



# The Changing Arctic

Environment and governance

October 14<sup>th</sup>, Fram Center, Tromsø

The Changing Arctic is a series of Nordic-French seminars that will address key Arctic issues in the field of research, taking place during 2016 in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The French Institute of Norway and the French Embassy, together with the FRAM High North Research Centre on Climate and the Environment and the University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway, are pleased to invite you to the workshop “Environment and Governance”.

The Arctic region is undergoing rapid transformations due to global warming. Its natural resources attract various kinds of industries, from fisheries to renewable energy; while indigenous communities are facing socio-economical changes. Protecting local cultures and preserving arctic ecosystems requires a deep understanding of the impact of human activities as well as an efficient governance across the whole region. Therefore, research issues concerning adaptation to climate change and resources management will be discussed, with a particular focus on the indigenous participation in the construction of a sustainable Arctic, through their traditional knowledge and their political role.

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# Scientific Seminar Program

9:30-17:00, Fram Center, Tromsø

## **Monitoring Changing Arctic Ecology - Science and Traditional Knowledge**

Moderator: Marie Roué

Anita Evenset

Arctic and Marine Biology/University of Tromsø

### *Environmental Impacts of Human Activities On Changing Arctic Ecosystems*

The Arctic is currently facing major changes as a result of interconnected global and regional trends. Increased extraction of non-renewable resources, major changes in the availability and utilization of renewable resources, and the accompanying development of infrastructure are currently changing the human pressure on arctic and northern ecosystems. Industries involved in this change include extractive industries such as petroleum and mining; marine industries such as fishing, marine harvest and aquaculture; production of renewable energy such as wind and hydroelectric power; shipping; and tourism. Knowledge of the combined environmental impacts of this industrial development is a key to sustainable governance of arctic ecosystems and cultural heritage. Sustainable development will be vital for preserving indigenous cultures, maintaining and developing healthy human communities, preserving biodiversity and securing the future flow of ecosystem services to human societies.

To answer these challenge, the Fram Centre (High North Research Centre for Climate and Environment) has established a research program that will provide new knowledge regarding the environmental impacts of industrial development in northern and arctic areas. This program will be presented together with results from ongoing research activities.

Mateo Cordier

CEARC/University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin

### *Discrepancies Between The Perspective Of Scientists And Small Coastal Arctic Communities: The Case Of Climate Change In Uummannaq, Greenland*

For two decades, the concept of adaptation has received much attention from climate change researchers and has generated debates in natural and social sciences. Although the cultural dimensions of climate change impacts have been increasingly examined in recent years through various disciplinary lenses, it still remains necessary to better understand the social driving forces that foster adaptation process at community level. This exposes a clear need for mainstream sciences to address the question of how to incorporate the values of communities facing global changes into science. If culture and values are ignored, both adaptation and mitigation responses might fail to be effective because they do not connect with what matters to individuals and communities. This raises the following question: *“how can we improve interactions between communities undergoing climate change, scientists, and scientific knowledge?”*

The research presented here is applied to the case of Uummannaq, a small coastal arctic community of 2300 inhabitants located on a small island relatively isolated in the middle of Greenland's west coast far from urban areas and political authorities. We propose an interdisciplinary approach to identify the needs, values, and representations of the Uummannaq community, and how to fit these elements into mainstream sciences in order to fill the gap between communities and scientists.

Gunn-Britt Retter

Head of the Arctic and Environment Unit/Saami Council

*Monitoring a Changing Arctic Environment from a Traditional Knowledge Perspective*

The Arctic is undergoing rapid environmental changes, these changes have impacts on Arctic indigenous peoples' cultures and socio-economic situation. The Saami people, like other indigenous peoples globally, are used to deal with changes. The Saami people hold unique knowledge about how to survive and thrive in what others often consider harsh Arctic conditions, monitored through the traditional use of the living resources. The rapid changes not only in environment, but also in land use, represent challenges we have not experienced before. Still our knowledge and monitoring system is essential foundation in facing the changes and to governing our livelihoods for future prospects for our culture. What mechanisms are embedded in the Saami people's culture to face environmental changes, and would they still be valid today when changes happen so rapidly.

Alexandra Lavrillier

CEARC/Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin

*Traditional Ecological Knowledge Facing Climate Change Among Reindeer Herders In Siberia*

The transdisciplinary observatory among the Evenk in South-eastern Siberia links traditional ecological knowledge with anthropology and climatology. Reindeer herders face for many years the impacts of climate change, in addition to global changes caused by regional, national and international trends. The Evenk have been noticing climate and environmental changes for decades but these changes have been increasing more rapidly over the last 5/10 years. A single vernacular word sums up the main trend of weather change in narratives: *okollen* – 'it's getting hotter'. Siberian reindeer herders link the warming with an increase in forest fires and changes in flora and wild fauna. The Evenk observatory's methodology was designed collectively by reindeer herders, anthropologists and climatologists and provides from 2013 daily observation on this changing Arctic environment.

Lisbeth Iversen

NERSC

*Presentation of the INTAROS Project (Horizon H2020)*

# Monitoring Changing Arctic Societies

Moderator: Rasmus Bertelsen

Sylvie Blangy

Functional and Evolutionary Ecology Centre/CNRS Montpellier

*Adaptation Measures To Cumulative Effects Of Global Changes In Nunavik For Improving The Wellbeing Of Inuit Communities*

We will base this presentation on the Nunavik OHMI project, the 8th CNRS labeled OHM (Observatoire Hommes Milieu) a network of observing networks around the world. The OHMI is a collaborative effort between the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) in Nunavik, the Nordic Study Centre (CEN) at Laval University, and the French National Research Centre (CNRS) in France and is located in the Inuit community of Kangiqsujuaq In Northern Québec. French and Canadian academics have joined forces to address community concerns, looking at major issues such as mining and tourism impacts, ice safety, environmental changes, health and well-being. Projects are designed together through a collaborative approach, comparative studies and cross cultural research programs are developed with other Arctic and subarctic communities through a web site. Our talk aims at raising questions related to the status of participatory action research and its relevance for indigenous peoples dealing with environmental changes.

Marius Warg Næss

Pastoralism, Climate Change and Policy/Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research

*Cooperation, Risk Management And Official Policy ⇌ Reindeer Herding In A Changing World*

Cooperation is an integral part of nomadic pastoralism. Reindeer herders in Norway are, for example, organized in groups, called siida, that share the workload in connection with herding and other reindeer related work. Globally, the cooperative nature of herding is changing due to privatisation programs changing land tenure systems from commons to smaller and privatised grazing areas. In light of climate change, this is disconcerting because reindeer herders with large cooperative networks utilize traditional risk management strategies, such as herd accumulation when facing increased environmental unpredictability, more efficiently than those with smaller herds.

Jonas Stein & Marcus Buck

Department of Sociology, Political Science and Community Planning/University of Tromsø

*A Comparative And Quantitative Analysis Of The Social And Economic Development In The High North From 1945 Until Today.*

The main target with this project is to challenge some of the existing knowledge and social sciences about Northern Norway and the High North by using quantitative methods to measure the effects of various variables on the social and economic development in Northern Norway. The thesis will use

comparative and longitudinal methods to explore the main causes for the regional development from 1945 until today. Is there a “sonderweg” for Northern Norway or is the development similar to the ones in comparative regions such as Northern Sweden. The focus on Northern Norway as a distinctive and peripheral region has made national governments implement various policies to stimulate economic growth and stimulate the region to converge with national standards of social and economic development. Can we see an effect of these policies or have their main purpose been to symbolic political greetings.

Maxence Rojo

CEARC/Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

*Socio-Economic Changes In Norwegian Arctic Fishing Communities And Their Impact On Climate Change Perception*

Ann Eileen Lennert

Greenland Institute Of Natural Resources And Climate Research Center

*At the cutting edge of the future: unravelling flexible management regimes in Arctic Greenland*

## **Changing Arctic Laws and Governance**

Moderator: Rasmus Bertelsen

Cécile Pelaudeix

Arctic Research Centre/Aarhus University

*Region-Building In The Arctic: Assessing The Arctic Council As A Norm-Making Body Consent: A Legal Instrument To Protect Sami's Lands And Resources*

Established to promote cooperation amongst Arctic states and enhance environmental protection and sustainable development, the Arctic Council (AC) has been the pre-eminent high-level forum of the Arctic region for 20 years and it affirms its “leadership role in taking concrete action”. As the AC is not a legislative authority, and neither an international organisation, this paper takes stock of its decision-making role to analyze further its achievement in terms of norm-making. International norms are principles that define what type of behavior is ‘normal’ and appropriate and what is not, for all relevant actors – both state and non-state - in international relations. Indeed, the AC has been very active in generating a scientific agenda through its six working groups, of which some of the outcomes can be claimed as norms and are used as national guidelines. It is also under the auspices of the AC that two agreements have been signed by Arctic states, the Search and Rescue Agreement and the Oil Spill Response Agreement which binding nature will be assessed. A particular attention will be given to the role and limits of the participation of indigenous people in respect of norm-making in the AC.

Elena Zhurova

High North Center/Nord University

*Arctic Energy Governance Through Norwegian-Russian Knowledge And Education Co-Creation*

Operating in the High North is traditionally associated with advanced risks due to remote distances, harsh climate and the sensitive ecosystem of the Arctic. This especially concerns oil and gas companies, dealing with oil developments offshore and onshore in the High North. Notion about the companies' influence to the environment and local communities has become extremely important for the society, where corporate sustainability reporting plays a significant role in providing such information to different stakeholder groups.

The study examines sustainability and environmental reporting of Russian oil and gas companies, and explores how the organizations manage relations with local communities in areas of their operations. Can this communication be named "a dialogue", and to which extent?

Dorothee Cambou

Centre for International Law/Vrije Universiteit Brussel

*The Draft Nordic Sami Convention : Towards A New Governance For Implementing The Right Of Sami Self-Determination*

The principle to FPIC is a cornerstone in the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. The principle figures both in the ILO Convention 169 and is also at the heart of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In Norway, the principle has also found a specific importance and the Sami strongly advocates in favour of its use to protect their interests at the local level. The principle preconizes indeed that indigenous peoples must be involved in the decision-making process affecting them, in particular those projects which affect their land and natural resources.

With this in mind, this presentation explains the relevance of the principle for the Sami people and other indigenous communities in the arctic. It also describes how the principle is now integrated in Norway and to which extent the integration of the principle accommodates the rights and interests of the Sami people in the country.

## **Conclusion**

Gunn-Britt Retter

Head of the Arctic and Environment Unit/Saami Council

Jo Jorem Aarseth

Research Coordinator, Fram Center

Jean-François Dobelle

HE Ambassador of France

# Public Event

17:30, Fram Center, Tromsø

Marie Roué

Humans, Nature and Society Department/National Museum of Natural History, Paris

Governance And Traditional Ecological Knowledge In The Arctic: Towards  
Adaptation To A Global Change

**Discussed by:**

Ann Eileen Lennert

Greenland Climate Research Centre/University of Greenland