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The place of place in Northern Rural SME strategies

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WG01, “Where are you really, from?” Migration and belonging in a mobile rural,

Organizers

Philomena de Lima, University of the Highland and Islands, Scotland

Markus Meckl, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Ivan Emke, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

Work-related immigration to rural areas – effects on demography and employment

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Gro Marit Grimsrud, Uni Research, Norway

The consequences of demographic marginalisation in rural areas have been addressed in Norway as well as in other parts of the world. Challenges related to long-term outmigration, combined with reduction of births, have been regarded a threat to economic growth, recruitment of labour to local businesses, the efficiency of welfare service provision, etc. However, in some of the rural areas of Western Norway, work-related immigration seem to have eased these problems, at least to some extent. In this paper, we show how work-related immigration affect the social demographics and employment in rural areas, and discuss the extent to which the immigration can counter the repercussions of internal out-migration. The analysis is based on public statistics, and is part of a larger study regarding the local and regional consequences of work-related immigration and the managing strategies of local councils.

Sustaining resilience – an individual and municipality perspective on refugee migration into rural areas

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Rural communities across the Nordic countries are facing challenges as well as opportunities associated with national and international migration movements. National movements are often characterised by rural to urban streams, contributing to a depopulated countryside and a shrinking welfare sector. One example of an opposite stream is refugee migration into rural areas, involving reformulated and emerging roles for rural communities. This presentation will focus on municipal and individual strategies in relation to refugee migration, involving for example institutional learning, translocal networks and practices. With a qualitative approach such processes are investigated and analysed using the resilience concept as organising tool. The aim is to reach an understanding of the mutual relationship of community and individual resilience and also to uncovering the micro-politics which constitute and transform rural places. Results show that an increased population may strengthen the local labour market, increase the amount of public and private service and contribute to an amplified social environment. Migrants on the other hand, may experience enhanced individual resilience including everyday routines and planning for a future, as well as harboring a longing for something else.

Children left behind - the consequences of parental emigration

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The paper discusses the unexpected consequences of economical migration from Latvian rural areas, as reflected in children. The paper is based on a study of children left behind or Euro-orphans – children and youth who have been left with siblings, adult relatives or themselves when their parents emigrate. The authors analyze economical, educational and psychological implications on children's lives after their parents' emigration. Another aspect of discussion is the increasing burden on community social services after parental emigration when children are left behind. The study is based on policy analyses, analyses of a documentary film, letters to parents and interviews with children left behind, social workers and some parents. The analysis of the social consequences of parental migration on children left behind is based on Eric Allardt's theory "having, loving and being".

Young people of immigrant background – the barrel of hope for rural Finland?

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In Finnish regional policy both young people and immigrants are pinned with hopes and expectations. By analyzing interviews conducted among people who are dealing with immigrant integration in North Karelia the paper identifies three discourses which characterize the contradictory nature of expectations that are directed towards immigrant youth in the context of regional policy. These are: the discourse of population and productivity, the discourse of doubt and the discourse of assimilation. Secondly, the paper examines what kinds of futures are considered possible for young immigrants living in non-urban areas. In relation to this, four futures images are suggested. These are rural Finland, which 1) benefits and takes advantage of multiculturalism, 2) withers away 3) stagnates or 4) is split by conflicts. The key challenges outlined by informants include overcoming racism and xenophobia, securing employment and enabling communities to stretch their borders and give room for new ideas and expectations. The paper concludes that if the locals expect young people of migrant background to assimilate or, in fact, to become "just like them", an opportunity for cultural regeneration, which is much sought after in regional politics, will be lost.

Norwegian rural municipalities as perceived and experienced by international migrants,

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Brit Lynnebakke, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Norway

Norwegian rural municipalities as perceived and experienced by international migrants How do immigrants to Norwegian rural districts manage in their new place of living? Norwegian rural municipalities have experienced rapid increase of immigrants over the past decades caused, among others, by EU enlargement, good job opportunities for labour migrants and deliberate refugee settlement policies. There is a need for more systematic knowledge about how immigrants in such multiethnic rural municipalities view various aspects of their place of living and their relation to the local community. Based on responses to a survey of 793 immigrant and 805 Norway-born respondents in three rural municipalities and a city district of Oslo, this paper gives an overview of immigrant experiences with and perceptions of a variety of aspects about their local place. Immigrants are compared to local inhabitants as well as – and in particular – to those having moved from other parts of Norway in order to assess to what extent international background and experience matters. Furthermore, by contrasting responses in the rural municipalities to those of a multiethnic city district of Oslo, urban-rural differences are also highlighted. The paper will apply multivariate correspondence analysis in order to explore the underlying structures in the data and will seek to identify typologies of immigrant-place relations.

[Immigration to Norwegian rural municipalities as understood by the local elites,](#)

Susanne S holt, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Norway

International migration to rural Norway has changed rural depopulation to repopulation, and led to a regeneration of the population. Regardless of how immigration and immigrants are valued in the specific places, their presence has impact on the quality and identity of the rural place. In one sense they add to the local society by taking part in the local labour market, by becoming customers of shops and users of local services like schools, kinder gardens etc. In another sense, they challenge the status quo. How rural communities deal with immigration depends on how different actors understand and value the local immigration and its possible implications. Inspired by agenda theory (Kingdon 2014), the focus of this paper is to analyze how the local elites; municipal and business leaders understand and handle the new situation based on immigration. What do they see as the “new” problem situation? Do their understandings bring forward alternative agendas for the development of their organizations and thereby for the rural place? What kind of values underpin their understandings and what kind of alternative agendas appear as desired or appropriate. The paper is based on qualitative interviews with municipal and business leaders in different Norwegian rural municipalities.

[The paradox of tolerance: migration and integration in Northern Ireland](#)

Ruth McAreevey, Queen’s University Belfast, N. Ireland

This article examines attitudes to migration in a new immigrant destination. Based on data from empirical research that was conducted in Northern Ireland, it examines the way in which tolerance is displayed between minority and majority social groups. Contrary to popular belief it challenges the notion that toleration is the best strategy instead showing how in particular circumstances non-toleration can be more constructive than ‘mere’ toleration. The analysis considers the way in which migrants’ navigate through public and private spaces to live in a new place and to become integrated with the mainstream society. In so doing the chapter seeks to contribute to debates on social integration and tolerance in the context of new rural and small town immigrant destinations. By conceptualising integration through a spectrum of tolerance, the analysis contributes to our understanding of integration and of attitudes towards migrants revealing a complex process that requires adjustment and change from all groups in society. It shows how the achievement of anything beyond ‘mere tolerance’ is reliant on proactive measures from government, civil society and individuals. Other forms of tolerance do not necessarily yield deeper connections between majority and minority communities and thus do not contribute meaningfully to integration. The article argues that achieving positive integration requires joint and multiple responses from across different parts of society. Neither macro nor micro level responses are sufficient, inter-relationships and other contextual matters contribute to degrees of tolerance and require consideration.

[New neighbours: Local outcomes of asylum centres in rural communities in Denmark,](#)

Birgitte Romme Larsen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Zachary Whyte, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Asylum centres in rural areas are an increasingly common mode of managing asylum seekers in Denmark. The centres' rural location is of course significant for asylum seekers, but they also can have important consequences for the local communities in which they are placed. In a context of increased urban migration and depopulation of the Danish countryside, the arrival of asylum seekers and the various jobs deriving from their presence become profoundly significant for local communities, both financially and socially. Based on an ethnographic study at three separate rural sites, this paper examines the meanings and consequences of asylum centres for local Danish communities. Focusing on practices of 'proximity' and 'distance' (Simmel), we argue that local community and neighbourliness are profoundly affected by the presence of asylum centres. While civil society mobilisation and volunteerism may foster increased contact between locals and asylum seekers, local communities may equally be shaped by practices of rejection and separation. Thus while co-existence in the harmonious sense between local Danes and asylum seekers is not given, the physical presence of asylum centres may shape and reshape the social lives of locals notwithstanding, as locals look for pragmatic ways forward from their situation of "slow crisis".

[The ambivalent welcome. Attitudes towards immigrants in rural Norway.](#)

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During the 1990's migration researchers developed an interest in the role of locality, and the closer attention to the "city as context" was prescribed. However, a relative new feature in European migration is the growing impact of migration on peripheral and non- metropolitan areas and the "rural as context" for immigrant's integration. Recently, immigration of refugees has become an increasingly important issue considered problematic by natives in many European countries. Many European countries have seen rise of anti- immigrant sentiments that are often related to economic conditions and increasing number of immigrants. Based on a survey with 793 immigrants and 805 Norwegian born respondents in three rural municipalities (Coast, Mountain, Border) and a city district of Oslo, this paper gives an overview of native born attitudes towards immigrants on one hand, and immigrants sense of belonging on the other hand. What are the factors associated with negative attitudes towards immigrants in rural areas contrasted to an urban context? What is the experience of immigrants living in rural areas? The paper will apply multivariate analysis in order to explore factors associated with native-born hostility contrasted with immigrant's sense of belonging in rural and urban contexts.

Immigration and Happiness

Stéphanie Barill, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Markus Meckl, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Between 2004 and 2014, the number of immigrants living in Akureyri increased from 369 to 778. In 2013, a study conducted on the immigrant population of Akureyri showed that 82% of immigrants were satisfied with their life in their town (Meckl & Ólafsson 2013). In Iceland despite being every year one of the top countries on the OECD life satisfaction index and other similar inventories when it comes to studying the immigrant population the focus is nearly exclusively on dissatisfaction and problems like discrimination, prejudice and difficulties the immigrants are facing. This presentation intends to take a different approach and want to determine the factors and the reasons that make such a high proportion of the foreign population happy. The debates which have dominated immigration issues have been far from addressing questions regarding well-being and happiness. Focusing on the wellbeing of the immigrants might help to shift the perception of immigrants in the public opinion from being connected to problems to a positive connotation of possibilities and enrichment.

Between fixity and fluidity –belonging and wellbeing in rural areas

Philomena de Lima, University of the Highland & Islands, Scotland

There has been a growing body of research on international labour migrants in ‘new destinations’ – non-urban areas, including remote rural regions. This trend has been in response to: destination countries attracting international migrants to rural areas as an opportunity to address demographic challenges and migrants responding to perceived opportunities. Much of the discourse on immigration to rural areas have privileged utilitarian perspectives i.e. an emphasis on the economic benefits of immigration expected to accrue to the receiving and sending societies and an emphasis on assimilationist notions of ‘integration’ as a way of ‘fixing’ people to the places they have migrated to. There is little room within such discourses on notions of belonging and wellbeing of the migrants and the ways in which they negotiate belonging and identities stretched across multiple places and spaces where the boundaries between the here and there and what is considered home and abroad is blurred. This paper/presentation will seek to argue that notions of belonging, identities, are intrinsic to the wellbeing of migrants and are contingent on the nature of rural places and relationships between people stretched across national-international boundaries and varying power relationships.

Home is “here”; the impact of (im)migration, and rural versus urban locale on one’s sense of community belonging in Canada

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The sense of belonging to one’s community is a potential anchor for both recent arrivals and long-term residents. Understanding sources and reinforcers of this sense of belonging can inform the attraction and retention of migrants to certain areas. This paper explores the issues of migration/immigration and belonging drawing on: 1) the Canadian General Social Survey, cycles 22 and 27, large, nationally representative data sets with information on international immigration to Canada, as well as details on immigrant and non-immigrants’ sense of belonging in their current community, whether rural or urban, and 2) a researcher designed survey which provides longitudinal information on rural-urban migration, the sense of belonging to one’s current community, as well as where participants consider to be “home”. Urban and rural residents and migrants (and immigrants and non-immigrants) all tend to feel a sense of belonging in their community, with more rural respondents “strongly agreeing” that they feel this way. Further, it is where one currently lives rather than where one is from that seems to affect definitions of “home” and belonging. These results inform the discourse on the capacity of rural (and urban) locales for integrating migrants and immigrants.

Exploring media, identity, and migration in the Scottish Highlands: A mixed methods study

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The past decade has brought unprecedented levels of public concern in the UK regarding migration. The rapid pace of changes in migration flow, policies, and the penetration of the mass media have made the language used to talk about migration and integration just as important as the ideas themselves. This paper considers the implications of the complex interplay of the mass media, identity, and migration in a rural context by critically examining the discourse regarding migration during the Scottish Independence Referendum. This mixed methods study began with a critical discourse analysis (CDA) of three daily, national newspapers from Scotland throughout the year prior to the Scottish Independence Referendum. The CDA of newspapers was supplemented by interviews with twenty-one individuals from three rural communities in the Scottish Highlands in order to learn how public opinion on migration is constructed and influenced within rural, host-communities. This includes an exploration of belonging and identity on local (Highland and Scottish) and national (UK) levels as well as the hegemonic influences of the mass media during a critical moment in Scotland's history.

Rural Iceland and Immigration

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In this presentation we will present the findings of project which was aimed to understand the factors contributing to a successful integration process of foreigners in rural Iceland. In order to do so we used three coastal communities in the North of Iceland as a case study, to research the relation between the well-being of immigrants, the reaction of the local population towards immigrants and community support for the immigrants. Between 2000 and 2014, the number of individuals with a non-Icelandic citizenship living in Akureyri increased from 170 to over 498, in Dalvíkurbyggð from 68 to 147 and in Norðurþing from 69 to 206 (Statistics Iceland, 2015). The booming economy of the beginning of the 21st century and the subsequent demand for labour, especially in the construction and service sectors, resulted in a rapid increase in the number of foreign nationals coming and settling in Iceland. Although immigration is no new phenomenon in Iceland, this growth over a short period of time requires the implementation of policies and the creation of services to help the foreign community adjust to its new life. One indicator for a successful integration of the foreign population is the number of naturalizations. And there is a significant difference between the communities of Northern Iceland. The percentage of immigrants having received citizenship in Akureyri was 36% in 2014, while 17% in Dalvík and 10% in Norðurþing (Hagstofa 2014). These numbers indicate a different level of integration in the local communities. A comparative study of the satisfaction of immigrants and the reaction of the local population towards the immigrants in the three coastal communities in Northern Iceland will help to indicate the key factors contributing to a successful integration and will be helpful for other communities in Iceland.

WG02 The art of making oneself attractive: Identity and reputation as a selling argument

Organizers

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Use of history in place branding

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The paper deals with to what extent and how history is being used in place branding. The research on place branding is extensive. We argue that research dealing with the use and abuse of history represent a huge potential in research on branding of geographical locations. The paper is based on research dealing with use of history in branding of Norwegian municipalities and regions. In branding of municipalities the use of history is aimed at branding locations within a defined institutional framework. In branding of regions the use of history serves as a tool for legitimizing regional identities that are not necessarily institutionally delimited. What characterises use of history in such different contexts? What kind of history is actually in use – scientific history, popular history or other kinds of historical representations?

The implementation of branding initiatives

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This paper sets out to study a branding process in a rural Norwegian municipality that struggles to combat depopulation. The purpose is to get a broader understanding of how brand management initiatives unfold in rural communities when these are initiated and encouraged 'top down' from the government. This municipality has attended two different types of 'brand and reputation management schools' that are initiated by the government, and thus serves as an exemplary case of local adaption of the organizational ideas of brand and reputation management that were encouraged from the government. In this paper, we study 'municipality branding', i.e. branding efforts in a public organization that is a democracy. Branding initiatives are here regarded as 'new policies' and our aim is to understand how these new policies address democracy (citizen participation) in target setting and to identify its effects on broader municipal policy. This study is based on thick descriptions and is a longitudinal study (we have followed this municipality since 2012). We have four research questions: 1. What were the school program recipes with regard to determining the brand target and democratic participation? 2. What was the initial aim, target and strategy in this particular municipality's branding project? Who were the key actors? 3. How did this municipality balance targets, the school program and democracy? Did the municipality follow the school recipes in full or did it have a 'local adoption'? 4. What was the outcome of the branding process with regard to broader municipal policy?

Place Branding as Virus: A study of a regional Place Branding project in the northern part of Norway

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In this paper, we analyze a Place Branding project, which has been a collaboration between six small municipalities in the northern part of Norway; in the region of North Troms. The project started in 2009 and was completed in 2015. The origins of the project, however, can be traced back to 2000. This means that it took almost 10 years from the idea was launched to the idea materialized in a project. The aim of this study is to explore what happened during these 10 years; why it took so long from the idea was born to it materialized into a project, and what kept it alive for so many years. Our theoretical approach is inspired by the neo-institutional approach in organizational research, especially as developed within Scandinavian research. This means that we consider Place Branding as a travelling idea, which spreads and transform during the travel. R vik (2011) has compared travelling ideas to viruses that infect a body. They can go to sleep, be reactivated, mutate and change form, but they can also die and fade away. If we consider this specific Place Branding project as a virus and follow the project from the start up in 2009 and backwards in time, we will see that (1) the idea has had an exceptional long incubation period, (2) the idea has been through several mutations, (3) the idea has gone to sleep, and (4) the idea has been reactivated several times. The question we address in this paper is: Who or what has been the virus triggers or virus cultivators? Despite the fact that researchers have paid much attention to the Place Branding phenomenon since the early 2000s, much of this research has been poorly empirically as well as theoretically founded (Gertner 2011, Lucarelli and Berg 2011 Kavartzis and Hatch 2013). We believe that to understand why some Place Branding projects succeed and others not, it is important to study their prehistory.

Local identity in the making. The role of cultural entrepreneurs and ethnicity in place-branding and belonging

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This paper explores the role of ethnic identity, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and practices in local branding and self-perception in a small North-Norwegian community. Nordreisa municipality in Troms County officially identifies itself as a meeting point of three ethnic groups; Norwegian, Sami and Kven. In recent years, especially Kven heritage has become increasingly articulated and rediscovered by local inhabitants with Kven ancestry, which has previously been largely concealed or forgotten due to processes of norwegianization during the 20th century. Analyzing recent years of cultural development in Nordreisa, the paper discusses how local cultural entrepreneurs, through the exploration of their own ethnic identity and ancestry, create an attractive local distinctiveness using cultural traditions, heritage sites and ethnicity in tourism and small scale business development, catering to both outsiders and local residents. The argument will be that processes of local branding are inseparable from historically rooted processes of ethnic boundaries, identities and power and that recent local developments are closely interlinked with changes in people's perception of their own ethnic identity.

What's in it for the rural? Repercussions of marketing the rural as idyll

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In Norway, 80 % of the rural municipalities have engaged in activities to attract migrants. Their efforts range from local please-move-back-events to large scale marketing campaigns and from one-off initiatives to permanent services for in-migrants. What they seem to have in common is the idea that the lure of the rural is inextricably linked to the image of the rural idyll. An underlying message in the advertisements is that by moving from the urban to the rural you can simultaneously make a shift in lifestyle: you can escape the career-oriented rat race, and indulge yourself in a family and leisure-oriented life. In this paper, I discuss whether rural communities, in their uniform and conservative endeavours to attract migrants, are doing themselves an ill turn by 1) putting themselves on the map of declining places desperate for population growth. 2) By reinforcing the widely held view that rural places are for "traditional" people and not for the "modern" with career ambitions and preferences for equal gender relations. 3) By solely targeting people they believe will tie in well with the image of the rural as idyll.

WG03, Cultural transformations of rural areas

Organizers

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Multiple voices from rural areas

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Many studies show that rural identities are often connected to locality, place, livelihoods and sense of belonging. In Nordic countries rural communities and regions are today facing many changes, which seem very drastic on the macro and mezzo level, but what is the situation on the micro level, by the dwellers of these areas? In this paper I am interested in the voices of individuals, who are living their everyday life in rural areas, which have encountered drastic changes, e.g. emerging municipalities, new sources of livelihood. What is good life for them? Is it same on all levels of rural areas? My examples in this paper are mainly from the Tornio River Valley, which is a border region between Finland and Sweden. Special focus will be paid on transformation processes and identity construction. E.g. what is the role of multi-locality and transnationalism in these areas? This paper is based on my ethnographic field work in Tornio River Valley from 2009 to 2014.

Mobility, immobility and resilience in the peripheral rural areas

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Mobility, immobility and resilience in the peripheral rural areas. This paper is based on ethnographic fieldwork carried out within the framework of the research project Rural Futures: Ethnographies of transformation from Finland, Estonia, Russia and Ukraine (Academy of Finland, 2007-2010). We were interested in the villages located in the rural peripheries, and the villagers' grass-roots views on the complex processes of globalization affecting them and their living environment. Also in the remote rural areas, the world is a stage of endless movements of different kinds. Labor force, refugees, tourists, lovers, asylum seekers, business people move across the regions, continents and seas constantly. Some people leave their homes for good, some have a chance to travel back. And there are always those who stay put. In the study of mobility it is important to focus also on opposition, immobility. Leaving and staying are understood and studied as a mutually constructive phenomenon. Stillness is gaining ground as being recognized as something valuable in its own right, not only a reflection of mobility, or an effect, a function of or an enabler of movement. In our paper, we will focus on the continuities and relationalities between mobility and immobility as experienced by the inhabitants of the villages we have studied. We ask also if there is a common ground where mobility and immobility meet the concept of resilience? We will highlight our theme with ethnographic materials.

Towards sustainability communities in sparsely populated rural areas

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In recent years, challenges related to ageing population and organizing of welfare services have been growing in Finnish rural areas. As a solution to existing problems there have arisen different innovative models and community level plans emphasizing local perspective and cross-border co-operation between various sectors and actors. They have to delineate welfare needs and organize welfare resources in cooperation. Likewise, new technology provides tools for fulfilling citizens' welfare needs and to enhance everyday life in sparsely populated rural areas. The Internet makes possible to be part of the society and to reach services in a new way. Hence, new technology intertwined into the innovative local welfare models has arisen as a local response to changed welfare state policies in rural communities. Our data consist of case studies with field visits and interviews with villagers living in Northern and Eastern Finland. In our presentation, we are going to analyze, how new kind of local practices and technology-based solutions maintain citizens' independency and produce alternative means to achieve new types of more sustainable welfare culture and social policy in general.

From a Hospital to a Heritage Centre: Social Innovation and Community Identity in Norris Point, Newfoundland

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In December 2001, the old Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital in Norris Point, Newfoundland, closed its doors after providing medical services (and a source of community pride) to the Gros Morne region for sixty years. While almost all the Cottage Hospitals in Newfoundland were eventually demolished, community members established the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation (BBCHC) to save the building, as well as to turn it into a social enterprise that plays a role in the promotion of health, and the preservation of culture, heritage, and environment. In 2006, the building was re-opened as the Julia Ann Walsh Heritage Centre. The paper presents a major way in which the Centre has fulfilled its mission, through the development of the Voice of Bonne Bay, a community radio station that provides a focal point of social and cultural identity for the region.

The impact of closure of the village supermarket for residents of a rural community

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Economies of scale, changing shopping behaviour and population decline can result in decreasing numbers of facilities such as schools, post offices or supermarkets. Especially in rural communities this influences villagers everyday life and can lead to emotional responses at the time of closure. These responses could be a reaction to place change and senses of loss, rather than lack of availability or accessibility. Rural supermarkets often serve more purposes than their primary function: they host added facilities such as a post-office, they can be a local meeting place and can have symbolical meaning for villagers based on memories and beliefs. Research suggests that these secondary functions and symbolical meaning can result in bigger impact on a rural community upon closure. This paper examines how villagers experience the loss of the local supermarket in Ulrum, a depopulating and ageing village in the rural North of the Netherlands. A survey was held during the process of closure (n = 312). We analyse the reactions to place change according to affective (emotional attachment to a place), cognitive (knowledge and beliefs) and conative (actions and behaviour) components of attitude structure, and also examine the role of the secondary functions, personal mobility and age.

Changing discourses of fatherhood among farm fathers

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This paper will explore how the co-location of home and work in family farming affects fathers' involvement in childcare and how fathers frame their practices according to time-specific discourses of fatherhood. Based on interviews with two generations of fathers in seven families who live and work on the same farm in Norway, the findings show significant differences between the two generations concerning how the fathers integrate childcare with work. The older generation of fathers fathered at work but not in the home, while the current generation more often fathered in domestic spaces rather than work spaces. Moreover, their interaction with the child took place away from the farm as well. These generational differences may be linked to the social and cultural transformations of the countryside as the variable character of how working at home affects fathering is underscored by the discourses that the fathers employ to justify their practice. The current generation frames their fathering practices in the discourses of 'involved fathering', 'intensive parenting' and 'changing childhoods', while the older generation employs the cultural ideals/discourses of 'complementary gender roles', 'good farming practices' and 'farm succession'.

Coproduction, capacity and change: challenges and opportunities for a rural community in Scotland

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Remote rural communities in Scotland are undergoing a cultural transformation based on population change, service decline (due to government spending cuts), and changing power relationships with land reform. At present both the UK and Scottish Governments are promoting a localism agenda, with policies designed to 'empower' local communities, not least the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This Act enables rural communities to acquire assets, such as community centres and other public buildings, and to run them for and with the community. This study looks at one such attempt of community asset-transfer, confirming that individual and community capacity are key components of success, and highlights the crucial role of relational, i.e., social capital. Results of semi-structured interviews with members of each household in the case study community (repeated two years after the attempted asset transfer), participant observation at community events and a social network analysis, illustrate the impacts of depopulation and landowner support, and their interaction on community capacity, as well as the hurdles to community empowerment, for example through asset acquisition. By disentangling the links between different aspects of community capacity, we question the relationship between personality, community and 'culture'. In practical terms, this research highlights the need to examine the opportunities for capacity building within rural communities, to support the generation of skills and confidence, as well as constructions of the community 'ideal'.

Cultural transformations and the constituent features of Finnish rural communities

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In this presentation, I address the significance of the construct of rurality, cultural transformations and the constituent features of Finnish rural communities. The socio-cultural environment of village communities are frequently experience major changes in the rural Finland. Concerns on the part of local government authorities and provincial village development coordinators involved in rural development work about rural depopulation, the scarcity of employment opportunities and the disappearances of cultural heritage are raised in discussions about rural policy. I analyse what are the tools for rural areas to stay resilient in the interfaces of Finnish rural communities. Active Finnish villages are not isolated local communities, but spaces closely networked with the surrounding world; this is particularly apparent in the openness of villages. The Finnish rural areas offer their own geographical and historical specificities expressed and projected for example through cultural heritage. I consider are the villages in Finland really such specific spaces and is it possible to describe those constituent features. I will examine how the rural villages in Finland are forced to compete for their own places in relation to the geographical dominance of towns. I will also discuss how the attribution of values of the rural areas is changing in the beginning of the 21st century.

WG04, Locally-controlled communications as a strategy for community solidarity and survival

Organizer

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The existential paradox of local communication in Iceland

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Local media in Iceland is economically weak and in many cases lacks resources and manpower to produce independent quality editorial content. These media operate entirely on a commercial basis and are either wholly dependent on advertising revenue or a mixture of advertising revenue and subscription. In most cases however, local media operate in areas with a relatively small population and where businesses have small advertising budgets, thus limiting severely the potential income of locally based media. In spite of these drawbacks and commercial thresholds, there seems to have been a long standing consensus among local politicians and municipal officials that local media – like most of national media – should be entirely run on commercial grounds and without any interference from national- or municipal government media policy. When this position is viewed in light of evidence that politicians and journalists believe local media to be crucial “gateways of democracy”, an important paradox emerges. In this paper this paradox will be examined, i.e. the economic condition and challenges to local media will be discussed in light of research findings from the parliamentary election 2013, municipal elections in 2014 and a sample survey in late 2015 among the Icelandic population.

From Outports to Netports: the power of locally-controlled communications for isolated communities

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It would be fair to argue that a community is constructed and maintained as much through the health of its networks of communication, as it is through economic and social factors. Vibrant communities need to be able to openly discuss their issues, and hear their own voices, to assist in building their social cohesion and social capital. This presentation focusses on the capacity- building effects of locally-controlled media and communications in isolated rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador. This includes more standard technologies such as FM radio, cable TV and newsletters, but also the use of social media such as Facebook to link a small community with its diaspora around the country (and world). The presentation will feature a project which sets up portable FM stations which broadcast during a short period (on FM and on the internet), in order to build an interest in a longer-term station. The organizing around such events and the creation of the locally-driven content provides plenty of opportunities for communities to reflect on their situations, celebrate their local cultures, evaluate the options for the future and generally get to hear their own voices in it all. One of the sub-themes of the discussion will be the potential parallels between the context of Newfoundland and Labrador and that of the Highlands and Islands region of Scotland.

Digital and paper-based public information— a “must” for work immigrants in rural areas in Western Norway

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During the last decade, rural areas in Western Norway have experienced a significant increase in work immigrants from Poland and Lithuania. These people are a sought-after resource - because of a declining population and a high demand of labor. In order to stay, however, they need information about the community and relevant public services. Based on a case study of three rural municipalities in Western Norway, this paper identifies to what extent public sector prepare, communicate and disseminate relevant information to polish work immigrants. We also identify their information needs, how they assess available public information and which channels (digital or non-digital) they prefer. The study concludes that only one rural municipality has prepared especially for work-immigrant targeted information. More often than not, municipalities neither know work-immigrants' needs nor their preferred channels. As a result, 'work-immigrant specific' information (e.g. about police, tax, financing) is frequently missing, on municipality web sites, municipality FB and Twitter-accounts and in paper-based pamphlets. We suggest that municipalities that want to grow, should offer a more targeted combination of personalized digital and non-digital information, a “digitalized/human” door-opening- service, more public digital services, good Norwegian language-courses, public information meetings, and a tight collaboration with employers and workplaces.

The State of ICTs in Rural and Northern Manitoba

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Digital technologies provide economic, and social opportunities for communities in rural and northern regions, but unfortunately, the expectations for these digital technologies as a panacea, economic and otherwise, have not often been met. One of the challenges in Canada is that the current state of rural and northern Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are not readily known. This presentation will discuss recent findings from the Rural Development Institute's project on the province of Manitoba's state of rural and northern ICTs. The project worked with ICT stakeholders to compile data and identify connectivity levels for broadband and cell service in Manitoba and create a snapshot of ICTs in the province. The research team also conducted a policy scan of national and provincial policies related to ICTs and knowledge society to identify ICT targets for rural and northern communities. Combining these two efforts, the ultimate goal of the project was to create a comprehensive understanding of where rural and northern ICTs are at in the province of Manitoba and where they are headed. The project findings shared in this presentation will help Manitoba and other regions understand current rural and northern ICT realities and inform future infrastructure and service development.

Organizers

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West Nordic municipal structure. Developments, reforms and future prospects

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In 2005 the Nordic Council of Ministers published the report *Demokrati i Norden (Democracy in the Nordic Countries)* (*Demokratiutvalget 2005*). Among issues in question like democracy in general, people's engagement in politics and information technology as a democratic instrument, there was a special chapter on local self-government. Among recommendations in the report on local autonomy and democracy there were some on strengthening municipal autonomy in various ways – one of which was “structural reforms”. The committee proposed an impact study of every structural change in order to determine how each change affects the prerequisites for action of democratically elected bodies. It was argued that it had come to be evident that structural changes and reforms in the relationship between the state and the local level had had unanticipated consequences for the local democratically elected bodies, sometimes by delegating political power over certain tasks to other levels and in some cases to private parts. It was also strongly argued that the heavy emphasis on effectiveness, but less on democracy and self-government in the Nordic countries, was a negative consequence of the structural changes and reforms. Since 25 years back or so Iceland has tried some reforms on municipal structure and even on transferring responsibilities from the state to the local level. In the Faroe Islands no actual reform has taken place but nevertheless the number of municipalities has gone a bit down since the turn of the century. In Greenland a great comprehensive reform was implemented in 2009 reducing the number of municipalities from 18 to 4. In this paper/presentation I will present results from a research project *West Nordic Municipal Structure (2012-2015)* and which recently has been completed. The overall aim of the project was to collect knowledge on the local level in the three countries by mapping the situation and development, focusing on four aspects: First, to map development, debate and current situation of the municipal structure in the three countries. Second, to look into the democratic aspect – that is which consequences the structural development has had for local democracy – more specifically to try to identify which have been the main challenges for democracy, caused by the structural developments. Even results from a survey done among the elected local leaders and top bureaucrats in all three countries in the spring 2015 will be presented.

Experimental governance collaboration in Dutch rural peripheral areas

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A combination of consequences of population decline, decentralizing government and austerity measures urges Dutch a growing number of rural municipalities and communities to find practical and innovative answers on how to maintain or strengthen local quality of life. Deeply institutionalized 'growth'- and 'welfare-state'- paradigms here are increasingly losing value. This context provides an experimental and learning environment for innovative policies and collaborative governance practices, regarding local quality of life in combination with role shifts between communities, municipalities and possible other formal partners. In this light, the focus of this descriptive study is on five local initiatives with active citizen and government engagement that are experimenting with new governance arrangements in relation to socio-spatial planning issues. The outcomes of these experimental collaborative processes concern the socio-spatial dimensions of innovative collaborative constellations between community groups and formal partners; formal and informal institutional change, and; concrete physical realizations in the public space.

Municipalities' amalgamation and interregional migration in Iceland

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This paper examines the relationship between migration and municipalities amalgamations. More precisely: will amalgamation of municipalities lead to in- or out-migration? Due to household utility geographical differentials, there are interregional migrations. Thus, it is reasonable to believe that if an amalgamation of municipalities that leads to a better service or lower local taxes the community would attract new inhabitants and thus stimulate in-migration - as suggested by Tiebout (1956). I will examine whether this is true for Iceland, a thinly populated area with two central business districts. A macro panel data set from Iceland will be used. It represents several essential variables of the house market for 79 municipalities in Iceland during the period from 1986 to 2006. Preliminary results suggest that there are very limited impact of municipality mergers on migration flow.

Planning and plan-making in Volda, Norway

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Comprehensive municipal land use and community strategic planning have been a part of local political and administrative responsibilities in Norway since 1965. Still a lot of municipalities have challenges regarding planning processes, planning decisions and implementation and some planning are in reality symbol production (plan-making) to fulfil internal and external demands. I will use Volda municipality as an example to analyse local planning in Norway based on complexity theories. The Norwegian municipality is an important part of the welfare state responsible for the production of direct public services as well as local planning and development. The municipality as a planning organisation is under a lot of conflicting pressure from:

- National- and regional sectorial demands regarding local and regional development, land use, environment protection, universal design, service provision etc.
- Local needs regarding welfare production that can be in conflict with national standards and the economic support from the state.
- Initiatives from local action groups, local organisations etc. in the civil society regarding items like localisation and management of municipal production and activities, as well as handling of initiatives regarding regional and national responsibilities.

[Towards a typology of rural municipalities in the Nordic Region \(work in progress\)](#)

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A number of rural typologies (or urban-rural typologies) covering most of the Nordic Region already exist at the regional level, mostly at NUTS3 level. These include, for example, the OECD Regional Typology of 2010 and the ESPON Urban-Rural typology of 2008. However, these typologies do not fully reflect the Nordic character of municipalities in the Nordic Region. A more relevant typology for analysing demographic trends is the one by Malinen et al (2006) which used municipalities as the unit of analysis. This typology has a lot of advantages but it cannot be applied for the entire Nordic Region. Hence, this on-going work aims at developing a typology of rural municipalities, by using mostly socio-economics data at the municipal level. Such a Nordic typology would support the implementation of rural policy in the Nordic Region.

[The financial performance of rural municipalities in Iceland](#)

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In this study an analysis of the financial situation and financial performance of rural municipalities in Iceland 2007-2013 is presented. The main findings of the study are that the financial performance of Icelandic municipalities has improved in recent years. They took a big financial hit in 2008 when the collapse of the Icelandic economy and the fall of the Icelandic krona resulted in lower revenues and increase in debt levels. Since then their financial performance has improved gradually. In the year 2013 Icelandic municipalities were running a small budget surplus and the highest surplus was on average in rural municipalities. The debt level of Icelandic municipalities is on average high and often above the designed target level. The debt level has though been going down since 2010. On average the debt levels in rural municipalities in Iceland are lower than in other municipalities.

[From Revival to Disillusion: Evidence on Democratic Participation in Lithuanian Municipalities](#)

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The role of local community organizations in local decision-making reveals not only the problem of inclusiveness but also opens more broader discussion on conception of public interests, engagement of local citizens and willingness of local governmental bodies to ensure well-being. In this presentation we are focusing on the role of local civic initiatives taking into account the level of democratic participation in local municipalities in Lithuania, emphasizing the level of small-size municipalities. More specifically, we discuss local citizens' notions on the inclusiveness in local decision-making processes. The argument also implies the discussion on how local government support and maintain neighborhood participation which gives the power to act for public interests. Municipalities' power under the control of financial recourses, services and community assets generates the tension among local citizens' voice and complexity of mayors' perceptions on civic engagement. Consequently this pressure causes the mismanagement of public services, growing fragmentation of socially excluded local communities and the threat of politicization of local issues. Moreover the discussion also includes the new forms of interaction among local authorities and local citizens' which open the new innovative spaces for communication, debates and interests negotiation. In this presentation we are using empirical evidence from population survey in Lithuania on local democracy and participation in municipal decision-making (2015). The main empirical questions are how habitants perceive the opportunities to foster local community engagement, what are the main empowered channels to foster participatory action for local citizens, what communication forms are used by citizens to enable effective interaction with municipalities in small and big areas, how they evaluate different structural reforms on municipal level.

Dichotomies of Knowledge, Power and Structure: Narratives of Preparedness and Emergency Services after the Lærdal Fire

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January 18th 2014 Lærdal, a small municipality in Western Norway with 2200 inhabitants, experienced a fire which threatened to destroy the historical part of the village, which is of national value with its 160 protected buildings. The fire was particularly challenging and complex as an unusually dry winter, and strong wind, made the fire spread quick and random. In addition, infrastructure and communication broke down during the night, and according to a local historian “We were fighting against total destruction” (Brugrand in Wille, 2015). In the aftermath of the fire two discourses on types of knowledge and structures of emergency resources were prominent; the government led “specialized knowledge and centralized services”, legitimized through narratives of robustness as corresponding to size and centralization of resources, and the “local knowledge and decentralized services”, legitimized through narratives of the importance of local knowledge in that it didn’t go worse during the fire. The production of knowledge in relation to the fire in Lærdal, and discourses which were promoted, should not be seen as free from the political (Foucault 1982). This paper sets out to make visible how these discourses are made true through the rationalization or legitimization of certain practices over others.

Streamlining operations of the municipalities in the wake of the economic crisis and their impact on the employees and local community

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Municipalities play a significant role in every community, both as service providers and employers, as they are legally bound to provide welfare services for all residents. As part of these welfare services, education is the main function, accounting for about half of every municipality’s expenditures. About 14% of the workforce in Iceland is employed by the municipalities. In many communities, they are the largest employer, especially in smaller and rural areas. The municipalities have been considered a secure workplace were layoffs have been the exception rather than the norm. However, due to the economic crisis of 2008 the municipalities were forced to downsize their operations. Because of the nature of their expenses and operations, it was not easy to downsize municipalities, even though the working environment was unstable. The flexibility in a local operation is relatively small compared to other, larger operations. At first, the municipalities reacted with cutbacks in tasks and construction projects with various degrees of success. Salary costs were the largest singular expenditure and some municipalities faced the fact that they needed to reduce their salary cost. In my presentation, I will discuss the streamlining operations of the municipalities and their impact on the employees and the local community.

[The role of rural community members within \(un\)engaging areas of service delivery](#)

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This paper examines an approach employing local community members as researchers in the provision of a service (non-municipal or private water supplies (PWS)) which is perceived by stakeholders as having poor levels of community engagement. Such an approach was employed in Scotland using community researchers (CRs) to explore the ways in which their rural communities could become more engaged with the issues that surround PWS. The approach was applied to build on the local knowledge that we, as external researchers, do not possess. In addition the CR approach generated capacity building (around PWS) within their communities with the aim of improving the future resilience of these communities. The CRs gathered information on the communities' current level of interest in and perceptions of water quality issues and good practice in engagement and assisted in co-constructing some of the research materials. The approach was found to promote capacity building and two-way knowledge transfer, however the approach was costly and it was difficult to measure the extent of wider community engagement. Furthermore the approach is discussed more broadly in the paper in relation to other service provision and rural development goals.

[Rural service provision through citizen initiatives: what is the recipe for success?](#)

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Against the backdrop of depopulation and Big Society, citizen initiatives in rural areas are expected to contribute to community liveability, for example by maintaining public services. These citizens initiatives are believed to be able to mitigate service-provision inequalities between urban and peripheral regions. Factors influencing the success and failure of such citizen initiatives have thus far hardly been explored. Our work into aspects of success and failure from a professional and policymaker perspective indicates that achieving the goals of the initiative does not necessarily define their success. This paper aims to conceptualize factors influencing the success or failure of citizen initiatives from the perspective of the initiators. We made an inventory of citizen initiatives in depopulating rural areas in the North Netherlands. Questionnaires were sent to around 600 initiatives, focusing on how the initiatives think about success of an initiative in general and on factors influencing success or failure. The results will add to future research on citizen initiatives, but also provide insights that may be useful for citizen initiatives and ways local governments try to facilitate them.

Co-production or (co)-reduction? - Addressing equality in service provision in large amalgamated Danish municipalities

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Co-production, co-creation and citizen-driven innovation have become standard terms in debates about service provision in Denmark after the amalgamations that took place in 2007. This article analyses the jargon around co-production and citizen-driven innovation that appears from two data sources: Interviews with citizens, politicians and public administrators in two Danish municipalities, and written municipal rural policies of another 10 municipalities. The result of the analysis is critically discussed against literature concerning equality in co-production. The article concludes that until now, the talk about co-production in rural areas is not actually about co-production. Rather (co)-reduction seems to be the case, and the article thus discusses the degree to which the fancy terms of co-production, co-creation and citizen-driven innovation are used as a legitimization of service cuts and if there are possible openings for more equal co-production to take place.

WG06, The politics of the rural: Social mobilization, urbanization and democracy in practice

Organizer

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Heritages of the peasantry: an analytical framework to address rural development

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Rural development is a situation extremely difficult to be solved. It is exceptionally multifaceted and challenging to be well defined. A central discussion of rural development matters has been on productive and economic concerns. It has moved out to secondary places crucial aspects such as environmental, infrastructure, or respect for fundamental rights problems. This paper describes 'Heritages of the Peasantry', a new theoretical framework to address rural development in a complete way. Heritages of the Peasantry takes important topics from previous perspectives of rural development, but essentially is based on food sovereignty principles. Seven kinds of 'heritages' hold the peasantry: natural, cultural, economic, physical, social, institutional, and human heritages. Current theoretical framework moves away from the market point of view, which converts everything into an asset that can be marketed. These heritages or patrimonies are the bases of the construction of a standard of living and the accomplishment of the rights for all rural inhabitants, in other words, rural development.

Such a small country cannot afford...“: Reflections on nationalism, neoliberalism, and the Icelandic city state

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The Icelandic public discourse on rural issues has been shaped by nationalism, neoliberalism, and the concentration of power and media in the Reykjavík capital region. As the proportion of Icelanders living in the capital region has grown beyond two thirds of the total population, the imagery of the „city state“ with vast, sparsely populated hinterlands has captured the urban imagination. The dominance of the city state and the pending collapse of rural areas are viewed as both inevitable and desirable for a small nation that cannot afford to decentralize human and economic resources across a large land mass. In this narrative, policies aimed at strengthening transportation infrastructure, economic activities, or public services in rural areas are seen as examples of political clientelism while unfettered economic growth in the capital region is expected to trickle down to the rural areas. Rural parliamentarians and rural parliamentary districts are in particular seen as a source of corruption and waste, diminished economic growth and unnecessary conflict between city and countryside. Rural researchers almost inevitably find themselves in opposition to hegemonic urban beliefs among academics, policy makers and the general public, questioning the empirical veracity of such beliefs, arguing for rural interests and advocating changes in social policy at the local, regional and national level.

The rural scholar between people and power

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The complicated relation between state power, in shape of ministries, municipal authorities or planning authorities on one side and the diversity and un-governability of people on the other is not new to rural sociology. Some might even say that we have come along way to overcome this dichotomy. Still this relation seems to be experienced by local communities and populations as well as articulated by civil servants. This paper will discuss the position of the rural scholar and in relation to state power and the plurality of people. As a part of this we have to pose the fundamental question: are the tools we promote in the sake of rural development, such as specialization, neo-endogenous development, networks and co-production of welfare services, producing or solving the contradiction between localism and state power?

WG07, Political practices of rurality and local practices of policy

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The effects of centralization in Finnish rural communities

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The centralization of power and services exerts large effects on service production and civic participation in rural Finland. There are high expectations for concentration of administration and services to decrease the costs of public sector, which means that small municipalities are encouraged to integrate into larger units. I will present results from a research project (2012-2014) investigating the impacts of centralization on four already implemented municipality mergers in Finnish rural areas (Konginkangas, Leivonmäki, Uukuniemi and Värtsilä). I will focus especially on how the mergers have affected the availability of services and the ability to influence decision-making processes concerning the community. The availability of local services has significantly decreased in all of the studied communities after the mergers. When the relevance of municipal decision making has also reduced in result of the merger, the significance of alternative ways to influence local development has become increasingly important. Establishing village associations and regional boards are examples of how, at the local level, rural communities strive to maintain some power to develop their communities after losing official independency as a municipality.

Between protocol and reality. What has to be done and what can be done in municipal comprehensive planning?

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Spatial planning was singled out as an important tool for achieving sustainable development already in Our Common Future and Agenda 21. Many planners consider a “landscape approach” the most effective method to reconcile ecological and socioeconomic dimensions in land use planning and the broader sustainable development agenda. Although embraced widely as a concept, there is a lack of policy and planning tools capable of incorporating multi-level, multifunctional and cross-sectorial perspectives in a rural context. To be able to integrate landscape values such as ecosystem services and green infrastructure, there is an urgent need to rethink planning approaches and incorporate actual land-use activities and users so that landscape governance and decision making can be based

on best available information and knowledge. In Sweden and other Nordic countries this points at the municipal comprehensive planning as a crucial instrument. This paper is based on a literature review linked to a recently launched project in Vilhelmina municipality, where we aim to develop a collaborative and innovative planning model according to a landscape approach. We explore whether formal demands on municipal comprehensive planning encourages innovation. Local constraints, in terms of knowledge, resources and possibilities for collaborative and innovative land use planning are also addressed.

Learning in Leader

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This paper elaborates on the spaces for learning afforded in Leader as it has been realized in Sweden during the two last EU programme periods. Theoretically the paper builds on theories of learning from work life studies and on the importance of dilemma, disturbances and contradictions to spur reflective and development oriented learning. However, such learning processes demand conditions that may enhance learning; contradictions per se are not enough. Drawing on several empirical studies, the paper summarizes some of the central dilemma in Leader. These are often related to the logic of planning and auditing, rather than development that runs through the programme. The paper describes the hindrances that hamper the potentials to learn from programme inherent dilemma as well as how a LAG acted to handle them and how individual as well as collective learning may result from such efforts.

Rural movements and urban norms

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This paper deals with everyday life in sparsely populated parts of Northern Sweden. It investigates the relation between local practice and political discourses. The discussion will be based on fieldwork performed in the municipalities Strömsund and Örnsköldsvik. Empirical themes include everyday life movements and means of transport. Theoretical concepts of every day life, community, place and policy shape the analysis of processes pertaining to space and movement. The paper discusses in particular sustainable development as policy and argues for alternative understandings of social sustainability in relation to the rural.

Lessons learned from collaborative projects on sustainable natural resource management

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Governance collaborations between public and private partners are increasingly used to promote sustainable rural development, yet information is limited on which problems they address and how such collaborations emerge. This article analyzes collaboration on the environment and natural resource management in Swedish mountain communities based on official documents, interviews, and the records of 245 collaborative projects. We explore the role of the state and the opportunities that European Union funds have created. In-depth studies of selected collaborative projects suggest that local leadership is essential in spurring collaboration from the ground and up, but also that prerequisites for funding considerably steer the design and content of local initiatives, hereby restraining some of the opportunities for collaboration. Heavy burdens on some local private partners, who are being asked to participate in multiple collaborations, constitute further constraints. Our findings show that the state both initiates and coordinates policy networks and retains a great deal of power over the nature and functioning of collaborative governance in rural areas such as the Swedish mountains.

What can one learn from Transnational Rural Cooperation?

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The paper looks into the Transnational Cooperation (TNC) activities within the EU Rural Development policies in the connection of the EU's LEADER approach. Transnational Cooperation (transnational projects between rural actors in different member states) is expected to generate new knowledge and ideas and to promote mutual learning between different rural locations and member states. Theoretical contributions are drawn from aspects of learning, that can be understood as an individual or organizational terms, extending to ideas of learning regions. From the perspective of EU, learning is crucial for rural renewal, but it is also hoped to take place in the area of "European identities". The data comprised surveys to the TNC project promoters and Local Action Group (LAG) managers, interviews, project register data and documentary material. The study method was data-driven evaluation research. The projects yielded a significant pool of experience for their beneficiaries and the projects were seen to enable versatile learning, promote enthusiasm, and also often the transfer of ideas or models from one locality to another. Although a TNC project may be a momentary experience for a single participant, most parties agreed that the ideas or models learnt in TNC projects would have some kind of impact on practices or support local initiatives in the long term. The challenge is, however, how to further learning within the localities to beyond the direct participants.

Understanding the role of land tenure in producing sustainable outcomes: comparative case studies from Scotland and Norway

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It is argued that the pattern of landownership in Scotland is inequitable and inefficient, since the land (and its associated production outputs) is concentrated in only a few, private hands. Critics argue that private landownership maintains historical inequalities and injustices and that alternative forms of land occupancy and smaller land holdings could lead to more productive land use and associated socio-economic benefits. These criticisms correspond with Goldschmidt's (1991) theory, namely that small farms contribute more to local development than larger farms, despite the fact that larger 'industrialised' farms are more efficient and economical in terms of productive capacity. This paper questions how land tenure determines outcomes for sustainable land management and rural development, using historic case studies from Scotland and Norway. With its recent rural political history of decentralization and multifunctional agriculture, Norway provides a fascinating and highly relevant comparison to the history of Scottish land ownership and land use policy, due to the similarities in landscape and climate, yet differs significantly in the proportion of the population with a stake in how the land is owned and managed, and in terms of the balance of regulation. Insights from this comparison will be of interest to all tiers of Scottish rural society and policy makers, whilst the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill is debated in parliament during spring 2016.

In the shadows of the RDP: new forms of governance in the Swedish countryside

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This paper argues that the Rural Development Programme (RDP) creates new conditions for how local communities are and can be governed. It builds on our having evaluated the RDP Axis 4 (Leader method) and Axis 3 Quality of Life measures, both ex-post and mid-term. The RDP has made funds available for local initiatives, but it has also introduced the presence of a number of new institutions and organizations, as well as new principles for organizing local actors and civil society voluntary work. The policy objectives, the application processes, the demands when reporting, the expectation on how civil society groups should act within the programme, are examples of this. For instance, in the application processes local actors learn how to formulate themselves and how rural development is to be regarded. Also, project owners claimed that the detailed demands on reports reflected a distrust that was directly contrary to the voluntary contributions they and others in the locality made and hinted that the distrust affected their feelings about their engagement and curtailed the joy of it. The ways that social trust is enacted between local organizations and central policies point to the latter's possession of discursive power. The paper elaborates on the RDP as a disciplining social machinery, exercising power over the wills of local actors in the sense of 'the conduct of conduct'.

Activation politics for broad band: The making of responsible rural citizens

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The Swedish state has high ambitions about broad band coverage in order to stay competitive in a digitalized and globalized world. Everything from TV to health care will be provided through internet. The message is: fiber optic broad band is necessary everywhere. “This is not propaganda”, “it is the truth” one state representative explains. The overall policy of internet provision is that it is expected to be provided by private companies in a free market. However, the state acknowledges that rural areas are lagging behind when it comes to fiber optic coverage and that the free market does not provide fiber optic connections everywhere. The political solution is promoting the “village network model”, i.e. rural citizens coming together in associations to build their own distribution network. Based on ethnographic fieldwork I in this paper explore the discursive idea of the village network model as a blueprint for politics of internet access. In the paper this is discussed in relation to the challenges of implementing the policy in a rural region where local demand for applying for grants to build village networks has been low, and where citizens thus seems to be in need of “activation” to achieve the political goals. I explore the techniques of making responsible citizens and some of the challenges such policy models can face.

WG09, Regional universities and regional knowledge building

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M.Ed. studies in Arctic areas - Iceland and Norway - possibilities and job opportunities

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In this paper we will present findings from a joint research programme between the teacher education departments at the University of Akureyri, Iceland and The Arctic University of Norway in Alta on Adult Education in the Arctic. The research was carried out in 2015 and the main aim was to gather information about the possibilities for adults to attend M.Ed. studies in Arctic areas as well as to gain improved understanding of students’ possibilities in rural Arctic areas to attend further education and job opportunities within the field. The project focuses on the Arctic regions North Norway and North/East Iceland that are both rural and remote areas. Due to the geographical position and sparse population the community is sensitive with respect to job availability and opportunities. In both areas, there are Universities (the University of Akureyri, Iceland and the Arctic University of Norway, Alta) that offer a good range of study opportunities. First findings indicate that after M.Ed.- degree people often moved to more skilled jobs than before the degree and often worked at a higher school level than before. Novel opportunities for M.Ed.- graduates also includes jobs in service and counselling sector. It is, therefore, important to explore further to what extent such job opportunities are available in the Arctic region or if there is a possibility to strengthen and extend that sector. The study received funding from the Arctic Studies - Science Cooperation Fund 2014-2015

Master Students in Rural Areas - Accessibility and Motivation

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Research topic/aim: The presentation is based on an ongoing study on what motivates adults in arctic rural areas to attend M.ed. studies. The aim is to assess if and how a master degree in education in Arctic region affects residence and job opportunities in the region. Theoretical and methodology framework: Questionnaires were developed in Survey Monkey and e-mailed to students at the UiT the arctic university of Norway and at the University of Akureyri. From Norway, 82 % of the students responded.

Conclusions/findings: The analysis of the data is still ongoing. So far, there is no clear tendency regarding travelling distance and length of the study, and most didn't consider distance as a problematic factor. The most important factor for the students in both countries were living in, or within driving distance of the university. In Iceland, the second most important factor was the content of the study. In Norway, the second most important factor was that the organization of the study harmonized with the students' work place.

Building up knowledge in rural areas – the role of University of Akureyri

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For a very long time there was only one university in Iceland, located in the capital area. This meant that everyone in Iceland who wanted to go to a university had to live in the capital area or had to move there or abroad for the short- or long-term. This changed when the University of Akureyri was established in 1987 and increased the number of those who had the opportunity to pursue higher education in their own community. In my presentation, I will discuss the role of the University of Akureyri as a key factor in regional development, with its elements of increasing the level of education of the population in areas outside of the capital area. The emphasis by the University of Akureyri on distance learning made it possible for people living outside of the capital area to pursue their university studies without migrating. By allowing students to remain in their home, this has further fuelled the mission to raise the level of education in rural areas. For example, through the University of Akureyri the number of trained kindergarten teachers in rural areas has increased significantly over the last decade and is even higher in some areas than in the capital area. Using this example, and others, I will show how the University of Akureyri has affected the lives of rural Icelanders.

From Extension to Engagement: Transitions in Community-University Relationships in a Remote Rural Region

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Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada) was formed with an explicit purpose of being of value to the people of the province. In the 1960s, it was able to do this through the work of MUN Extension, which sent university-supported community workers to small remote areas of the province. The communities responded by developing a strong sense of connection with the university. However, after MUN Extension was closed in the early 1990s, the university has developed new models of interacting with rural communities. Now the focus is on "Engagement," which focusses on reciprocal arrangements between university personnel (generally located in urban centres) and rural communities. This has changed the relationship between the two groups. The paper focusses on what was lost (and possibly gained) in this transition, and what the context of the two periods tells us about how universities and communities can sometimes work together for mutual benefit.

Evolvability and agency in rural communities - insights from emerging eco-evo-devo theory

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Higher Education Institutions (HEI) are found throughout Iceland. They vary in age and size and have differing primary goals, but they all share an emphasis on research. These HEIs are furthermore part of a wider network of rural knowledge centres. Here we will argue that HEIs can play a pivotal role in the long-term survival of rural communities, increasing their adaptability to change and resilience to crisis but also allowing them to move beyond developmental constraints posed by outside forces. Two concepts are crucial here: evolvability (the degree to which a system can evolve into a diversity of adaptive solutions to future environments) and agency (the capacity of an entity to act in any given environment). Rural communities which have no access to regional knowledge centres, including research institutions, lack the capacity to gather and process information of their own accord; information which would allow them to make true choices about their own future development rather than simply reacting to pressures asserted by outside forces. We seek to draw parallels between rural community development and the synergy provided by the emerging ecological, evolutionary- and developmental (eco-evo-devo) theory.

University of Akureyri and regional development

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The aim of this paper is to outline the progress of the University of Akureyri and its effect on regional development in Northern Iceland during the period of 1987-2012. A case study methodology was used, drawing upon historical material, official sources, and interviews. The main findings are that the university has greatly stimulated knowledge-based development in Northern Iceland. It has enhanced regional innovation dynamism by strengthening human, relational, structural and social capital of the area. This paper has drawn attention to diverse positive effects of a small university with regard to regional- and knowledge-based development. As such, it might serve as a catalyst for further research in this area.

Creating Media Art Space in Liepāja: Liepāja University New Media Art Programmes

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In 2007, Liepāja University in Western Latvia started an innovative bachelor program in New Media Art. Developed as a relatively independent cluster of art, research, technological innovation and academic study at the Arts Department of the university, program was innovative not only in terms of use of new media for artistic and creative projects and new flexible planning of models allowing guest lecturers enter in the study process but also because it clearly took the locality and interactions with local people and institutions in its very agenda. This took various forms in part supported by local municipalities - open lectures and conferences, exhibitions, artist workshops, collaborating within local creative industries. In following years, other levels of studies started their operations - Master and PhD programs in New Media Art. In this paper I would like to analyze the opportunities and problems of this experience along with quality of teaching process, excellence of students work and importance of network building with local institutions and foreign partners.

The Role of Regional University in the Building of University Industry Co-operation – Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, School of Technology as a Case Example

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The Role of Regional University in the Building of University Industry Co-operation – Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, School of Technology as a Case Example In Finland, the network of regional universities was greatly broadened during the 1990s by the establishment of universities of applied sciences. These institutions were established to serve regional labor needs for highly educated professionals and to strengthen the R&D capabilities of their home regions. Among the first of these regional universities was the Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, situated in South Ostrobothnia, Western Finland. In this rural region, primary production, food industries and agro technology formed the core of economic activity. Before the establishment of the University of Applied Sciences, industries of the region such as machine shops and meat industry found it difficult to recruit professionals with higher-education. The establishment of regional university changed the situation by offering experts such as engineers to the needs of local companies. It also marked a beginning for closer interaction between economic and educational life. Together these two factors have helped in keeping regional industries competitive, which have had a positive impact on regional welfare and the further knowledge building in the region.

WG10, Local schools in rural contexts – threatened, disputed and defended

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To be or not to be: Pros and cons of the existence of small rural schools in Latvia and Norway

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During the past decade, as the result of an economic crisis, a significant part of population emigrated from Latvia, and along with the overall negative population growth the country experiences concentration of people in urban agglomerations, which has a critical impact on rural regions. The effects of decreasing demographic indicators, as well as the aim of more efficient budget management coupled with increased quality of education, are the driving force behind an ongoing optimization of Latvian school network - since 2010, dozens of schools in rural areas were reorganized or closed. Given the demographic forecasts and ongoing processes of ageing of the society, as well as the understanding of the fact that rural schools' role in local communities goes beyond their primary function and reaches the area of human security and unity, the need for a complex evidence-based policy is significant. Insights into international initiatives in this area, which are based on the example of Norwegian decentralized school management, are a valuable addition to the national-level analysis of local municipalities' experience of education governance. Our empirical analysis is based on original quantitative data collected by the project in Latvia and Norway. The Web survey targets two groups of major stakeholders: representatives of municipalities in rural areas and administrators of small rural schools. The study is conducted with the support of funding from the EEA / Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 under Project Contract n^o NFI/R/2014/014.

The role of pedagogical arguments in terms of small school closures – insights from Austria

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The closure of a school means a break in their traditional life of the community: the daily interaction between inhabitants and school may come to an end, the festivities in the school do not continue which were held through the course of the year and the shared memory of the inhabitants visiting the same school do not pass to the next generation. In our study we have conducted qualitative interviews with 32 majors who reported about the process of school closure in their communities. One third of them has closed the school in order to foster the school in the main locality. In the other cases the pressure of the federal state was more decisive for the school closure. As well as the primary cause of school closure, the question should be raised in which way the municipal authorities deal with the local community and the other way round if the local school had to be shut down. The talk wants to highlight the different forms of compensation that were made by the municipal council to conciliate the local community for their loss of the school which could be conceptualized as a kind of donation in order to give the community something back.

Closing small rural schools and its impact on local communities - case studies from north-east of Poland

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In 1998-1999 in Poland there was a reform of educational system that caused in 2000 closing of many small schools (especially in rural areas). In many places there were protests against the closure, organized by the parents of the pupils. In some cases they were successful, as the schools kept on working (sometimes taken over from local authorities by associations). In 2004 a research concerning aftermath of the closure was carried out. It contained case studies of four villages in Podlasie region, in which citizens organized protests against closing their children's primary schools. The analysis concerned group activeness before these protests, forms of the protests themselves, and activeness of the citizens after the decisions concerning the schools were taken by local authorities. Two of the villages were successful in defending the school, and two did not succeed, which had implications for their further social activeness. This paper will analyse long-term consequences of the school closure or keeping them working in these villages, that is the following 10 years that passed since the first research.

Gestures of reconciliation in the process of school closure

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In Austria 230 small schools faced closure between 2001 and 2014. In our study we found that behind this large number there are different circumstances that have initiated the closure of these schools. Most interestingly in many cases pedagogical arguments play an important role defending the closure of small schools. In the talk we will have a closer look at the variety of these pedagogical arguments. For this reason we have analysed both official documents of the federal states which hold the legal competence in the field of compulsory education in Austria as well as 32 interviews with majors who reported small school closure since the turn of millenium. Our data show that the different groups involved in the process of school closure (federal state, municipality, parents) have different interests and therefore different kinds of arguments deciding against the maintainance of the small school within the community. While federal states frequently insist on minimum numbers of pupils, majors are interested in investing in one school equipped with the latest level of furnishing at the cost of other schools. To our surprise, parents could also demand school closure if the federal state downsized the number of teachers in the small school.

Understandings of school and local community

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Local communities and school development are in diverse ways tangled with regional, national and global policies. On aspect of this is the influence of international ideas of New Public Management and efficiency on local schools, which in a wider sense is said to challenge the ideas of the Norwegian welfare state (Wahlström, 2011). In our research we find one of the challenges is consolidation, centralization and school closure. This is thought-provoking to the idea of Norwegian rural and regional policy; claiming to keep settlement in rural areas and districts at the present level, as well as challenge in general understandings of Nordic welfare policy - claiming equality in living conditions for all citizens throughout the country (Solstad, 2009, Karlson, 2006). Not only equality but also the understanding of the local community was considered important in supporting the renewal of democracy in the Nordic welfare model (Aasen, 2003). Thus it could be argued that diversity in terms of cultural variation was understood as an important contribution of the local community. The paper explores centrum-periphery relations through the experiences and mobilizing processes in rural communities fighting for their local school, highlighted by the research question: Which cultural variations and understandings of local school are expressed in the locals and teachers group conversations? Our data is based on seven group interviews conducted in 2013 and 2014 representing respectively teachers and local population in four local communities in Northern- and Mid-Norway. The study is conducted and interpreted based on a hermeneutical understanding. The results point in the direction of local schools as arenas for social life, socialization and comprehensiveness, identity and self-respect, and how such aspects of living conditions are contested and put at stake through centralization and school closure.

From school closures to new social community hot spots in Hjørring Municipality

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Hjørring Municipality in rural Northwestern Denmark has over the past four years closed 11 village schools. In some villages private schools have opened, and thereby remained a focus for the local community and a central meeting place for the people living in and around the village. In other villages, Hjørring Municipality has, immediately after the school closure, reached out to the local community in order to help them establish a substitute meeting place that replaces the school as the social hot spot in the village and local community. The project, named Samling og Sammenhold, has been successful in fulfilling its aim, and is now used as an approach to citizen involvement in a range of municipal development project in Hjørring Municipality. This research has evaluated the project, and through interviewing both villagers and municipal project managers, the central factors that have ensured the success of the project have been identified. The outcome is a range of suggestions on how a local village can re-establish a social center through collaborating with the local municipality. This paper thus reports on a successful development project, and discusses how closing of rural schools need not mean the closing of a village social hot spot.

A story of how a new upper secondary school revitalized a rural community in North Iceland

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A study of an upper secondary school founded in 2010 in a rural community in North Iceland, will be presented. National laws in 2008 followed by a new curriculum offered possibilities for schools to design their curriculum differently and in the case presented, rethink the organisation of teaching and learning for the rural youth. In only five years the school has been established as an important educational institution in the community and enhanced educational opportunities for young people as well as giving some grown up a second chance. An interesting feature is collaboration with small enterprises, associations and cultural institutions that contribute to teaching and learning in the school in various ways. A course in entrepreneurship is taught in cooperation with several local entrepreneur companies related to the fishing industry as well as in culture and tourism. A programme of outdoor activities, where the natural environment both summer and winter is used as a resource for adventurous learning, is supported by local sport clubs, rescue teams, and winter sport enterprises. The question dealt with in the paper focuses on the way in which way local enterprises, associations and cultural institutions has contributed to the school curriculum and afforded rural youth possibilities to connect to the local environment and in which way the existence of the school revitalized the community.

Education, rural youth and participation in local, regional and national contexts

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There are few studies researching rural youth and issues related to education, participation and agency but recent research from Eastern and Nordic countries shows that young people from outside metropolitan regions more often express a lack of confidence in government and political institutions. In this paper we will present a preliminary analysis from an ongoing Swedish ethnographic study titled Rural youth. Education, place and participation. Six different rural municipalities were selected for the research. This was done in order to obtain a variation in rurality, e.g. demography, production relations etc. The fieldwork was conducted in one secondary school in each municipality. Observations were primarily conducted in one class at each school during five weeks and also app. 100 students were interviewed. The analysis focused on identifying themes, in both observations and in students' statements about participation, connected to the local school and the community but also to a wider regional and national context. Drawing on Doreen Massey and her conceptualizing of space as social relations, the theoretical thinking on space brought wider contexts into the analysis, such as relations which stretch beyond the local place. The paper discusses the results in relation to participation, agency and place in a wider sense.

The (in)significance of local schools to community qualities in rural areas

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The (in)significance of local schools to community qualities in rural areas. In many rural municipalities, school mergers and school closures are a current and continual issue of debate; sometimes due to critically low numbers of pupils, other times first and foremost due to economic reasons. This is a disputed issue in those communities affected, since the school is perceived to be essential to the local community's vitality. But, is this only a myth, or is it really so? The purpose of this paper is to examine relations between distance to school and reported community qualities. The analysis is based on data from a survey conducted among a large-scale, random sample of the population in Norwegian municipalities defined as rural. Even though almost everyone would perceive the closure of the nearest school negatively, the results indicate that there are no significant positive effects of having a school in the vicinity when it comes to people's attachment to their local community, or perceived community cohesion. Thus, it is reasonable to ask if the very idea of losing an existing resource may constitute the main problem with a school closure to the community as such.

Viewing families' experience of school closure in Swedish rural areas

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Living in the countryside can be complex and is often a matter of daily movements in order to make all activities fit into one's life. The structure of everyday life is also about the interplay between political decisions and physical structures. This study shows the consequences of closing two rural schools in Ydre, Sweden, based on people's time-spatial everyday stories. The study focuses on how households interpret change and the problems that arise from the closure of rural schools. Studying this is accomplished through interviews with twelve families and twenty-eight schoolchildren and is based on a time-geographical perspective. The study investigates local circumstances, how children and their parents adapt to structural changes, how this creates patterns in their everyday lives and activities, and how schools and private life are connected. One conclusion is that a school is not just a place for teaching; it is also an important place where both children and their parents can meet; and it is a place where social networks are created and decisions about everyday life are made. Through studies of the school closures and people's experiences, some of the complexities of countryside life and problems appear in a more human-centered and everyday perspective.

Immigrants in Education

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The key for a successful integration process of immigrants into the rural Icelandic society lies within the schools. Until a decade ago having children from a foreign background in the school system was a rather unfamiliar phenomenon. In the year 2000, according to Hagstofa.is, 30 foreign children under 18 years old were living in Akureyri; this number has tripled by now and in 2014, 87 foreign children are living in the town. In a quantitative and qualitative research among Icelanders and immigrants living in Akureyri we are looking at how schools react to this new challenge and how the immigrant parents experience the Icelandic school system. The survey will be done in the winter 2015/16.

Rural schools approaching changes: Stories of immigrant students in Iceland

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Recent immigration has led to increased diversity in Icelandic schools (Ragnarsdóttir, 2010). Rural schools are considered the centre of communities and, simultaneously, a vulnerable space where cultural hybridity, multiculturalism and other forces of change meet a certain resistance (Dyre, 2001). Research shows that Icelandic rural schools demonstrate ability to adapt to rapid socio-economic changes, create opportunities for community members and be an active force in the local socio-cultural life (Ásgeirsdóttir, 2002). The purpose of this study is to explore relations between local communities and rural schools through the stories of immigrant students. The aim is to gain knowledge and better understanding in the ways rural schools work for inclusion and empowerment of immigrant students. The research question is: How do rural schools influence and are influenced by the presence of immigrant students? The paper discusses case studies in different rural areas. Qualitative data was collected through interviews with students and school personnel and field observations. The theoretical framework builds on the ideas of inclusion and critical pedagogy (Ainscow, 2005; Freire, 2005). Preliminary findings suggest that issues of space and dynamics of school and community play an important role in influencing experiences of immigrant students.

Rural and urban students' grades at the end of compulsory education: Interpreting the apparent difference

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For decades the Education Testing Institute of Iceland has described advantageous educational results in the densely populated capital area compared to more sparsely populated areas outside the capital. Thus, grades on standardized national tests at the end of compulsory school are considerably higher in the capital area and the results of the PISA study have been interpreted as revealing faster declining performances in rural areas. It has been concluded on the basis of the PISA study that the students' social background has a miniscule impact on their academic achievement at the end of compulsory education. Such information, retrieved from register data, has reinforced the orthodox public view that residential patterns are more important for academic achievement than social status. In this study, information on students' grades on standardized tests in Icelandic and mathematics in the spring of 2006 are linked to information on their social status and their views regarding learning obtained from the PISA study in 2006. Regression analysis shows that residence as such has limited explanatory value for academic achievement. This brings up how we deal with the "deprived rural schooling" debate as part of classed society instead of the stereotypes of youth in fit and unfit schools.

Community school pattern in Latvia in small rural municipalities: the emergence of new education governance model

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Since 2009, the model of school as multifunctional resource centre for the whole community was adapted and introduced in more than 50 local municipalities in Latvia. Schools as multifunctional centres have extend functions, among them are interest education for children, lifelong learning for adults, support to families with children, culture and social events, and social help services. The implementation of extended functions is realized with mobilisation and involvement of local communities and organisations, leading to the emergence of new education governance model. The comparison of different education governance models of small rural schools in Latvia is the focus of the paper. The theoretical approach of the study is based on multi-level governance analysis and regional development theories. The analysis of different education governance models of small rural schools is based on case study research (12 cases, including ordinary schools and schools as multifunctional centres, 60 in-depth interviews). The research leading to these results has received funding from the EEA / Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 under Project Contract n° NFI/R/2014/014.

Dealing with the demands: How a principal in a rural school coordinates the local conditions and mandates from national and local authorities

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This paper presents a case study conducted in Iceland where the aim was to investigate how a principal in a small rural school deals with coordinating his school's internal conditions, those of the local community, and the demands of national and local authorities. The research is a part of a comparative study conducted in Australia and Bhutan as well. The research question is: How does a principal of a small rural school deal with the challenge of adapting centrally mandated policies to local contexts? Data was collected during two days visits using interviews with the principal, observation and review of documents. The findings indicate that the principal devotes a lot of his time to respond to and coordinate those mandates and demands to best serve the interests and conditions of the local community the school serves. It makes his task easier that he is consistent and passionate for the community and the school and well capable of expressing himself. The findings indicate that more consideration would need to be given to the communities/social conditions in small rural schools so they are in a better position to serve their communities.

WG1 1, Local development and civil society in Russia and other previous socialist countries

Organizers

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Local initiatives democracy and control in Russia

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The paper is about local initiatives in Russia in recent years. Russia still has Soviet-type NGOs, which play a role in local society and Russian leaders have expressed the needs of collaboration not only between administration and firms but also with the local population. Local political representation of people takes place mainly through deputies, who mediate between people and state power. It seems, however, evident that local problems cannot be solved in a satisfying way through these mechanisms. State programs and private charity funds offer opportunities for realizing local initiatives. Territorial self-governed organizations (TOS) have in recent years been established in some regions by citizens at their place of residence with or without government support. The paper handles these questions, takes up experiences from new local initiatives in Archangelsk Oblast, Nizhegorodskaya Oblast and Karelian Republic, and discusses what type of democracy they represent and what kind of cultural change this might indicate.

Dare of leader programme implementation in Vidzeme region, Latvia

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Findings and discussion is based on analysis of five-year performance of one of local development strategies “Madona Region Community Foundation” in Vidzeme region, Latvia. This local development strategy includes locals, municipalities, NGOs, entrepreneurs from five local municipalities with total area of 3353km² or 5.2% of Latvian territory, and 35 698 inhabitants or 1.76% of Latvian population in 2014. The area includes a town of regional development significance – Madona, and centres of local development significance - Lubana, Cesvaine and Varaklani. The strategy of Madona Region Community Foundation was defined quantitative and qualitative indicators according to eight actions. In this report, discussion will be focused in four parts:

- Impact of LEADER actions on territory by view of local municipalities. Local municipalities can submit project proposals as well as to support projects proposed by NGOs, entrepreneurs with co-financing. In some cases, municipalities held a view that they know better needs of locals. According to this, municipalities would like to make prioritisation of submitted projects.
- Impact of partnership-collaborative projects on territory development. There were a few projects in this field submitted by NGOs. Main problems connected with communication between partners, confidence and number of involved partners.
- Impact of projects which related with accessibility of services and public activities implemented by NGOs, local municipalities.
- Impact of entrepreneurial and self-employed persons` projects on territory development. Difficulties are pre-payment of actions, expenditure for bank services, in cases when project includes building, particularly elaboration of building documentation, project rules raise the cost. Locals and enterprises in rural area consider that the LEADER programm is the most accessible for support of local ideas in practice.

Welfare in Russian monotowns: hybridization of state paternalism and corporate social responsibility ?

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The paper studies the dissolution of local “welfare regime”, which previously was based on company paternalism and its consequences in the labor collective and in the local community. The current economic crisis has severely undermined the economic basis of the mono-towns and accentuated the need for sustainable solutions to intensifying social and economic problems. The paper argues that enterprises are distancing themselves from former social contract and approach new forms of welfare provision. We ask who the actors who negotiate in the process are and what kinds of interests and power resources they have? What goals and interests are determining the local system of welfare: is it business interest of the main enterprise, the political interest of the local administration or the “paternalistic expectations” of the labor? The cases in the paper are two mono-towns of North-Western Russia: Kondopoga in the Republic of Karelia and Kirovsk in the Murmansk region. The paper argues that the current process is not solely testifying the dissolution of the soviet legacy under neo-liberal pressures, but it can also lead to the merger of these two, producing hybrid forms of welfare provision, conditioned by strategies and interests of different actors.

WG12, The evolution of home: Experiential variations of rural housing in space and time,

Organizers

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Co-housing in the Countryside – counterurbanisation and development of jointly related dwellings in small rural towns.

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From several inquiries (Nørsgaard et al 2010, Skifter Andersen 2010, Andersen & Havelund 2012) we know that 24-25 % of the Danish population not already living in the countryside, have a dream of living in the countryside sometime in their life. At the same time it seems that there is a need for jointly related dwellings (Bech-Danielsen 2014, Krokfors 2012). There are people making co-housing groups as they want to create new ways of living sustainable both socially and environmentally in the countryside. In Denmark we have had co-housing communities since the 1970's and different types and experiments of co-housing have been developed in small and bigger scale throughout time (Vedel-Petersen et al 1988, McCamant & Durrett 2011, Pedersen 2014, Marckmann 2009). The trend is to build co-housing with both private homes and shared facilities, so it is a living together with privacy and sharing at the same time. At the moment is as well a capacity in several existing co-housing and upcoming co-housing projects to share and take initiatives together with the local community they are placed in. Pointing at the potential for counter-urbanisation (Champion 1998, Boyle & Halfacree 1998, Halfacree 2008; 2012) this PhD project investigates the needs and motives for jointly related communities and ways of living together in the countryside, as co-housing and multigenerational living.

A little story of the Icelandic rural habitation : between love and hate

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In Iceland, about two-thirds of the population live in the city of Reykjavík and its suburb. Whereas the capital is currently reshaping its urbanity and building hotels to house mass tourism, we can wonder what are the aspects of nowadays rural habitation on the island. The Icelandic house is primarily characterized by the turfhouse which is the archetype of the Icelandic vernacular architecture. Made of turf blocks enveloping a wood structure, this type of house - specific to the North Atlantic area - was the refuge built by the first settlers in the IXth century. With material directly extracted from the natural environment, the turfhouse shows various functional and aesthetic evolutions, from the colonisation to the first half of the XXth century. Despite its undeniable innovative characteristics, the Icelandic turfhouse was also considered as a symbol of poverty and shame. Early in the last century, the negative view shed on this auto-construction (which however lasted twelve centuries) was certainly revealing the Icelanders' aspirations for better living conditions. Today – whether it is assumed or not - the traditional turfhouse (in terms of traces and savoir-faire) is a heritage marker which mobilizes memories, identities and ancestrality. Beside this, what are the Icelanders' aspirations in terms of housing in rural Iceland? What is their opinion on vernacular architecture? The aim of this presentation is to propose a little story of this rural habitation by presenting how my doctoral research will organize to answer the questions asked above.

Artistic 'housework'

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In rural planning art is most often discussed in relation to the production of artworks as 'objects'. That artists also make what we might call 'organisation works' (such as living and work spaces) is well discussed in art practice as 'self-organisation' but not often accounted for in the planning field. From a pragmatist perspective the artwork 'product' (such as a sculpture) is not 'the work'. Rather, in understanding the world as 'in the making', art takes place as associations between persons and materials as part of our living experience. In expanded modes of self-organised practice home building is often regarded by artists as part of their artistic project. What does this 'housework' do? Through ethnographic study in 'peripheral' areas of Sweden this paper takes a pragmatist perspective to explore artistic 'home making' in support of rural living. Following urban studio development patterns; artists are increasingly moving in to agricultural settings to make work. Contributing to the literature of neo-endogenous rural development, this paper explores 'houseworks' in relation to mobilising local resources. This research is part of 'Stretched: Expanded notions of artistic practice through artist-led cultures' Valand Academy, University of Gothenburg.

Haapa-aho – An Ostrobothnian peasant house in change

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Ostrobothnia, in north-western Finland, has a strong tradition of timber construction. Several thousand traditional timber houses from the 18th and 19th centuries are still serving as homes for people in the region. Good air, quality timber and historical value make traditional houses interesting to modern families. In 2014, the University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute made a thorough investigation and documentation of Haapa-aho, representative of such a peasant house, before it was moved to a new location. The project was funded by the EU (Leader Project). Haapa-aho is a typical Ostrobothnian peasant house with two floors. Moving a timber house is part of the building tradition in Ostrobothnia, but the EU's energy directive and other Finnish norms do not sufficiently recognize the specific cultural value of traditional peasant houses. They are treated the same way as new structures. Timber houses are ecological, but new techniques and thick insulators are demanded due to current legislation. This usually ruins well-functioning construction as well as compromising the cultural and historical value of the building. For decades, timber houses have been altered by modernization, but attitudes are now slowly changing. Old materials and traditional features are being seen as providing greater credibility to the old Ostrobothnian peasant houses, and a better experience for residents and visitors alike.

Designing Housing for Migrant Workers in a Norwegian Coastal Community

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Frøya municipality, situated on the coast of Central Norway, is the location for an experimental project which aims to contribute to the building of a new kind of housing for migrant workers and other demographic groups that struggle to gain access to the housing market. The main objective is to develop an affordable high quality housing concept that meets residents' needs and preferences and combines location- and climate adapted architecture, with a lower price per square meter. In 2015 99 people moved to Frøya, of which 51 came from abroad. Labour-related population growth is expected to continue into the near future. Labour immigration to rural areas can be positive for local development, but the housing market is often not able to meet demands, and this can counteract the positive effects of immigration. A Whitepaper from 2013 (Stortingsmld. 17 2012-2013) concludes that 150.000 Norwegian residents are not being supplied with appropriate housing, and that migrant workers and low-income groups have difficulties in gaining access to the owner-based housing market. Established qualitative interview and observational methods will be used alongside interactive techniques to gather empirical data about newcomer's preferences with regard to architecture and design. Insight into how existing coastal architecture can be used to influence new housing solutions will also be acquired. Both aspects will be used to kick-start the design process.

Experiences of Time and the Temporality of Home

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Home is a temporal process. It changes in time. In this presentation different manifestations of temporality are analyzed in the housing experiences in the Third Age. The data consist of four group discussions which took place in Finnish South Ostrobothnia in 2014. People understand their homes as a series of events. When talking about themselves, people use memories and stories to structure temporality and their own existence. One's own life career is often structured as a series of moves. The main attention is not on the event of moving but on the key moments in each home. Consecutive homes help us remember what happened at each stage of life. History follows us also as inheritance. Buildings, movables and land property may be inherited property and therefore dear to the people owning it. Multispatiality, too, has a temporal dimension. It is built on consecutive place experiences. Supragenerational attachment often happens with a holiday home. Home is one of the most important places of nostalgia. Everyday objects and their use are key carriers of collective memory. Dressing, eating and ways of cooking may transfer the home feeling to new landscapes, so that a completely strange environment still feels like home.

Challenges of sustainable rural housing in Owerri west government area

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This paper examines the challenges of sustainable rural housing in Owerri West Local Government, Imo State, Nigeria. Housing is generally referred to as a shelter or lodging for human habitation. It is a structure designed as an abode for one or more persons. Sustainable housing has maximum of quiet environment, living and outdoor space, privacy, cleanliness, safety and aesthetic satisfaction. And must be served with basic community facilities such as roads, water, sewerage refuse disposal and recreational facilities. Data for the study were from primary and secondary sources. The survey method using questionnaire was employed in the study. The stratified, random and systematic sampling techniques were used in selection of Owerri West Local Area. Descriptive statistics were used in analyzing the data. The result revealed lack of infrastructure amenities, structural deterioration, inadequacy services and pollution etc. It therefore, recommended the need to improve the rural housing by the government, to institute several rural housing programmes to address the rural housing problems.

WG13, Controversies of tourism

Organizer

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Those who left. Departed locals and their ties to home

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The paper presents findings from a survey amongst those that have departed two communities in Fjallabyggð municipality, N. Iceland, focusing on their patterns of visitation to their former homes. The findings are summarized in a recent publication in the Icelandic journal of social science; Icelandic Society (6(1)). The paper will argue that through their travel and visitation these departed former community members express relations to their respective communities, relations that the survey shows are sustained through their second home ownership or access to free accommodation and partly enhanced by the Hlíðinsfjörður-tunnel recently built. Survey findings also indicate that most respondents see themselves as local and had to relocate due to work or studies. The opening of the Hlíðinsfjörður-tunnel does, however, not affect their plans of resettling in their former communities. The paper concludes by discussing how expressed community relations possibly serve to sustain the tourism marketing efforts of these communities and help in the development of tourism locally, albeit in an indirect manner. The need for former community members to express their ties to the community arguably weaves with processes of image building reliant on framing these communities as a pleasure periphery, thus fueling processes that originally displaced these people.

The Challenges of Defining and Nurturing a Cultural Cluster in a Rural Region

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The focus of this paper is on the challenges of developing and nurturing an arts and creative cluster in a rural, remote and non-urban-adjacent region. The Stephenville-Corner Brook- Rocky Harbour region of western Newfoundland is home to several well-established theatre companies, literary festivals, post-secondary programs in film, visual and theatre arts at both the College and University level and one of the Atlantic region's most recognized National Parks (Gros Morne National Park). In this context, surrounded by a vibrant culture and astounding natural beauty, a number of arts and cultural workers are making this region their base of operations. However, until recently there has been little official acknowledgement of the value of the cultural sector to the overall economy and life of the region. This paper focuses on the strategies being used to help build not only the awareness of this cluster, but to build the cluster itself.

International flight to and from the rural, does it matter?

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Good connections are increasing part of the modern society. This is not only regarding telecommunication and the web but also the old way of connection, transportation moving people and goods. Direct scheduled flight from the rural to other countries can have effect on societies in the rural. But how much difference does it make? Is it so important that the state should help establishing it? Such direct flights can decrease the cost for the inhabitant to travel. It can in that way lead to more communication with foreign societies. It can also be the key factor in building up tourism in the rural. Tourism seem to be ever growing industry which gives rural areas new opportunities. In the lecture the focus will be on Iceland and what it could mean for the rural in Iceland if direct flight could be built up from North and East Iceland.

You must be tired of all the tourists?

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Tourism is often seen as an external influence where tourists are described as hordes of nosy people disrupting community life and culture. The Butlerian relation between tourist numbers, time and space would suggest that this would eventually, at some social impact threshold, have negative impact on residents' quality of life and make them antagonistic toward tourism. Rapid tourism growth, such as the one evident in the post-collapse economic situation of Iceland logically leads to concerns over social and cultural sustainability. This is the backdrop to a research project supported by the Icelandic tourism board to address the perceived impact of tourism on the quality of life for residents. The qualitative part of the study is based on interviews and observation. Here the results of in depth interviews with randomly selected residents in rural towns are presented. The findings suggest that tourism issues play out differently in the communities, than tourism studies and public discourse have hitherto allowed. The interviews reveal respondents' keen interest in and nuanced understanding of, tourism and the controversies of tourism.

Embracing tourism tactics: Tales from rural Iceland

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This paper explores how dominant tourism development narratives shape and reshape understandings of lived experiences of tourism becoming a dominant player in rural communities. This is to follow up Abram's (2014) suggestion "...that in looking at how we learn to do tourism, at how we create 'tourism' as a field of action and research, we might open up productive ways to understand those practices and, potentially, to change them (p.75)." Three Icelandic rural communities serve as the context and the material for this study which is an exploratory research that takes both a narrative and an ordering approach. These places all represent communities that have dealt with heavy outmigration and loss of jobs. Around the globe, tourism development has been identified as an important move towards a more dynamic and attractive community and tourism is seen as an empowering and energizing force that has the capacity to reinvigorate communities in decline. The paper explores both entrepreneurial logics and strategies for tourism development and what happens when tourism development becomes the frame of reference in a particular place or region?

Cruise Tourism and Collaboration in Local Destinations

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Cruise tourism is often considered economically unsustainable because the majority of economic benefits do not ensue to local people. Cruise tourism in a sense is a competitor to land-based tourism because the cruise ships become a substitute for air travel, they provide accommodation, food, and activities. While cruise tourism brings in more visitors the economic impact is relatively small and usually concentrated to a few actors. Meanwhile, the remoteness, isolations, small populations and lack of infrastructure make some Arctic destinations difficult to develop, and cruise tourism can also be seen as a supplement to small destinations that are not yet mature to fully support land-based tourism. Local collaboration between public and private stakeholders has been highlighted as significant in order to support an integrated management of the cruise industry. To date there has been limited research on the challenges posed to local communities and governments by cruise tourism. In this paper a qualitative case study approach is adopted in the study of how local stakeholder collaboration influences the balance between catering to cruise tourists and land-based tourists in Ísafjörður, Iceland and Qaqortoq, Greenland.

Tourism, cost and revenues of Icelandic municipalities

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Tourism has been a rapidly growing industry in Iceland for the last decades and fuelled the economic growth. According to general discussion in Iceland, there are mixed signals of the spatial dispersion of the growth and that some partners, such as several municipalities and land owners, that experience an increasing cost and an external demands without the comparable development of the revenues. This study investigates the impact of number of tourists on both cost and revenues of municipalities in Iceland. A macro panel data set from Iceland will be used. It represents several essential variables of the cost- and revenues functions for 20 municipalities out of 74 in Iceland during the period from 2002 to 2014. The study will also include the attempt to separate municipalities with respect to several key qualities such as the proximity to the capital city of Iceland and the number of available hotel/hotel rooms.

Reindeer and hunting tourism in East Iceland

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The story of reindeer in Iceland is not so old. The first specimens, 13 in all, were brought from Finnmark in Norway in 1771. Now the total number of reindeer in Iceland is estimated to reach about 6,000 during the summer and they are all located in the rural areas of East Iceland. Reindeer hunting is a popular big game sport in Iceland. Until the year 2003 all those who applied for a licence were successful. In the year 2003, however, the number of applications exceeded the quota and has increased since then. Hunting tourism is thought to provide considerable income to rural economies during the hunting season. In 2014 a survey was performed amongst Icelandic hunters. The survey was done online and pertained to the year 2013. One of the aim of the survey was to analyse hunting tourism and see how it can be developed and expanded. The main findings are that hunting tourism is considered to have great potential in Iceland.

WG14, Rural business and economy

Organizers

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Exploring rural desires

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This paper unfolds how rural business types defined as landscape businesses are related to the notion of desire as a productive force in new rural practices. The study draws on a series of visits and in depth interviews with rural based entrepreneurs, using landscapes in a broad sense in building their business concepts. The landscape businesses operate with different aspects of landscape amenities, ethical food production, a new health agenda, outdoor physical work and innovative farming modes in a field between production and consumption. The study shows that bodily desires attached to landscapes are both the driving forces for the entrepreneurs themselves in the process of a business start-up, but in the same time also an ambiguous task to maintain and stabilize, as other societal rural desires may conflict or challenge new rural agendas. The geographical framework is the island Funen in Denmark, also associated with “Denmarks Garden” with a long tradition for food production, farm shops and the good life of the “happy peasant”. Actor-Network Theory (ANT) as a tool to understand the world as effects of human-non-human relations has been applied in order to focus on the power of desires associated with nature, landscapes and rural lifestyles. The analysis underpin how the concept of rural desires can be fruitful to understand the need for a more diverse landscape management policy in order to meet multiple functions of the rural as a potential for a new rural economy beyond agribusiness and tourism.

The place of place in Northern Rural SME strategies

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The current paper investigates the role of place in SME-strategies. The paper briefly reviews how the strategy-literature has treated places as either strategic resources, liabilities or institutional constraints. The paper distinguishes between a conventional view, which sees the context as external to the company as something firms “have”, and an alternative perspective, which sees strategies forming around a conception of place and locality, in which place, becomes something firms “are”. The paper draws on a series of Finnish, Norwegian and Icelandic cases to show how different conceptions of place and the firms’ relationship to locality, shape and give meaning to everyday actions, decisions and strategies. More specifically the paper looks at how companies’ conception of place and the relationship between place or locality and firm shape decisions at different stages in the life of the companies. The paper shows how actions, inactions and decisions relating informed by firm’s ideas about place influence the subsequent trajectory of the firm. The paper concludes with a call for a stronger focus on place and the subjective meaning of place in studying SME-strategies and shows how a stronger emphasis on place has theoretical as well as practical pay-offs.

Outfields - from extension of the farm to ‘wilderness’? Encounters of multiple landscape practices in Lofoten

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The Nordic countryside consists of large areas where natural resources from the outfields, mainly used for farming and grazing, traditionally have been the basis for settlements. As agricultural practices have changed, much of the outfields lie fallow - becoming overgrown and deteriorated. At the same time new activities related to recreation and tourism are emerging in these landscapes. For the new actors entering the outfields, these areas do not represent an extension of the farm, but rather rural wilderness. The multiple user groups relates to the outfields as different landscapes. What happens when the outfields are transformed from biological resources, or an extension of the farm, to ‘wilderness’? In this paper we address the different ways of reading the landscapes of the outfields, and will explore stories of how these areas are experienced, valued and made use of by various actors. Based on qualitative fieldwork from Lofoten, marked by active use of grazing resources and growing tourism, we investigate how different actors engage in this landscape. Multiple uses might lead to conflicts, but also synergies. Focusing on encounters of different landscape practices, we will look into examples of how potential conflicts are being negotiated.

Rendering actually existing economic alternatives visible: Central European food sharing networks

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The spaces of traditional sharing economies in the global North have largely been left outside the growing interest in the sharing and collaborative economies. In post-socialist countries the market triumphalism and the promotion of individualism and consumerist lifestyles have also resulted in depreciation of traditional sharing economies both in the media and public policy discourse. In spite of this, in rural areas a range of everyday needs – including food and mutual help - are being met by non-market practices. The paper aims, firstly, to investigate the extent of Czech food sharing economies and to identify the patterns of their spatial networks. Secondly, to examine the motivations for participation in these informal economic practices. The magnitude of the sharing economy was determined by the large-scale questionnaire-based survey of Czech households. Focus groups and in-depth interviews were employed to uncover the motivations for people's involvement in the sharing economy. The results have revealed that despite the population's growing affluence, some types of food self-provisioning practices and exchanges of household products and labour are a common occurrence within Czech rural social networks. The motivations for participation in sharing economies are less economic and more social and cultural: enjoyment, tradition and pride in abilities and skills. The research brings new insights into alternative economic practices and seeks to expand the base from which 'universal knowledge' on sharing and diverse economies is generated.

Two sides of the same coin: Dutch rural tourism entrepreneurs and countryside capital in Sweden

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This article explores post-migration experiences and evaluations of everyday life through accounts of Dutch rural tourism entrepreneurs in the Swedish county of Värmland. These accounts are contrasted with Sweden's national tourism policy, which aims at contributing to sustainable growth and increased employment throughout the country. The study employs different notions of capital, particularly countryside capital, investigating the effects of post-migration experiences with Swedish national tourism policy aims and local population on Dutch rural tourism entrepreneurs in Swedish Värmland. A tourism-migration nexus occurs, in which the entrepreneurs themselves are attracted by countryside capital before migration and use this capital in their enterprises to attract new tourists after migration. Yet, the interviewees tell of experiences which frustrate optimal utilisation of countryside capital. In combination with flexible attitudes conceptualised as multi-local living and strategic switching, this results in the risk of losing these entrepreneurs' socio-economic impetus for lagging rural areas. This potential loss is then related to studying incomers' rural tourism business transfers after the initial start-up phase, while questioning the alleged transition from countryside of production to countryside of consumption.

Staying Local and Competitive: Northern SME's Construal of Community and Business Strategies – Reacting to Economic Crisis

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Locally owned, northern SMEs often find themselves working out of and in small communities in sparsely populated regions. Using a constructive research design and semi-structured interviews with SMEs from Northern Finland, Norway and Iceland this study highlights the relationship between the firm and the community in which the firm forms a part. We suggest that the nature of this relationship, and how firms as represented by their owner-manager construe the relationship between the firm and the local community, have important implications for the type of strategies firms pursue both to capitalize on environmental opportunities as well as to minimize the impact of environmental threats. The firms differ in their relationships of the surrounding community and in the strategies they pursue, including how they manage environmental change and adversity. SMEs are often the first victims of a prolonged economic crisis because of their limited financial resources and dependence on banks' lending. The study companies' reaction to economic crisis indicates a difference in their then emergent modification of strategies suggesting that cultural differences affect how the firms behave in the face of adversity.

From local systems to professional networks - the transformation of employment and recruitment mechanisms in the Norwegian fishing fleet

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Sufficient supply of human capital is a fundamental basis for all economic activity. While the sectoral policies for fisheries in North Atlantic States focus heavily on economic output, there is less emphasis on strategies for securing necessary input, like competent and trained labour. Based on surveys and qualitative interviews changes in contemporary fisheries employment and knowledge systems, we explore how fisheries employment systems have changed parallel to development of resource management policy and fishing fleet structural policy. Finally, we discuss consequences of changes for Norwegian fisheries communities and political implications of the changes and consequences.

When life style entrepreneurs establish micro-businesses in rural areas: The case of women in rural areas.

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New modes of rural entrepreneurship are explored set in the interplay between the local and the global and urban and rural based on three interview surveys with rural micro-businesses in the Danish countryside. Results show that it is women that mainly take advantage of this new space by combining lifestyle considerations with new sectors to or new ways of handling business in the rural areas (e.g. media, health and therapy, business services). The different positions in the global/local interplay are determined by competences and the ability to use local and external resources, which again are heavily, influenced whether you are a local or a newcomer to the area. Newcomers tend to pave the way for new sectors or solutions rather than locals. Their new activities can vary between full-time business to a combination of several services and also salaried employment. Therefore their activities very often are not measured as real business in the shape of a genuine firm like the 'economic man's' and cannot always be found in the general statistics. Despite of that these new activities do hold a great potential to rural development.

Immigrant rural entrepreneurship. Findings from Finnmark.

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Spatial embeddedness is increasingly recognized as an essential factor in understanding and explaining entrepreneurial processes. According to this perspective, entrepreneurs are embedded in places in ways that shape how they perceive and construct resources and opportunities. This article draws on perspectives on community and embeddedness, and analyses data from a qualitative study in Finnmark, in northernmost Norway. By investigating mutual connections between immigrant entrepreneurs, place and community, this article first reveals that immigrants may be able to successfully create and exploit entrepreneurial opportunities literally from day one in the rural community in which they settle. The rural community itself plays a key role in this process. Second, although spatial embeddedness is highly relevant, this article shows that entrepreneurs' social relations in the community do not need to be 'long-term' or 'deep' to function as a link to various local social resources. Third, this study indicates that immigrant entrepreneurs may contribute to building the periphery. In these ways, this paper offers a nuanced understanding of (immigrant) entrepreneurship as a socio-economic and spatially embedded practice.

Rural Business: Issues and Perspectives/ Topical Aspects for Latvia

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Local resources play a great role in the development of rural areas. The development of rural space is determined by the ideas of the local residents, activities and initiatives promoting regional diversity and service quality. Alongside traditional economy, aimed at competition and profit, a new type, the so-called “living economy” has appeared. Its aim is self-sufficiency – a strong healthy community with strong and healthy families, which is the key for human well-being. When developing small and micro enterprises we should approve the existence of “home economics”, the aim of which is self-sufficiency – mainly providing for the family by using local resources and local markets. “Home economics” should be looked upon as an integral part of the local rural life. Citizen awareness and the feeling of belonging to the local rural community are formed by both traditional occupations (agricultural production and/or processing, forestry, etc.) and new occupations (alternative education, book publishing, arts and culture, new technologies (programming, IT, etc.) The cultural historical objects in an area not only have an additional aesthetical value, but they are also economically important, especially in promotion of the tourism sector. Crafts are a significant resource for maintaining the traditional and cultural values in the area, and the benefits from tourism can be exploited in the development of the area. Active home producers determine the rural traditions with their unique “local flavour”. More and more people in rural areas are engaged in production and processing of agricultural products in their homes and home production is a significant means of survival in rural areas.

Entrepreneurship in North West Iceland; development of a regional equestrian cluster, ,

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In this study we ask whether and to what extent the growing horse related activities in North West of Iceland can be seen as a manifestation of an emerging cluster in that field in the region? And if so, how is the competition and the cooperation within the cluster affecting resource utilization, knowledge transfer and innovation in the research area? The research consists of secondary data analyses and a qualitative research. Secondary data on the distribution of horse based businesses in the area and their field of operation within the horse industry have been gathered in the purpose of mapping the cluster and its regional affect. Open ended interview with operators and other interested parties have also been conducted to gather data for this research. Findings indicate that there are favourable conditions for cluster development within the horse industry in North West Iceland. Increased demand for services affects the utilization of existing resources. The generation and flow of knowledge between the participants is also influenced and the density and co-location of businesses seem to affect business development and innovation at all levels of the value chain.

WG15, Benchmarking innovative capacity in rural and indigenous communities in changing times

Organizers

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The International Model Forest Network Circumboreal Initiative for Enhanced Rural Community Sustainability

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The International Model Forest Network is made up of over 60 Model Forests (MF) in 30 countries. Each MF is based on local partnerships that take a landscape approach to dealing with issues of sustainable resource management. The MFs operate with an open and transparent governance model that emphasizes equality of voice among the partners. Activities include such things as natural resource education, conflict resolution and landscape planning, all undertaken with a focus on knowledge sharing and building networks. The Circumboreal Initiative within the International MF Network was established to facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among MFs in the boreal region, i.e. Sweden, Finland, Russia and Canada. Activities fostered by this initiative have included aboriginal youth exchanges, collaborative research on climate change impacts and adaptation, comparative studies on the cultural values associated with caribou and reindeer, implementing participatory GIS, the role of gender in resource management, and mentoring emerging MFs. In addition, a major program has just concluded that will see new MFs established in Sweden and Finland. Future activities will include stronger collaborations between boreal MFs and Biosphere Reserves, continued mentoring of emerging MFs, and additional collaborative research.

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Nordic cooperation: Fostering Nordic sense of belonging

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Led by two national program coordinators from Sweden and Canada, this presentation will showcase the UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves Programme (MAB): a world network of sustainable development learning sites. The focus will be on its Nordic cooperation network (NordMAB), its conceptual approach, its vision and concrete realisations in two fields; Fostering Northern sense of belonging and Usage of traditional knowledge. NordMAB is a thematic network within MAB, with the objective of enhancing cooperation among Nordic Biosphere Reserves (BR) and it involves Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Greenland, Estonia and Canada. This presentation will give the participants an introduction to the MAB Programme from a broad perspective, with in depth portrayal of the exchange programme for Innu and Sami First Nations, as well as capacity building within young generations through the initiative NordMAB on Ice. Through sharing experiences of NordMAB and its Biosphere Reserves, similarities and differences between MAB and Model Forests will be explored. Further more, participants are invited to participate in a discussion about possible future cooperation issues and prospects between the MAB Programme and Model Forest.

Green infrastructures in rural landscapes: from the experience of Bergslagen Model Forest

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Green infrastructure (GI) is a current key policy concept, and an approach in planning and management of landscapes to meet diverse societal needs. There are many studies on GI for human well-being in cities and for biodiversity. However, there are no comprehensive studies on the role of GI for human wellbeing in rural landscapes. The aim of this study is to identify GIs important for people living in rural areas in the Bergslagen Model Forest. We made face-to-face interviews with 400 respondents in tree Swedish counties that cover all Sweden's key land cover types. The respondents were randomly selected in the capitals of each county, municipal centres and in rural areas. First, the respondents were asked to select ecosystem services (ESs) important for their well-being. Second, they were proposed to select a maximum of eight out of 27 pictures of land cover types that deliver the most important ES for their well-being. Finally, they answered questions about their age, occupation, education, country of origin etc. The most important habitats for the majority of respondents were associated with cultural landscapes, lakes, and old-growth forests. There were considerable differences in preferred habitats between native and New Swedes, and between rural and urban respondents. We discuss how to establish functional GIs for human wellbeing, and the roles of different Model Forest initiatives in management and governance of multiple GIs that satisfy interests, values and needs of different people.

Is spatial planning a collaborative learning process? A case study from the Bergslagen Model Forest in Sweden

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International and national policies stress the importance of spatial planning for the long-term sustainability of regions. This study identifies the extent to which the spatial planning in the Bergslagen region can be characterised as a collaborative learning process. By combining qualitative interviews and systems thinking methods we analysed the main attributes of public-led spatial (i.e. comprehensive) planning in nine municipalities representing a steep urban-rural gradient in the Bergslagen Model Forest. We show that the attributes of strategic spatial planning needed for collaborative learning were absent or undeveloped. All studied municipalities experienced challenges in coordinating complex issues regarding long-term planning to steer territorial development and help to solve conflicts among competing interests. Stakeholder participation was identified as a basic condition for social learning in planning. Together with stakeholders we identified the causal structure behind stakeholder participation in municipal planning processes, including main drivers and feedback loops. We conclude that there is a need for arenas allowing and promoting stakeholder activity, participation and inclusion that combines both bottom-up and top-down approaches, and where evidence-based collaborative learning can occur.

Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest : a case study in integrated resources management and diversification

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Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest (LSJMF) is a R and D partnership between the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation of Mashteuiatsh, , and the County municipalities of Domaine-du-Roy and Maria-Chapdelaine. It aims to harmonize the diverse uses of the forest environment, to mobilize the best local and external expertise, and to diversify the means of existence for the surrounding forest communities, in a context of sustainable development. LSJMF has developed tools for integrated forest management and is developing new GIS based applications for non timber forest products (NTFP) harvesters. What characterizes many of our projects is the involvement of our First Nation partner and the importance given to the aboriginal views and culture. We are now deeply involved in relaunching the fur industry in Québec, with a mix of fashion collections based on traditional aboriginal practices and on the latest technological developments. We also are partners in the establishment of a NTFP industry in our region, with initiatives in wild mushrooms and medicinal plants and recently published a guide to the traditional knowledge of the Pekuakamiulnutash on medicinal plants. Finally, we are working in the bioeconomy sector, in partnership with university research centers and other research groups towards developing biorefinery projects for the pharmaceutical, food and cosmetics industry.

Innovation in Canadian Biosphere Reserves: Learning across a national network

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In Canada, 16 UNESCO biosphere reserves are spread across 6,000 kilometers and five time zones. Convener organizations work in very different landscape types and under different governance arrangements. Yet, they face common challenges to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable development at a regional scale. Until recently, however, they have not typically worked together or sought to learn from the experiences of one another. We present selected results from a three-year partnership opportunity with the University of Saskatchewan that sought to improve the effectiveness of practices within biosphere reserves through social learning and networking. Specific practices associated with ecosystem services and land management, sustainable tourism, and sustainability education will be highlighted. In the partnership, practitioners learned to critically evaluate what made their strategies “work” and how to spread those practices to other contexts. Since the original funding ended in 2014, some biosphere reserves have continued to work together to pursue joint funding and on-going innovation. We consider the long-term potential of biosphere reserves to foster and spread innovation across the national network.

Innovations for including indigenous peoples in implementing sustainable forest management: Learning from the experiences of Prince Albert Model Forest

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Approximately 80 percent of Canada's indigenous peoples live in the boreal forest region and have Constitutional rights to access and benefit from forest resources. Yet, indigenous peoples have typically been excluded from forest management decisions and associated benefits. The Prince Albert Model Forest was created in 1992 to demonstrate sustainable forest management through partnerships with industrial, academic, local and indigenous organizations. Several strategies have been pursued to engage indigenous partners, with increasing success rooted in mutual understanding and a desire to work together. We describe the range of initiatives pursued and document how leadership from within indigenous communities has demonstrated their desire and readiness to work with other Model Forest partners. We attribute this increasing sense of inclusion to factors such as long-term trust building and demonstrations of mutual respect, persistent experimentation with different tools and collaborative approaches, a willingness to expand the operational definition of sustainable forest management, and the emergence of institutional entrepreneurs from within indigenous communities. We conclude that social innovation requires time to build relationships based on the confluence of good will, capacity enhancement, and entrepreneurship. Model Forests, with a mandate to experiment and demonstrate, are ideal platforms for developing social innovation and models of inclusion.

Local sustainability issues growing global – implementing the Model Forest concept in the Baltic Sea Region

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Many challenges in sustainable landscape governance and management are similar in the Baltic Sea Region despite of different land-use history and differences in policy, governance and management systems. To mention some; sectorial planning, lack of holistic approaches, and insufficient cooperation among stakeholders and end users of landscape natural resources. Within the EU Interreg Baltic Landscape project (2012-2014) some of these challenges were highlighted and addressed in seven landscape case studies – Baltic Landscapes – in Sweden, Poland, Belarus and Finland. This resulted in the development and application of various measures and tools for solving the challenges. Based on our experiences from the Baltic Landscapes we can extract interesting and potentially useful approaches to complex sustainability issues. Merging these approaches in a structured way may be applicable in other local landscapes as well, on regional, national and pan-national levels. In this paper we illustrate some of these approaches, implemented, tested and evaluated as an output from implementing the Model Forest concept. Interestingly and noticeably, several of these examples arise from independently developed responses based on local circumstances and needs, which under the common scope of the Baltic Landscape Model Forest initiative merged into a series of practical landscape sustainability tools and approaches.

Nature and cultural heritage as infrastructures for rural development: use, planning and governance of amenity values in Swedish and Canadian forest landscapes

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The erosion of primary and secondary economies based on forests and forest industry, hydropower and mining has led to the promotion of products based on natural and cultural amenity values to enhance rural development. Focusing on two Swedish and one Canadian forest landscape within the international Model Forest network we summarise results from two kinds of studies. The first looks at the preferred amenity values of different stakeholder groups and links to landscape stewardship trajectories and spatial planning. The second looks at the opportunities and challenges faced by businesses and organisations in using natural and cultural heritage as infrastructures for local and regional development. The results show that preferred amenity values differed considerably among stakeholder groups. Concerns about the sustainability of amenity values were raised regarding intensive forest management, abandonment of cultural landscapes, as well as technical infrastructure providing access. Communities were unprepared to deal with side effects of rapid change, often brought on by extra-local actors. There was consensus that pro-active and participatory spatial planning is a key factor to managing amenity-led growth in both Sweden and Canada. We discuss the role of governance context for new modes of landscape stewardship such as Model Forest for integrated spatial planning.

Application of the ecosystem services concept to indigenous Sami land use – Added cultural and natural values in the Scandinavian mountain region

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Ecosystem services are recognized in the Swedish national and regional level environmental policies. For the mountain region, specifically, it is stated that the open, pastoral mountain landscape with its associated ecosystem services should be maintained. It is also stated that the natural and cultural values in the mountain landscape are a result of long-term indigenous Sami culture and reindeer husbandry land use. Recent studies show that woody vegetation increase in the mountains, and thus maintaining the open mountain landscape requires continued reindeer grazing and sustainable indigenous rural communities. Reindeer is a keystone species in the mountain ecosystem and hence an important provider of different ecosystem services. The Sami culture is rich in traditional knowledge and Sami cultural impact has shaped ecosystems and landscapes and left numerous, albeit subtle, historical traces which contribute to the current ecosystem services pool. In this study, we examine space and time aspects of reindeer husbandry in the context of ecosystem services by identifying the ecosystems involved and the services provided. We define the differences and overlaps between provisional and cultural ecosystem services. We also link ecosystem services to other concepts and terms that are used to denote and assess landscape natural and cultural values.

A co-produced Participatory GIS towards wiser uses of landscapes

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Attempts to facilitate solutions on complex multiple land-use issues that included indigenous Sami reindeer husbandry, forestry, mining, energy production, etc., indicated a need both for comprehensive overviews and more detailed mappings. Initially, the mapping attempts involved drawings on existing paper maps, which in the process evolved into using a commercial GIS and finally lead to co-production of a custom-made participatory GIS (pGIS). The pGIS is now used for digitalization, compilation of land-use data, visualization and analysis, not by the GIS expert but by the end-user, i.e. the reindeer herder. Extensive co-learning sessions involving hundreds of users, lead to a wide use of the pGIS. We evaluated the potential and limitations in terms of impact of the pGIS developing-process on planning and decisions making in different ongoing land-use dialogues. Our experiences specified the importance of working close together with the end-user in developing the pGIS tool, including defining partial goals and testing and re-evaluating, for strong engagement and real practical use. We still have a long way to go in maximizing the use of current knowledge for wiser land-use decisions. But, by using collaboratively developed tools and strategies through a pGIS have enhanced stakeholders' mutual learning and adaptive capacity.

Constructing subjectivity and consuming forestry: securing resources and relations of Swedish forests in the bioeconomic era

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In Swedish forestry, the traditional manufacturing and productivity has peaked in relation both to the resource and shifting markets and demands, giving rise to the innovative promises of the bio-based and service economy. The main distinction between service and manufacturing labour processes lays in the introduction of the 'new' third party to the traditional employer-employee relationship that changes the theorising and practice of control. In forestry, this third party – the customer based on consumption and the private forest owner in relation to the resource. Given that more than half of the standing forest resource in Sweden is privately owned, the forest owners is a crucial third party group in the labour process. However, this group has become less homogenous over time, with changing ownership patterns, urbanization and less dependence on forestry – contributing to contest the governing practices and values of forestry through more diverse interest, management attitude and economic dependence connected to the forest. Today, this process challenges the sector to simultaneous empower and manipulate the group of forest owners to meet the industry's needs – pushing both the qualitative intensification and mobilization of labour and the role of marketing practices to create the "customer"/forest owner as an object that allows it to be governed.

[Can the social values of forests generate "new" goods and services that benefit private forest owners in a rural context?](#)

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Forests are considered central assets for sustainable rural development, and forestry is one example where production-, environmental-, and social goals should be handled simultaneously. Contradictions between development and conservation, between traditional and alternative forms of utilization thus represent dilemmas in rural areas. Swedish private forest owners are expected to both manage and preserve their forests for the benefit of the whole country. These tensions and interdependences between urban and rural areas, between demands on what to produce and protect, is dependent on the forest owner's preferences and views on opportunities of forest management. The aim of this article is to identify and analyze to what extent private forest owners perceive that social values have the ability to generate "new" goods and services as a supplement or alternative to traditional forestry; and accordingly how the forests should be managed to render high social values. 60 interviews are conducted with private forest owners in both urban and rural contexts to identify potential differences in perceptions depending on the context they are situated in. The study provide new insights on how the social values of forests can benefit the private forest owners as well as enhance sustainable rural development.

[Assessing resilience in small forest-dependent communities: Lessons from Canada's boreal region](#)

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This paper looks at the impacts of forestry development for small communities in the boreal regions of Canada. It is based on a literature review, created by an interdisciplinary team of researchers with expertise in forestry. The literature review looks at risk factors and conditions supporting resiliences in forest-dependent communities. A particular emphasis was placed on influence of global changes, such as climate change and globalization. It is structured around a social-ecological systems (SES) framework. Through a series of collaborative workshops, the team designed a common research framework, inspired by SES, including a series of socio-ecological variables, which allow for a comprehensive characterization of community resilience in a forest-dependent context. Special emphasis is placed on the case of Aboriginal communities in the boreal regions of Canada, who face specific challenges with regards to the conciliation of traditional cultures and land use practices, with forestry development.

Initiative of the "social forests" establishment in the Komi Republic (Russia) to support the traditional nature use of Komi people,

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The state in Russia is the only owner of the forests. According to a new Forest Code, introduced in 2007, the rules of forest use for business and local population were changed significantly. After 2007 the municipalities lost their rights regarding forest management around the settlements and in other forest areas important for local population. Forest for Komi people is not only the source of different products, but also the base of spiritual and cultural traditions. During 2003-2006 the public hearings procedures in forestry, methods of detection and conservation of the forests important for local people survival (mushrooms, berries and hunting sites, cultural and recreational areas) were developed and implemented in Komi Model Forest. These procedures are actively used in the forests rented by the companies – FSC- certificates holders. In other forests such "voluntary certification procedures" are not used. It excites conflicts between authorities, forest business and local population. Komi Model Forest proposed to create a special category of "social forests" to resolve such conflicts. The proposal was supported by the congress of the national association "Komi People", which has a right of legislative initiative. This initiative has been sent for approval to the Komi Parliament.

WG16, Social and economic innovations and development in the rural territories of the Arctic

Organizer

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The influence of traditional national values on the socialization of youth of the village

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According to official statistics, in 2015 in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), rural area is home to 95 500 young people aged from 15 to 34 years. Over the last three years the number of young people living in rural areas decreased by 11 900 people, that may be associated with the loss of traditional values in young people. Socialization of youth is relevant from the point of view of self-preservation of Northern indigenous peoples as ethnic groups and from the point of view of self- realization of a young man and his life plans. The changing values of society and of the individual in particular can be a problem for the life of the young man. Young people are the "conductors" of accumulated knowledge, values and social experience of the older generations. Decisive role is provided by successful socialization, influence of social institutions and various factors of socialization. Great attention must be paid to the observance of traditions, customs and culture of given people. The majority of young people do not consider it necessary to adhere to the traditions of their parents, grandmothers, grandfathers. There is a loss of values and commitment to the traditions of their ancestors, which can lead to the loss of their national identity. Socialization of the individual the more successful, the more it relies on values existing in a given society.

The environmental problems of the Arctic region in the context of sustainable development of indigenous people

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Specific national interests of Russia in the sustainable development in the Arctic cover its economy, ecology, social science and policy. Peculiarity of the accumulated environmental damage problem in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation unlike many industrialized countries is caused by industrial production based on very large enterprises. The transition to a market economy was accompanied by a decline in production, and resulted in a considerable number of unclaimed objects and abandoned polluted areas. The government did not have effective tools to evaluate and develop measures for liquidation of accumulated environmental damage, and currently builds strategic plans on the intensification of the exploitation of natural resources in the Arctic. However, the first results of the inventory and liquidation of accumulated environmental damage met critics of expert and scientific community. The strategy barely explores issues related to the indigenous peoples of the North living in the Russian Arctic. To support the sustainable development of the Arctic zone of Vorkuta the research center "Sustainable development of the North" at Syktyvkar State University conducts research on several areas: elimination of accumulated environmental damage, impact of environmental pollution on the health of indigenous people, assessment of the resource potential of traditional activities. The research objectives include projects development for the elimination of accumulated environmental damage, taking into account the interests of indigenous peoples living in Arctic zone - Vorkuta.

The Economic Impact of Hunting Reindeer in East Iceland

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The Icelandic reindeer are located in the rural areas of east Iceland. In 2014 a survey was performed amongst Icelandic hunters. The survey was done online and pertained to the year 2013. One of the emphasis was on monetary expenditure. The Keynesian multiplier and input-output model were used to estimate the economic impacts. The main findings are: using gross output on the one hand and disposable income on the other, that 243 mISK and 92 mISK respectively constitutes the economic impact in the hunting area. Hunters spent on average about 275,000 ISK in total on the hunt which yields about 331 mISK. Out of that amount about 131 mISK was for hunting licences and 72% of the amount was paid to landowners resident in the hunting area, or about 95 mISK. Total spending on other items relating to the hunt was about 229 mISK. It is estimated that reindeer hunting constituted the basis for about 27 jobs in East Iceland in 2013.

Young people in rural peripheries and changing welfare policies

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Presentation introduces a plan for a strategy of network for international research and development concerning living conditions and status of young people living in peripheries. These young people are strongly influenced by social changes that have impact on most spheres of living. Rapid technological development has remarkably changed working life and education. Opportunities in rural areas are not good, and not all young people want to move away from their home regions. Professionals in public services are not able to solve the problem, since there has been profound changes in welfare regimes in Europe, influenced by neo-liberal developments. It has meant endeavors for individual citizens to build up communities and to do volunteer work and therein to contribute to production of welfare services. Ideologically, the responsibility of maintaining well-being has been transferred from the states to civil societies. Within this regime the welfare policies have changed. Young people are expected to make choices in different markets of services. However, status of youth trying to deal with these requirements still lacks research. Strategy for international research and development would contribute to issues how these changes affect young people living in peripheries, where opportunities for personal choices are few.

The Role of Civil Society in Socio-Economic Crisis in Resource dependent communities in Northern Canada, Norway and Russia

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Towards a New Paradigm of Innovation in the Bioeconomy, ,

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In this paper, I outline two very different paradigms of innovation – the ‘old’ and the ‘new’. The ‘old’ is science-led and top-down. The new involves both science and local actors including but not only entrepreneurs and local authorities; it is bottom up and participatory, essentially a social learning process. I will argue (a) that the new paradigm is necessary to achieve a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable bioeconomy, and (b) that cases of the new innovation paradigm can be observed in the real world, many as ‘initiatives from below’. I will set the scene by discussing the nature of innovation, who it is for, what its normative premises are, and what they ought to be to meet the goals of sustainability and respect for human rights. I will also discuss the special features of the ‘bioeconomy’ that make the new paradigm particularly important in this rapidly growing field. I will end with a discussion of what the new paradigm looks like in practice, drawing on current research in the Nordic countries, and how it can be fostered and supported by public policies.

Features of formation of a manpower in northern territories

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Features of formation of a manpower in northern territories (on the example of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)) Priority of preservation of labor potential, experts consider, is visible in increase of a standard of living of the population, stability of a social and economic situation, improvement of migration policy today. Control of migratory outflow of the working-age population and if to look more widely, for cardinal demolition of a long-term tendency of decline in population, requires, first of all, development of production and system recovery of workplaces, providing the population of the labor income, sufficient for life, decrease in unemployment rate. Important task – increase of appeal of conditions of accommodation of the Far Easterners allowing to compensate adverse climatic factors. In this regard implementation of special programs of social and economic development, in particular, developments of social infrastructure of housing, the transport, medical care, education directed on increase of economic and social appeal of all Far East is required. In a question of a covering of deficiency of labor it is impossible to go way only of increase in labor migration and coercion of the population to work after approach of a retirement age. In today's conditions the republic remains the region with decent growth rates of economy and good investment plans.

The role and capacity of voluntary and non-profit sector groups in supporting sustainable community development: A case study of Kitimat, BC Canada

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Greg Halseth

Community-based voluntary and non-profit sector groups have long been part of the community development fabric of rural and small-town places. As the pace of globalization has increased, and as central governments have withdrawn policy and fiscal supports, small communities must depend more on these internal community development groups. Using the example of Kitimat BC, Canada, this paper examines the changing role of the voluntary and non-profit sector groups to better understand how policy and program supports can be restructured and deployed to enhance the capacity of these groups. The findings suggest that place-based supportive policies and programs are needed to establish smart social infrastructure; create synergies and collaborative approaches across organizations; streamline administrative and accountability procedures; stabilize daily operations; renew mandates, roles, policies, procedures, and tools; enhance business and community development expertise; build diversity, capacity, and support for volunteers; and develop better information management systems. By investing wisely and purposefully in the voluntary sector, communities can draw upon a broader range of assets for community development and renewal.

WG17, Large scale projects in small communities

Organizer

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Knowledge about rural municipalities work with industrial development and the local government reform in Norway

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Toril Ringholm

What knowledge do we have about small and medium sized rural municipalities' effort, strategy and success in industrial development, and how is this policy area challenged by the local government reform in Norway, invoking amalgamations? The Norwegian municipalities have a general responsibility to prepare for industrial development and economic growth. It gives local latitude, but increased economic pressure can make it hard to give priority to industrial development, as the legal impetus is weaker for these tasks than for the general service production. There is, however, a general knowledge that rural municipalities have for years, even decades, carried out successful work in the local industrial development area (Bukve 2011, Ringholm, Aarsæther, Nygaard and Selle 2009). The local framing, like the collaborative structures and priorities, may be challenged by the ongoing local government reform. Our question is what knowledge can be drawn from recent studies that can inform the amalgamation process with regard to local industrial development. This question is analysed on the bases of an extensive literary review, covering more than one hundred relevant research publications from the last ten years on Norwegian municipalities' engagement in local industrial and business development (Angell, Ringholm and Bro 2015). The review was carried out in order to detect similarities and differences between small and large municipalities, and in this paper we limit it to an analysis of the small and medium sized municipalities in particular.

Mining boom and bust: socio economic impacts on an Australian small town

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The coal seam gas (CSG) boom in Australia's Surat Basin started in the mid 2000s. Turning CSG in liquefied natural gas (LNG) for export resulted in expenditure of \$A40 billion (Euro30 billion) over the next 10 years. The main centre of Chinchilla saw its population grow from 4000 in 2006 to 7000 in 2011 as a result of a large influx of skilled mining workers. A bivariate labour market arose with those employed on CSG earning much higher salaries than locals employed in the traditional mainstays of agriculture or services. Many locals were not employed on CSG and their salaries were less than 50% of CSG employees. Rents and house prices tripled in 5 years squeezing out locals causing employment shortages for those non CSG businesses in town. Median house prices had tripled by 2012 to \$420,000. With the construction boom peaked the population has now fallen to 5500 with rents and housing prices falling sharply. The unbalancing of Chinchilla society is but one case study in Australia's mining boom and decline over the past 10 years. The remaining (local) people now have to deal with the negative impacts of the boom then bust with environmental and social damage being top of the list.

Megaprojects in eastern Iceland: An overview of demographic changes during operation period.

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In 2003, the US based multinational Alcoa and the Icelandic national power company Landsvirkjun began construction of the largest megaproject in Icelandic history. The project consisted of two main parts; Kárahnjúkar, a large hydro power station and Alcoa's Fjarðaál aluminium smelter. The region of east Iceland had been in a decline for a few decades. Residents and the government had high hopes for the project which they believed would turn around this development. During the period 2004-2010, RHA – University of Akureyri Research Centre monitored the socio-economic changes taking place in the impact area in eastern Iceland. That research mainly focused on the construction period which was to a large degree characterized by foreign contractors hiring foreign temporary workers. Short term demographic and economic changes were witnessed during the construction period, typical of booming regions. However the operation period commenced in 2007 with its longer term regional development impacts which are less researched. This presentation will focus on the demographic changes taking place in the communities of eastern Iceland since the beginning of operation period.

Rural protests and mining industry - one Finnish mine as an example

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Mining projects often cause various kinds of local protests which are usually connected to environmental, economic or social matters and risks. There is a need to ask why local communities protest against mining in different scales. In my presentation I will focus on preliminary results of one Finnish mining case. My research methodology is based on a combination of documentary analysis and qualitative field work. Interviews combined with the results of the analysis of other data will provide detailed information for developing the performance of protest groups/movements. I'm interested especially in small, local protest groups, which may not be so much in public. My interest is to find out how these groups are mobilized and why, who are the key actors and how these groups get their members, what are they aiming at and what kind of a results there has been, have these groups remained as local, or have they grown - why/why not? In what conditions a project becomes also a national issue? What kind of modes of protests and resistance can be found? How mining companies and other relevant stakeholders react to these groups? My analysis is based on actor-network approach and I will use it as a tool for interpretation of the data. ANT examines the complex composition of community networks and seeks to understand how they gain their strength and how they achieve their scope. It also makes it possible to give a detailed description of resistance and protest networks and their mobilization. It helps to interpret how various actors, both human and non-human, are bundled together and it shows how networks come together to act as a whole in various spaces. (Murdoch 2000.)

Strategizing the future of rural regions. Lessons from building and applying of the methodology for assessing rural potential

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This paper explores the process of strategizing the future of rural regions based on case study of rural region of Vidzeme in Latvia which took place between 2011 and 2014. Scenario building in post-crisis context was used to strategize possible development paths in conditions of uncertainties that rural regions are facing in context shrinking population dynamics and aging, reduction of public spending, environmental factors, technological development, transport and accessibility, renewable energy potential, transforming rural development models, social and cultural transformations, and governance. In this article we elaborate on four consecutive steps of strategizing the future of rural regions: (1) Benchmarking the Stakeholder Region in Broader Perspective (2) Assessment of the Regional Context and Stakeholder Perspective (3) Assessing the Region's Territorial Potential (4) Designing policy Options and Future Development Based on our insights as researchers in ESPON project "Potential of Rural Regions" as well as participants and consultants of the development planning process of case study region, we argue that under certain conditions, the methodologies for identifying rural potential and scenarios can be used as effective visioning tools to create and promote the agreement among various groups of the society about desirable and possible directions of development of rural territories.

WG19, Gender and rural development,

Organizer

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The gendered impact of tunnel construction in rural Iceland

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During the autumn of 2010 a new tunnels were opened in northern Iceland and connected two, small and remote, rural communities which had been facing steep population decline for decades. Instead of being separated by 232 km most of the year the inhabitants of Siglufjörður and Ólafsfjörður, now the united town of Fjallabyggð, are separated by only 15 km after the opening of the Hlíðinsfjörður-tunnels. The main aim of every transportation improvement is to be beneficial for the societies adjoined to the improved communication vein but researches have revealed that road building and tunnel construction can have different impact on women's and men's working and family life and sometimes strengthens gendered division of labour. This project purpose is to map the gendered impact on the emergence of the governmental construction of Hlíðinsfjarðar-tunnel on the lives of men and women in Fjallabyggð in regard to work, public services and division of household labor. The findings do reveal that both men and women are much more on the move after the opening of the tunnels than before but there are no signs of less equal division of household labor than before.

Adjusting masculinities and femininities. Gender perspectives on immigration in Iceland

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The aim of the project presented in this paper, is to contribute to an increased understanding of gender differences in values and attitudes among immigrants in Iceland. In recent years, Iceland has ranked high on various gender equality indexes. The important role of gender equality for the Icelandic society is reflected in the amount of research conducted in this field. However, the growing number of immigrants has received little attention in the research and within the gender debates. In recent years Iceland's foreign population has grown from 5700 in the year 1996 to 30 000 in the year 2014 (www.hagstofa.is). Many of the immigrants are from countries ranking low on the gender equality index. For example, the biggest immigrant community in Iceland, accounting for over 30%, is from Poland, which ranks 35th on the Gender Inequality Index provided by the United Nations Development Programme. We assume growing up and being socialized in a country ranking low on the Gender Inequality Index has an impact on the individual's perception and understanding of gender roles. By moving to Iceland many immigrants experience new understanding of gender relations and their understandings of gender roles may be challenged. The purpose of the study presented is to gain a better understanding of gendered perceptions of the immigrant population, by comparing them to the perceptions of local Icelandic population. In a survey, we will collect 1200 responses from Icelanders and 350 from immigrants from different countries in Akureyri, Dalvík and Húsavík. The data will help determine the factors affecting successful integration with regard to the acceptance of gender equality and/or to help define the potential barriers for foreign women and men to accept gender equality. In this presentation we will present the first findings of this research.

Gender negotiations in the process to move and stay in rural areas in the Netherlands

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Research into newcomers in rural areas often focuses on the motives for moving to the rural at the time of the move, or shortly after, by using the household as research unit. However, it can be expected that within households, partners negotiate during the decision making process. Events and strategies in household structure, occupational careers and housing careers for both men and women may influence the process. Moreover, after having moved to the rural, the way the newcomers experience rural life may actually determine their decisions to stay. These experiences, and the discussions towards staying, can be expected to be gender related as well. This paper discusses gender negotiations during the decision to move to the rural, and in daily life experiences and discussions to stay. We use data from 24 interviews among rural newcomers who moved into the Dutch countryside 5 to 10 years ago. We distinguish two life course stage related groups: family formation and retirement.

Grimsey's rural development: on gender equality, division of labor and possibilities for a community facing desertion

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During the last decades, primitive communities who still rely on traditional ways of working, have had to adjust to economic support and it is in that context that Grimsey's situation, is intriguing. Those men who still remain as a part of these smaller communities are strong and manly and those who still can and want to, labor in the traditional utilization of natural resources. This is quite evident in Grimsey, if a man can not or will not work in the fish industry, he has limited employment options. The main purpose of this study is to understand what vision the inhabitants of Grimsey have for the community; which aspects they believe are integral to the development of the community and if and how rural development programs consider women's part in the development. The researcher also wants to attain information about what the islanders consider a factor in the development or stagnation of the community as it looks today. Employment opportunities in Grimsey are few and very traditionally male-dominant so building a strong service economy, which is traditionally female-dominant could be immensely important.

Forest entrepreneurship in rural Sweden – a gendered matter?

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The establishment and development of many rural communities in northern Sweden is closely connected to the expansion of forest industry from 1860 to 1960. Wintertime, logging occupied most men in the region (Norrland), either as entrepreneurs or as hired lumberjacks. Since then, increased efficiency has reduced the need for labor to one tenth. Yet, forestry and accompanying processing industries and services are still considered essential for the survival of many rural communities. It may then seem something of a paradox that the forestry sector is concerned with the recruitment of forestry professional, i.e. operators, timber buyers, supervisors and managers. The gender imbalance in forest dependent rural areas has thus become an issue. Despite various attempts to improve the gender balance in the forestry sector by policy makers and the industry itself, the only segment where women have increased in number and share is in forest ownership. Based on previous studies on women enterprise in general and in forest related business in particular together with current data and statistics of financial support e.g. through the Rural Development Programme, this paper discusses the gendered dimensions of different strategies and programs aimed at creating opportunities for women's entrepreneurship in the forestry sector.

“From modern to backwards to modern again” - Gender equality and change in forestry in rural Sweden

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Historic ethnological research has shown how forestry in the first half of 20th century have functioned as a modernizing force in the northern parts of rural Sweden by providing forestry workers an opportunity to earn money and gain status independent of their social position in relation to owning land. However, despite ongoing professionalization and introduction of science and advanced technology in forestry operation and management, the industry is nowadays mostly seen as a backward and out-dated, particularly in relation to issues of gender. Based on the empirical material from two different R&D projects focusing on gender equality in forestry, this paper discusses this shift from “modern” to “backwards” and the heavily male dominated forestry industry’s ambition to once again become that modernizing force in rural areas of Sweden. Issues of gender equality and the ability to attract more women are understood as key in this ambition to be recognized as “modern” business as well as a vital part in the forestry industries in the transformation towards bio economy.

Women in Microfinance Institutions: Is there a Trade-Off between Outreach and Sustainability?

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The paper is about poverty, gender and financial & social performance in microfinance institutions (MFIs). The paper’s contribution to the understanding of microfinance is two-fold. First, while it has been shown that female CEOs in MFIs increase financial performance, it will be argued that female managers, female loan officers and female board members will do the same. Secondly, having previously shown that having a female presence in management in MFIs improves social performance the outreach, it will be argued that having females in the MFIs’ management will not lead to a trade-off between outreach and sustainability. These findings are based on an original data set of 226 MFIs. Statistical analysis demonstrates that a weak relationship between female managers and female loan officers vis-à-vis financial performance, but female board members do not. The trade-off between outreach and sustainability can be avoided with the appointment of females to the MFIs’ management positions, but the same cannot be concluded for female board members.

The Role of Irish Women in Innovative Agricultural Practices

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In recent times, the composition of rural areas has changed with new agricultural practices becoming more visible on farms throughout Ireland. This research comes at a time when the relevance of rural research is confronted by the global challenges of food security, energy security, and climate change; and within the Irish context, a difficult economic period where debates on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy are highly significant. In an increasingly globalised economy, the role and function of rural areas are progressively changing, bringing about transformative thinking in relation to rural sustainability and agriculture. This paper explores changes in the direction of farming practices and the revitalisation of the rural economy through practices such as farm diversification. A key element of this work focuses on the pioneering role that women play in this agricultural transition. Very often, the work of farming women goes unnoticed and unrecorded; however, this research employs a feminist perspective to gain a deeper understanding of the role of women in innovative agricultural and diversification practices at farm level, within an Irish context. The paper will highlight the pioneering role of women in farm diversification, in addition to the barriers faced by such women in their attempts to innovate at farm level.

WG20, Rural ageing

Organizer

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Innovations in service provisions: opportunities and challenges associated with rural demographic ageing

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Across Europe national populations are ageing. Demographic ageing is most pronounced in remote rural areas; they already have the highest proportions of older people and this geographical pattern is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Popular and political discourses routinely present increasing numbers of older people as problematic but research has shown that older people can make considerable contributions to society and should be involved in debates surrounding service delivery changes. In this paper we present examples of innovative solutions to service delivery challenges associated with the complex interplay between demographic ageing, rurality and the delivery of health and social care services to dispersed populations. Through reference to recently completed research* we challenge 'fixed' notions of rural places being spaces within which service delivery remains stagnant. We explore opportunities and challenges of new models of service provision within and for rural communities, highlighting the role of local stakeholders - including older people – in service redesign processes. Our findings, while based on the Scottish context, offer insights into how health service delivery changes associated with demographic ageing may be designed and deployed effectively in other remote rural contexts.

Rural transformation and ageing – Swedish experiences

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Sweden consists today of 290 towns and municipalities (LAU2) and 73 LAU1 regions (functional local labour markets). There are signs that the result of these 'regional enlargement' processes during the past decades, has been to loosen up the division between urban and rural areas and municipalities. While these processes of rural gentrification and the emergence of the new intra-regional duality based on changed demographic structures have been particularly prevalent in transforming rural areas in the neighbourhood of big cities and metropolitan centres with in-migration of younger and middle-aged people, remote rural areas have experienced contrasting development paths with accentuated ageing and demographic polarization as one result. These divergent demographic processes are analysed based on the development between 1970 and 2014 in differing Swedish urban-rural regions including all municipalities. The general ageing process is one central ingredient and the migratory movements another. Concerning the latter factor it must be kept in mind that the migrants are in different ages that mean that various cohorts and their size have differing impact on both migration and urban-rural ageing. This indicates also that there are urban-rural as well as north-south divides in Sweden concerning ageing and demographic structure and ageing.

Voluntary work by and for rural elderly

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The voluntary sector in rural areas, include organisations that give care or support to frail elderly. These associations contribute to the daily lives of a large part of the rural population. Through care giving activities, a space and age bounded community is emphasised. Volunteers are usually retired and share the experiences of being part of an elderly population with the care receivers. The voluntary organisations are anchored in a local community. Physical proximity between elderly and volunteers as well as collectively created memories are described as of importance in the relation between the involved parts. Also the volunteers stress that they want to be part of a vivid local infrastructure through their engagement, as well as a wish to have a meaningful life. The activities in these organisations can therefore be seen as something that gives meaning to both elderly and voluntary care givers. In this sense, care giving is important not only as a service to frail elderly. Further knowledge about voluntary organisations is desirable in order to understand how high age forms relations in the rural.

The rural municipality and the elderly: (an) interdependence?

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The ageing population will change the conditions for Swedish municipalities. The need for care will increase but it is also an opportunity to see elderly as a resource. In this project we are interested in the interdependence between the municipality, as providers of welfare, and the elderly as contributing to the local community in associations, activities and voluntary work. That elderly people can remain active and in good health is of crucial importance in order to be able to contribute and be a resource to the community. Another focus is how the local ties of kinship change. Migration of young people from rural to urban areas might impact ways of contact with elderly parents and how care is performed. The paper is based on a case study using dialog seminars with older people engaged in the community, politicians and representatives of the municipality, individual interviews and statistics. Results indicate local variations of engagement in the community. For example in what ways elderly are active might be influenced by the local context such as strong local industry or an active church. It is also highlighted that absence of children living near affect elderly practices of care and activities in civil society.

Older people as volunteers

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The growing proportion of older people might be a challenge for the Norwegian welfare system with regard to services and public expenses, and the role of voluntary work within welfare might be increasingly important. Older people are often considered as service receivers. They are, however, also seen as an important resource through their skills, experiences and willingness to participate in voluntary work, and recruiting campaigns in Norway are inviting retired to become volunteers. The contribution of older as voluntary workers is the focus in this paper. It explores older people's participation in voluntary work, what individual characteristics associate with participation and to what degree belonging and embeddedness in place of living is important for involvement in voluntary work. Another question we raise is whether older people living in rural communities are more engaged in voluntary work compared with older people living in urban areas. This paper draw upon data from a survey of a representative sample of the Norwegian population carried out in 2013, and qualitative data from interviews with leaders of voluntary organizations and voluntary workers conducted in six rural municipalities in Norway in 2015.

WG21, Health care and welfare in rural areas

Organizers

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Chronic pain and rural/urban residence

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Rural residents have been reported to be more likely to have poorer health than urban residents. However, there is conflicting evidence regarding the relationship between rural/urban residence and chronic pain as well as chronic pain related health care utilization. A postal questionnaire measuring socio-demographic variables, pain characteristics, HRQoL and pain related health care utilization, was sent to a sample of 4500 individuals randomly drawn from the national population of Iceland. To secure a proportional sample of people from all regions of the country, the sample was stratified in relation to residence. The prevalence of chronic pain among respondents was 47.5%. Among participants reporting chronic pain, 53.2% had consulted a health care provider for pain during the previous six months. There was not a significant difference between rural and urban residence regarding prevalence of chronic pain and pain related health care utilization. However, there was a difference between different regions of the country regarding both prevalence of chronic pain as well as pain related health care utilization. These results will be explained further and discussed in this presentation.

Residential differences in access to primary and specialist medical care

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Studies frequently find residential differences in access to health care. Observed differences are typically explained by reference to the way health services are organized. The current study of the adult population in Iceland focuses on residential differences in access to primary and specialist medical services. Methods: The study is based on a health survey of 1599 Icelandic adults, age 18-75, who answered a questionnaire via mail or internet comprising numerous questions concerning health and illness, health behaviors, beliefs, social relationships, and health services utilization. Response rate was around 60%. Results: The study found that when compared to Reykjavik area residents, countryside residents used more primary medical services, but less specialist services. These differences remained, even when medical conditions and self-assessed health were controlled. The organization of health care appears to largely explain the observed differences, although other explanations are also plausible. Discussion: Equal access to health care irrespective of residential or other sociodemographic characteristics is a central health policy goal. Observed residential differences in access to health care present an important health policy challenge. The study indicates that primary medical services need to be strengthened in the Reykjavik metropolitan area, and access to specialist services in the countryside improved. Ways to do that are finally discussed.

Sustainable Inclusion by Community Politics

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Inclusion politics of adults in all of Scandinavia are dominated by an individualist approach. But community based integration taking departure in certain type social institutions, give documentation to a more sustainable inclusion: strong wellbeing of their citizens and innovation capacity for organizational outreach. Many social institutions for disabled are often located in rural areas, as in DK, where early modern forms of social cohesion and welfare service in some communities are well capable of establishing membranes of meetings and practices between disabled and non. By action research with front cases of social institutions for functionally disabled citizens, we have studied institutional communities and their surrounding, rural communities ; interviews with users, professional, leaders and neighbors– as well as reconstructing organizational history. We did a review of Danish, Swedish and inclusion efforts of functionally disabled adults. We have identified 5 variations in inclusion by community shaping: The village; the farm; the housing area; the service unit in community, and the reverse inclusion. We discuss the socio-pedagogical and organizational practices used, that may serve as a strong precondition for further inclusion strategies. A new method is developed: Sustainable Inclusion by Community Shaping.

User Participation and Upgrading Municipal Housing in Partnership with Secondary Schools, ,

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In Overhalla, North Trøndelag, Norway, two small housing units are being upgraded to passive-house standard by Secondary School pupils in collaboration with the local Municipality. The houses will be homes for multi-handicapped members of the community. There is an increasing need for the upgrading of social housing in Norwegian municipalities. Houses are suffering from wear and tear, they need to be adapted according to current universal design and energy efficiency standards, and meet the needs of today's residents. Small rural municipalities require affordable solutions that ensure good housing quality and support the requirements of residents who have, for various reasons, difficulties in gaining access to the housing market. The paper presents a collaborative process where pupils from Health Care studies at Namsos Secondary School, took part in a user participation process in Overhalla. A project aim is to provide pupils with knowledge about how the physical environment can affect a user's everyday life and their own work in the health care sector. The paper will consider how successful the project was in achieving this aim. These actions take place within a systemic framework which also considers the demands of the housing upgrade, including universal design, passive-house standards, the needs of the building studies pupils and the social dynamics found in a small rural community.

Users' perspectives from rural Iceland: Health care in an age of austerity

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The aim of the study was to examine changes in attitudes of the population in Fjallabyggð towards access to healthcare service, diversity and quality of it, in an age of austerity, which the restructuring after the economic collapse of 2008 demanded, and the tunnel in Hlíðinsfjörður made possible. We used a mixed method with a transformational design. First, data were collected by questionnaires in (response rate of 53% in 2009 and 30% 2012), followed by ten interviews (2009 and 2014). The results were integrated and interpreted within the ecological model of Bronfenbrenner relating to the interactions between the individual and the environment. Findings show significantly less satisfaction with the availability and diversity of healthcare service in 2012 after the tunnel and downsizing. Solid primary healthcare, good local elderly care, some freedom in health care choice and reliable emergency services were considered fundamental for life in a rural area. The results indicate that improved transportation infrastructure contributed positively to the development of healthcare service and enhanced equality and human rights. The financial cutbacks to health institutes, had however, a negative impact on attitudes.

Should women go to capital areas to give birth?

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The experience of childbirth is an important life experience for women who have given birth. Women sometimes describe it as an ambivalent, bitter-sweet and transcendent experience, and it has an impact on maternal self-efficacy. It changes life forever in a process that is renewed with every child that the woman gives birth to, and extends far beyond the specific experience of birth. In this presentation, choice regarding places of birth, and different opportunities for women living in rural areas, will be explored. Also women's experience of pain, especially during the time of travelling, will be discussed. Giving birth to a child is for many women the most physically painful experience of their lives, and travelling a long way to a place to give birth seems not to be the number one choice during painful birth. It is noteworthy that some evidence indicates that a traumatic birth experience has a long-lasting effect on the woman's health, well-being and the relationship with the baby. Studying the experience of women living in rural areas seemed therefore to be important according to some studies.

The Identification of vulnerable elders living in a rural region in Iceland

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The purpose of the study was to explore what proportion of community-dwelling in one rural area in Iceland, was vulnerable or at increased risk for health deterioration or death and what services the group received, either by provision of health care and social services or through family support. Methods: The sample consisted of 100 elderly (>75 years old) living independently in one rural area in Iceland. A response rate of 87% was yielded. Of the respondents 84% were 75-84 years old and 18% were 64-74 years old. Data was collected through telephone by administration of the VES-13 (Vulnerable Elderly Survey) and a service survey. Data was analysed by SPSS and Excel. Results: 54% of group received ≥ 3 points on the VES-13 scale posing them at 4.2 times more risk of death or functional decline over a 2 year period compared to those who received < 3 points on the scale. Home nursing, social services and family support increased proportionally when $\geq 5-7$ points on the VES-13 scale was reached. Conclusion: The results suggest that VES-13 is an efficient tool for identifying vulnerable elders in rural areas whose needs for health care and social services are potentially unmet.

Social planning in Nuuk (Greenland) through intersectional cooperation – increasing the welfare of a marginalized minority – a rural/ arctic case

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During 2015 and throughout 2016 a social and health research project is looking to increase public intersectional communication in order to increase the welfare of a small but heavily marginalized population in Nuuk, Greenland. It is a case oriented project named COTBI (Community Oriented Tuberculosis Intervention). Its aim is to decrease the high level of urbanites in Nuuk who suffer from TB and other illnesses and who have a hard time addressing the health and welfare system. Through fieldwork, interviews and focus groups within the environment, a Salvation Army cafe, the national hospital, and the municipality we have gathered data, which calls for further intersectional cooperation. We have set up an experiment, where a community health care worker is assigned to bridge communication between the marginalized population and the system. From a social science standpoint the concepts of arctic and rural have a lot of overlaps such as: The professionals are often required to be generalists; people have a small network and there is an everyday closeness between the professional and private spheres. Challenges in a project like this will be to reinvent new perspectives on intersectional work and do empowerment oriented social planning.

Development and evaluation of telehealth methods in early intervention with rural families

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Shahla Ala'í-Rosales, University of North Texas, United states

This paper describes the development and effects of caregiver training via telecommunication with rural Icelandic families of children with autism. Evidence in the research literature regarding the effectiveness behavioral consultation via telehealth is very limited. Five families participated in the training based on methods of applied behavior analysis where the caregivers were taught methods to increase their children's socio-communication skills. The teaching skills of each caregiver and their child's outcomes were evaluated via single-subject experimental design. Qualitative data were also collected on the training process and parents' experiences. The results show measurable progress for the caregivers and children across all skill areas. The caregivers valued the increased access to evidence-based intervention and expertise, however challenges with technical equipment existed with all families. The results will be discussed in the context of technological benefits and difficulties during data based behavioral consulting and access to evidence-based methods for families living in Iceland and other rural areas in the world.

Vulnerable youth, health promotion and planning in times of recession? Conditions and challenges for mental health initiatives in peripheral areas of Denmark

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This paper provides preliminary insights into an ongoing research project focused on vulnerable youth (and families) and mental health initiatives in two peripheral islands of Denmark (Lolland and Falster). The project is grounded in a multilevel perspective on strategic health promotion planning and address how the local municipalities try to make plans for better mental health in times of recession. This involves analytical perspectives on the work done from the strategic, bureaucratic level to the welfare professionals' practices and experiences in the front line. The Islands are struggling with a concentration of (mental) health problems and has experienced a marked population decrease in recent years. One of the central drivers of development has been, that resourceful citizens leaves the islands and the less well of (the relatively seen immobile) stays. This creates the fundament for municipal cutbacks, puts pressure on the provision of local welfare state services and paves way for discussions about strategic health promotion planning and highlights the challenge of 'place' as a specific social determinant of health promotion in the periphery.

Community Health Planning in rural areas in Denmark

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Rural areas often struggles with lower economic income, lower levels of education, employment, and poorer access to health services. These challenges also provide opportunities for development based on joint initiatives and action. Health is a broad notion, affected by a wide range of individual characteristics, behaviors and contextual factors. Those contextual factors that fall within social, economic and environmental factors are referred to as the social determinates to health (WHO Ottawa Charter: 1986). Internationally, there seems to be an agreement upon a community health perspective as a driving force, in the search for healthy and resilient future. However, there seems to be a discrepancy between theory/policy and practice. This presentation elaborates a community health-planning model, and a theoretical conceptualization of social health, both based on the idea that local, national and international knowledge, processes and practices in an interactive collaboration with interdisciplinary research can create social innovation and resilient environments in rural areas. The presentation is based in two Danish community health studies and aims at contribute with new knowledge and capacity building in societal health promotion by linking research with the practice field of health promotion, and with local resources as well.

Health Care in Rural Iceland: Organisation and elderly people

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The proportion of people ≥ 65 years is growing and 12.8% of all Icelandic residents are ≥ 65 years. However, there is a difference between urban and rural places, where higher proportion of rural residents are ≥ 65 years. Studies have shown that residents in rural areas in Iceland have less education, lower income, more health problems or diagnosed diseases and higher rate on the geriatric depression scale compared to urban residents. Results from a cross-sectional, population-based study, comparing health status and medication use of elderly people living in urban and rural areas in Iceland will be presented. In addition, an overview of the health care system in Iceland will be given with a special emphasis on health care in rural areas.

WG22, From drain to gain: Investigating the multi-local and relational rural

Organizers

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Multi-locality and relationality: bricks to a new rural development paradigm?

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Several decades of structural changes have centred economic development in urban areas and caused increased rural-urban migration. In Nordic countries, the rural challenges created by emigration have mainly been viewed as a cause of resource loss. Stimulation of 'Placed-based resources' has, in resonance with the OECD 'new rural paradigm' been the local political response to rural areas downfall. However, we argue that resources located beyond the place of origin similarly have a developmental potential for rural areas because they are circulated, returned and remitted by immigrants with continuous connections to their origin. The migration-generated "reach" of a place, has heretofore been somewhat neglected in political and scholarly debates about rural development in a west European context. We address this particular knowledge gap by proposing a people-, connection- and resource-oriented approach to rural development. Inspired from a resource-oriented focus in developmental migration studies in the Global South, this proposal emphasises the potential of the trans- and multilocal lifestyles that characterizes the life of an increasing number of especially young people. It stresses the potential for rural development of the connections and reciprocal relations created by increased mobility and longer as well as shorter visits.

From guilt to engagement: Young out-migrants as a resource

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This paper applies a resource-oriented approach focusing on human relations not just within rural areas, but between them and other areas through the people that live in, visit and leave each area. The paper explores the degree to which the connections and engagement by young people to the place they grew up can be seen as a resource, and how they can be strengthened? It also examines how these ties are formed and maintained, and their influence on local development through social remittances. The approach is inspired by existing research regarding 'new Nordic ruralities', migration studies in the global south as well as concepts of multiple-local connections, ties and homes. Taking the island of Bornholm, Denmark, as a case, we explore the connections that people have to the island, and to external resources, networks, competences, knowledge and wealth. It focuses on young generations, which are the most mobile group of the population. It concludes that emigrants should be viewed as valuable resources for the area they move away from, via networks, skills and knowledge that are and often used creatively to help development in their place of origin.

Where the spark is lit: Cultural capital in small communities

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Drawing from data collected as a part of the research Where the Island heart beats, conducted in connection with emigrants and cultural events in Vesterålen Norway, East Iceland, Bornholm Denmark and Suðuroy Faroe Islands, the focus here is on the concept of cultural capital. A concept without an undebatable definition, intangible in many ways, cultural capital reveals both an atmosphere and actual events. Some attempts have been made in order to define cultural capital and measure and using those research as a reference point, a questionnaire was built and sent out to inhabitants in three peripheral areas in Norway, Iceland and Faroe Islands. The results indicated that areas scoring higher on a scale measuring cultural habitus were related to higher cultural participation, and those communities scoring higher than others were communities large cultural events took place in. In context with other data from on-site research and results from interviews with emigrants in the Island Heart study, it can be argued that communities that encourage and build an atmosphere for cultural participation are more likely to foster strong ties among their emigrants.

Social Innovation, Community and Planning

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Societies of the north face still more complex challenges due to globalisation, neo-liberal forces and high mobility of people and technologies. Changes in life styles, in production systems and in cultural values creates fragmentation and marginal positions in urban as well as in rural areas. Despite asymmetric power relations, these challenges also provide new opportunities for local and regional development based on joint initiatives and action. The network "Social innovation, planning and community studies" (SIPLACS) is a Nordic partnership of researchers and research institutions in social studies and planning with a strong emphasis on concrete empirical studies at the local and regional levels. The network consists of researchers in the fields of action research, empowerment and governance, and with empirical experiences from - among others - health, innovation, planning and local government. A key feature of the network is that it brings together researchers from studies of larger urban contexts with researchers on small scale rural contexts, i.e. the Nordic and Arctic centres and peripheries. The overall aim of this network is to ask: what can large scale and small scale researchers in social innovation, planning and community studies learn from each other and develop together with respect to higher education?

WG23, Rural development and the transition to the bioeconomy

Organizers

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Understanding, practicing and justifying bioenergy in rural Norway

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Bioenergy is generally understood as an important part of the transition from fossil fuel economy to bioeconomy. Our paper concerns the development of bioenergy in rural Norway. The methodological approach is comparative case study, based on interviews and documents. Our research question is: How is bioenergy in rural Norway understood, practiced and justified by different actors and what are the implications for rural bioenergy development? Our analytical approach is inspired by Grounded theory and relates to earlier contributions on bioenergy, Practice theory and Theory on justification. We address economic, social policy, institutional governance and environmental issues. The intention is to develop a typology of how bioenergy is understood, practiced and justified in Norway. Our preliminary conclusion is that there are great variations in how different actors understand, practice and justify bioenergy in rural Norway. The implications of this can be understood as strength for local actors and their ability to adapt to this 'new' way of thinking, practicing and justifying energy. The differences could partly be explained by lack of active national bioenergy policy and be a challenge for policy makers and technological entrepreneurs aiming for uniform policies and technologies.

Agriculture and bio based economy a driver of rural transformation and livelihood?

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The structures of rural communities are formed by the past development of agriculture. Industrialized agriculture does not need rural communities anymore, and are some cases even in conflict with the rural communities. The profits made by of agricultural activities have increasingly been moved from rural to urban areas. Some sees rural development completely decoupled from agriculture; other sees bio economy as a potential revitalization of rural livelihood. This paper addresses the question under which condition agriculture and bio based economy can be a driver for revitalization for rural livelihood. This analysis is drawing on a range of different case studies of agricultural activities that have made a difference to the mainstream development. The main findings from these analyses are that these cases focus on: transparency and non-generic products that links producers and consumers; synergies between different economic activities, rooted on the local social, cultural, natural and economical context; organizational forms and partnership between local stakeholders that supports long-term development, as precondition for breaking with the industrial production logic. In conclusion bio based economy will only contribute to revitalization of rural livelihood if embedded in these activities.

Enacting bioeconomy - creating paths to sustainable transition or re-clothing the emperor?

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Research concentrating on sustainability transitions - including notions on bioeconomy - has been on the rise throughout the 2000's. There has also been criticism to this approach, especially on the disregarding of agency and not taking into account the bottom-up dynamics of change. The application of bioeconomy as a political buzz-word has been criticized of offering a top-down technical solution and holding properties that might endanger the sustainable use natural of resources. However, due to the ambiguousness of the concept, bioeconomy possess interpretative flexibility utilizable by the diverse actors. The core of bioeconomy in Finland is the abundance of forests. Alongside political discourses, the bioeconomy objectives are also supported by forest industry, who are starting to invest into new facilities now labelled as biorefineries or bioproduct mills. Networks of small and medium enterprises clustered around the main actors are hoped to develop into new kinds of bioeconomy ecosystems that would boost innovation and new ways to utilize wood. By studying rural SMEs in the formation of a specific bioeconomy ecosystem in Finland, I scrutinize how the interplay of public and private initiatives affect the dynamics of a bioeconomy ecosystem and does the concept itself spur or hinder the sustainability transition?

Towards Inclusive Innovation Praxis in Forest-based Bioenergy

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In this paper we describe some identified grounded innovation platforms (GRIPs) and analyse how the GRIP perspective can be used to understand inclusive innovation in forest-based bioenergy in the Nordics. We use cases studied in the TRIBORN project. We review the notion of GRIPs, classify the cases while discussing when is a GRIP not a GRIP, and analysing forms and dynamics of GRIPs. The project's starting hypothesis is that the forms of GRIP affects the outcomes, assessed in terms of the 'triple bottom line' of sustainable development and issues of human rights around food, water, shelter and energy. We discuss the relationship between our findings and inclusive innovation. Many rural communities in the North are facing economic instability and disadvantages. However the North is unique having a surplus of primary resources becoming important in the transformation from a fossil-based to a biobased society. Our cases show how rural communities have managed to add value to biological raw material; offering scope for enterprises, employment and livelihoods. This has been enabled by inclusive and locally grounded innovation processes with involvement of different actors like bio-mass owners, entrepreneurs and knowledge institutions, local authorities and citizens to ensure legitimization and local policy facilitation.

Bioeconomy as the growth engine for Jämtland and Västernorrland counties in Sweden

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This paper contributes to the discussion on bioeconomy implications for regional development. It gives an overview of how the development of bioeconomy can be promoted in different settings, based on the empirical case study on bioeconomy in Jämtland and Västernorrland counties of Sweden. Jämtland and Västernorrland are predominantly rural and sparsely populated counties with a strong tradition in forest based industries. These counties have gone a long way in transition to bioeconomy which is primary based on forest resources. The case study area includes a well-known success story of bioeconomic development based on a biorefinery cluster in Örnsköldsvik. The study looks at the contribution of bioeconomy to the economic growth through business expansion, employment and security of energy supply. It also studies the local societal impacts of bioeconomy development, as well as the main enabling and impeding factors to bioeconomy expansion in these counties, including the institutional setting, the role played by different actors, the local embeddedness of the bioeconomy and other factors. Some reflections on future opportunities and challenges in the field of bioeconomy derived from the empirical studies are also presented.

Success stories of sustainable and smart in peripheral regions

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The presentation concentrates on the symbolic governance of sustainability in peripheral regions. The growing quest for the green development produces ideas, agendas, visions and action, reports and planning. In these visions one central way to concretize the development ideas, are the success stories which reduces the ideas of development activities in agendas and project planning -these stories are representations and symbolic sources of dominant ideal development. Earlier parallel stories were used in promoting and launching information society development, which was also seen as a promise and opportunity at remote areas. The study concentrates on the sustainability transition in northern peripheral regions, Northern sparsely populated areas, NSPA. All these regions are "exceptional" with rich natural resources, long distances, sparse population, tradition to nature-orientation and peripheral mentality. The ethnographic study analyzes the stories which are included in this agendas and visions of the NSPA area, which launch the green development. What is the ecological thinking in cultural marginality? How sustainability and smart confront the tradition of nature-orientation? Are the success stories creating symbolic governance of green growth?

Green Farming Perspectives for Sustainable Bioeconomy of Georgia

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Association for Farmers Rights Defence, AFRD established in 1999, is a non-profit, democratic organization dedicated to stimulating agricultural economic growth and policy reform in the Georgia's transitional economy. AFRD demonstrated capability and experience to successfully plan implement, monitor development and agribusiness partnership programs in Rural Areas of Georgia, with close cooperation with local and International organizations. AFRD's advocacy policy for development farmers and farming movements comprises several components: Holding training courses and educational seminars in different regions of Georgia for Organic Farming, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Renewable energy projects. Genes Bank for Plants Germplasm collection, Giving juridical consultations to farmers, defending their rights, Drafting legislation, Lobbying, Rise of public awareness and broaden support, Supporting Rural and Ecotourism in Rural Areas of Georgia. For sharing of high experience develops young farmers and students training and educational programs in EU and US, Support of SME, Rural and Urban Youth Employment.

Local value chains, environmental and financial sustainability: is there a double dividend? Case studies of business models of local wool manufacturers in Norway

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Environmental sustainability is becoming increasingly important among consumers and producers. One approach to achieve environmental sustainability for producers is to focus on local production in value chains and business models. Wool is a resource that is abundant in the Nordic countries, is produced in a relatively environmentally friendly way, and is currently experiencing increased demand. Yet, it is not used to its full potential. Notwithstanding these aspects, we assume that there is potential for a double-dividend – that entrepreneurs focusing on local wool can both contribute to making the fashion sector more environmentally sustainable, stimulate local economies and ensure their future survival. To explore these aspects, we rely on qualitative, phenomenological data from a number of small business entrepreneurs within the wool industry in Norway in order to understand what role sustainability plays in their business model. As well as what are the effects, challenges and outcomes of focusing on local value chains and how it affects current and future sustainability.

WG25, Closing the marine commons as a tool of resource governance: Inevitable developments and alternative solutions

Organizer

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Job satisfaction in Icelandic small-boat fisheries

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Iceland's nationwide privatized Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) fisheries management system is over thirty years old but remains a topic of public and political debate, particularly because of the continued effects on small-scale fisheries and communities. This paper uses the framework of job satisfaction and its related metrics to explore attitudes and experiences of small-boat fishermen. A random mailed survey was collected from 164 small-boat fishermen who participated in varying ITQ and non-ITQ fisheries. All fishermen regardless of quota ownership or ITQ fishery participation agreed that fishing represented more than “just a job,” however, older fishermen tended to agree very strongly to this statement. Respondents who reported being happy with their fishing job less often were also less likely to advise a young person to enter fisheries. Those individuals who participated in non-ITQ fisheries reported higher levels of pride in their occupation as a fisherman, and those that did not own quota reported lower levels of satisfaction in self-actualization metrics. Results from this job-satisfaction survey build on scholarship exploring the ways that privatized fisheries management differentially affects new entrants to fisheries, impacts human rights issues such as the right to work, and deepens existing or creates new social divides as concepts surrounding pride and hard work in the occupation of fishing are redefined.

Enclosure and “pots” in marine resource management systems: Icelandic experiences

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This presentation will focus on the main results of my PhD comparative study of seven Icelandic coastal communities (2005/2006 and 2010). We analyzed the Individual Transferable System (ITQ) effects on fishing practices and fishermen strategies (1), local economies (2), and marine resource management policies and discourse at large on a national level (3): one centralized enclosure system/multiple local effects. Part of my PhD field researches was devoted to the study of the development and flourishing in a critical context of that specific kind of “small-boat” fishing in coastal communities that have been politically awarded in the beginning of the 2000’s with the implementation of the so-called Kríkkaflamarskerfið within the ITQ system in the early 2000’s: a down-top powerful effect leading to a new version of longline fishing. In that presentation we intend to show that ITQ have both local cyclical effects on a year-round basis and long-term multiple local, regional and national effects those successive governments intend to repair in an endless re-allocation policies “bricolage”. The conclusion of this article will be devoted to what has happened to small boat owners especially after the financial crash in 2008.

Existential Fisheries Dependence: Remaining on the Map through Fishing, ,

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Based on six qualitative case communities in Northern Jutland, Denmark and New England, USA, I explored facets of fisheries dependence. The comparative cases revealed struggles for communities to retain access under enclosure, but two cases especially recognized its threat. Lacking alternatives due to the geographic and infrastructural isolation, the two communities exemplified existential fisheries dependence, indicating that they would not be on the map, so to speak, without fishing to sustain them. This precarious position likely compelled many in the communities to act and preserve the fishing industry and culture. Nonetheless, the two cases diverged in their approaches to the maintenance of community access to fishing. The Northern Jutland case took a collective approach maintaining access to fisheries for its locals and pooled its resources to accommodate the transition to ITQs in Denmark. In New England, explicit cooperation within the fishery did not exist, but residents and fishing families emphasized the connections and support they gained from fellow community members. Notably these two cases stood apart from other cases in the study because of participation of young people in the fishing industry. Thus, the two cases revealed how mechanisms enabled young people to enter the fishery under enclosure.

Territoriality, Scale and Power: Local responses to system changes in Swedish Fishery Management

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Global fisheries are considered to be in deep crisis and one proposed way to solve these challenges is to introduce Transferrable Fishing Concessions (TFC). TFC means that the right to fish becomes a commodity tradable on the market. Being a market-based management system it is seen by its critics as a system favouring large scale fishery while threatening small scale fishery and the survival of coastal communities. In Sweden TFC has so far been introduced to the pelagic segment of fishery. Through the concepts of territoriality, scale and power this paper discusses local actors' (fishermen, politicians and civil servants) practices and discourses. A Swedish municipality serves as a case study and particular focus is directed towards the stakeholders' efforts to maintain local-based fishery in the face of political and structural change. Here it is argued that there is a need for an increased focus on the social dimensions of managing natural resources, such as resource allocation and societal benefits. The social dimension is today challenged and eclipsed by a strong economic and environmental discourse developed in an era characterized by political consensus and post-politics.

Resisting the inevitable collapse? - Recovery and adaptation of marginal Saami fisheries communities

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Fisheries dependent communities in the Arctic region face major challenges adapting and responding to climate driven changes, manifested on the local scale as social-ecological changes. On a local scale, communities and households continually adapt and respond to changing natural conditions as well as to changes in governance frameworks. In case of degradation of the marine environment and decline of coastal settlements, a social- ecological system may at a certain point pass a critical threshold, a tipping point, where the system irreversibly enters a different state. By examining the recent social-ecological history of two coastal communities in Finnmark, North Norway and their coping with seal and king crab invasions, collapse in local fish stocks and restrictive resource regimes; the paper explores how the concepts of resilience, adaptive capacity and tipping points can be applied as analytical tools in empirical studies of community response to social-ecological change.

Stories of resistance. A study of mobilizing place narratives in a countercurrent fishing village

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Under steep mountains, facing the open sea further out at Andøya, northern Norway, we find the fishing village Bleik. Contrary to most coastal communities, Bleik experiences growth; people struggle over housing sites and the school has a waiting list. The village has strong traditions of voluntary work and numerous local groups create a variety of activities. Being 'Bleik Indians', 'the savages behind the mountains', has been turned from stigma to pride. This paper explores how the fishing village faces the continuous threats of downscaling and closedowns through stories of resistance. Bleik has a vital tradition of storytelling. When the municipalities close the school or the fish plant is shut down, old stories are reactivated in new processes of mobilization. Through a narrative approach to local development, we aim at examining the mobilizing powers of place narratives. The study from Bleik tells stories of a vital, countercurrent fishing village. But also of the drama coastal communities are facing.

'What is the societal role of Greenlandic fisheries? Greenlandic public opinion on quota management and identity'

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In Greenland, major reforms in fishing right were initiated and implemented from 2009 to 2013 including a closure of new access to and an expansion of the ITQ governance paradigm into the coastal Greenland halibut fishery. But since a government change in 2013, some back-pedaling of the reform has been observed. In the context of a highly changeable natural, socio-cultural and political environment, a national survey is currently (Januar 2016) conducted among the Greenlandic public asking their opinion on the “societal role of the Greenlandic fisheries”. The survey focus on the questions of how to value and balance competing societal goals in the design of fishing right allocations – with special emphasis on examining connections between changing notions of “Greenlandic” identity on the one hand and the economic prioritization of local, regional and national economies. The preliminary results of the survey will be presented and discussed.

Hooked on markets: coastal fisheries in the culture of liberal rural capitalism

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Natural resource-based economies are typically embedded in rural networks of production. In recent years, however, the privatisation of access rights and the organisation of markets have transformed some of these rural economies significantly. By using the case of the Icelandic coastal fisheries, this study shows on the one hand how property-rights based management regimes and markets have reconfigured production networks by disentangling fishermen from their community ties, leading to increasing investments and technological development in the industry. On the other hand, the case shows how this development has re-entangled fishermen into a web of money-mediated relations guided by expectations of banks and creditors, which induce an economic orientation from cost-awareness to increasing profit-making. This economisation of the fisheries economy, however, does not only reconfigure network ties, but also changes the social practices that once constituted the backbone of economic value in the economy itself: fishing and processing. Thus, the study of the Icelandic small boat fisheries shows how artisanal and labour intensive industries cope with the “primacy of the economy” not only by rationalising their operations towards increasing efficiency, but by changing their practices and identities as basis of a new quality oriented market-niche. The consequences of this coping, however, are twofold: while on the one hand this development has led to the valorisation of hook & line caught fish, coastal fisheries, on the other hand, have become objects of investments and financial speculations that challenge the culture of coastal fisheries as backbone and symbol of rural independence.

[Fishing rights and financial capitalism in the Arctic: From common property to private ownership assets](#)

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The issue of fishing and access rights to marine resources is extremely important to coastal communities in the Arctic, as they are for fishing societies in the rest of the world. One of the major social and historical transformations taking place is the privatisation of formerly common pool resources – a transformation which has now linked local livelihoods and community viability to the economic and financial processes of national and global markets and financial capitalism. This shift in governance paradigm has major implications for Arctic residents' human rights, and their social, economic and political development. This paper considers the implications and side-effects of market-based fisheries policy for coastal communities, focusing on local processes and adaptations in a few specific examples in Iceland. Comparative international material from countries such as Greenland and Norway enriches and enhances the findings.

[Evolution of distribution of quotas in Icelandic fisheries, 1984 to 2014](#)

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Fishing quotas are a key instrument not only to manage fish stocks in a sustainable way but also for rural development issues in coastal communities. As ownership of quotas determines to a substantial degree access to the resource, and thus harvests, inequalities in quota holdings between communities can lead to disproportional social and economic development. The aim of this work is to measure quotas allocation inequality for harvesting companies and harbors in Iceland at country and regions scales using Gini coefficients for the period 1991-2014.

[It is all about the 'T' – Trajectories of Icelandic fishing villages in times of transferable quotas, ,](#)

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Icelandic fisheries underwent privatisation in 1990, when existing fishing quotas were made fully transferable. The system of ITQs has since been held up as a paragon of virtue for sustainable fisheries. This might be valid for ecological and macro-economic concerns, but for a truly sustainable fisheries management system the question of social compatibility has to be addressed as well. This paper evaluates the performance of Icelandic fisheries from a spatial and social perspective. Possible shortcomings are detected through the concepts of resilience with the calculation of a vulnerability indicator that includes both socio-economic and demographic variables. Different development trajectories of Icelandic fishing villages since 1990 are revealed. The indicator has two main functions: It is an early warning for detrimental change, targeting policy makers both domestic and international. Furthermore it sheds light on a heated debate about the consequences of transferability for a socially sustainable and resilient fisheries management system. The indicator makes possible a balanced retrospective evaluation of the social implications that have occurred since the policy change. As even small disturbances may cause dramatic social consequences in vulnerable systems, it is essential to evaluate the different development trajectories and how fishing villages have responded to the external changes.

WG26, Changing agricultural practices and food systems,

Organizer

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Can we produce food during crisis? Vulnerabilities and resilience at farm level in Swedish farming

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In Sweden food security has not been part of agricultural policymaking for over two decades. Both right and left wing governments have argued that food security is best ensured through free trade. Since EU accession in 1995 Swedish farms have been exposed to the EU single market and domestic agricultural produce has lost market shares rapidly. Recent developments in the European security situation have called this situation into question – could Sweden be self-sufficient in food in times of crisis or if cut off from international trade? What are the dependencies and vulnerabilities of modern high-tech farms in different production systems? Are farms able to upkeep production if they lack access to electricity or if fodder and fuel imports are stopped? In this paper presentation some preliminary results from a qualitative study at farm level exploring farm resilience to crisis will be discussed.

“If we had been in France I would have burned the place down” – Swedish farmers about local production in a global sector

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The food producing industry in Sweden contribute to economic growth and rural sustainability. Primary production and food processing are sectors that open for jobs for individuals with different backgrounds and interests. Earlier government visions points directly at the farmers' role in constituting the basis for growth as producers of food and experiences. With this study we pay attention to the way farmers experience their ambiguous positions as locally situated producers handling local and national expectations and demands – paralleled with aspiring to be competitive on an international market. An interview study with Swedish farmers show that balancing these positions is affecting the farm and the farmer in material and immaterial ways. The direction of the farm may be re-negotiated and changed; the quality of life and occupational meaning may be questioned and reassessed. The studied farmers consider their roles as food and landscape producers and emphasise their connection to the local community and local customers as well as their wish to stay in business without extending the farm business too much. National regulations concerning for example livestock keeping and EU subsidies designed for larger farms are experienced as leading to deprivation among small-scale farmers.

[The prospects for Swedish farming: agrarian change and household livelihood strategies, ,](#)

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Over the past 25 years, a third of Swedish farms have been abandoned while at the same time Nordic agriculture with its high productive capacity could become a key global resource in the long term. The aim of a new research project is to explore agrarian change and farm household strategies in Sweden in the past 25 years, to understand current transformations in farming as a basis for a future oriented analysis. How do farmers respond to various challenges? Who will be farming in the future? In the study we return to an in-depth survey of 260 farm households in Sweden, carried out in 1992, to track the changes they have gone through, including farm abandonment. Following up selected households with in-depth interviews, a part of this larger study will focus on livelihood strategies and pluriactivity in these households. This presentation aims to discuss in what ways livelihoods perspectives, hitherto mainly used to study rural development in the global South, could be applied in Nordic rural research on agrarian change.

[Trees are all around us. Tree-politics, paradoxes and farmers' every day management of woody pastures in Sweden, ,](#)

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“Categories are all around us, and although necessary they often create paradoxes that may result in conflictual situations that potentially could be avoided (Dahlberg 2015, p. 207).” Numerous lifeforms depend upon trees for survival. “Humanity” also puts a faith in trees for mitigating climate change, increasing landscape heterogeneity and other benefits. If nothing else, peoples emotional attachments to trees (Pearce et al 2015) are revealed when chainsaws threaten to make room for competing land use. Considering the important role of trees in (agricultural) environmental policy as well as in people’s everyday life, it comes as a surprise that the EU in 2007 imposed rules that potentially encouraged farmers to cut down trees on pastures in order to be granted subsidies. This seemingly paradoxical policy was swiftly enforced in the Swedish subsidy system in order to fulfil the distinctions between what EU considers to be agricultural land and not. This case of “simplifying nature” (Scott 1998) is used as an entry point for talking with farmer’s about their relationship with trees and how the management of woody pastures is influenced by new policy directives.

[Silent land-grab? Evidence for the gentrification of agriculture in Europe, ,](#)

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Utilising a framework based on gentrification theory, I present evidence that control of agricultural land in Europe is being transferred not only to international companies ('land grabbing') but increasingly to (comparatively) wealthy private citizens. Large-scale land holding remains an investment option for the wealthy elite, while the instability of other investment options, limited supply of land and evident long-term market demands following the food and fuel crisis of 2008 have led a new cohort of middle to upper class members to invest in agricultural land. The growth of alternative agri-food networks can also be understood as class-based penetration of agriculture, albeit in pursuit of symbolic, rather than economic capital. Existing farmers are not passive in these transition processes: increasing farm size and rising land values have led to a cohort of highly capitalised 'family' farmers, who have the leverage to expand their holdings and to invest in on- and off-farm business opportunities. The linkage between the Single Farm Payment and land ownership, and the lobbying ability of landed interests, exacerbate the potential for substantial changes in Europe's land management. I argue that we need to refocus attention from extremes and novelties onto these 'silent' transition processes underway in mainstream agriculture.

[WG27, Blue economy I: Supporting changes in rural Nordic region,](#)

[Organizers](#)

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Hreidar Thór Valtýsson, hreidar@unak.is, University of Akureyri

[Climate signals in the northern North Atlantic, their influence on marine ecosystems, fisheries and societies](#)

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The Arctic is the area in the world where climate change is predicted to cause the highest temperature rise and this prediction has been shown by long term monitoring to be valid. The physical oceanographic conditions in the sub-Arctic domain are very different from those found in the Arctic Ocean and this makes the ecosystems in the two domains highly dissimilar. Whereas the sub-Arctic is very rich in biological resources their presence in the Arctic Ocean is limited in comparison. Water masses are fundamental units in the ocean and species are unlikely to cross the boundaries or fronts between them in great quantities, but they can change their distribution within water masses in response to changes occurring within them, such as increased temperature. The position of the fronts is often determined by topography and is therefore unlikely to move large distances. Physical changes observed in the Arctic and the sub-Arctic will and already have affected ecosystems there. The migration of fish stocks associated with these changes has already triggered disputes both within and between countries and will most likely continue in the future.

[Fish stocks and rural communities in northern Iceland, ,](#)

Hreidar Thór Valtýsson, hreidar@unak.is, University of Akureyri, Iceland

The ecology and distribution of the fish stocks around Iceland does in many ways affect the Icelandic society, not least where people live. Best known are the annual migration of cod to the shallow spawning grounds off southwest Iceland, where it was easily fished. This was followed by similar migration of fishermen from the north to the southwest coast and later the emergence of urban centres in the southwest. Later migration of herring to the north and east coast of Iceland fuelled the growth of towns in these regions. In this regard the southwest is rather stable, the cod will arrive to the spawning grounds, failure of these fisheries is very rare through history. The north experiences much more fluctuations. The herring is often entirely absent and sometimes, in warm periods, the cod begins to spawn in the north. In this seminar I will present information on the abundance of the main marine resources off northern Iceland from 1900 and analyse if this potentially affects the rural communities in the area.

[The Icelandic pelagic sector and its development under an ITQ management system, ,](#)

Hördur Saevaldsson, hordurs@unak.is, University of Akureyri, Iceland

The Icelandic pelagic industry is significant part of the Icelandic fishing industry with majority of the companies located in rural areas. During the past three decades considerable changes have taken place. Previously considered rather fragmented industry, is now a highly concentrated vertically integrated industry due to consolidations of quotas. Part of these changes can be attributed to the ITQ management system. Another aspect can be attributed to the entrance of valuable species into the Icelandic EEZ and decreasing quotas of fishmeal oriented species. Finally technology changes have increased production efficiency in processing and fisheries. All this has altered the Icelandic pelagic industry in three ways: Firstly, processing for human consumption has increased with additional species and advances in processing technology. Secondly, raw material for the fishmeal industry has declined parallel with lower capelin quotas. Thirdly, a number of processing utilities and vessels have been scrapped, affecting employment in many fishing villages. The impacts associated to these changes will be examined with focus effects on rural communities.

[The role of North- Atlantic small- scale fisheries and coastal communities in the blue economy of the future.](#)

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In the North- Atlantic, declining cod stocks during the 1980s had governments, researchers and fisheries managers to rethink management policy. In order to reduce overcapacity in the fishing fleet, governments made the controversial decision to restrict access to the coastal cod- fisheries by introducing private licenses and quotas. 25 years later, the number of fishers have more than halved and the fishing fleet has become more disembedded from the local communities. Moreover, the coastal fleet is looking more and more like the offshore fleet, that is, larger and more mobile. However, the smallest segment of the coastal fleet is still important for economy, employment and recruitment in local communities, and for delivering catches locally. The majority of employed fishers and active vessels in the North- Atlantic belong to the smallest size length group. Nevertheless, fishing operations, organization and community orientation is changing also in the smaller length groups. Regulations to protect local communities still exist but are under pressure. Governments will have to take tough choices in the future concerning the dynamic between ecological, economic and social sustainability. What role will the small- scale fishing fleet and coastal communities have in the blue economy of the future?

Potentials of marine and aquatic biotechnology in providing growth in rural areas., ,
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Fisheries based on capture have reached a plateau and will not increase in near future. However this does not mean that aquatic resources have been fully utilized. Not only can the value of current catch be increased but also there are vast untapped resources that can support sustainable economic growth e.g. in rural areas. Blue (marine and aquatic) biotechnology is one of the key enablers in this development. The lecture will define some basic elements in this area, describe briefly the current status regarding utilization of aquatic resources and give examples on how blue biotechnology can support sustainable growth. Examples from two small start-up companies will be given.

Technological advances in the fishing industry increasing competitiveness of rural communities – A case study

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The company Gjögur is one of the major fishing companies in Iceland, a vertically integrated company having quota, operating vessels and processing facility. Their processing facility is located in Grenivík in Eyjafjörður, NorthEast Iceland. The population in Grenivík is currently under 300 persons, however the community itself owns fishing quota, which is fished by Gjögur and processed in their facility. Recent technological changes within the Icelandic fishing industry have made it viable for both the company and the community to operate a processing facility in this small community. More than 10% of the community population work at Gjögur, which is a higher proportion when regarding the total Grenivík workforce. Last year high technology processing equipment was installed in the Gjögur facilities; x- ray scanners, waterjet fillet cutters, automatic fillet portion graters and packing. This has enabled this company to thrive regardless of population decline in the community since the 1980's and generally less interest in work within the fish processing industry. In this case study we look at these technological changes in regards to the changes in population in Grenivík.

WG28, Crises of Nordic rural research? Where are we going?

Organizers

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What crisis?

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In an article published in Norsk Geografisk tidskrift 2001 (Forsberg, G., 2001, Rural and gender studies: A conceptual comparison, Norsk Geografisk Tidskrift Vol 55, No 3, 2001, 152-160.) I made an overview of the development in Nordic rural research together with the corresponding development in gender studies. The analysis focused on phases with its prevailing doctrines or discourses. The similarities were strikingly evident, even if I found some important differences. Underlying analysis was the way rural and woman were understood, inclusive the focus on crises. The analysis was made from this table:

Doctrines	Rural studies
Complementary	To make the rural visible <input type="checkbox"/> Rural as poor and ageing <input type="checkbox"/> Physical functions/ geographical regions
Subordination	Rural/urban dichotomy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spatial division of labour• Rural as depressed areas• Urban as the norm
Empowerment:	Rural development programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local empowerment• “Green wave” – the countryside is superior• Questioning the urban norm
Contesting dichotomies:	Rurality as representation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruralities, countrysides• Bodily experiences• Questioning the dichotomy
Multi-dimensional:	Other countrysides <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (R)urban identities

In this paper I will make a follow up on this theme: How can contemporary rural research be characterized? What is the actual doctrine? What role does the “crises dimension” play in today’s studies?

Welfare, policy and mobility

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The paper discusses relationships between central policies and rural communities, starting in three scenes that each represents a situation of stress. Scene 1: The establishment of Swedish welfare state implied a transformation of large parts of the countryside to a back country. Welfare policy was discursively based on ideas of progress and modernity, and modernity belonged to urban areas. One of the results was population decline in most rural areas. The presence of external laws and regulations as well as resources increased and was guaranteed by the state. Scene 2: Due to financial problems the role of the state was questioned both in terms of tax spending on general welfare, and in terms of its efficiency. The result was de-regulation and withdrawal of state presence, and a strong belief in market solutions. For rural populations this meant increased insecurity and a marked reduction in services. Scene 3: Despite a discourse about depopulation of rural areas, statistics show that most rural municipalities have increased their populations. The explanation is a strong immigration of refugees. Small rural towns now play an important part in Swedish migration policies. Reception of refugees places strain on local communities, but also opens new opportunities.

Professionalization of local rural development groups

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In this paper the professionalization of rural development groups in Sweden is discussed in relation to the Whole Sweden shall Live campaign in the late 1980s and to the Swedish entry into the European Union in 1995. Whereas the campaign aimed at mobilising and organising people in rural areas in order for them to engage in local development issues, and make joint development plans, the EU entrance made project funding available on a new scale and with new kinds of demands on people in rural areas. At the end of the campaign, the Whole Sweden shall Live became an organisation both for supporting, and for rural local development groups. This implied certain demands on how civil society rural groups should organise in order to become actors in the rural policy context. The EU policy project funding, through the structural funds, the Leader programme and the Rural Development Programme, has led to further demands on organisation and on project application and management skills. In the paper, these processes are described drawing on studies of successful local groups and their strategic ways of dealing with these demands.

Is Nordic rural research losing momentum when it comes to civil society research?

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At least since the 80-ies the role local civil society organizations in communities facing and responding to an experienced crisis are well documented in Nordic rural studies. Local initiatives to respond to closings of services and forming development projects is still very much of everyday life of rural citizens but perhaps not the same force for inspiring rural researchers as a decade ago? Do we already know all that needs to be known about the phenomena? The theoretical discussions drawing on empirical research in the field have shifted during the last decades. Rural civil society has been discussed as, for example, a force for revitalizing democracy, building social capital, stimulating a more localized economy and lately as a tool for governments making rural citizens responsible for community development. In this paper I look for key ways in which Nordic rural civil society has been theorized. The focus is the theories that relate civil society to responses to rural areas considered somehow in crises in a broad sense, and especially the development in the field since 2010. Finally I suggest some of the possible directions the theoretical discussion can take in order to move forward, and ideas on where to find inspiration from related fields of research.

Beyond dualistic thinking: Crisis and Opportunities in Nordic Rural Areas?

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Acknowledging the interrelations between perceptions, policies and land use practices the ambition of this paper is to examine what dualistic thinking, e.g. 'human'/'environment', 'nature'/'culture', 'urban'/'rural', mean for land use in Nordic rural areas. The empirical base for the paper is an analysis on the drivers behind agricultural land use change in Sandnes and Sarpsborg in Norway. Applying a relational perspective the forces affecting agricultural land and activities have been categorized into triggering, limiting and enabling. The analysis shows that decisions within spatial planning is directly triggering agricultural land use change meaning that other actors than the individual farmer or land owner are more important for the land use in the cases. The studies in Sandnes and Sarpsborg have identified a manifold of social interests that compete over land. Over the studied period 1995-2009, interests such as business development, services, housing and living environments and infrastructure have been prioritised over agriculture in the land use planning. Beyond conflicts over land the study also conclude that it exist possible enabling forces or synergy effects between agricultural activities and several societal interests, such as biodiversity, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation. The study indicates there is a need to further develop thinking beyond dualistic categories in order to recognize the dynamics relations in today's rural areas. Applying a relational approach for analysing drivers of agricultural land use change in Sandnes and Sarpsborg demonstrates the benefits of combining analysis of 'crisis' and 'conflicts' with 'opportunities' and 'synergies' in order to further develop the research on Nordic rural areas ahead.

Hyper-production: A new metrics of multifunctionality, ,

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Multifunctionality has emerged as the dominant framework for understanding rural socioeconomic landscapes. The central claim of multifunctionality – that rural regions need to be understood as being made up of more than just traditional uses – has led to the incorporation of new rural activities into regional development plans, e.g., tourism. In some places, such post-productive activity is perceived to be slowly replacing productive uses of the land, e.g., agriculture/forestry. However, there is limited empirical evidence to support such claims. Drawing on previous research and data from the Swedish countryside this paper shows that, even as the number of persons employed within traditional activities decreases, the economic output per areal unit and per labour hour is increasing over time and traditional uses still occupy the majority of rural space. Hyper-production is introduced as a new metric for understanding multifunctional regions going forward. The complementary union of economic mainstays, such as agriculture, and newer activities with more quality-of-life benefits, such as tourism, is highlighted in terms of economic diversification, job creation and local social capital development, while the conflict-prone intersection of these two modes is also acknowledged. Understanding hyper-production as a key metric of multifunctionality is thus argued as integral to planning and developing resilient rural regions now and for the future.

Nordic views on the relational space, ,

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The the concept of Relational Space has been put to use in order to rethink the spatiality of human and non-human interactions that shape the rural landscape, for instance by addressing new forms of governance of natural resources between the local and the global. Later on, rural geographers, still originating from Britain (Murdoch 1995, Woods 2007) have drawn on this work to investigate the reconstruction of rurality through complex actor-networks that are emerging both within and from a given community. In this paper, we want to provide a Nordic outlook on how rural research has addressed the notion of the relational space, and especially, we want to see how the specificity of the Nordic geography, with vast amounts of sparsely populated yet natural resource-rich landscapes, has influenced this understanding of the coupling between spatial processes and socio-economic ones (Murdoch 2006). We will do so by focusing on two strands of the literature: one looking at the relational space in terms of new power relations, subordination and democracy; and one looking at functional aspects of it, i.e. looking at the spatial dimension of the embeddedness of economic action in social interactions.

WG29, Research proposals and early stage research

Organizers

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Local value chains, environmental and financial sustainability: is there a double dividend? Case studies of business models of local wool manufacturers in Norway

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Environmental sustainability is becoming increasingly important among consumers and producers. One approach to achieve environmental sustainability for producers is to focus on local production in value chains and business models. Wool is a resource that is abundant in the Nordic countries, is produced in a relatively environmentally friendly way, and is currently experiencing increased demand. Yet, it is not used to its full potential. Notwithstanding these aspects, we assume that there is potential for a double- dividend – that entrepreneurs focusing on local wool can both contribute to making the fashion sector more environmentally sustainable, stimulate local economies and ensure their future survival. To explore these aspects, we rely on qualitative, phenomenological data from a number of small business entrepreneurs within the wool industry in Norway in order to understand what role sustainability plays in their business model. As well as what are the effects, challenges and outcomes of focusing on local value chains and how it affects current and future sustainability.

Youth motivation for work in agriculture as a step for national food sovereignty

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Ukraine has a high potential for agricultural production. Today, the export of agricultural products has a fifth of national GDP. The third part of the working-age population of Ukraine living in rural areas. There is a paradox in production: half volumes provide agricultural holdings (large, vertically integrated companies) and the other half - smallholders and farmers, which currently number about 39,000. Raising awareness of how to conduct a profitable agricultural production is of paramount importance. Agricultural universities train specialists for the various agricultural sectors production and processing. On average, each year 35,500 people graduate such universities. There is a problem: some young people, who graduated from agrarian universities, are not motivated and do not want to go back to work in the agricultural sector and in rural territories at all. Tendencies for development for small holders and farmers on the impact of new state legislative initiatives we must learn and analyze. Which aspects can have motivational impact on young people to return and develop agribusiness and rural territories in general?

Rural business knowledge exchange and innovation: The contribution of rural enterprise hubs

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Territorial Innovation Models (TIM) conceptualise mechanisms to promote growth on a regional scale. It remains to be seen, however, whether and how the TIM approach is transferable to the context of rural areas. In this respect, the RGN pilots and their enterprise hubs represent a unique experiment through which to consider this question. Alongside many European scholars, academics (such as Bjorn Asheim) from the Nordic regions lead the field of regional innovation and Nordic countries have often been used for case studies to these ground-breaking studies. The study has three aims:

- To discover the degree to which it the RGN business hub initiative has corrected market failures and stimulated innovation.
- To assess the spillover effects to private and third sector run hubs.
- To analyse the effectiveness of TIM in rural areas as a basis for rural economic development.
The methodology will involve a suite of qualitative techniques in a case study approach including participatory observation, interviews and surveys. At the heart of the overall methodological approach will be an aspiration to stimulate and contribute to processes of knowledge exchange within and between hubs.

Recent regional development discourses emphasize the importance of knowledge creation and consider how to facilitate the growth of the knowledge-based economy. However, in the UK to date, growth focused economic development policies have been concentrated on urban economies, bypassing much of the rural economy. DEFRA has recognised this problem and created Rural Growth Networks (RGNs) to support the creation or upkeep of business hubs in rural regions to complement growth and to facilitate networks of knowledge creation.

[In the Shadow of St. Kilda: Identity and island loss in the Outer Hebrides](#)

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The Western Isles has had a history of depopulation from the Highland Clearances of the 18th century to the evacuation of Isle of St. Kilda in 1934 and even in more recent time with the complete depopulation of Scarp in 1971. This early research explores the notion of growth and (de)growth and identity through the development of a St. Kilda heritage centre on the Isle of Lewis. This centre is being planned to not only commemorate and preserve the cultural memory of St. Kilda but also to stymie the eventual loss of population of the community of Uig on Lewis. Through the research of the development of a new type of 'heritage space' of an abandoned isle a new way of understanding the current loss of people within the Western Isles is generated. Thus, this project is at a fundamental level about how a rural community is rallying together to save itself from the same fate that has befallen the communities around them and what this means to not only the Western Isles, but all island communities of the Northern Seas.

[WG34, Rural youth](#)

[Organizers](#)

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[Forgotten minority? Young people in remote villages and municipal welfare services, ,](#)

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Our presentation explores young people in rural and remote villages in eastern Finland. The aim of the study is to explore their everyday life, experiences and possibilities in sparsely populated areas. These youngsters live in villages at areas of decline which suffer multiple challenges. Long distances to municipal and regional centres, to municipal welfare services, to training and education and peer groups are concrete factors that shape their everyday life. Rural and remote areas young people's needs, opportunities, values and restrictions are often forgotten. The relatively small number of these youngsters exclude them from the analysis of welfare services and youth policy as well as discussions of youth culture. Remote areas are usually noted as areas of ageing and welfare services are analyzed through aged people's needs and perspectives, even though there are also young people to whom the environment offers sparse possibilities. The study follows the idea of multi-sited ethnography and the research is conducted in five research sites in eastern Finland. The age of the interviewees is 14–17.

[The Illicit Diversion of Prescription Stimulant Medication in Rural vs. Urban Schools in Iceland](#)

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Concerns about the illicit diversion of stimulant medications in rural schools are becoming increasingly salient in the Western hemisphere. Diversion is defined as the illicit sale or distribution of prescription medications. The present study examined demographic patterns and other factors related to the diversion of prescription medicine among Icelandic school children, with a focus on rural vs. urban children. The study was conducted as a part of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD). All 10th graders in Iceland were surveyed on issues related to their drug and alcohol use. New items were added in 2015 addressing the prevalence of diversion of prescription stimulants, traditionally used for the treatment of ADHD. Children who were prescribed stimulants were also asked whether or not they had sold or traded their drugs. Results show an interesting trend in the prevalence of diversion between rural and urban schools as well as in prevalence rates between Iceland compared to other non-arctic communities.

[Rural Youth Migration in the context of Rural Labour Shortages, ,](#)

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Much of rural Canada is experiencing a labour shortage in the sense that fewer individuals are reaching the age of labour market entry relative to the large number of individuals reaching retirement age. Rural youth out-migration may be declining in some areas but there has been no systematic analysis of recent trends in rural youth out-migration. Annual population estimates by single year of age will be examined to calculate for each of Canada's 293 census divisions, sorted by degree of rurality:

- a. The present ratio of new workforce entrants per expected retiree;
- b. The rate of youth net migration in the last 8 years, by comparing the population 24 years of age now compared to the population 16 years of age, eight years earlier; and
- c. Assessing whether areas with an apparent labour shortage have experienced a declining rate of youth out-migration. We acknowledge that youth leave rural areas for jobs first, for education second and for fun, third. In this context, our discussion will determine whether the increasing availability of local jobs is influencing rural youth migration patterns.

[Adolescent's attitude towards gender equality in Iceland](#)

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Iceland is in many respects considered to be in the global vanguard of gender equality and has been at the top of the Gender Gap Index for the last few years based on economic, educational, political and health equalities. Still there are some signs of backlash or at least stagnation reflected for example in a difficult to bridge gendered wage gap and few women as Chief Executive Officers. As for future references toward gender equality attitudes among adolescents in Iceland play important part. The current study is based on a national survey among Icelandic adolescents, conducted in conjunction with the 2006 and 2014 Health Behaviors in School-Aged Children (HBSC) survey in Iceland as well as the study Young people which was conducted in 1992. The aim of this project is to map attitudes toward gender equality and gendered division of labor among 10th graders in Iceland based on the timeline from 1992 until 2014 in regard to residency by turning the focus on differences in attitudes towards gender equality among adolescent in rural and urban areas.

The increasing burden to keep the disadvantaged youth on “education track” in rural areas of Latvia

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The increasing burden to keep the disadvantaged youth on “education track” in rural areas of Latvia
The authors analyze the risks of social exclusion of disadvantaged youth living in remote rural areas of Latvia during the rapid economic and demographic changes. The authors discuss the impact of parental migration and family problems on the educational path and psychological well-being of children. The paper discusses the educational realities and risks for three disadvantaged groups of young people in rural areas and discusses the risks of social exclusion for those groups (aged 15-16). The groups analyzed are: children left behind (Euro orphans), youth orphans (including social orphans), and youth from disadvantaged family backgrounds (living in a family like setting). The study is based on the analyses of education policy documents (2005-2015), demographic and education statistics and analyses of interviews with disadvantaged youth, teachers, and institutional representatives and parents/ foster parents.

Job Experience in the School of Work and participation on the Labour Market: Icelandic municipalities offer young people 14 - 16 years of age summer jobs

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Today's situation of young people in the labour market is characterized by unemployment and reduced employment opportunities. Experience in the labour market is valuable, but not easily obtained. Every summer since 1951 Icelandic municipalities have offered youngsters 14 – 16 years a placement in the School of Work (SoW). In order to realize the value of the SoW a small study was carried out examining the experiences of four youngsters and their parents. The interviews took place in the North of Iceland the summer of 2015. A broad range of other references regarding youth employment and youth unemployment were also obtained. The research question was: Is the School of Work an important link considering work experience of young people and their preparation for active participation in the labour market? The results emphasize that all work experience is valuable and is an important part of an individual's preparation for the future labour market participation. The SoW provides young people access to the labour market from the age of 14 and that is unique. The young participants are also provided with important social values. The SoW is generally the first and earliest work experience of young people and it is an important experience.

Children's Rural Parliament -method of rural development with local schools

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The key (research) question in our development project is: "How to promote children's participation possibilities in the development of rural areas?" I have developed the method of Children's Rural Parliament for these purposes. In my presentation I open up this method that combines media education, democracy education and participation methods in a context of future education. Inhabitants of a village would like to develop the living environment of the village – also for children, but they don't know how to get children's opinions and ideas for the development work so that every child is considered. It can also be a problem, when rural schools are shut down, and children are transported to bigger schools. Then the needs of rural children are maybe not in the focus, when making decisions concerning children's living conditions. I developed in Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences a new method, Children's Rural Parliament, with seven small rural schools, information technology and communication experts added with over 30 associations. The method combines media education, democracy education and participation methods in a context of future education. The method can be applied also for association in villages, where the school has already been closed.

Satisfaction with school and sexual orientation: Icelandic urban and rural adolescent populations.

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The aim is to compare self-assessed school satisfaction of three groups within two populations of Year 10 students in Iceland. They were evaluated at two separate administrations, the former in year 2010 (age 14 to 18 years, $M=15.98$, $SD=0.25$), and the latter in year 2014 (age 14 to 18 years, $M=16.0$, $SD=0.19$). The groups are classified according to romantic and/or sexual attraction and/or sexual activity and are identified as: (a) unknown, (b) heterosexual, and, (c) non- heterosexual. Data derived from two sets of survey collections (2010 and 2014) from the Icelandic part of the Health Behavior in School-aged Children (HBSC), initiated by the World Health organization (WHO - www.HBSC.org/ www.HBSC.is). Participation for both implementations was between 80 and 90% of the whole cohorts, with 91% boys and 94% girls identified as heterosexual year 2010 and 90% of boys and 89% of girls identified as heterosexual year 2014. School satisfaction is compared across the three groups in both populations (2010 and 2014). Two questions included in the 2014 survey only, further explaining differences between the three identified groups, one referring to students' attitudes towards their teachers and the other concerning class periods. Answers to both questions are rated on a 5 point Likert scale.

Schools as Platforms for innovation in Rural Areas

Frída Vala Ásbjörnsdóttir, fas@internet.is, Friends of Rural Development, Iceland

I am leader of the association, Friends of Rural Development, FORD, in Iceland which has interest in exploring how young people, from the age of 12 to the age of 16, can contribute to rural development in their hometowns. The name of the project is My Hometown - what can I do for my hometown? – As the project has been running for the last 12 years without interruption we have acquired a precious knowledge of how young people are thinking about their hometowns and the future – and of the possibilities they have to contribute themselves to a better future in their hometowns.

The key (research) questions we are dealing with as organizers of this project are the following:

1. How can we awake the interest of young people for their hometowns?
2. How can we convince young people that their Good ideas do matter for all of us?
3. How can inhabitants in Reykjavík do to make life in rural areas more thriving?
4. What view of the future do young people in Iceland have?

This project is meant to encourage children's participation in democracy/entrepreneurship education in rural areas.

Might we need a new understanding of the “bo” concept?

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Young people are those who will carry out future development, and therefore their preferences in terms of education, employment opportunities, and cooperation around the region are important perspectives when planning for the communities. The paper presented is based on a comparative research among youth in the Nordic Arctic region, where the main aim was to get closer to the youth's expectations as well as understand what type of societal development they foresee. The project was based on case-studies in Northern municipalities, villages and rural areas in the Arctic regions of the Nordic countries. The methodology was multi sited with qualitative approach, where the focus is on how young people articulate and perceive life in the rural regions now and prospectively for the future. Generally, mobility can be seen as a basic condition for young individuals to realise their future ambitions, and for many of the young persons the geographical frame of reference is global rather than local. To fulfil such ambitions, it requires resources and qualifications as explained by some young persons. Where some expect to be global citizens, others see themselves living in urban settings in the Southern parts of the Nordic Arctic regions. In both cases it is the possibilities to realise individual wishes which appear attractive to the young generation. The multilocational lifestyle can thus be seen as a result of a young generation expecting to continue the tendency of individualisation.

Young life in the sparsely populated villages of Finland: Gender differences and similarities, ,

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In our presentation we discuss youth's everyday lives, future expectations and local co-existence in a rarely studied context: in villages with only a few young inhabitants and locations far away from youth-special services (schools, shops, organized leisure communities). We lean on interviews and observations among youth born in the year 2000. Our aim is to follow their life courses until the year 2025. Currently they are 15-16 years old, which means that they are dependent on their parents and siblings but also living through an important transition phase of their life courses when they have to choose their secondary educational paths within very scarce possibilities of opportunity. In terms of developmental psychology it is also expected that romantic love and sexual awakening form a special focus in their lives. In our analysis we ask: How gender and the cultural representations of masculinity and femininity become meaningful and interesting definers in these youth's life styles and future dreams? What it means to be a boy or a girl in this special context of growing up?

Geographies of opportunities and belonging: Young men in the High North

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Youth research in general has been criticized for an unacknowledged "metrocentricity" that has gone hand in hand with ignoring of spatial processes geographical differences (Farrugia 2013). The critic refers to research that sees urban settings as ubiquitous, globalised and undifferentiated, as such place disappears from the analysis of young people's lives (Cuervo & Wyn 2012). Analyses of rural youth's experiences necessitates paying closer attention to place and space, in order to enrich the field of youth research as a whole. Based on a geographical approach combined with theories on social learning, this paper will discuss some of aspects that can contribute to the geographical difference in opportunities and mobility patterns among young people. The empirical basis for the paper is interviews with young people in the northern part in Norway and interviews with unemployed youth in the Barents Region, the northern areas of Sweden, Finland, Russia and Norway. The overall aim of the paper is to demonstrate how place and geography represent changeable and contingent conditions in young people's lives in an increasingly globalised world.

Democratic awareness and empowerment of young adults in rural areas

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Migration of young adults is a common problem in rural areas where individuals in search of opportunities have to choose between staying in their hometown or relocating. Education and employment possibilities dominate much of the decision but also the social structure of the society and the functionality of the youth. Research shows that community participation of young adults is limited and it seems to apply both to social and municipal affairs. The aim of the study is to explore the ideas of young people concerning democracy and empowerment and provide empowerment programs, formulate in accordance to their ideas. This paper will discuss the main outcomes of the project, based on the results of focus groups studies conducted in rural South East Iceland.

Black and Minority Ethnic Young People: Exploring the Silences in the Scottish Highlands., ,

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In my thesis I analyse the dynamics of youth, race and rurality by considering the life experiences of young people in relation to race and racism through a small-scale study I have conducted over eight months. The study also investigates the aspirations of eight black and minority ethnic young people living in the Scottish Highlands. The study found that young people's experiences of racism and racial microaggressions were exacerbated by a 'conspiracy of silence' in which institutional actors such as service providers, who are there to support and encourage young people, have knowingly or inadvertently contributed to undermining, marginalising and excluding black and minority ethnic young people through misunderstanding or misrecognition of experiences of racialisation in rural areas. I observed how black and minority young people engaged in strategies of resistance and resilience as a prevalent response when negotiating racist experiences and racial microaggressions. It was further evident that the deficient practices of institutional actors, such as teachers, youth workers and most service providers play a tangible role in perpetuating racism and racial discrimination in the Highlands. The study recommends that to reduce bias and discrimination against black and minority ethnic pupils requires a range of strategies ranging from enhancing teacher confidence in teaching and addressing different forms of racism, a need for teachers to have training on anti-racist education and pedagogical approaches, recruitment of black and minority ethnic practitioners for different service provision, recognition and promotion of the benefits of multilingualism and opportunities for white majority pupils to have greater exposure to diversity in rural Scotland.

WG35, Place and Identity

Organizer

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Nostalgia, Otherness and Beyond: Changing Ruralities in Icelandic Cinema

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Iceland underwent a rapid transformation from being one of the most rural countries in Europe at the beginning of the 20th century to being one of the most urban at the beginning of the 21st century. The decline of farming society began with industrialized fisheries and the mushrooming of fishing villages around the coastline. The arrival of British and later American troops in the second world war played a major role in the cultural break with the agricultural past and ushered the newly independent country onto the global arena. Two thirds of the population currently lives in the Reykjavík capital area and the gap between the densely populated city sparsely populated countryside has grown as first-generation migrants from rural areas have become a small proportion of the urban dwellers. Changing urban images of the rural countryside are reflected and reinforced by Icelandic cinema from the reenactment of rural folk tales and historical rural dramas of the 1940's and 1950s onwards. While urban grittiness of Reykjavík has been a recurring theme since the 1960s, nostalgic reflections of the rural idyll gradually gave way to increasingly dark depictions of decline, hopelessness and quiet despair. The striking contrast between such narratives and the long-term resilience and even sustainable growth of rural areas is discussed as well as implications for urban imaginations, rural identities and regional policy formation.

Commons making in the periphery - the role of commons for understanding rural continuities and change

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This paper explores how commons reproduce over time and discusses the role of ‘commons making’ for understanding rural continuity and change. The point of departure is that commons, i.e. are essential for many local communities in that they have an important role for mediating change and for producing local identities. Through an ethnographic and historical study of a number of commons systems from the village of Ängersjö in the Midwest of Sweden, the paper argues for a more historically and socially grounded understanding of how commons evolve. The paper examines Ängersjö’s commons within two broad historical situations – the pre-industrial and the post-industrial time periods – in order to understand commons, not just as arenas for resource extraction and resource struggles, but also as important contexts for identity formation, local mobilisation and for shaping rural change. The paper reveals how the commons have co-evolved with changes in society at large and how the meanings of the commons have changed throughout history – from being an important economic resource – to cultural and symbolic resources that have created new avenues for collective action.

Narratives of gender and ethnicity in place reinvention

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In the Icelandic context many traditional fishing villages have experienced great uncertainty following the regime of transferable fishing quotas. Without a licence to fish, place reinvention through tourism, creativity and aquaculture has been prominent in new development paths taken. In the paper I want to problematize how gendered and ethnic identities are represented and experienced in these reinvention processes in peripheral fishing villages, which have a history of recruitment of immigrants to fish processing plants to compensate for the outmigration of local youth. I will focus the analysis on a case study of a fishing village in eastern Iceland, combining policy and media discourses with interviews. How are social divisions like gender and ethnicity emphasised or made invisible in public discourses and personal narratives, in a place in-between fishing and cultural economy?

Sense of place and place identity in Ísafjörður, Iceland

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Many research projects in Iceland have focused on the causes for the constant migration from the countryside to the capital area. These studies have shown that people seem to be seeking out certain aspects of living that they can obtain easier in the capital area, but little research has been done on why people do not move from the smaller settlements and also why people migrate out of the city. This research is intended to look at precisely those aspects by researching place attachment and place identity among current and previous inhabitants of Ísafjörður. This site was chosen because of its long history, but also because of the personal relationship the author has to the place. The research is primarily based on research conducted outside of Iceland, as these theories have not been researched in Iceland before. The research is based on qualitative research methods, but interviews were conducted with thirteen individuals that either currently live in Ísafjörður or have lived there before and live somewhere else today. They were also asked to take pictures of what they thought symbolized their relationship to Ísafjörður. Interviewees were split up in groups depending on whether they were born and raised in Ísafjörður or had moved there as adults. The findings show that interviewees show similar place attachments, but those who were born and raised in Ísafjörður have stronger place identity. There is some difference in what interviewees relate to in Ísafjörður. Those who are born and raised are more likely to relate to nature while those who have moved to Ísafjörður are more likely to relate to the community. Findings show that people seem to feel strong place attachment to Ísafjörður. This research gives an insight into a new way of researching migration in Iceland, and provides a deeper understanding of the way small town inhabitants feel about their attachment to places than previous research in Iceland has.

The Rise of the 'Arcadian Province': Mobilities in Times of Crisis

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Kyriaki Remoundou

Guy Garrod

Drawing on the 'mobility turn', research in rural studies has engaged with new explorations of mobilities, beyond the now well-explored counterurbanisation and rural gentrification processes, including local and temporary mobility in diverse socio-economic and cultural contexts. This paper explores past and future mobility patterns in two provincial towns in Greece in the context of the current financial crisis. Using a choice experiment, we assess the importance of settlement types, family networks, previous residency in the area, cultural opportunities and change in employment type in informing future mobility decisions. The analysis finds evidence of crisis-led mobilities and distinguishes between two predominant mobility groups, i.e. counterurbanisers and local movers, pointing to heterogeneity in preferences, but demonstrating similar preferences for small towns in the Greek province. In this context, we argue for the emergence of an alternative version of the Anglo-American 'rural idyll', conceptualised here as the 'Arcadian province', to capture such preferences and to highlight the role of language in mobility and, wider, rural social science research.

The rural east; identity and reputation

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Here the focus will be on which issues are highlighted in the marketing of East Iceland within the contemporary tourist industry in the east. The eastern part of Iceland has been, along with the Westfjords, the very periphery of the island in its modern era, based on its geographical position far away from both the international airport and the urban centre of Iceland, i.e. its capital, but also on political and cultural grounds. This has shaped both the socio-economic situation and identity in East Iceland in many ways, and puts its mark on the tourism in the eastern area which has in some ways suffered from its geographical distance from the main-route of tourism in Iceland in the south and south-west. But ahead is a shift in east Icelander's expectations whereas there is to be a direct flight between East Iceland (Egilsstaðir) and England (Gatwick) in the summer 2016. Hopes are now high in the east in the local tourist industry, and the interest of this research is on how it affects the identity-making in marketing the rural east as a tourist attraction.

Village Festivals, Rural Adventure Tours and Historical Plays: Are they all about Local Identities?

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The annual number of rural adventure tours (opplevelsesturer), village festivals (bygdedager) and historical plays (spel) has increased markedly in Norway during the last decades. These arrangements share a common feature, namely the marriage of locality with history, offering a unique identity through an association of place much tied up with and interpreted through tradition. Such a focus on local identity can of course to a great degree be understood as a result of globalization, where processes leading to greater homogeneity in many areas of life are balanced by a search for uniqueness. This presentation does not aim to counter such an argument, but calls for a certain elaboration of what is understood by local identity. It is argued that within each of the three institutions above there are greater similarities than differences, and that associating yourself with a certain identity is not so much about distinguishing oneself from other localities as adopting certain ideal values as part of your identity. Through a time- and space-limited framework offered by these institutions, individuals are able to indulge in and associate with a series of attractive, morally correct and interrelated values that are otherwise difficult to realize in the course of everyday life.

Creating tourism experience while expressing local identity through stories of food and rurality

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In line with the development elsewhere in the western part of the world, Icelandic tourism actors put increased emphasis on creating new food tourism experience for their guests. This applies to different types of tourism where local food plays a significant part and the focus is on the food's narrative and its connection to place and landscape. The objective of this paper is to explore in what way small tourism entrepreneurs in rural Iceland use local food in their tourism service, and what social as well as personal elements lie behind and motivate the intonation of locality and the countryside. The aim of the study is to gather knowledge about how tourism actors in rural Iceland perceive their everyday life in the rapidly evolving tourism in Iceland and how the interaction with the guests and colleagues shape and reshape their lived experience. The paper is based on empirical data from interviews with tourism entrepreneurs in North, West and South of Iceland. A field observation at the tourism businesses was conducted at the time of the interviews. The companies' homepages and printed promotional material was also studied using content analysis and compared with findings from the interviews and field observations.

The significance of unifying events in rural areas

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A gradual decline in population is a continual challenge to many rural areas in Norway, among other countries. Better job opportunities in more urban areas, along with various social and cultural factors, are often put forward as plausible explanations for reduced numbers of inhabitants. Various local measures have been inserted in attempts to hinder this development as much as possible. This study examines the statistical effect of events that gather the majority of residents in local communities, on emotional affiliation and the desire to stay in the rural community. The analyses are based on data from a survey conducted on a large-scale, random sample of the population in Norwegian municipalities defined as rural (n=1076). Preliminary results indicate that respondents reporting higher degree of occurrence of such unifying events have a significantly higher emotional affiliation to their local community. Likewise, high occurrence of events has a significant positive effect on the self-reported probability for staying in the same community. Thus, the results imply that local events may be one easy but effective measure to strengthen the residents' desire to stay.

WG37, Landscape governance

Organizer

Camilo Calderon, camilo.calderon@slu.se, Swedish University of Agriculture Science, Sweden

What is the 'landscape' in landscape governance?

Andrew Butler, andrew.butler@slu.se, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Landscape governance is dependent on how landscape is conceptualised. This defines which values are taken up and ultimately whose aspirations are legitimised and forwarded. The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as "...an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". Such a definition places the broad spectrum of people who encounter the landscape as central for defining a landscape's meaning and opens up for multidirectional landscape governance. In this presentation I question how landscape is handled in practice and the implications of this for engaging 'the public' in democratic landscape processes. I reveal that although a holistic democratic landscape is promoted through rhetoric, practice tends to engage with a much more impoverished and less nuanced concept, promoting outsiders' values. Through this presentation I engage with the implications of these different conceptualisations in practice, and how do they impact on landscape governance.

Recommendations for landscape strategy making and collaborative landscape planning

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Recommendations for landscape strategy making and collaborative landscape planning
New, more integrated and more involving policy and planning approaches to rural landscape governance has been argued for in different discourses. Main arguments include increased complexity in decision making concerning rural land use, unsustainable rural development, environmental deterioration and reduced socio-ecological resilience. This paper starts with a review of such arguments and the academic and policy making contexts in which they are put forward. We then briefly summarize four Danish experimental landscape strategymaking projects carried out during the period 2010-2013. With references to these, 'reallife' projects and relevant literature we propose and discuss 6 recommended actions to include in landscape strategy making. We conclude with reflections on potentials and limitations of integrated landscape governance within an increasingly connected world.

The Governance of Land Reform in Scotland

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The Land Reform (Scotland) Bill aims to strengthen the relationship between people and land and makes a broad range of provisions including the establishment of a Scottish Land Commission and the increased availability of information about rural landholders. The Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in June 2015 and is currently undergoing scrutiny. The proposals have caused controversy not only in opposition parties but also among the governing nationalists; they have been criticised both for being too radical and for the opposite. Proposals for the establishment of a Register of Land for Sustainable Development have caused particular controversy as the intention is to grant ministerial decision-making powers to buy land in order to further 'sustainable development'. However, the perceived vagueness of the definition of this term has resulted in criticism, especially from legal perspectives. Others are in favour of such powers as they might result in greater community ownership of land and could remove barriers to the development of infrastructure such as renewable energy installations. This paper will present analysis of the governance of land reform in Scotland comparing it with other territories.

Improving landscape governance: a theoretical contribution

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Despite increased recognition and legitimisation of participatory approaches in decision-making brought about through the European Landscape Convention, public participation in landscape governance still remains questionable. In this presentation we argue that this failure is based on the difficulties practitioners' have in operationalising landscape as a dynamic, holistic entity dependent on perceptions as expressed in the ELC. We identify two interrelated causes of this: 1) a weakness of substantive theory in the landscape planning discipline leading to an impoverished understanding of landscape and 2) a theoretical and procedural focus on normative ideals of how participation ought to be as opposed to an understanding of the challenges and realpolitik of these practices. Consequently, landscape planners fail to handle the diverse and dynamic values which are experienced in landscape, as well as the conflicts and power relations that often emerge within participatory processes. By bringing forward an understanding of the dynamics of landscape planning, and of the differences, conflicts and power relations that are present in participatory processes, the presentation begins to theoretically develop an understanding of landscape as a democratic entity where dynamic, diverse and conflicting values can be handled

Landscape governance how to evaluate outcomes of collaborative strategy processes

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Recommendations for landscape strategy making and collaborative landscape planning. New, more integrated and more involving policy and planning approaches to rural landscape governance has been argued for in different discourses. Main arguments include increased complexity in decision making concerning rural land use, unsustainable rural development, environmental deterioration and reduced socio-ecological resilience. This paper starts with a review of such arguments and the academic and policy making contexts in which they are put forward. We then briefly summarize four Danish experimental landscape strategy making projects carried out during the period 2010-2013. With references to these, 'real life' projects and relevant literature we propose and discuss 6 recommended actions to include in landscape strategy making. We conclude with reflections on potentials and limitations of integrated landscape governance within an increasingly connected world.

Understanding how context influences collaborative approaches to landscape governance: an analytical framework

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Through the European Landscape Convention collaborative approaches have been increasingly promoted within landscape governance and planning. Research shows, nonetheless, that the successful implementation of the collaborative principles are strongly influenced by the context in which a planning process takes place. Thus, the need to respond to the particular demands of context is increasingly recognized. However, few studies have explicitly looked at the influence that context has on collaborative processes which leaves practitioners with little guidance on how to contextualize their work. To fill this gap, we develop an analytical framework, the Context Analytical Framework (CAF), for understanding the influence that context has on the implementation of collaborative principles. The framework draws on institutional perspectives and the interrelated nature of structural and agential factors in the understanding of and the analysis of social and political phenomena. The usefulness of the CAF is illustrated through case studies of a collaborative planning approach that was implemented in four different contexts. We argue that the CAF is of value for making collaborative approaches to landscape governance more attuned to context.

New landscape governance – Future landscapes by whom and how?

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The paper presents results from an action research project involving users and residents in a landscape vision process and discusses how best to facilitate civil society as well as the municipality in taking an active stake in landscape governance and change. Two processes, one in a rural area within the larger functional region of a capital city and another in a peripheral location, took on to 'update' the open landscapes together with ordinary residents, interest groups as well as the municipality. A process of getting people to reflect on how they use the landscape, what they find valuable, what are challenges and potentials was followed by a process of making a landscape vision. Main results of the processes are that involving people bring about visions with more elements and activities than what a usual municipal administration handles and that they wish to play a stronger role in future landscape governance process. This leaves room more co-governance between the municipality and the civil society. The action research seems to have started a process of engaging people in their everyday landscape and building of social capital; they have shared knowledge and experiences with others, started to organize themselves around common interests and meet and worked with the municipality out of the usual citizen –regulator relationship. The question is how this process can be taken on further after the project stops. In the peripheral area, it seems like it will be the local groups that will need to take the initiative where in the more central area, the municipality have more resources to possibly facilitate local groups. Setting up a larger network of local groups across areas could maybe be a forum where locals could keep up their engagement by getting knowledge from other local group activities and building relations to other interest groups.