

**Research seminar and workshop in
Ilulissat, Greenland April, 28 thru May, 2:**

**Nordic research cooperation within the social sciences and humanities connected to the
International Polar Year, IPY 2007-2008.**

As a part of the preparation for the International Polar Year, IPY 2007-2008, the Greenland National Polar Year Committee organises a research seminar to utilise and further develop the existing Nordic research cooperation and to contribute to the coordination of a common Nordic research effort focussing on **Man, Nature and Arctic Societies** (one of the main themes decided by the Danish and Greenland national IPY committees – see attached detailed description) in connection with the IPY 2007-2008.

The Greenland National Polar Year Committee has received a grant from the Nordic Council of Ministers to organise the research seminar and workshop for Arctic social scientists from the Nordic countries and a few researchers from Canada and the United States. An additional grant from the Greenland Home Rule govt. has opened for a possibility to further include a number of - primarily - Greenland researchers and PhD-students.

Claus Andreasen, Curator at the Greenland National Museum was co-applicant to the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic partners in relation to the project application to the NCM were: *Kari Strand*, Docent, Deputy Director, Thule Institute, University of Oulu, *Niels Einarsson*, Director at the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, *Rasmus Ole Rasmussen*, Associate professor, Roskilde University, North Atlantic Regional Studies *Jens-Ivar Neergård*, Professor, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Tromsø

Purpose

It is the purpose of the research seminar to create/develop the conditions to

- Utilise the experiences from former/ongoing Nordic research cooperation – not least from the Nordic Arctic Research Program, NARP aiming at formulating concrete research questions and research projects/project proposals to the IPY 2007-2008;
- Further develop existing and create new research activities focussing on man and societies in the Arctic within common overarching themes;
- Further develop Nordic research networks and joint activities within Arctic social science and humanities research;
- Strengthen cross disciplinary research activities within social science and the humanities and between these research disciplines and the natural sciences;
- Involve young researchers in active research networks;
- Create cooperative and more permanent networking relations between Arctic social sciences' research projects within the Nordic countries and between Nordic researchers and researchers outside the North – not least North America and Russia.

As Arctic states the Nordic countries all have traditions from exploring the Arctic, and in all Nordic countries as well as in the self-governing regions: Greenland and the Faroese Islands, research is conducted on Arctic societies and the living conditions of Man in the past and present.

Research within in the Arctic social sciences is usually done by individuals or conducted by small research teams. At the same time research activities in the Arctic demanding field work, research meetings and other necessary travelling are most often very costly relative to research outside the Arctic. Hence one of the objectives of the seminar/workshop is to strengthen and develop networks and working relations between individual researchers, research teams and existing networks.

IPY as an opportunity

The IPY 2007-2008 is the first Polar year where the social sciences are explicitly a part of the agenda. The research seminar will be an excellent opportunity to highlight the significance of the recognition of the importance of focussing on the human dimension of the Arctic.

By the end of April the review process of the Expression of Intents by the Joint Committee of the IPY is concluded, and the deadline for final IPY project proposals will be almost two months ahead. This time schedule makes it possible for the research seminar participants to contribute to the development of the EoI's into project proposals that fulfil the goals of IPY projects. Hence the seminar will also focus on the IPY process as well as the criteria set by the Planning Group (PG) of the International Council for Science (ICSU), and the working groups will during the seminar elaborate the research questions, the methods and the ways to further develop and qualify project proposals.

The research seminar will address transverse and more general topics such as:

- The International Polar Year 2007-2008 and the significance for the Arctic social sciences and humanities (*Yvon Csonka*)
- The NARP process (Nordic Arctic Research Program of the Nordic Council of Ministers) – and after: The White Paper to NCM (*Kari Strand*)
- The ICARP II – from the perspective of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic (*Carl Christian Olsen, Puju/ICC*)
- The Arctic Human Development Report/AHDR – experiences from an international concerted effort and the gaps of knowledge discovered (*Niels Einarsson and Joan Larsen*)
- Experiences from an international project within the Arctic social sciences - The Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic/SLiCA as an example (*Birger Poppel*)
- Incorporating people in IPY: opportunities for international research relevant to people responding to change (*Jack Kruse*)
- The IPY-process: from Expression of Intents to IPY-proposals (*Grete Hovelsrud-Broda*)
- The special IPY-focuses **on collecting and disseminating data** and **public outreach and education** (*Larry Hamilton, Gerard Duhaime and Rasmus Ole Rasmussen*)

Thematic framework

The workshop will focus on six research themes. The themes originates from Greenland and Danish Expressions of Intents within the social sciences and humanities that were submitted to the Joint Committee of the IPY 2007-2008 (deadline January, 14. 2005). The Danish national IPY committee in cooperation with the Greenland IPY committee took responsibility to develop a number of EoI's

that would work as project umbrellas within the overall theme *Man, Nature and Arctic Societies*. These themes have only been modified slightly in order to accommodate a more distinct structure of the workshop. The main responsible for each of the themes is named, in parenthesis:

1. Health, Lifestyle, Living conditions, Well-being and Welfare (*Gert Mulvad*).
2. Processes of Socio-economic changes in the Circumpolar North, especially focussing on gender and inter- and intra-generational relations (*Rasmus Ole Rasmussen*).
3. Migration, Settlement structure, Social and cultural strategies - A diachronic perspective on exploitation of both living and non-living resources as survival strategies (*H. C. Gulløv*).
4. Rapid change, vulnerability and resilience in human-environment systems (*Yvon Csonka*).
5. Arctic economies – Strategies and policies for economic development (*Gorm Winther*).
6. Globalisation and Glocalisation: Identity, culture and language competence (*Karen Langgaard*).

Below is a presentation of the structure and program of the workshop, the themes and the tentative formation of working groups.

April 28, 2005/ Birger Poppel
Organiser of the seminar/workshop &
Chairman of the Greenland National IPY Committee

Structure of the workshop

The three days of the workshop are divided in six half day sessions. In addition to the seminar and workshop activities the participants of the seminar/workshop will be introduced to the reasons for the Ilulissat Ice Fiord to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Friday, April 29. Morning:

- The International Polar Year 2007-2008 and the significance for the Arctic social sciences and humanities (*Yvon Csonka*)
- The NARP process (Nordic Arctic Research Program of the Nordic Council of Ministers) – and after: The White Paper to NCM (*Kari Strand*) The ICARP II – from the perspective of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic (*Carl Christian Olsen, Puju/ICC*)
- The Arctic Human Development Report/AHDR – experiences from an international concerted effort and the gaps of knowledge discovered (*Niels Einarsson and Joan Larsen*)
- Experiences from an international project within the Arctic social sciences - The Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic/SLiCA as an example (*Birger Poppel*)
- Incorporating people in IPY: opportunities for international research relevant to people responding to change (*Jack Kruse*)
- The IPY-process: from Expression of Intent to IPY-proposals (*Grete Hovelsrud-Broda*)

Discussions

Objectives for the first round of parallel sessions:

- to present research questions, concepts, methods and theories applied by the different participants of the seminar/workshop
- to discuss the six research themes and develop additional research questions

Hence the research themes are discussed in extended groups.

Friday, April 29. Afternoon: Parallel sessions 1, 3 and 5

During the seminar a number of parallel sessions will ensure that the group of participants will be able to contribute to the discussions within their own fields of expertise as well as sparring partners, as each participant will be involved in two different thematic discussions.

This version of the program includes a formation of the six expert groups (*names* in italics and bold) and the six groups of sparring partners.

At the beginning of the parallel sessions the members of the working groups (1, 3 and 5) give a presentation (5-10 minutes) on their field of research – the core research questions, central concepts, methods and theories employed in their research as well as other experiences relevant to the workshop.

The format of the session is based on an open discussion forum where each theme will have three resource persons appointed. A chairman will be responsible for keeping order and setting the scene

by defining the discussion themes. A facilitator will be in charge of keeping track of key concepts and discussion points during the process. And a secretary will be in charge of taking notes and summarizing the key points. These three persons will subsequently be responsible of the process where the groups will be formulating a series of research projects within the framework defined by the sub-theme headlines.

As an attachment, you will find a short presentation of the six sub-themes, as well as an outlining of a number of preliminary discussion points serving as points of departure for the sessions.

Saturday, April 30. Morning: Parallel sessions 2, 4 and 6
(see description of program for parallel sessions 1, 3 and 5 above)

Saturday, April 30. Afternoon: The special IPY-focuses ***on collecting and disseminating data*** and ***public outreach and education*** (/Larry Hamilton, Gerard Duhaime and Rasmus Ole Rasmussen)

Objectives for the second round of parallel sessions:

- to end up with a number of relevant projects, each of them with a specific theme, a research plan, a list of possible Nordic and other collaborators, and an overview of possible international involvement.
- to focus specially on
 - on collecting and disseminating data
 - public outreach and education

Sunday, May 1. Morning: Parallel sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Sunday, May 1. Afternoon: Concluding sessions

Network meetings

There will be slots in the program (e.g. Friday, April 29 in the afternoon) with possibilities to arrange network meetings. Two meetings have already been arranged: on Regional Development and on The Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic.

Social events

- April 28, afternoon (04.15 pm): Ono Fleischer: The Great Expedition.
- April 30, evening: after lunch: A boat trip to the Ice Fiord.
- May 1, afternoon: A hike to Sermermiut at the Ice Fiord. Claus Andreasen and H.C. Gulløv will be our guides on this hike.

Seminar secretariat

Birger Poppel, Najâraq Paniula and Marg Kruse will – together with the staff at Arctic Hotel in Ilulissat – facilitate the work of the seminar.

**Sub-theme 1:
Health, Lifestyle, Living conditions, Well-being and Welfare.**

Keyword: Living conditions

The rapid changes in socio-economic and political conditions in the Arctic are influencing both the living conditions and the cultural characteristics of the indigenous peoples and other inhabitants of the circumpolar North.

The indigenous peoples' adaptation of a modern lifestyle has not always been successful. The lack of well-being, relative deprivation or substandard health is often referred to as a result of rapid cultural change, maladjustment or lack of resources. It is documented too that most Arctic communities experience increasing unemployment, a decreasing standard of health due to among other things malnutrition, an increasing number of chronic diseases and increasing social problems as violence, abuses and suicides.

Within this sub-theme the following list of research questions/discussion points will serve as a point of departure for the thematic workshop:

- How do we reach a more thorough understanding of the impact of socio-cultural and socioeconomic factors on health determinants and the emerging diseases?
- How is physical and mental health related to other living conditions dimensions (e.g. education, employment, family relations and social networks, mobility, religion and spirituality)?
- How does well-fare politics influence health care and well-being for people in the Arctic?
- What factors are determinants of risk behaviour and choices?
- To what extent can positive choices made by people and their leaders at different levels create positive well-being and good health?
- What are the nutritional, social, and cultural consequences of changes of diet?
- What are the implications to human socio-environment and quality of life of natural polar processes? (IPY – Framework document)
- What are the key human health and medical issues in Polar Regions? How for example are diseases carried into polar communities, and how is community health affected by environmental change? (IPY – Framework document)

Chairman: Gert Mulvad

Facilitator: Niels Einarsson

Secretary: Jack Hicks

Birger Poppel

Gert Mulvad

Jack Hicks

Ketil Lennert Hansen

Kristina Lasko

Niels Einarsson

Anna Karlsdottir

Kirsten Thisted

Jógvan Mørkøre

Jette Rygaard

Larry Hamilton

Mariekathrine Poppel

Sub-theme 2:

Processes of Socio-economic changes in the Circumpolar North, especially focussing on gender and inter- and intra-generational relations.

Keyword: Socio-economic processes

The development in the Arctic is characterized by a number of processes determining the speed and character of the socio-economic changes. Generally, however, the analyses of these processes are very often biased, based on an understanding generally expressed by mid aged men, usually – at least at the formal level - in positions of being decision makers. One of the consequences is that real world changes often takes other directions and changes with different speed than anticipated by these formal decision takers. Not just because their world view and expectations often differs considerably from other parts of the population, for instance the perceptions by women and among the youth. But primarily because the action taken by both women and young people tend to be very different from the action taken by mid aged men. The men tend to be much more stuck to traditional perceptions of their role in the community, while both women and younger people are much more open to mobility, both regarding labour market relations, social relations, and migration.

Within this sub-theme the following list of research questions/discussion points will serve as a point of departure for the thematic workshop:

- What are the relations to risks, threats, and crises in Arctic communities, including crises among individuals, in families, in communities, and in relation to the environment?
- What are the differences of in crises management, including migration as a reaction to crises, between gender and in different age groups?
- How has violence been used as a means of solution to crises, both among individuals, in families, and as institutionalized violence by society? And how does present day's use of violence related to previous patterns of violence?
- How can emphasis on education contribute to community development and become an active part of a development process, and how is it possible to change the educational systems in such a way that it enables the process of globalization to become a part of the local agenda? The questions relates equally to both academic and vocational training systems.
- What are the perspectives of using time series analysis of socio-economic changes, and how can the emphasis on identifying both discrete events and continuous periods contribute to a further understanding of both short and long term processes and events creating as well breaks and continuity in the socio-economic structures?
- How do cultural strategies and cultural dynamics in combination with actions taken such as migration, mobility and sedentarisation contribute to as well short term as long term solutions?

Chairman: Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

Facilitator: Larry Hamilton

Secretary: Anna Karlsdottir

Anna Karlsdottir

Gitte Trondheim

Jan Petter Johnsen

Larry Hamilton

Mariekatrine Poppel

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

Birger Poppel

Gert Mulvad

Gorm Winther

Helga Ögmundardottir

Ketil Lennert Hansen

Sub-theme 3:

Migration, Settlement structure, Social and cultural strategies - A diachronic perspective on exploitation of both living and non-living resources as survival strategies.

Keyword: Survival strategies

Analyzing strategies used by Man in the Arctic make use of several concepts outlined in two thematic frameworks.

On one hand are the concepts of migration and mobility understood as expressions of conscious cultural strategies. This includes the analysis of the concept of seasonality and its relationship to climate change, as it contributes to gain a better idea of how each of these two levels of change over time drives the region's distinctively high level of human movement. Contemporary and archaeological as well as historical sources are useful for the elucidating of the theme.

On the other hand the study of cross-cultural processes by looking at the role of agents in both past and contemporary societies is a useful approach for the elucidating of acculturation and new forms of meaning.

As mentioned, both approaches can gain from applying a diachronic view by relating contemporary studies to the rich archaeological, environmental, local, oral and archival information present in the Arctic.

Within this sub-theme the following list of research questions/discussion points will serve as a point of departure for the thematic workshop:

- How can historical studies and records of the polar regions enhance understanding of contemporary social and cultural problems?
- What are the relationships between the inner dynamics and external influences in the development process?
- How does changes in the resource base relate to changes in migration patterns?
- What are the impacts of changing technologies on the development dynamics?
- How is the accumulation of knowledge embedded in language/social organisation/norms and value systems/the cultural language/spiritual life?

Chairman: H.C. Gulløv

Facilitator: Charlotte Damm

Secretary: Claus Andreassen

Charlotte Damm

Claus Andreassen

Hans Christian Gulløv

Helga Ögmundardottir

Birgit Kleist

Bruce Forbes

Gitte Trondheim

Hanne Petersen

Karen Langgaard

Kåre Henriksen

Kari Strand

Malan Marnersdottir

Ulla Johnsson-Smaragdi

Yvon Csonka

**Sub-theme 4:
Rapid change, vulnerability and resilience in human-environment systems**

Key-word: Societal change

Accelerated change of most aspects of Arctic societies, in particular indigenous, has been recognized as a salient feature of the past six decades or so. The pace of such change shows no signs of abating, and according to recent observations and prognoses, societal change will be accompanied and reinforced by drastic environmental change linked to global warming. The impacts of such changes raise questions about the emergence of new vulnerabilities, but also of building up of resilience. As rapid change is here not only to stay, but amplify, many recognize the potential of approaches that study coupled human-environment systems with these concepts borrowed (and to be adapted) from ecology. In this context, issues of scale and cross-scaling will be of particular importance in studies of adaptation.

The IPY Joint Committee has just identified “Change: adaptation and vulnerability in coupled human-environment systems” as one of the eight themes among which the more than a hundred IPY Expressions of Intent distributed themselves. This title also echoes that of one of the themes of priority research to be developed at ICARP II.

This group will investigate which ones of the numerous potential research questions may be developed and tackled in a context of Nordic cooperation, on the basis of intentions already expressed by members of the group. The approaches being relatively new, effort will have to be invested in developing methodological approaches, identifying key variables, and engaging Arctic residents in terms they find relevant. Given the ambitions of such research to be of use in political decision making, it will be of particular importance that it demarcates itself from the attempts at “social engineering” that took place just decades ago, whose ill-effects have been widely recognized.

Within this sub-theme, the following list of research questions/discussions will serve as a point of departure for the thematic workshop:

- How do we operationalize concepts of resilience and vulnerability in different Arctic contexts and at different scales?
- How can we incorporate the variables identified into models of human-environment systems?
- Change is a given in the Arctic, but can one identify and foresee what types and combinations of changes are “too fast”?
- Given that human perceptions of, and responses to change are major determinants of coping and adapting mechanisms, how does one study such emic aspects, and how can their dynamic nature be understood?
- What can we gain from comparative studies of rapid change, resilience and vulnerability, among regions in the Nordic countries and in the North American Arctic?
- How do the concepts used in this approach translate across the different cultures in the Arctic, and how can we engage Arctic residents as participants in interdisciplinary research of rapid change?

Chairman: Yvon Csonka

Facilitator: Grete Hovelsrud-Broda

Secretary: Bruce Forbes

Bruce Forbes

Grete Hovelsrud-Broda

Jim Magdanz

Kari Strand

Monica Tennberg

Yvon Csonka

Claus Andreasen

H.C. Gulløv

Ilmo Mäenpää

Joan Larsen

Knut Alfsen

Niels Einarsson

Sub-theme 5:

Arctic economies – Strategies and policies for economic development.

Keyword: Economic development.

The economic constraints in the Arctic have a large number of common characteristics which constitutes the framework and defines the possibilities for the development of the economies, and thereby also framing the economic potential for both indigenous groups and newcomers in the Circumpolar North.

Five characteristics are dominating the process. 1) A dispersed settlement pattern with few larger towns and a large number of villages. 2) Economic dependency of one or few renewable and non-renewable resources, often exported as raw materials for further processing and consumption outside the Arctic. 3) Mixed economies, where a traditional subsistence economy and informal economic relations are existing side by side with a predominant market economy. 4) High degree of economic dependency on transfers, subsidies, and/or royalties without direct relations to productive activities involving the local population. 5) The high level of involvement of the public sector, playing a crucial role for the economic development, even privatisation has been attempted at some point of time, and still is considered being a remedy for change of focus for the economies.

Within this sub-theme the following list of research questions/discussion points will serve as a point of departure for the thematic workshop:

- What are the linkages between the Arctic economies and the rest of the global economy?
- What are the impacts of environmental changes on regional economies and well-being in the North?
- How can production based national accounts of the Arctic economies be established
- Which are the conditions to study formal/informal economies and economic development in a comparative way
 - at different levels?
 - within and between sectors?
- What are the impacts of changes to the most vulnerable economic sectors?
- What is the significance of the public sector in the Arctic economies?
- Do the Nordic welfare systems have adaptive capacities and strategies to the economic and environmental changes of the Arctic?
- What are the impacts of changing economic conditions on well-being in the Arctic?
- What is the relationship between the public and the private sector, the interaction between plan and market respectively the boundaries of the public and the private – and what is the significance of different kinds of ownership?
- What research methodologies are best suited to an interdisciplinary understanding of the fundamental links between ecosystems, economies and cultural diversity?
- To what extent does the limitations on resource availability also limit the possibilities of reaching a more self sustained economy?
- Is it possible, in this situation of a dual squeeze – on one hand the question of private versus public involvement in the economy, and on the other hand the question of planning and regulation versus the market mechanisms – to ensure the most efficient use of the resources?
- What kind of privatization are the most adequate means for a successful business development, and to what extent can the present day evaluation of the processes established with the G50-plans contribute to a further understanding of the possibilities and limitations of such a strategy?
- What are the short and long term consequences of the changes in the uniform price policy, and is it possible to limit the possible adverse effects of this policy?
- Is it possible to compare the economic and the socio-cultural consequences of changes in policies towards settlement patterns, and what are the consequences of maintaining a status quo policy?

- What are the regional and local implications of a change in focus of the general policy, from a focus on a self-sustained nation building towards an open economy with emphasis on globalization and international cooperation?
- Is it possible in such an economy to maintain a focus on traditional Inuit values such as local cooperation and local community?

Chairman: Gorm Winther

Facilitator: Jack Kruse

Secretary: Joan Larsen

Ilmo Mäenpää

Gorm Winther

Jack Kruse

Joan Larsen

Jógván Mørkøre

Kåre Henriksen

Knut Alfsen

Tom Greiffenberg

Carl Christian Olsen, Puju

Grete Hovelsrud-Broda

Jahn-Petter Johnsen

Jim Magdanz

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

Sub-theme 6:

Globalisation and Glocalisation: Identity, culture and language competence.

Keyword: Glocalisation

The concept of glocalisation has become a way of describing the situation where the globalisation and its emphasis on global processes and a global agenda at the same time has opened up for the local agenda to become more visible, and thereby the possibilities of using the global network to enhance the local opportunities. In this process a number of key questions have been emphasized, including language policy, Computer Assisted Linguistics, literature and media.

The focus is on investigating how glocalisation takes place in local regions in the Arctic when looking at language, literature and media. How much impact do local language attitudes and local cultural policy have on the development? For language attitude the main focus will be on how language users living far from the centre respond to the elite and the language policy of the centre. For literature including oral tradition, the focus will be to look at the differences between the regions of the Arctic concerning literary development, attitudes to literature and future visions. For media the focus will be to compare arctic young people's 'global-less-ness'.

Within this sub-theme the following list of research questions/discussion points will serve as a point of departure for the thematic workshop:

- How does the process of glocalisation of literature, language and media take place in local regions of the Arctic?
- How is the language policy and language planning of the centre viewed from outside the centre?
- What are the regional differences in literature and oral tradition?
- Why has the development of literature been so differing?
- How is the status of critical and analytical approach to literature?
- How is innovation versus the beloved tradition in a postcolonial setting?
- Has globalisation created homogenisation and 'McDonaldization' especially among young people?

Chairman: Karen Langgaard

Facilitator: Birgit Kleist Petersen

Secretary: Kirsten Thisted

Birgit Kleist Petersen

Carl Chr. Olsen, Puju

Jette Rygaard

Kirsten Thisted

Malan Marnersdottir

Ulla Johnsson-Smaragdi

Charlotte Damm

Jack Hicks

Jack Kruse

Kirstina Lasko

Monica Tennberg