politics and business, and Western science & Indigenous knowledge; respect towards knowledge-building, and that an attitude matters, when building a process which is cumulative & exponential; and finally, flexibility and economical efficiency in organization.

## **Conclusions**

Though small and rare, the Academy is been successfully acting as a school of dialogue between stakeholders, a platform & sub-forum for international research projects & conferences, and a springboard for international organizations & brainstorming meetings. As an open, independent & autonomous entity, it is implementing synergy between different expertise and stakeholders, as well as between existing organizations and networks. All in all, around the Academy there is been born an 'Ecosystem' consisting of among others Northern Research Forum & Open Assemblies, TN on Geopolitics and Security & sessions at Arctic Circle, Arctic Yearbook and GlobalArctic Project & Handbook.

In the turbulent times of world politics, when facing wicked and complex problems and being in a multi-dimensional crisis, to lean on high expertise and use unorthodox methods are needed.

Behind is an understanding that our modern societies, including northernmost societies, benefit of having constant interplay between science, politics and business – that the social relevance of science is taken literally -, and that there are new & fresh ideas, and those who produce new scientific knowledge, as rapid progress and fast changes are accelerated by crises. The Calotte Academy with serious efforts & experiences to enhance open discussion, and share knowledge and experiences with local communities, as well as bravery to believe in a dialogue as confidence building measure, deserves to be recognized and its experiences heard and studied.

***Selected Articles of Calotte Academy – A travelling northern  
symposium on science and politics***

The book *Selected Articles of Calotte Academy – A travelling northern symposium on science and politics*, edited by Lassi Heininen and Jussi Huotari, and published by the Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, was launched during the 2021 Calotte Academy. The publication consists of 54 scholarly articles from the annual academies in 1991-2019, and the Academy's written history.

A digital copy of the book is accessible at <https://arcticpolitics.com>.

## About TN on Geopolitics and Security

The Thematic Network (TN) on Geopolitics and Security, established and approved in 2009, is one of the academic & expert networks of the University of the Arctic. The main aim is to combine the two focus areas – Studies on Geopolitics, and Security Studies -, and based on that to draw up a holistic picture on Arctic geopolitics and Northern security, as well as to identify & analyze major changes of them. Another aim is to promote 'Interdisciplinarity' and to implement the interplay between research and teaching / between young and senior scholars, as well as to promote the interplay between science and politics, and that between scientific and Indigenous knowledge(s).

### Main aims

For to implement the aims & purposes, as well as to promote interdisciplinary discourse on the two focus areas, the TN on Geopolitics and Security: Firstly, publishes annually The Arctic Yearbook – the first volume was launched in November 2012 (see: <https://arcticyearbook.com>); Secondly, co-organizes annually the Calotte Academy, and international travelling symposium & doctoral school; Thirdly, organizes breakout sessions on Arctic security, geopolitics & governance at the annual Arctic Circle Assembly (in Reykjavik, Iceland), and its own brainstorming meetings back-to-back to international conferences; Fourthly, makes initiatives for, as well as coordinates and runs, international research projects on IR, Geopolitics and Security studies (e.g. “The GlobalArctic”), international expert networks (e.g. the MOOC of the Global Arctic), and international book projects, such as *The Arctic – a region of strategies and policies. Avoiding a new Cold War* (funded by the Valdai Discussion Club – available at [www.valdaiclub.com](http://www.valdaiclub.com)); *Climate Change and Arctic Security. Searching for a Paradigm Shift & Future Security of the Global Arctic* at Palgrave Pivot (by Palgrave Macmillan, 2016 & 2019); *The Handbook of the GlobalArctic & The Post-Cold War Arctic* (by Springer in 2019 & 2022).

### TN contacts

Leader of the TN: Lassi Heininen, Emeritus Professor

Email: [lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi](mailto:lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi)

Coordinator of the TN: Gerald Zojer, Researcher, PhD-candidate

E-mail: [gerald.zojer@ulapland.fi](mailto:gerald.zojer@ulapland.fi)

<https://arcticpolitics.com>



# Arctic Yearbook

The Arctic Yearbook is intended to be the pre-eminent repository of critical analysis on the Arctic region, with a mandate to inform observers about the state of Arctic geopolitics and security. It is an international and interdisciplinary peer-reviewed open access publication, published online at <https://arcticyearbook.com> to ensure wide distribution and accessibility to a variety of stakeholders and observers. The 2023 Arctic Yearbook “Arctic Indigenous Peoples: Climate, Science & Knowledge and Governance” will be launched in November (more detailed information later at the website).

## Editor

Lassi Heininen, Professor emeritus, E-mail: [lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi](mailto:lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi)

## Managing Editors

Heather Exner-Pirot, Senior Researcher, E-mail: [exnerpirot@gmail.com](mailto:exnerpirot@gmail.com)

Justin Barnes, PhD Candidate & Fellow at Polar Research and Policy Initiative, E-mail: [jbarnes@balsillieschool.ca](mailto:jbarnes@balsillieschool.ca)

## Editions

Arctic Yearbook 2012: “Arctic Policies and Strategies”

Arctic Yearbook 2013: “The Arctic of the Regions vs. the Globalized Arctic”

Arctic Yearbook 2014: “Human Capital in the North”

Arctic Yearbook 2015: “Governance and Governing”

Arctic Yearbook 2016: “The Arctic Council: 20 Years of Regional Cooperation and Policyshaping”

Arctic Yearbook 2017: “Change and Innovation in the Arctic: Policy, Society and Environment”

Arctic Yearbook 2018: “Arctic Development in Theory and Practice”

Arctic Yearbook 2019: “Redefining Arctic Security”

Arctic Yearbook 2020: “Climate Change and the Arctic: Global Origins, Regional Responsibilities?”

Arctic Yearbook 2021: “Defining and Mapping the Arctic: Sovereignities, Policies and Perceptions”

Arctic Yearbook 2022: “The Russian Arctic: Economics, Politics & Peoples”

Arctic Yearbook 2023: “Arctic Indigenous Peoples: Climate, Science, Knowledge and Governance”

**<https://arcticyearbook.com>**



## Route of Calotte Academy 2023



## Sponsors & Partners



SSHRC  CRSH

CRSH  SSHRC

