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PROPOSAL FOR UArctic Thematic Network on Sustainable Arctic Resources and Social Responsibility

Rationale

Sustainability in the Arctic depends on both natural and social science knowledge, which calls for enhanced multidisciplinary understanding and knowledge creation. This Thematic Network (TN) will be defined and guided by the multidisciplinary character of a number of thematic areas that will advance our understanding of social responsibility within a context of sustainability and debates concerning Arctic futures with a focus on resources. We adopt a broad approach to resources and address issues ranging from renewable and non-renewable natural resources to spaces, indigenous knowledge, mobility practices, and people and other species. Welcoming participants from the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities, the TN's multi-disciplinary character will stimulate the application of inter-disciplinary approaches.

We approach the above knowledge need from the perspective of social responsibility (SR), which we understand as the contributions that all types of actors – corporations, governments, civil society, labour organisations, indigenous groups, local communities, experts – can offer, in particular the knowledge needed to identify and contribute towards positive impacts on society and to identify, prevent or – if needed – mitigate adverse impact. We explicitly apply the term Social Responsibility to signal that our focus goes beyond the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by not being limited to firms. CSR is a contested term that has its merits in certain contexts but in others is associated with approaches and solutions that do not by all means accord with sustainable Arctic futures. As global disruptions such as climate change increase, needs of social responsibility expand to encompass the impacts and contributions of many kinds of organizations and individual actors. Our take on SR offers opportunities for experts and practitioners of all disciplines to share knowledge and interact for sustainability. This may relate to natural resource extraction as well as resource management in a broad sense (including non-exploitation), capacity building, migration, eco-tourism, indigenous knowledge as a resource of significance of its own for sustainable Arctic futures, and a range of other issues. Learning between regions, states, peoples and cultures and analysis of experience gained elsewhere in the Arctic (and beyond for comparative perspectives) will be a key element for these purposes.



Natural and human resources are crucial to Arctic futures. Conversations and collaboration between the natural and social sciences and the humanities may help transmit necessary insights across disciplines and towards the groups and individuals who make decisions on Arctic resources.

A diversity of actors is involved in a range of practices that contribute to the shaping of perceptions and attitudes to the Arctic. These include indigenous populations in their many Arctic forms within and across territorial states, local population groups, experts, public organisations and regulators at national, international and circumpolar levels, local and transnational companies and investors, environmental and other civil society groups, and even a global public which can influence Arctic resources, economies and livelihoods through exploitation, consumption or preservation of Arctic resources.

In view of its reach across sectors and across public and private interests, SR has potential but also offers challenges for the emerging opportunities for natural resource extraction in the Arctic, utilization of resources towards sustainable Arctic futures, and sustainable resource management. The TN will engage in research and offer teaching from the perspective of SR as a modality for contributing to mitigating adverse impacts (environmental and/or social) and to work towards resource usage, preservation and exploitation in ways that are conducive to sustainable Arctic futures and takes account of Arctic resources in a broad sense.

Our concern is not to proceed with a particular definition of sustainability, resources or SR. Rather, we recognise that there is a diversity of definitions and approaches, as well as entanglements of environmental, social, economic and political issues with sustainability is the ‘cosmology’. A designated focus on resources allows for observing how this plays out through the agency of assuming ‘responsibility’. The SR approach enables us to move towards interdisciplinary collaboration on social and environmental impact and governance, develop multi-disciplinary exchanges teaching, and ultimately contribute to knowledge building and theory development for models apt for the Arctic sustainability challenges of the 21st century.

Goal

The TN aims at a greater understanding of what social responsibility as a practice that may be exercised by different organisations means for sustainability in an Arctic resources context and of how insights from social and natural sciences and the humanities can complement. To do so the TN will evolve as a building ground for knowledge sharing, course design, and bringing research based knowledge to relevant actors in the Arctic. Educating the next generation of experts in Arctic resources is a significant element of the goal.

Indigenous issues

Indigenous issues are inherent in the focus of this TN. Indigenous resources, practices, interests and conceptions of sustainability and responsibility, indigenous knowledge and current and future capacity are all integral to this TN. Indigenous issues are both the backdrop and the forefront of our theme. We recognise the diversity of Arctic indigenous peoples and groups and their close connection to resources, and opt for not addressing indigenous issues as a distinct point under the TN. We do pay specific attention to indigenous knowledge as a resource of particular significance for sustainability in relation to Arctic resources and SR challenges and opportunities.

Thematic Priorities

The Network will organise itself around the consideration and exploration of three Thematic Priorities, which will provide the focus of at least three workshops to be organised during Network Meetings.

Social responsibility and resources

What do we understand by resources? Media, policy and scholarly attention is often on the use of or protection of non-renewable natural resources, such as hydrocarbons and minerals, but the Arctic offers many other resources. The TN's work will include:

- Oil, gas and minerals
- Living marine resources and other species
- Forests
- Water
- Land (whether cultivated or not)
- People
- Knowledge (indigenous, scientific, knowledge of practices to promote interests, ...)

Social responsibility, mobilities and Arctic spaces and community development

What is has an impact on resources that move to and from the Arctic, and within and around the Arctic, including for regional or island community development? Our work will include:

- Infrastructure and transport
- Indigenous/local practices of movement
- Infrastructure and supplies
- Social and institutional infrastructures
- Capital/Investment and resources for subsistence and commercial development

Social responsibility, indigenous knowledge, and skills

- Nutrition and well-being
- Company-community relations
- Education, skills and training
- Housing and the built environment
- Biosecurity/bioprospecting and appropriation

We will work on these issues from the perspective of six potential actors:

- 1) Indigenous peoples
- 2) Local communities
- 3) Corporations
- 4) Governments
- 5) NGOs and civil society organisations generally
- 6) Researchers/experts

Strategy

The strategy of the TN for the first three years takes point of departure in the fact that funding has been secured for three meetings based on a grant awarded in 2015 from UArctic/DASTI. Each of the three meetings will address a specific combination of the thematic priorities set out above. This allows for an evolving agenda bringing new insights that can continue to drive the TNs' teaching and research based knowledge sharing and teaching. Teaching activities will evolve around PhD-courses with the possibility to include Master's students with the aim of educating the next generation.

Funding for teaching activities will be explored from the time when the TN is approved. Potential funding sources are expected to include host institutions, UArctic, Nordic Council, EU and national funding schemes.

We will work closely with other TNs. Some of the issues and themes that we deal with are also addressed by other TNs from a deep expertise perspective. Our strategy is to learn from their expertise and include them in developing new ways of thinking about sustainability and social responsibility, activating our TN's expertise.

Our three Thematic Priorities will be explored through research exchange and educational activities and outreach. Outreach represents our commitment to connecting with communities that are affected by sustainability challenges or opportunities in relation Arctic resources in order to share insights and knowledge. We envisage this as a two-way process, for example, some communities may benefit from knowledge produced by the TN, and some communities may share knowledge on sustainable resource management, application and engagement that will contribute to the TN's ongoing research, teaching and further outreach. As part of our outreach we will also engage with student communities at universities where our network meetings take place, even when teaching is not an explicit goal of such a meeting. Listening to young peoples' idea on the TN's topics in particular Arctic regions will support the conversation that we wish to stimulate across disciplines, regions, communities, experts, practitioners and other stakeholders.

An invitation to collaborate with another TN (the TN on Extractives) on a PhD course scheduled for 2017 ensures a speedy upstart and opportunity for this TN to gain experience to feed into later teaching activities. Opportunities for collaboration with other TNs for joint teaching will be explored.

Activities (road map for Thematic Network)

Research Exchange

The Thematic Network itself will not initiate research but will act as a way of facilitating research and allow for interaction between a range of disciplines in the social sciences, natural sciences and the humanities. We will draw on existing research projects carried out by network members as a basis for conversations about multidisciplinary engagement with issues of pressing contemporary concern, and share and disseminate such knowledge. This will be done through a series of workshops that will take at set of Thematic Priorities as an area of exploration. Each workshop could provide a forum for developing new research projects and for publishing work.

Research exchanges will be defined and targeted to particular resources and SI issues relevant to the region of the host institution.

Educational activities and outreach

- Collaboration with the Thematic Network on Extractives on PhD courses
- Explore opportunities for collaboration with the Thematic Network on WestArctic Governance and Sustainability education
- Invite stakeholders into the group in order to understand better their views and concerns on sustainability and social responsibility and to share knowledge
- Knowledge translation/Giving public lectures/Public dissemination: presentations (and perhaps materials) for different groups, such as companies, schools etc.

Detailed plan of Action for years 1-3

Network Meetings (funding already secured by grant from UArctic(DASTI) for TN proposal and start-up)

September 2016: Following the expected approval of the TN in September 2016, TN members participating at the UArctic Council or simultaneous conference will meet in St. Petersburg or at Pskov State University to make detailed planning for the TN. The activity is envisaged to be funded by participating institutions and may not include all core members physically.

December 2016 (3 days): First Network meeting, envisaged to take place at Syktyvkar State University, possibly in collaboration with Urkta Technical University in view of its Oil and Gas teaching activities. Focus: (A) Research workshop - substantive theme: Social responsibility and Arctic resources. (B) Planning 1st Network teaching event (see below). (C) Network development.

Summer 2017 (3 days): Second Network meeting. Envisaged to take place in Greenland adjacent to the UArctic Council meeting expected to be held in Nuuk in August 2017. Logistically this will enable a larger group of UArctic Council meeting participants/members of other TNs to attend and

contribute to the Network's meeting and consider whether to join and hopefully decide to join. Focus: (A) Research workshop - substantive theme: Social responsibility and mobilities and Arctic spaces; (B) Teaching and joint courses: planning next steps for PhD course in 2018 (see below), including funding. (C) Network development.

Summer 2018 (3 days): Third Network meeting, tentatively envisaged to take place at the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, British Columbia. The meeting is envisaged to take place adjacent to the first Summer School and/or PhD course organized by this TN (hosted at the same institution). Focus: (A) research workshop - substantive theme: Social responsibility, indigenous knowledge and skills (B) Evaluation of summer school/PhD course with a focus on interdisciplinary complementarity and prospects for broader contributions for Arctic capacity building in area of Thematic Network. (C) Network development (short, medium and long term).

Tentative (funding to be explored)

2017: PhD course in collaboration with the TN on Arctic Extractive Industries (the latter in the role of host). Tentative venue: Fairbanks.

2018: PhD course jointly with the TN on Arctic Extractive Industries (this TN in the role as host). Tentative venue: Nuuk and the Nuuk Fjord region. We will explore opportunities (including funding) for collaborating with an interdisciplinary Summer School related to Arctic resources, which is currently being planned to take place in Nuuk in the Summer of 2018 with the participation of Ilisimatusarfik and other institutions.

2019: Multi-disciplinary conference: Arctic futures, resources and public-private collaboration on responsible action. Tentative host/location: Pskov State University, Russia.

Organisation, partners, governance, quality control

Host Institution: Copenhagen Business School

Partners: The thematic network will be organised around a core group representing the three Arctic regions, with other partners joining as members. The core group has been actively involved in the elaboration of this proposal through a meeting in Copenhagen in January 2016 and subsequent electronic communication and networking to refine the text. The core group members are listed below.

Steering Committee (SC): The SC will be comprised of representatives from the members constituting the core group. The SC will meet once a year at the occasion of a meeting of the TN. It will meet virtually several times a year. The SC will include representatives from indigenous organisations. The SC will ensure quality control of the TN according to the quality criterion defined below.

Planning and Engagement Group: Intended to support the outreach of the TN and feed external insights into the TN, this Group will be comprised of representatives from companies (e.g. oil, mining, tourism, transport), communities, educational institutions (high schools, vocational

schools/colleges), civil society, local authorities; and representatives from other TNs.

Quality control: Quality is defined by the TN as the iterative fulfilment of our goal. Stock will be taken regularly by the SC to assess past output and events including fund-raising, and revise plans for future events if needed to ensure alignment with the aim of fulfilling our goal and adjustments to available funding.

Added value to UArctic and participating institutions and individuals

The TN on Sustainable Arctic Resources and Social Responsibility adds value to UArctic in a number of ways. The interdisciplinary approach across multiple academic sciences offers opportunities to develop new insights on the focal topics of this TN that complements and adds to several existing TNs. The TN offers novelty in terms of the cross-cutting approach across many of the issues that are addressed at a level of ‘technical’ in-depth expertise by other TNs by adding a multi-disciplinary SR aspect. This allows for comparative studies and for integration into teaching, updating SR to a pro-active 21st century approach.

Participating institutions and individual members in the TN will benefit from enhanced appreciation of the multidisciplinary aspects and correlations between Arctic resources, sustainability and SR. Students and junior scholars (PhD students) taking part in teaching activities offered by the TN will benefit from similar knowledge. As part of the collaboration envisaged during teaching events they will also benefit from exposure to the methods of students from other disciplines.

The TN envisages close collaboration with other TNs, whose members are encouraged to join this TN. Through members of our core group we already have collaboration with several existing UArctic TNs. These include the TN on Arctic Extractive Industries, the TN on Environmental Training and Education for Sustainable Development of the Arctic (NETESDA), the TN on Northern Governance, the TN on Northern Tourism, the TN on Arctic Law, the TN on Managing Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the North and the TN on West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management Education. We aim to expand collaboration with other TNs, including those on health, natural sciences, engineering and technology, tourism, fisheries and SMEs. We will continue to pay attention to collaboration opportunities with existing and new UArctic TNs for the purposes of teaching as well as research and research dissemination.

The TN will also add value to UArctic as an organisation due to the involvement of the committed members and institutions, including a high ranking business university with a dedicated sustainability teaching and research agenda as its host institution, and through its knowledge engagement with students and scholars at campuses hosting the network meetings (of which three are already funded for 2016-2018).

Longer-term sustainability of network

Longer-term sustainability of the TN will be considered as a default agenda point at each meeting of the network. This will include funding opportunities and institutional commitment to host TN events. From the outset, longer-term sustainability prospects are supported by the institutional commitment of the participating UArctic members and of the core group participating scholars; and through the confirmed activities, which enjoy funding to ensure that the TN is off to an active start during its first three years.

Core group: Members and institutions

Karin Buhmann, Dr.Science, Pol, PhD, Professor, Dpt of Intercultural Communication and Management, **CBS**; *alternate: Benedikte Brincker*, PhD, Associate Professor, Dpt of Business and Politics, **CBS**.
Christina Berg Johansen, Assistant professor, Dpt of Organization, **CBS**.
Arni Johan Petersen, PhD fellow, Dpt of Intercultural Communication and Management, **CBS**
Ellen Margrethe Basse, Dr. jur., Professor **Aarhus University/Arctic Research Centre (ARC)**; *alternate: Lise Lotte Sørensen*, PhD, Associate Professor, **Aarhus University/ARC**.
Cécile Pelaudeix, PhD, Assistant Professor, **Aarhus University/ARC**
Kåre Hendriksen, PhD, Associate Professor, **Denmark's Technical University/Artek (Sisimiut)**
Morten Meldgaard, Dr.Phil., PhD, Professor, **Iisimatusarfik, Nuuk and University of Copenhagen**
Mark Nuttall, PhD, Professor, **University of Alberta; Iisimatusarfik and the Greenland Climate Research Centre/Greenland Institute of Natural Resources**
Paul Bowles, PhD, Professor, **University of Northern British Columbia**
Florian Stammler, PhD, Professor, **Arctic Centre, University of Lapland**
George Varlamov, PhD, Head of International Research and Educational Projects, **Pskov State University**
Alexander Seryakov, Head of Department of International Affairs, **Syktyvkar State University**
Aitalina Ivanova, PhD, Associate Professor, **North Eastern Federal University (NEFA), Yakutsk**

This proposal was submitted by Karin Buhmann on behalf of the core group. We take the opportunity to express our thanks to UArctic/DASTI for the grant awarded in 2015 that enabled us to meet in January 2016 for a two-day workshop at Copenhagen Business School to discuss this proposal. If the proposed TN is approved the awarded funds will also contribute to the activities of the TN through three additional meeting in Arctic regions as set out above.