



2016 Calotte ACADEMY

Resilience related to Sustainable Development in Globalization

in Finland, Russia and Norway
May 30 – June 5, 2016

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The Calotte Academy is an annual traveling symposium and international forum in Europe's North Calotte region, designed to promote interdisciplinary discourse and the interplay between senior and young researchers and to foster academic and policy-oriented dialogue among members of the research community and post-graduate students as well as a wide range of other northern stakeholders. It is a "school of dialogue" and participatory by nature with an idea to share knowledge and experiences with communities. On the other hand, it is an interdisciplinary brainstorming meeting to bring researchers and other experts from different fields, regions and countries together for to discover innovations and new methods and to inspire international research projects as well as plans and applications.

Theme of the 2016 Academy

The overarching theme of the Calotte Academy 2016 is "*Resilience related to sustainable development in globalization*". Although the concept of "Sustainable development" is widely used and discussed, it has been politicized and has often been used in order to promote economic growth. "Resilience" is interpreted more flexibly and innovatively, and understood to indicate long-term capacity of a system to adapt and deal with changes. Due to the rapid changes in the Arctic, resilience is needed when trying to address current challenges and to develop the region's sustainably. The CA 2016 will discuss on resilience and sustainability in the context of the globalized Arctic theoretically and holistically from many angles and disciplinary approaches from the perspectives of past(s), present(s) and future(s); and in global, international, and pan-Arctic context, as well as in sub-regional and local context in the Barents Sea area.

About the procedure

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 so that each presentation will be allocated altogether 30-35 minutes out of which 15 minutes (maximum) will be reserved for the presentation and the rest for questions and comments, and open discussion.

The 2016 Academy is also an interdisciplinary brainstorming meeting for scholars and other experts from different fields and disciplines all over the circumpolar North to discover innovations and new methods and to make plan and possible applications for international research project(s): in the Calotte Academy sessions themes and content of further Calotte Academies will be brainstormed, as well as those of other events of the TN on Geopolitics and Security.

After the Calotte Academy, a Final Report including the abstracts, and main findings, highlights and ideas for potential research questions and projects of the 2016 Academy's sessions will be produced (see Final Reports on previous Calotte Academies in address: www.arcticpolitics.com). The Report will be written by the presenters / participants who will choose the themes and sessions which they want to report on during the Calotte Academy tour.

Program

Rovaniemi, Sunday, May 29:

- Arrival of participants and check-in

Guesthouse Borealis, Asemieskatu 1

96100 ROVANIEMI

Tel. +358 44 3131 771

http://www.guesthouseborealis.com/etusivu_eng.htm

- Get together reception at 7 pm hosted by mayor Esko Lotvonen by Rovaniemi City Administration, address: Rovaniemi City Hall, Hallituskatu 7

Rovaniemi, Monday, May 30:

9.00 (local time) Check out from the guest house, bus transportation to the main campus of University of Lapland

9:30-10:00 Opening session:

- Opening words by the organizers and representatives of University of Lapland (tbc)
- Introduction of participants
- Introduction of the program and procedure of, and division of work in, the 2016 Calotte Academy, and an announcement of Calotte Academy related activity

10.00 – 12.45 Session 1: “About Resilience and Sustainable Development – theoretical discussion”

- PhD candidate Danko Aleksic, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Hungary: *“Sustainable Development and Resilience in the Arctic: synergy or clash of the concepts?”*
- PhD Markus Kröger, University of Helsinki, Finland: *“The Power of Words: What Weight do Key Concepts such as ‘Resilience’ carry?”*

Coffee / Tea

- Prof. Matthias Finger, Swiss Technical University Lausanne, Switzerland & Andrea Finger, *“From sustainability to resilience: what difference in light of climate and other global changes?”*
- Esko Lotvonen, Mayor, City of Rovaniemi, Finland: *“Development Strategies of the City of Rovaniemi”*

Lunch (own cost)

14.15 – 17.30 Session 2: “Resilience and sustainable development by regions and sub-national governments”

- Katri Kulmuni, MP, Finland: *“A small introduction to Tornio and Tornio River Valley - A border that never existed”*

- PhD candidate Yulia Zaika, Faculty of Geography Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia
“Adaptive Realities of Single-Industry Communities of Murmansk Region in the Changing Arctic”
- Associate professor Gleb Yarovoy, Petrozavodsk State University, Russia: *“Sustainable development of Russian Arctic regions in the context of regional policy”*
- PhD candidate Miguel Roncero, University of Vienna, Austria: *“Sustainable Development, Resilience or Resource Fairness? A Pan-Arctic Approach for Sustainability”*

17.45 Departure for Inari

Inari, Tuesday, May 31

9.30 – 13.00 Session 3 “About Resilience and Sustainable Development – theoretical discussion II”

- Welcoming words by Rector Liisa Holmberg, Sami Educational Center, Finland and by Jyrki Hyttinen, the Mayor of municipality of Inari, Finland
- PhD candidate Florian Vidal, Paris Descartes University, France: *“Resilience: from the Roman Empire to the Arctic”*
- Researcher, PhD candidate Hanna Lempinen, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland: *“Sustainability / Sustainable Development > < Resilience? A Conceptual analysis”*
- PhD candidate Ayonghe Akonwi Nebasifu, University of Lapland, Finland: *“Rethinking the Co-existence of Industrial Mining and Protected Areas: Socio-economic Considerations for Sustainability. Case study: Hannukainen Mine in Northern Finland”*

Lunch (own cost)

14.15 – 17.30 Session 4: “Arctic tourism”

- Lecturer Minna-Carita Haantie, Sámi Education Center, Finland: *“Creating a working education model for community based travel among local indigenous communities in Finland and further in other indigenous communities”*
- PhD candidate, Olga Burukina Moscow (Senkevich) State Institute for Tourism Industry, Russia: *“Tourism as a Resilient Tool for the Barents Sea Area’s Sustainable Development”*
- PhD candidate Elena Guk, Saint Petersburg State University, Russia: *“Outdoor Recreation in Norilsk: A Compromise between Mining, Well-being and Remoteness”*
- PhD candidate Teemu Oivo, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland, Finland: *“Flexible Images of ‘Russianness’ in Eastern Finland”*

Picnic dinner and Sauna in Vasatokka

Wednesday, June 1

9.30 departure for Kirkenes, Picnic lunch (own cost) by waterfall in Neiden

13.00– 17.15 Session 5 “About Resilience and Sustainable Development – (best) practices”

- Welcoming words by Marinne Soleim Neerland, Director, Barents Institute, Rune Rafaelson, Mayor of Syd-Varanger Municipality and Tomas Hallberg, Head of Secretariat, International Barents Secretariat
- PhD Candidate Victoria Herrman, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge University: *“Frozen Assets in a Globalized Arctic Creating a Path for Resilient innovations in the High North”*
- PhD candidate Laura Olsén, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland: *“Indigenous peoples’ possibilities to influence on decision-making: case study of Finland”*
- Prof. Alexander Sergunin, St. Petersburg State University, Russia: *“Environmental Policies of Russia’s Arctic Industrial Centres: Survival or Resilience Strategies?”*
- PhD candidate Hilma Salonen, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland: *“How do Russian federal and regional strategies utilise norms to legitimise investments on new technologies of renewable energy”*

Thursday, June 2

9.30 – 12.00 Session 6: “Freedom of Expression and Media”

- Journalist Martin Breum, Denmark: *“Media Presentation of Resilience / Sustainability in the Arctic”*
- Associate prof. Gleb Yarovoy, Petrozavodsk State University, Russia: *“Freedom of speech and freedom of media in the Russian Arctic: mission impossible?”*
- Journalist Anna Yarovaya, Scoop Russia: *“Investigative journalism as the last chance for Russian journalism (also in the Arctic)?”*
- Journalist Atle Staalsen, The Independent Barents Observer, Norway: *“The Independent Barents Observer (IBO)”*

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch (own cost)

13.00 Departure for Murmansk

Murmansk, Friday, June 3

9.30 – 16.30 Session 7 “Urbanization and regional development of the Arctic”

- Senior Scientist, PhD Sergei Berezikov, Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, KSC, RAS, Russia: *Key problems and major trends of technological development of the North and the Arctic of Russia*
- Senior Scientist, PhD Ludmila Ivanova: Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, KSC, RAS, Russia: *“Management of Mineral Resource Use in Russian Regions”*
- PhD candidate Gerald Zojer, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland: *“The Arctic Council between global interests and regional development. A continuation of the prevailing economic order”*

Lunch (Own cost)

- Senior researcher, PhD Anastasia Gasnikova, Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, KSC, RAS: *“Ways to Improve Energy Security of the Arctic Regions of Russia”*
- PhD candidate Piotr Graczyk, UiT, The Arctic University of Norway & PhD Daria Gritsenko, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland: *“The Polar Code: Reading between the Lines”*
- PhD candidate Anssi Vuori, University of Lapland, Finland: *“The Emerging Political Space of the Internet: International Relations in the Virtual Reality”*

Dinner (own cost)

Murmansk, Saturday, June 4

9.30 – 12.15 Session 8 “Resilience and sustainable development, and oil and gas drilling in the Arctic”

- PhD candidate Jussi Huotari, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland: *“Greening the oil and gas business: the rise of the environment in corporate strategies?”*
- PhD Larissa Riabova & Senior researcher Svetlana Britvina, Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, KSC, RAS, Russia: *“Norwegian-Russian oil and gas cooperation in the Northwest Arctic: is there life after sanctions?”*
- Prof. Lassi Heininen, University of Lapland, Finland: *“Preconditions for resilience and sustainable development – ‘Geopolitics shouldn’t be misused”*

Lunch (Own cost)

13.00 departure for Kirkenes and further Neiden, Norway

Sunday June 5

Travelling from Neiden to Rovaniemi

Abstracts in alphabetical order

Danko Aleksic
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“Sustainable development and resilience in the arctic region: synergy or clash of the concepts”

The term “sustainable development” was first mentioned in the “Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future” published in 1987. In that document, which is also known as The Brundtland Report, sustainable development was defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Ever since it came into the discourse, the term “sustainable development/sustainability” has become one of the widest used terms, almost a buzzword, applied in almost every field of human activities. Consequently, too intensive use may lead towards misuse – so the term is also used to camouflage for conducting activities which are not in accordance with the concept as such. If we speak about the concept of “resilience”, it may be defined as “the ability of a system to absorb disturbances and retain its basic function and structure”.

This paper gives an insight into concepts of “sustainable development” and “resilience” – their historical developments, characteristics and importance they have in the modern globalized world. The paper is aimed to examine connections and mutual influences between two concepts, but also to identify and analyze possible conflicts and by-passing points between them. Analysis of relation between two concepts will be done in the context of the Arctic – the region of unique geographical, strategical, ecological and social characteristics, which is exposed to various external influences triggered by globalization and is expected to suffer rapid changes in close future.

Sergei Berezikov
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“Key problems and major trends of technological development of the North and the Arctic of Russia”*

The deployment of the globalization process of technological development of the economy, leading to increased competition among industry, has become one of the key features of the world economy at the moment. During the production process have become a role model for the best technological solutions leading the technological development, adapted to the conditions and needs of local markets. There are incentives for technological exchange and expansion of scientific and technical cooperation on the principles of strategic partnership within the framework of informal emerging transnational alliances. Technologically less developed enterprises, including through such partnerships in the international division of labor, access to advanced technologies and strengthen its position in the domestic market. In turn, the leaders of the enterprise in the technological development of a number of advantages over its competitors during the development of new markets for themselves. There is speeding up the process to meet the different needs and more efficient use of available resources.

It should be noted that at the present time, such a scheme of interaction in the field of technology for the industrial North and the Arctic of Russia is not available for a variety of reasons. There is an urgent need to develop scientific bases of modernization of basic sectors of the economy of the northern and arctic areas of the Russian Federation. Logically it warranted during the first stage of

development of this concept to identify the key issues and main trends of technological development of the North and the Arctic of Russia.

* The reported study was partially supported by RFBR, research project No. 15-06-06827 a.

Martin Breum
Journalist,
Denmark

“Media presentations of resilience / sustainability in the Arctic”

There are numerous discourses prevalent in media presentations of Arctic developments. As Steinberg, Tasch and Gerhardt described recently media and decision-makers are grounded in at least six different narratives of the Arctic, with the media shifting from one to the other according to circumstance. Climate change and the dramas involved (melting glaciers, disappearing polar ice, suffering polar bears etc.) often steal headlines in media outlets in the ‘south’, setting a global agenda that portrays the Arctic according to old stereotypes: uninhabited, wild, severe, cold, dangerous and inaccessible. The award-winning documentary, “Chasing Ice”, portraying a lone photographer’s bone-breaking journey to glaciers in Iceland, Greenland, Alaska and Montana, is one obvious case. The simplicity allows simple messaging on climate change but by leaving out most other aspects of Arctic development this stereotyping hinder more nuanced messages of societal development in Arctic communities and cloud dialogue on issues of local resilience and sustainability between governments and their agencies, the ‘southern’ public and Arctic communities.

I would like to share as my contribution to the Academy some observations from a journalists’ perspective on the increasing discrepancies between ‘southern’ media coverage of climate change in the Arctic and the development of strategies for societal resilience – with a special view to Greenland and its troubled relations with the Danish government and the general, Danish public.

Olga Burukina, LL.M
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Moscow (Senkevich) State Institute for Tourism Industry,
The Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation Russia
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Tourism as a Resilient Tool for the Barents Sea Area’s Sustainable Development

Today tourism is the most remarkable, diverse and fast-growing industry both globally and nationally. Tourism as a great destination-developer, employer and economic growth promoter has a large scope of virtues; yet, it brings along some deeply rooting vices, which the presenter is going to highlight and discuss.

Nevertheless, tourism is seen as a remedy and magic tool for the development of the Barents Sea Area by both tour operator companies and local governments.

Statistics published by Patchwork Barents clearly indicate what regional Finnish, Russian and Norwegian tour operators are after: to expand the number of nights each visitor spends in their region. In 2014, tour operators in Finnish Lapland registered approximately three times as many visitor nights as the Murmansk Region in Russia or Finnmark in Norway together [1].

Tourism is seen as a resilient tool for regional development as it is highly diversified (rural and urban tourism, extreme and adventure tourism, ecotourism and wildlife tourism, historical, cultural, culinary tourism, and geotourism, to name a few [2]) and customized to the needs of destinations and demands of stakeholders nationally and globally.

The author considers the recent achievements and potential of Lapland, Kirkenes Region and Murmansk Region as major tourist attractions and identifies opportunities for their sustainable development.

Besides all kinds of safaris, museums, ski resorts, and theme parks (like Santa Park in Rovaniemi), cinematography seems to be among most prominent opportunities, with the film and television productions having brought about EUR 1 million in direct expenditure to Lapland in 2012 [3]. And Murmansk coastal village Teriberka made it all the way to Hollywood with the controversial Oscar-nominated movie “Leviathan,” which helped it to become a tourist destination [1].

The author makes generalizations, comes to interesting conclusions and offers a number of projects aimed at the Barents Sea Area’s sustainable development.

Professor Matthias Finger
Swiss Technical University Lausanne, Switzerland
and Andréa Finger

“From sustainability to resilience: what difference in light of climate and other global changes?”

Considering that climate change concerns have been addressed with very limited capacity and effectiveness through global governance institutional processes, and that social and environmental impacts of climate change become rapidly more obvious, sustainability becomes more and more a question of how to adapt, restore, and transform altered conditions of the socio-ecosystems. In other words, the question increasingly becomes how a socio-ecosystem can become more resilient. This entails different conceptions of science and technology, more local and applied approaches, whereas taking into account global factors affecting and being affected by more local socio-ecosystemic factors.

In this paper, we will discuss the fact that social sciences have adopted the resilience term, as they have adopted earlier the sustainability term from natural sciences perspectives (hence forestry and ecology). The integration of both terms into the social sciences has served strategies for developing environmental and some social policies addressing global problems, such as climate change. This integration has raised political debates and eventually the mainstreaming of these terms (into prevalent structures of power).

In this paper, we will ask the following questions:

- 1) What is the added value of using the term “resilience”, rather than “sustainability” (discussing definitions)?
- 2) Who are the actors using rather one or the other terms? Why do they use these respective terms (strategies of collective actions)?
- 3) Why should we adopt the term “resilience” for comprehending the Arctic regions’ dilemmas and challenges?

Anastasia Gasnikova
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“Ways to Improve Energy Security of the Arctic Regions of Russia”

The Institute of Energy Strategy, a leading scientific center for development and monitoring of the Energy Strategy of Russia, considers energy security as the triad: “sufficiency of resources – economic affordability – technological and ecological acceptability”. The three components of the triad express the essence of energy security most completely. Improving energy security is possible by influencing the components of the triad, taking into account the particular characteristics of the Arctic regions.

The sufficiency of resources cannot be influenced directly. However, it is possible to increase the degree of geologic certainty of fossil fuel resources (geological survey) as well as to estimate alternative renewable energy resources. The Arctic particular characteristics are that many large gas and oil fields are located here, and this territory is rich of alternative renewable energy resources.

Ways to influence the economic affordability are the introduction of new, more effective energy technologies, the development of local renewable energy resources, energy saving, and energy efficiency improvement. Economic affordability of energy is especially important in the Arctic where energy supply is expensive due to cold climate, power-consuming economy, the necessity to deliver fuel to remote areas.

The technological and ecological acceptability can be influenced by developing new, more effective energy technologies. The technologies used in the Arctic have to meet some requirement. Firstly, they should meet the extreme climatic conditions. Secondly, they should not cause natural environment damage.

Piotr Graczyk
Researcher, PhD candidate,
UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

Daria Gritsenko
Post-doc researcher, PhD
Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland

“Polar Code: Reading Between the Lines”

In November 2014/May 2015, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), a mandatory regulatory instrument set to regulate safety and environmental dimensions of shipping in the harsh polar environment. This document is considered a milestone for the governance of Arctic shipping, which is projected to increase significantly in the coming decades as a result of accelerating climate change leading to sea ice decline on the Arctic Ocean. The Polar Code is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2017.

This study seeks to clarify how the Polar Code may affect governance of Arctic shipping in broader terms. By ‘broader terms’ we understand the entire constellation of actors, structures as well as principles, interests and processes that may be hidden “between the lines” of the Code. Thereby we will contribute to understanding the place of the Code in the existing shipping governance system.

In order to investigate what is hidden “between the lines” of the Polar Code we use the interactive governance approach to reconstruct the governing interactions between the governing system and the system-to-be-governed. Using both the legal text and additional qualitative data (interviews with stakeholders, participant observation in key events, media material) we propose a systematic method for analysis of international agreements in terms of governance.

We tentatively identify the following features of the regime introduced by the Polar Code that will form the central focus of this investigation: 1) place and role of ship- operators and ship-owners; 2) implementation based on (private) intermediaries; 3) roles of flag, port and coastal states’ administrations.

Eventually, we determine and examine gaps in the Arctic shipping governance that the Polar Code did not close, especially the issues the Polar Code is silent upon, but which have been voiced in professional circles and media.

Elena Guk
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Saint Petersburg State University, Russia
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“Outdoor Recreation in Norilsk: A Compromise between Mining, Well-Being and Remoteness”

In early 20th century, emerging Arctic industrial areas in Soviet Union caused creation of brand new cities, and Norilsk became one of them. Now it's the second most populated city above the Polar Circle, estimated as one of the most polluted settlements in the world. The city is de facto managed by Norilsk Nickel mining company, one of the most powerful players on non-ferrous metal global market.

The research has revealed that remoteness of the newly built area in combination with hazardous climate and industry triggered creation and development of local recreation practice. Since 1940s, dozens of camps and outdoor recreational centers had been built in the neighborhoods of Norilsk and on the lakes of Western Putorana Plateau, the UNESCO natural world heritage object located 100 km east of Norilsk industrial area. The fieldwork, done in 2013, has resulted in identifying different forms of outdoor recreational activities and facilities in the region, with same-time capacity of more than 4% of Norilsk region population; built recreational environment is still mainly operated by Norilsk Nickel. It was concluded that in changed economic and political conditions local outdoor recreation has showed its resilience: it's still on demand, remaining the essential part of everyday living and determinant of well-being of area inhabitants, not only due to its necessity for healthcare in pollution conditions but also because of lack and underdevelopment of other services, including public transportation (both interregional and local), and ways of free time spending.

The further discussion of the topic is aimed to possible ways of sustainable development of Norilsk in terms of recreational resources: how to balance quality of healthcare, free time of locals and quality of natural and built environment in the region with regional economic development and global power in the mining industry.

Minna-Carita Haantie
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“Creating a working education model for community based travel among local indigenous communities in Finland and further in other indigenous communities”

Community based travel has been seen internationally as a sustainable way of benefiting local cultures such as indigenous peoples' communities. Recent studies refer to community based travel as it is not as useful for the communities as thought before. This is because the local communities are expected to give their time to tourists and take tourists as part as their daily life and tasks. Tourists should give some payment to local people for this effort but there is no model for pricing. In conclusion this can turn as a catastrophe for local communities because it is no more community based but is based actually on tourists' expectations and wishes how the so called “service” should be available and how much it can cost. Pricing for services is not modelled and local communities don't necessary know how to price their services.

When the model of community based travel works well for local communities, it can even save cultures and give local communities extra income and does not disturb the normal way of life of the community. In Inari municipality for example a community based desire to show and present its culture has partly been a saving aspect in keeping up an eastern / skolt sámi culture in a tiny village called Sevettijärvi few years ago. In Sámi education center in Inari there has been a goal to develop a working education model for community based travel in Inari village where sámi population is quite large. This model could be transferred to Alaska and Nome where also the education center has contacts. Also in

Alaska there lives a large local indigenous population that could benefit more of tourism that is already rapidly developing in both areas. The education model in the future could be used in different places.

In Finland a person can be either an employee in a company or an entrepreneur when roughly considering practicing business. Community based travel is not considered internationally as entrepreneurship so it would be interesting and useful for local communities to find a working solution for the model and its education possibilities. Thus, resolving the problem between the model of entrepreneurship and the model of community based travel could involve local people more in tourism and its benefits.

In my presentation in Inari I am going to open the dilemma of community based travel in Finnish Lapland by shortly telling more about community based travel internationally and about its possibilities in Finland when considering entrepreneurship and show some more details of Sevettijärvi case.

Lassi Heininen
Professor of Arctic Politics
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Lapland, Finland
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"Preconditions for resilience and sustainable development – 'Geopolitics shouldn't misused'"

How come haven't the prognoses of a new 'Cold War' and emerging conflicts in the Arctic been, yet, materialized, and why is the achieved stability so resilient? At the 2010s the Arctic is peaceful and (geo)politically stable region, and is not overtly plagued by conflicts. An answer lies on the fact that the stable and friendly (post-Cold War) Arctic has been, and is, so valuable for the Arctic states and its peoples in general and particularly in globalization and the global economics. The phase, "Geopolitics is back!" is not only misleading and harmful, but also false and distorted. 'Geopolitics' has stayed in the region although the Cold War has ended like for example, Arctic resource geopolitics, climate change weakening of the states' ability to protect sovereignty, and a region-building. It is possible to argue that the Arctic is exceptional, even a new metaphor for an 'Exceptionalism', in the international system, and international politics and IR. Furthermore, although it might not sound media-sexy, this clearly shows the power of immaterial values and human capital in politics and governance, such as devolution, self-determination and the interplay between science and politics. A relevant question is if the key actors of the Arctic are ready for a paradigm shift in approach, and a cultural shift for to develop mind set for Arctic resilience? This presentation defines the post-Cold War Arctic geopolitics, and particularly how the high stability was achieved. Secondly, why to say that the stable Arctic region is exceptional in international politics / IR, and what kind role of 'Exceptionalism' can play in critical reading on IR and Geopolitics. Thirdly, it discusses on stability- and peace-building, and main preconditions for resilience and sustainability in the global Arctic. Finally, the presentation analyses an importance of immaterial values and human capital, and that of trans-disciplinarity, when to face the grand challenges (in the Arctic region).

Victoria Herrmann
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"Frozen assets in a globalized arctic Creating a path for resilient innovation in the high north"

In the Arctic, natural resource production and pricing is often used as a proxy to measure community wellbeing. More recently, many of these ventures have been dubbed 'sustainable' to promote good press

and economic investment. But often this type of sustainability does not help communities build adaptive capacities for long-term growth in a region seeing rapid connectivity, social, and climate changes. The labeling of sustainable development to petroleum projects, which inevitably rely on boom and bust cycles of a finite resource, are a testament to this. The presentation argues that a more globalized North and volatile oil markets have created a path to redefine development away from extractive industries and towards human-centered innovation.

The presentation will offer an analysis of that opportunity. It will argue that the prospect of stranded assets in fossil fuels, climate change policy, and the globalization of the Arctic offer a chance to invest in resilient development and build community capacity to deal with the transformations of the 21st Century. The presentation will contend that stranded oil assets provide an opportunity to move away from sustainable development of extractive industries towards resiliency through investments in other sources of value creation. It will examine the potential for a transformation from current development structures based on exporting raw materials to a more resilient development platform based on exporting knowledge. It will focus on economic clusters of technology and technical expertise innovation in remote renewable energy and microgrid systems. The presentation will use path dependence theory and the rich scholarship on Arctic sustainable and resilient development to understand both the theoretical dimension and paradigm shift of such a transformation.

Jussi Huotari
Researcher, PhD candidate
Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland
Jussi.a.huotari@helsinki.fi

"Greening the oil and gas business: the rise of the environmental in corporate strategies?"

This presentation explores the role of environment in the corporate strategies. Due to the central role of fossil fuels, particularly oil and gas, in a global energy mix have energy corporations rose among the most valuable companies in the World (see e.g. <http://fortune.com/fortune500/>). The emergence of the global environmental policy (GEP) since the 1960s has formulated as a counterbalance to the energy industry and its' sustainability. The threat of disruptive climate change has thrown the spotlight on the critical role that energy plays in shaping the future relationship between human society and natural environment. To respond to the critique of environmental NGOs and GEP in general, energy corporations, both state-owned and transnational corporations, have published environmental strategies as a part of their corporate social responsibility reports. This presentation provides an overview of the environmental strategies of Statoil, Gazprom, ENI, and NOVATEK. These companies were selected since they all have ongoing operations or licenses to operate in the Barents Sea.

Ludmila Ivanova
Senior researcher, PhD (Econ.)
Luzin Institute for Economic Studies
Kola Science Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

"Management of Mineral Resource Use in Regions of the Russian Federation"

Economic interests are part of not only national but also regional interests. Among natural resources of the Murmansk region mineral resources occupy the leading place. Subsoil use is carried out on the basis of licenses, which is regulated by the Federal legislation of the Russian Federation. Basing on the existing division of powers between the federal and the regional levels there are two regimes of subsoil use depending on the significance of mineral resources. At the same time there are problems related to subsoil management. Under the current situation regional and local authorities have practically no control over resources located on their territories (except for common minerals). However this right is also infringed

by a number of restrictions. The notion of “common minerals” is not legally identified; there is no single list of them for all regions. Regional authorities do not receive information about the subsoil condition on their territories that deprives them of an important tool for current and long-term planning of socio-economic development. This is quite relevant for the Murmansk region as a resource-based region. It is necessary to make substantial amendments in regulatory acts for in particular empowering the regions to dispose small deposits of the major minerals, and obliging subsoil users to take part in solving social and other problems of the regions and to develop the infrastructure sector.

Markus Kröger
PhD,
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The Power of Words: What Weight do Key Concepts such as “Resilience” carry?

Several new publications within political ecology have suggested that words such as adaptation, resilience and vulnerability would have a power by themselves to force certain types of actions (Taylor 2015; Watts 2015). The underlying understanding in institutional policy frame analysis is similar. For example, Beland Lindahl et al. (2015: 6), drawing on Perri 6 (2005), argue that frames have a power in themselves (as outcomes of framing processes) to “represent people’s worlds in ways that call for particular styles of decision-making or action”. This approach of frame analysis that has been used in policy studies (Perri 6, 2005), suggests that a narrative, discourse, concept or frame, can have a huge power, quite independently. A similar understanding is present also in other fields. Michael Watts (2015, 41, italics mine), for example, contends that “resiliency-adaptation is an apparatus of security that will determine the process of ‘letting die’... an expression of the neoliberal thought collective – in which the idea of a spontaneous market order has become, ironically, a form of sustainable development.” Taylor (2015, 10, italics mine) has a roughly similar understanding of the power of concepts (or frames here), arguing that “the concept of adaptation seemed peculiarly resistant to being inscribed with questions of power” and that, in its travels, “it has carried with it an encompassing analytical and political baggage that stems from its foundations in Cartesian rationalism.” While both of these analyses of a key concept of sustainability are in line with the conceptualization of “frame” in the frame analysis of Perri 6 (2005) and Beland Lindahl et al. (2015), there are also some nuances. Taylor would seem to put more emphasis to the power of the machine behind the frame, while Watts would seem to underscore more strongly how frames do have independent power. In any case, these recent theoretical advances suggest that frames have to be taken seriously, and an attention on important new concepts is justified.

In this perspective, frames can be seen as forms of thought, these themselves having important ramifications up the whole pathway that they “suggest”. In the perspective of these critical readings, “resilience” might not be the correct “form of thought” to address or surpass the dilemmas within the “sustainable development” concept. New concepts are needed to address the problems that the Arctic and the world face. The recognition of the power of words, studying what a concept has “eaten”, is essential in steering away from potentially more problematic concepts.

However, there are also competing views that see the words per se not as important as how they are used: all new uses changing the meanings. Thus, critical actors have started to adopt for example the concept of “governance” – that has been criticized as being neoliberal and undemocratic in its 1970s etymological roots – so as to change the meaning of the word and to cover by it also issues of critical political economy. There are also many critical scholars, such as Miguel Altieri, who use concepts such as “resilience” to “capture” the powerful concept to describe how for example agroecological producers are more resilient than agribusinesses. These approaches to words emphasize that words can be corroded, and what matters more is how they are actively being framed, via applications, than what they frame.

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"A small introduction to Tornio and Tornio River Valley - A border that never existed"

This short paper looks at the history of Tornio, a small border town in Western Lapland that forms a twin city with its Swedish neighbouring town Haparanda. The paper accounts for the towns trading past and the international culture that developed in the Tornio River Valley region. Tornio River Valley is an example of an area where the border never existed in reality until it was forcibly drawn there as a result of power politics, dividing families, lands and languages, and how the communication still continued across the newly introduced border. Also, the paper discusses the recent structural economic and political changes that have called into question Tornio's nature as Lapland's most international and industrial town and looks at its future prospects.

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Sustainability/ sustainable development > < resilience? A conceptual analysis

This presentation explores the overlaps, contradictions and contents of two highly contested and heavily criticized concepts related to the human dimension in the Arctic: sustainability and resilience. Through a literature review I argue that while there is substantive disagreement about the ways in which each of the concepts should be defined, in their most simple form sustainability and sustainable development refer to the internal workings of a 'system' – i.e. the ability to maintain a status of living or being at least in principle indefinitely –, while the notion of resilience draws attention to the ability of a 'system' to withstand external shocks. However, an empirical analysis of a set of Arctic reports and assessments demonstrates the promiscuous ways in which these notions are applied and highlights the conceptual confusion between them and other closely related concepts.

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"Rethinking the Co-existence of Industrial Mining and Protected Areas: Socio-economic Considerations for Sustainability. Case study: Hannukainen Mine in Northern Finland"

Sustainable development in globalization involves practices that make up the socio-economic and political systems of communities evolving in time and space. As technology, trade, and migration patterns change with intense competitiveness between economies, the challenge remains for humans to meet the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations. Industrial mining is one of the crucial areas in globalization. Historically, imbalances in the post-WWII era that led to increase in demand for metals to rebuilt economies. The collapse of Soviet Union in 1990s influenced reliance by North America and Western Europe on imports of metals from Third World countries, and the fall in metal prices during the 2008 economic crises with subsequent price increase in 2010.

One area of interest in the Barents region is the location of mines near protected areas which triggers concerns of endangering ecological landscapes and undermining human needs. In contrast, the argument that mining brings employment to the community poses the inquiry if mining and protected areas can co-exist sustainably in a globalized era. With a case study of Hannukainen mine near Pallas-

Yllas National Park in Finnish Lapland, this theoretical paper uses a discourse analysis to review the socio-economic problems of mining to the community and suggests its beneficial factors. It concludes with the reflection that establishing mutual understanding between stakeholders requires weighing of risk and beneficial factors to the community while ensuring flora and fauna population maintenance.

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"Flexible Images of 'Russianness' in Eastern Finland"

The late international developments have highlighted how political changes can quickly challenge the established identical positions of peoples. My dissertation research involves mediated realities of constructing the competing, and even conflictive ideas of 'self' and 'other' in both sides of the Finnish-Russian border. I am involved in a project about the discursive production of images of Russia, conducted comparably by research groups in the Baltic States, France, Finland, Poland, Central Asia and Moldova. Besides the mapping of images of Russia in general, the aim is to explore the conflicting narratives in order to create templates of conciliation for improving inter-ethnic understanding and tolerance. In Finland, the images of Russia have been studied relatively much, but in the regional studies, the focus has dominantly been in the field of business and economy, instead of social research, so my focus is in Eastern Finland.

After the fall of USSR, the interaction between Finns and Russians has grown significantly in Eastern Finland: New business opportunities and mobility between the opening borders, have required the region's peoples to consider critically their attitudes and long-term behavioral strategies for having desirable social and economic relations with Russians, arguably the main others for the Finnish national identity. Political developments in recent years have brought new rapid changes in local everyday relations, as the trade has fell and tensions in political discussions have grown. While my project group's work will include in-depth qualitative interviews with officials and local residents close to the Finnish-Russian border, my work will consist of analyzing the documents of regional administration and public discussion in local newspapers and region's internet forums. I will present the related research setting relating to border studies and public discussion with examples of my previous study about the Republic of Karelia.

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"Indigenous peoples' possibilities to influence on decision-making: case study of Finland"

The Sámi people are indigenous people's group living in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Their culture and traditional livelihoods have always been strongly connected to the nature and they have a long history in exploiting natural resources. With traditional knowledge they have managed to regulate their exploitation of these resources in a sustainable manner. However, in the 17th century the impact of other cultures started to increase rapidly in Sápmi region and the number of new actors has increased in the region ever since.

Increasing power of the states in the Sámi people's homeland region has led to some conflicts of interests between the states and Sámi people. While the states try to boost their economic growth the voices of minority groups stay often unheard. For example in Finland conversation over indigenous people's possibilities to take part in decision-making processes concerning the use of the resources of their

homeland region has burst radically lately. Despite many protest voices among the Sámi people the situation has not visibly improved and this can be seen for example in the public conversations and media.

This paper will discuss how the Sámi people are engaged to the decision-making processes when building resilience at the state- and regional level in Sápmi. Especially environmental and political aspects are highlighted in this presentation, since the environment is seen as one of the most crucial elements of the Sámi culture. It is also one of the most vulnerable resources which the Sámi people still have managed to preserve relatively clean in this region.

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Norwegian-Russian oil and gas cooperation in the Northwest Arctic: is there life after sanctions?

The paper presents some results from PETRONORTH – PETROSAM-2 research project “The emergence of a new petroleum province in the High North – integrated or fragmented?” (2014-2017, lead institution – Arctic University of Norway). Within the project, the study on the cross-border cooperation in the field of oil and gas between Norway and Russia has been conducted, with geographical focus on the Barents Sea and the Murmansk region.

It is widely recognized that oil and gas industry in the Arctic is one of the greatest challenges to the environment. At the same time it is viewed as one of the few industries with the financial resources, project experience and technology able to ensure environmentally, economically and socially sustainable development in the Arctic. Norway and Russia started the dialogue on energy development in the 1990es. The progress of cooperation was driven by the common interests in developing petroleum resources in the High North, in particular, in the Barents Sea, as well as by expectations to mutually benefit from transferring knowledge, technologies and experience and to receive positive effects both nationally and regionally. Petroleum cooperation was also seen as a mean to secure environmentally sustainable future of the Northwest Arctic due to the possibilities to develop jointly new technologies and infrastructure for preparedness, prevention and response that could lead to improved safety and environmental protection.

During the last 20 years, Norwegian-Russian petroleum cooperation was established between the oil and gas companies, in oil spill response, in education and research, in the frames of professional public associations, in petroleum service businesses and in some other spheres. In 2014-2015, when oil prices have dropped and sanctions have been imposed on Russia over Ukraine, the cooperation was greatly challenged. This paper will discuss the impact of political tension on Norwegian-Russian oil and gas cooperation in the Northwest Arctic. Based on the bottom-up approach and data received in the interviews with experts from organizations participating in petroleum cross-border cooperation in the Murmansk region, we will try to answer several questions. First, how the cooperation has been affected and which parts of it are more sensitive or more robust? Second, what are the major factors of robustness in cooperation? And third, what are the future prospects for cross-border cooperation between Norway and Russia in the field of oil and gas?

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Sustainable Development, Resilience or Resource Fairness? A pan-Arctic approach for sustainability

In the twenty-first century, international attention on the Arctic is increasing. The Arctic holds vast proven and estimated natural resources, including large amounts of minerals and hydrocarbons. Governments exercising sovereignty over Arctic territories (which capitals are all south of the Arctic Circle) have indicated their intentions to extract these vast natural resources and promote the (sustainable) economic development of the region. In addition, many non-Arctic states such as China or India have indicated their interest in the Arctic. Yet, the region has seen a much stronger focus on the extraction of natural resources, while socioeconomic and socio-political issues (and development) lagged behind.

As climate change makes its effects most visible in the Arctic, Arctic communities (both indigenous and non-indigenous) are rapidly adapting to a changing environment while facing a dilemma between the preservation of the environment and their traditional ways of life, fair and sustainable socioeconomic development, or a rapid industrialization and exploitation of natural resources driven by (volatile) market prices.

It is in this shifting context where the concept of resource fairness, or the approach to socioeconomic development that takes into account the legitimate interests of all involved actors, comes into place. Although resilience may be needed to adapt to this changing environment (at the political, socioeconomic and environmental levels), resource fairness is needed to identify possibilities for actual sustainable development as well as the needs, claims and interests of Arctic communities.

Linked together, resilience and resource fairness can offer an effective approach to socially-driven and long-lasting sustainable development in the Arctic; a socioeconomic development focusing beyond the resource-driven policies of the governments of the eight Arctic states.

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“In the core of the planned article is the way in which Russian federal and regional strategies and other official documents utilise norms in order to legitimise investments on new technologies utilising renewable energy sources, especially biomass products.”

Even though the use of renewable, local energy sources has received moral support from the state and municipalities, development of this market has been slow. Instead of listing reasons for this situation, however, this article looks into the reality where these types of problems can be fixed by programmes of state support: the official strategies. Based on notions of institutionalism and institutions as both restricting and enabling factors, the article investigates the kind of normative pillars on which the new industry may attempt to lean on in order to ensure social legitimacy. Despite of the fact that some of the goals mentioned in the strategies might never realise themselves, the way in which they are presented to the general public and the norms to which they are linked may reveal interesting details regarding Russia's larger development trends regarding sustainable development and resilience issues.

The data studied consists mainly of Russian federal strategies regarding energy and climate issues and the economic development of the Russian Arctic. The article concentrates especially on the Arkhangelsk oblast since this region has both extensive wood resources and seemingly genuine interest in developing the use of alternative and local energy sources.

At this point, intermediary findings indicate that depending on circumstances, several institutions may act either as a restraining or an enabling element. This contradiction defines greatly the

plan implementation environment in the Russian North, but how is it present in the realm of official documents? Could this puzzle help to explain why in the Russian conditions, even a strong political incentive is not always enough when modernising the energy industry?

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Environmental policies of Russia's Arctic industrial centres: survival or resilience strategies?

The main research objective of this study is to examine and compare environmental strategies of several largest industrial cities in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (AZRF). There are three specific purposes with this analysis: First, to evaluate the scope and focus of environmental programs that are implemented by the AZRF cities such as Murmansk, Monchegorsk, Apatity, Norilsk, Vorkuta, etc. Second, to find out whether these strategies are efficient or not? Third, to understand whether these policies are of short-term/single issue character or they represent forward-looking strategies that are conducive to the sustainable socio-economic and environmental development of the northern urban areas?

Particularly, my study will focus on the following priorities of industrial centres' environmental strategies:

Creation and development of an efficient administrative/managerial system

Development of a proper legal basis, including power-sharing with the federal and regional governments

- The focus on prevention and reduction of pollution rather than on cleaning up the environmental mess
- Rehabilitation of damaged natural environmental system (damage assessment, targeting the priority areas, clean up programs, monitoring)
- Solid and liquid waste treatment
- Targeted programs to protect endangered species
- Development of monitoring system in various areas (prevention of natural and man-made disasters; air and water pollution; endangered species, etc.)
- Development of civil protection services in coordination with the federal structures
- Development of public-private partnerships in the environment protection sphere
- Encouraging environmental research (support for the local universities and research centers)
- Developing environmental education and culture
- Cooperation with NGOs and mass media
- International cooperation (Arctic Council, BEAC, International Polar Year, IPCC, UNDEP programs, country-to-country, region-to-region, town-to-town cooperation, etc.).

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"The Independent Barents Observer (IBO)"

The newspaper is new. But the spirit of the Independent Barents Observer is not. News team Thomas Nilsen, Trude Pettersen and Atle Staalesen started up and developed BarentsObserver.com until they all quit or were dismissed from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in fall 2015.

The new media company was established on 7th October 2015 following a conflict over editorial independence with the Barents Secretariat owners; the three northernmost Norwegian counties

of Finnmark, Troms and Nordland. In the course of that process, the Barents Secretariat owners turned down the journalists's bid for editorial independence for the BarentsObserver.com arguing that independent journalism could «harm the good cross-border relations in the region».

The Independent Barents Observer is today a journalists-own online newspaper operating in line with the acknowledged principles of independent media. It is based in Kirkenes, Norway, working with cross-border journalism in the Barents Region and the Arctic.

www.thebarentsobserver.com

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"Resilience: From the Roman Empire to the Arctic"

Through world history, societies have been confronted to complex issues that may lead to collapse. As some failed to adapt, resilience is a key comprehensive concept for human communities to develop abilities to deal with increasing complexities. Nowadays, the Arctic community could exemplify the building of a new model able to cope and evolve as contemporary societies face unmatched challenges.

- Resilience v. Collapse: An historical perspective

In the course of centuries, cases that human societies failed to survive when disruptions appeared and challenged these societies are numerous. Nevertheless, others succeeded in different ways to adapt and evolve by implementing new rules such as Japan during the XVIth century (i.e.: forest management). But regardless failure or success, complex societies are susceptible to collapse in a way or another. The fall of the Roman Empire is a testament among others to the fact that advanced, sophisticated, complex and creative civilization can stand both fragile and impermanent.

- Contemporary civilization: Headed for "irreversible collapse"?

Modern world economy is currently eyeing a growing conflict between food and fuel. Indeed, depending on many of the same finite and diminishing resources, industrial civilization witnesses mounting instable commodity stocks on the market in recent years. Besides, as population grows, a technology makes it easier to exploit decreasing resources while the environment's diminishing returns are hidden from view.

- The Arctic community: Building resilience

In that perspective, it appears essential to understand what is at stake at the global stage in order to set up a model from the Arctic community. As a given community's economic and social structure, potential change is the key for the Arctic community. Its adaptive capacity and capability asks flexibility from individual household to the whole community. By building resilience, the Arctic community might find imitators among other communities.

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"The Emerging Political Space of the Internet: International Relations in the Virtual Reality"

My doctoral thesis research deals with the emergent political space of the Internet. The virtual space is becoming an important location for political activity and struggle and developments in the scope and denseness of the Internet, the network is developing into a deeply connected yet separate space of activity in itself. Internet is emerging as a highly active space of political, economic and social activity and its effect on everyday life is intensified. It is becoming clear that the cyberspace is becoming an important location for political struggle.

Internet is most often dealt as an auxiliary feature of other social phenomena and especially as an enhancing feature of the globalization process. As a rule Internet isn't dealt as autonomous entity under International Relations. This thesis is partly an attempt to rectify the situation by developing a critical perspective to the Internet as political space and the actors working in it. I propose developing an understanding of the dynamic cyberscape that takes account the particular nature of the Internet and digital technologies as a dynamic, intertextual and extremely fluid political environment. Many central concepts of political science also require re-assessment when considered in relation to the more dynamic and malleable reality of the Internet.

The planned approach of this research can be described as post-structural and critical. The goal of this research is to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the political space created by the Internet and accompanying digital technologies using methodologies and theories of political science, aesthetics, linguistics and geography. By using methods such as discourse analysis, study of the technologies of government, rhetorical analysis and geopolitics, the research attempts to develop a clear understanding of the dynamics of the virtual space and how this affects the activity within.

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“Sustainable development of Russian Arctic regions in the context of regional policy”

The paper will highlight some general trends in regional dynamics of the Russian Arctic territories in the context of regional policy in Russia. First, it would overview the legal basis and the institutional dimension of regional policy, which lacks “good governance” in both mentioned aspects. Second, it would generalize the strategic importance of the Arctic for Russian economy, and emphasize the important but insufficient instruments of the sustainable development of the High North territories (e.g. the activities by the State Commission on the Arctic development, the Strategy of Russian Arctic Zone development etc.). Further on, it would speculate on how Russian Arctic regions look against the background of other Russian regions. This is quite a complicated task since e.g. there is no specific “Arctic” regional statistics in Russia. Finally, I would refer to different proposals on how to upgrade regional policy and regional development instruments aimed at the sustainable development of the Russian Arctic. The paper will conclude by the discussion on the main question: is sustainable development of the Arctic Zone of Russia is possible by the virtue of a few “breakthrough” megaprojects without carrying out a real perestroika of the whole system of (regional development) governance.

“Freedom of speech and freedom of media in the Russian Arctic: mission impossible?”

Russia keeps being a very traditional country in all possible senses. Russian population holds traditional political culture, which prohibits the majority of Russians from participation in any social and/or political activity and promote etatism and “blind believe” in “good Tsar and bad boyars”. Mass media are one of the main tool for keeping and promoting the traditionalist traditions. TV plays the main role in that, that's why we have the only federal-level oppositional TV-channel, “Dozhd”, “The Rain”. Newspapers (including the web-versions) are on the second place. Here we have more options to choose, but the assortment is also limited to few nation-wide known newspapers such as “Novaya Gazeta”, “Vedomosti” and some others.

On the regional level the situation significantly differs: from regions with non-existent “independent” media to a moderately good presence of “free” media on the market. The paper will analyze the situation in some Russian Arctic regions and show how the federal (and regional) authorities are trying to prevent the “independent” (regional) media from influencing the society.

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"Investigative journalism as the last chance for Russian journalism (also in the Arctic)?"

Russian journalism is experiencing an obvious "genre crisis". The general feeling of the professional community is that pressure on the independent media, venality and self-censorship of journalists leads to "degeneration" of journalism. It is revealing that the number, not the quality of the journalists' materials is on the first place. There are exceptions, of course. However, the small number of "proficient" independent media is an exception that proves the rule.

Is the situation hopeless, or is there any positive solution? There are two possible answers to this question. The first is that as long as the political regime in Russia, whose main pillars are the power

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Adaptive realities of single-industry communities of Murmansk region in the changing Arctic

Murmansk region is one of the regions within the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation; and is one of the most heavily industrialized territories. Among other Arctic territories of Russia, region holds the first place by the number of single-industry cities (8: Polyarnie Zory, Kirovsk, Nickel, Zapolyarniy, Tumanniy, Monchegorsk, Revda, Kovdor). At present 23% of the region's population (over 150000 people) live and work in single-industry cities and set up the greatest industrial potential for further socioeconomic and sustainable development of this area. The most part of regions' single-industry cities has a mining profile. The resource role of the Arctic is strong and doubtless. Resource stocks are expansive due to the new exploration possibilities opened by the human-driven climate and environmental change. But resource markets and political situations dictate their own demands through all the entire historic period from Soviet times to nowadays. These demands place some new economic realities to the industries allocated in the region to which they should be adaptive and resilient.

The exceptional socioeconomic and environmental factors which contribute to facilitation or procrastination of sustainable development of single-industry cities are structural and paradigm changes in economy and functionality of enterprises after collapse of Soviet Union; the triple contradictions of interests: enterprise owner – regional government – local population and workers; downsizing and depopulation; domestic and foreign market conditions; pollution; the quality of life of local population; possible changes of resource potential, and other key factors.

The rapidly changing resource, political and military role of the Arctic and its economy nowadays brings in new challenges and benefits to the sustainable development of the region. An ineffective governmental strategy for social services, human capacity building, socially-oriented regional budget and world/domestic demand for particular resource are major milestones for sustainable development of the region and its mining communities.

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“The Arctic Council between global interests and regional development. A continuation of the prevailing economic order.”

As the successor organization of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, the Arctic Council is often considered as an institution to promote environmental protection in the Arctic. However, since the dominating discourse of this Arctic cooperation shifted in favor of sustainable development, economic aspects moved into the center of the Council's agenda. As the Council is a soft law cooperation, its main power is in policy shaping and coordination of Arctic developments. Thus, the policies of the Council can only be understood when also considering the national policies and interests of the Arctic states. Given the colonial history of the Arctic, not only environmental concerns but also human development approaches towards the Arctic inhabitants need to be analyzed in order to understand this Arctic cooperation. In the focus of both, the national Arctic strategies as well as within the cooperation through the Arctic Council, the development of non-renewable resources, designated for southern and global markets, rather than a sustainable development based on renewable resources for local utilization are getting most of the states' attention. Consequently it is questionable if the prevailing strategies for the development of the Arctic, communicated by both, the Arctic states and the Arctic cooperation, are aimed for increasing human security in the region, or are rather aimed to satisfy the interests of the dominating groups in the political and economic centers in the South. The main question this paper aims to follow is if the Arctic cooperation – by virtue of the Arctic Council – can be seen as part of a hegemonic project in order to satisfy the interests of the dominating elites in the economic and political centers in the South, rather than to develop the Arctic in a local and ecologically democratic manner. This also raises the question if there are continuities from the colonial past of the Arctic region. The paper will elaborate on these questions by utilizing approaches from the politics of scale, neo-Gramscian and neo-Poulantzian traditions.

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