

The International Polar Year 2007-2008  
and  
Arctic Humanities and Social Sciences

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# InfoNorth

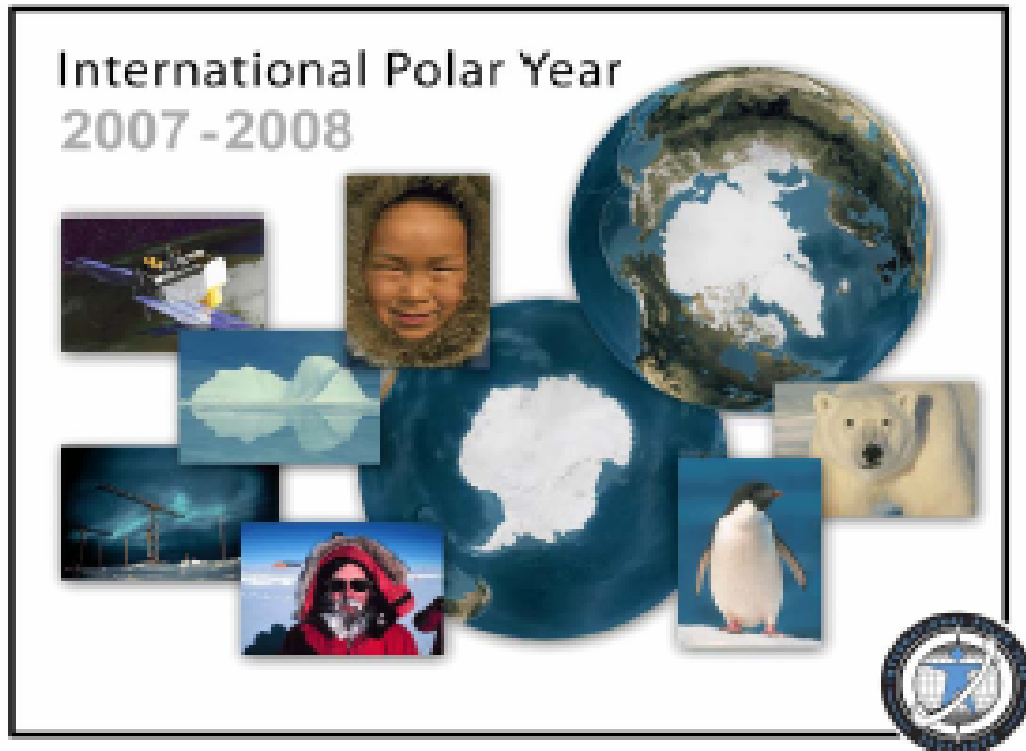
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Social Sciences and Humanities in the International Polar Year 2007–2008:  
An Integrating Mission

*by Igor Krupnik, Michael Bravo, Yvon Csonka, Grete Hovelsrud-Broda, Ludger Müller-Wille, Birger Poppel, Peter Schweitzer,  
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# International Polar Year 2007 - 2008



## A FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007-2008

Produced by the ICSU IPY 2007-2008 Planning Group

[www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org)

October 2004

# Previous IPY

- First International Polar Year, 1882-1883
- Second International Polar Year, 1932-1933
- International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958

# IPY 2007-2008 Concept



ICSU and WMO are co-sponsoring:

An intensive burst of internationally coordinated, interdisciplinary, scientific research and observations focussed on the Earth's Polar regions starting in 2007

# IPY Main Characteristics

[I – P – Y]

- *International*
  - Undertaking activities not feasible at a national level
- *Geographic focus*
  - Earth's high latitude regions
  - Studies of any region relevant to the understanding of polar processes or phenomena
- *Timeframe*
  - 1st March 2007 to 1st March 2009

Whereas the April 2004 version of the *Framework for the IPY 2007-2008* had little “human” content,

...the revised *Framework*, version October 2004, uses the terms “social sciences,” “humanities,” and “human dimensions” throughout. Its interdisciplinary focus is underlined repeatedly, “with active inclusion of the social sciences” emphasized as one of its main objectives.

# Designing a Social Agenda for the IPY 2007–2008

- At IASSA's Fifth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, in May 2004 in Fairbanks, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions strongly endorsing IPY.
- It argued for a more significant presence of social scientists, polar residents, and indigenous organisations in the planning for the IPY 2007–2008.
- To that end IASSA established a special IASSA-IPY International Task Group, chaired by Igor Krupnik.

This group spearheaded IASSA's role in drafting the social and cultural agenda for the new IPY mission. Based upon IASSA's official recommendation, which was supported by the Arctic Council, ICSU IPY Planning Group, and other participating agencies, such as the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), a new, *sixth* major research theme and a supporting 'interdisciplinary observational strategy' were added to the IPY 2007–2008 science program.

# IPY Themes

1. Current Status of Polar Regions
2. Change in the Polar Regions
3. Global Linkages
4. New Frontiers
5. Polar Regions as Vantage Points
6. The Human Dimension

- The human dimension also runs through the first five Themes.
- Data Management and Education, Outreach & Communication are present in all six themes

- **IPY Research Theme #6:** *To investigate the cultural, historical, and social processes that shape the sustainability of circumpolar human societies, and to identify their unique contributions to global cultural diversity and citizenship (Framework 2004:16).*
- **Observational Strategy #6:** *To investigate crucial facets of the human dimension of the polar regions which will lead to the creation of datasets on the changing conditions of circumpolar human societies (Framework 2004:5).*

Because of these and other actions, for the first time in the history of the IPY ventures, the IPY 2007–2008 has a designated research field that specifically addresses social and human issues that are of relevance to polar residents and indigenous communities.

# IPY planning

- In the fall of 2004, an IPY Joint Committee (JC) succeeded the ICSU IPY Planning Group.
- IASSA nominated two social scientists, Igor Krupnik and Grete Hovelsrud-Broda, who are now both members of the JC.
- Two sub-committees, one on data management, and the other on education/outreach, are about to be set up --social scientists have been nominated.

# Visions for the social sciences in IPY 4

- Among highest priorities on the social agenda, and for the IPY 2007–2008 science program, is the study of *change* in the polar regions and its impact on the local and planetary systems.
- A special mission for the social sciences is to study and to articulate the principles with which collective action can be achieved across a wide range of activities, including coordinated social and environmental research, policies for sustainable development, co-management of natural resources, indigenous governance, and national policy-making.

# Challenges and opportunities

- The IPY 2007–2008 provides a unique opportunity for a convergence of social science issues and the concerns of local communities in the polar regions.
- This IPY also provides opportunities to study coupled human-environment systems in multi-disciplinary perspectives.

# Synergies and/or alternatives

- ICARP II: Science agenda for the Arctic in the next 10-15 years.
- ESF « Eurocores » BOREAS in collaboration with NSF (call for projects should be out next week)

# Histories from the North: Environments, movements, narratives

1. Time, Space, change and movement
2. Sovereignty, subsistence and industrialization
3. Vulnerability and resilience
4. Agency and the diversity of the future
5. Histories, language and representations
6. Philosophies

More at...

**[www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org)**

And for social science IPY  
information and networking:

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