



Northern Notes

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Features

A letter from the president .. 2

News from the secretariat.... 6

Session submissions to the
Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 .. 7

From the Field:

Giuseppe Amatulli 10

Portrait:

Mathieu Landriault..... 15

New publications 17

Onwards – To the Arctic Congress

A letter from the president

Grete Hovelsrud

IASSA collaboration on many fronts

In the past few months IASSA has engaged in collaborative activities on many fronts. In February, at the Arctic Science Summit Week in Vienna we signed a renewed letter of agreement with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and The University of the Arctic (UArctic). IASSA shares many common interests with IASC and UArctic around Arctic research. Our intention is to combine our efforts in selected activities “so as to raise the level of impact of all three organizations in terms of making advances in research, education and outreach relevant to Arctic issues, and for providing relevant advice to policy makers”. The collaborative efforts include taking part in the International Conference on Arctic Research (ICARP) Planning Process (2022-2026); promoting and planning the upcoming 5th International Polar Year (IPY) 2032-33; and ensuring efficient interaction with all aspect of the Arctic Council. In addition, we will jointly continue to support emerging scholars and assist the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) in fulfilling its mission.

IASSA is an observer to the Arctic Council and under the Norwegian Chairship that started in May we will continue our engagement in the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), and the Arctic Council's work on gender in the Arctic. It is also relevant for IASSA to ramp up our involvement in other working groups, such as CAFF, PAME, and AMAP. Both IASSA members and several members of our Council continue to be engaged in the efforts of the Arctic Council. The IASSA Council welcomes ideas for further engagement from our membership. If you have any ideas, feel free to reach out to us.

Another important part of ongoing collaboration is that between IASSA (ICASS XI), UArctic Congress, and High North Dialogue to organize the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024, from 29th May to 3rd of June next year, as I have mentioned in previous Northern Notes. Bringing three conferences together in Bodø, each with their own signature and identity, is both challenging and rewarding. It has the potential to become an extraordinary showcase of Arctic cooperation. Additionally, merging three conferences into one aligns with sustainability goals of reducing CO2 emissions from travel and increasing partnerships. The Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 will provide excellent opportunities to exchange knowledge, build partnerships, and



Signing the agreement with IASC in Vienna, February 2023

to meet and connect. As I write, the deadline for submitting session abstracts is approaching fast, but there will be plenty of time to submit abstracts. We have published the planned timeline in this issue, and while some of the deadlines may be subject to change, it illustrates the plan for how we will organize the broad and genuine interest in our Arctic Congress Bodø 2024. The themes of the congress align with previous ICASSs and linked to Norway's Arctic Council Chairship's priorities in partnership with the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Our goal is that the congress in 2024 will result in new knowledge, showcase the strength of Arctic science, and spark new constellations of projects networks among scientists, educators, students, artists, and others with love for and interest in the Arctic.

Bodø here in Northern Norway is the host city and we are planning for a congress that is both true to the spirit of our own International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences - ICASS - and to the spirit of Arctic collaboration. In planning the Congress, we are cognizant of the local and regional context, and that the city of Bodø, Nordland County, is located on Sámi land. This will be reflected in the scientific program, the activities outside the main program, and in how we reach out to political leaders.



From the editors

Summer has finally arrived here on the North Norwegian coast, and even as pleasant as the mild summer weather is, there is no denying that this spring has reminded us of how fragile susceptible we are to changes in climate and weather. The latter is something we as northerners have been resilient to since... forever, but the slow but relentless changes in the overall climate leaves us with more precipitation, warmer winters and locked-in weather systems. In Nordland this has manifested in a two month long rainy season during what is usually spring. Modelling shows that the Lofoten Islands may very well be snow-free in 2070, and data shows that, as an example, Vågan municipality receives 60% more precipitation now than in the 1960s.

We hope that as we brace for the consequences of lack of action on climate change, our community remain firm in our commitment to keep focusing on lives lived in the north, and how to secure it. Do continue to let us know what you're all up to, we at Northern Notes would love to be able to show more of all the wonderful work that is being done out there.

We wish everyone a great summer!

Connect with IASSA in mailing list and on Twitter!

Join IASSA's Listserve to get regular updates! We have been experiencing technical problems with our Listserve, and we ask you to renew your subscription via this link: <https://iassa.org/iassa-listserver>

Also, follow us **@IASSA_SocSci** for news within the field of Arctic social science.

In social media please feel free to use the following hashtags:

#IASSA for news within and about the association

#ICASSXI for news about the 11th ICASS as part of Arctic Congress Bodø 2024

#ArcticCongress2024 for news about Arctic Congress Bodø 2024

Also on Twitter:

IASSA president
@GreteKaare



Join us!

 **ICASS XI** The 11th
International
Congress of
Arctic Social
Sciences

Part of:



The 11th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, ICASS XI, will take place as part of the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024, **29 May – 3 June 2024 in Bodø, Norway**. The Congress is hosted by Nordland Research Institute and Nord University, and organised in collaboration between IASSA, UArctic and the High North Center.

More information see: www.arcticcongress.com

Deadline for submitting session proposals has been extended to 31st of July!



**High North
Dialogue**

The IASSA secretariat 2021-2024

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News from The IASSA Secretariat

Arctic Congress 2024 in Bodø - here we go!

The IASSA Secretariat in Bodø is working intensively with the preparations of next year's Arctic Congress Bodø 2024. We are expecting around 1000 participants to the congress which will become one of the grandest Arctic conferences to date. Since we are three organising partners of the event there is a lot of coordination and organising happening simultaneously. The three organisers are:

IASSA, and its secretariat and president from Nordland Research Institute and Nord University in Bodø, Norway, are involved both in the local planning committee and the congress' programme committee.

UArctic – The University of the Arctic – is a network of universities, colleges, research institutes, and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the North. The network was established by the Arctic Council in 1998 and has since its launch been hosted by the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland.

High North Dialogue – is the annual event by the High North Center at Nord University in Bodø, Norway.

New colleague in the IASSA Secretariat



The IASSA Secretariate has recently welcomed another skilled colleague to the team: **Elin-Marita Balseth Kristiansen** is currently working as a Senior Consultant at the Research and Development Division at Nord University.

Elin has a background in biosciences, specifically marine ecology, and wrote their Master's thesis on the increase in intestinal parasites (*Anisakis spp.*) in wild caught fish in Nordland area, in the context of a rapidly changing marine environment. Their work includes supporting staff and researchers at the university with internal funding, and general work with the university alliance, SEA-EU.

Arctic Congress Bodø 2024: Submission deadline for session proposals extended to 31 July

Session proposals must include a title, a short abstract (max 250 words) of the planned session (60 or 90 minutes), and other relevant information and contacts for session conveners. Sessions can be either open or closed (by invitation only). All sessions are encouraged to include youth, local and Indigenous people as speakers or discussants, and sessions should be transdisciplinary when possible.

Session proposals must be submitted under either the main themes or sub themes listed below:

1. Oceans

Key topics are ocean health and productivity, ensuring sustainable Arctic Ocean industries, reducing marine litter and plastic pollution, enhancing emergency prevention, preparedness and response in the Arctic, and safeguarding sustainable shipping and reducing risks. Additional topics will also include the co-management of natural resources, inclusion of local and indigenous knowledges, and opportunities for young people to live and thrive in the Arctic.

- Ocean health and productivity
- Sustainable Arctic Ocean industries
- Co-management of ocean resources
- Marine litter and plastic pollution
- Emergency prevention and preparedness
- Sustainable shipping and risk reduction

2. Climate & environment

Key topics are the impacts of climate change on Arctic environments and biodiversity, the need to adapt the management regime to climate change, and action to deal with the environmental problems associated with expanding human activity. Related topics include strengthening Arctic cooperation to find long-term solutions and building local adaptation capacity and institutional resilience.

- Current and future climate change impacts in the Arctic
- Social impacts of Arctic climate change
- Impacts of human activities on the Arctic environments and biodiversity
- Adaptation to climate change
- Building capacity and institutional resilience

3. Sustainable economic developments

Key topics are sustainable economic development as an essential basis for social development in the Arctic, how nature and traditional land use can be safeguarded during the green transition, the blue economy, and sustainable shipping. Related topics include local food culture, food systems, and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

- Sustainable economic development in the Arctic
- Green transition and land use
- Blue economy
- Sustainable shipping
- Local food systems and indigenous knowledge

4. People of the North

Key topics are public health, living conditions, digital health solutions, mental health and health preparedness in the Arctic, cultural diversity and gender equality. Related topics include engaging with young people and Indigenous Peoples to strengthen community development and collaboration.

- Adaptive capacities in the Arctic
- Public health and wellbeing, including mental health and digital health solutions
- Arctic cultures and arts
- Gender equal and inclusive Arctic communities
- Inclusion and empowerment of young people in the North

5. Other

Topics which are not covered by the themes mentioned in above should be submitted in this category.

Since the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024 will include the 11th ICASS we particularly encourage our IASSA-members to submit proposals and abstracts to make sure the Arctic social scientific community is well represented. The congress will include a meeting of the IASSA General Assembly.

The timeline for decisions and opening for abstracts are:

1. Decisions on the session call will be announced by late September 2023
2. Abstract call will be open 1 October – 30 November 2023
3. Announcements of accepted abstracts by late January 2024

For more information and submission, see the bottom of the webpage for “Start Session Submission”-button here:

<https://www.arcticcongress.com/call-for-session-proposals>

From the Field

*The entrance of Doig River Nature Reserve.
Photo by G. Amatulli*



Understanding the concept of cumulative effects to envision a better future

By **Giuseppe Amatulli**[‡]

[‡] Postdoctoral Fellow Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

The way in which people envision the future, how to live and what is possible to do in resource-rich areas is strongly intertwined with the role that the extractive industry plays in shaping a narrative to imagine what is desirable and feasible. This is one of the main conclusions in my PhD entitled '*Cumulative effects, anthropogenic changes, and modern life paths in sub-Arctic contexts. Envisioning the future in Northeastern British Columbia: the case of the Doig and Blueberry River First Nations*', which I successfully defended on June 16th, 2022, at the Department of Anthropology of Durham University (UK). My doctoral research, funded through the Durham ARCTIC PhD programme, can be situated at the intersection of socio-legal and environmental anthropology, intertwined with International Human Rights Law and Indigenous peoples' rights.

My research proposal was built around the litigation *Yahey v. BC*, which was the first court trial in Canadian legal history that addressed the cumulative effects of industrial development intertwined with Treaty 8 and Constitutional rights infringements. In my doctoral research, I unpacked the concept of cumulative effects to describe the many changes generated by the extractive industry in Northeastern British Columbia. Importantly, I emphasised not only the environmental and biological changes but also the important cultural, social, and economic aspects.

To understand the concept of cumulative effects, I pointed to the inclusion of people into the definition, building on the ground-breaking definition by Annie Booth, UNBC Professor, who underlined the multiple, uncoordinated assaults on multiple species, entire ecosystems, and human lives: “[T]o know what cumulative effects are, it is necessary to understand what it must be like to have your entire culture and sense of self destroyed, inch by inch. It is not simply a loss of a species, a single cultural practice, or a right.” (Booth 2016, p. 70). To Booth, cumulative effects are assaults on human lives that compromise people’s connection to their land and their ability to perform daily practices. Thus, one of the aims of my PhD research was to understand further the impact of cumulative effects on people’s lives and on how they envision the future. The *Yahey v. BC* litigation provided a perfect bridge between my anthropological interests and my legal background.

In June 2019, I moved to Fort St. John, an oil and gas town located in Northeastern British Columbia not far from the Doig and Blueberry River First Nation Reserves. At first, exploring the concept of the cumulative effects of industrial development proved to be difficult. In the beginning of my fieldwork, I naively thought that Fort St. John residents and First Nation members would know everything about this concept, the positive and negative impacts industrial development is generating in the area, and how to face and mitigate it. My fieldwork proved that not only were people stunned when I asked them about their opinions on the cumulative effects of industrial development, they did not really want to talk about such issues.

With time and by building trust and relationships with Doig River First Nation, I realized that talking about cumulative effects was useless without unpacking the concept while using a holistic approach to find answers to my research questions. In conducting my research, I relied on a qualitative approach combined with a research methodology anchored in a strong community-based approach. I relied on informal, semi-structured and unstructured conversations to gather information, as they are the best tools when performing in-depth ethnographic work. Only in this way was it possible to genuinely establish a connection with community members while getting to know their everyday struggles, views, and expectations.

Central in helping me build connection was me joining a trail-cutting pilot project aiming to strengthen members’ connection to the land and the cultural and social importance of going out and working in the bush. Simultaneously, the project was

about rediscovering human-environment interactions, old subsistence practices, and allowing young people to get familiar with medical plants and bush food. Between July and September 2019, I spent three weeks working in the forest with Doig community members, clearing old trails while listening to old stories and rediscovering paths that ancestors used in the past for trading purposes, to hunt and trap. As I spent time with Doig members, I stopped asking questions about cumulative effects and development. Instead, I listened to the people, while spending time, and working with them. I learned about the dances and cultural practices in areas considered sacred as well as how the industrial development has compromised the community's ability to hunt and trap in their traditional territories. Through these experiences, I was able to understand the deep meaning of cumulative effects on people's lives.



Tea Dance during a traditional funeral celebrated by Doig members at Petersen's crossing.

Photo by G. Amatulli.

The disruption oil and gas developments have generated in people's lives was well explained by BRFN elder May Apsassin, who stated during a workshop on UNDRIP held at Blueberry Reserve on February 28th, 2020:

'Today, there is no KEMA for these oil companies. Even if I say don't go there, because there is my cabin, they still go there! And that's it...my cabin is KEMA; I do not want anything going there! KEMA means somewhere where your traditions are respected; nothing goes there, and nothing can scare us.'

What elder May Apsassin meant with her words provides a way to look at industrial development, its effects and dynamics while reflecting on what is established in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Analysing UNDRIP was part of the work I did in the second half of my fieldwork (January-August 2020), working with the Land Department of Doig River First Nation as a UNDRIP Advisor. Together with the former Land Manager (Cec Heron) and with the help of several community members, we developed a framework to understand how members would like to see specific community values and Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) protected in the British Columbia legal framework following the approval of Bill-41/DRIPA Act by the BC Government.



Conversing with Maggie during the world cafe on July 21st, 2020. Photo by DRFN.

Affiliated information:

UNDRIP: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC): <https://doigriverfn.com/about/undrip>

Moreover, a community world café was held on July 21st, 2020, to hear members' opinions and understandings of specific rights enshrined in the UNDRIP, such as the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Particular attention was reserved for how members perceive the word 'Consent' according to its meaning in the Beaver language and how consent should be implemented within the provincial legal framework.

Drawing on my year of fieldwork and the work I did with Doig River First Nation, I conclude that cumulative effects manifest themselves by changing peoples' minds. They affect how people envision the future and their ability to envision different possible future(s), to do something different, and (re)discover new ways of living with less dependency on the oil and gas industry. Cumulative effects are intertwined with the notion of infrastructure anticipation. By exploring the hopes and dreams that the realization of specific infrastructure, such as oil and gas wells and facilities, and linear infrastructures (pipelines, railways, roads, etc.), generate for a better future, I developed my own theory to explain cumulative effects in the context of my research and how they influence how people envision the future.

As we all are influenced by the sociocultural environment and economic context where we live and, to a certain extent, shaped by it, I argue that cumulative effects ultimately trap people in a market-driven economy and society. In this perspective, doing or even envisioning something different is perceived as a threat to the status quo rather than an opportunity to make significant changes and improvements to everyday life. In such a context, community members may be trapped in what I call 'atemporal modernity', continuously waiting for a better future yet to come. This future is conceived as only possible through extractivism; the promises it brings, and the hopes and dreams it generates.

By letting people talk and listen, I describe people's everyday challenges while exploring which kind of future(s) community members envision to keep living off the land as long as *'the sun shines, the rivers flow, and the grass grows.'* I hope that sharing the outcomes of my PhD serves to raise awareness of the impact the extractive industry has beyond what is environmentally evident while offering opportunities for mindful reflections on how to counteract resource exploitation and live in a society less dependent on extractivism.



Portrait



Mathieu Landriault

Mathieu Landriault is based in Gatineau, Canada, where they teach political science and conflict studies. Mathieu has worked on Arctic issues for 13 years.

What are you currently working on related to Arctic issues?

- My work can be declined on three different fronts. The first one is to understand how traditional and social media portray the Arctic region and inhabitants. I assess with colleagues how disinformation on the Arctic takes place and what forms it takes: I also study who pushes false claims about the Arctic region online. Secondly, I assess public opinion in the Arctic region, especially regarding geopolitical developments. Opinion polls provide valuable information about dominant perceptions, popular ideas and support for specific policies in the general population. At the same time, it allows researchers to further our understanding about public support beyond widely received stereotypes. Finally, I devote attention in understanding how Arctic governance institutions have evolved and adapted to different geopolitical eras.

In your opinion, what is important for sustainable development in the Arctic?

- Sustainable development can occur by considering the particularities of the region and listening to Arctic residents. Policies of wall-to-wall prohibitions seem doomed to fail while balancing economic and environmental consideration would be more likely to provide sustainable development.

What role can the social sciences play in this development?

- I think the social sciences can support sustainable development by researching how human behaviors can impact environmental changes. It can also assist in explaining resistance to sustainable development. For example, I study online disinformation about the Arctic and one significant vector of Arctic disinformation is climate change denialism. It's important to understand the phenomenon of climate denialism, measure its prevalence but also study its impacts on public opinion and on popular beliefs. In turn, we can assess the most effective ways to combat climate disinformation and to communicate findings effectively with the public. Combating disinformation helps the public being well informed, understanding the different variables present in complex decision-making and be more confident in scientists and decision-makers alike.

How do you envision the Arctic 30 years from now?

- Good question! A somewhat different region, with more accessibility and human activities although a space where mobility is still limited by environmental and economic factors. The different assessments predicting a race and a struggle for the Arctic have proven wrong for many years now and I think will continue to be wrong on a 30-year horizon.

How can IASSA best contribute to Arctic research in the years to come?

- I think that the organization can help in furthering the importance of the social sciences in Arctic research priorities. The dissemination and production of knowledge in Arctic research have been dominated by the natural sciences: social sciences can contribute to understand how these natural phenomena can be impacted by human behaviors and also how solutions can be blocked or enabled by social, cultural and political factors.



New Publications

Fresh reads from arctic social science and related fields

Magt og autoritet i Grønland



Magt og autoritet i Grønland

Edited by Ole Høiris, Ole Marquardt, and Claus Andreasen. Odense, DK: Syddansk Universitetsforlag (University Press of Southern Denmark), 2023, 599 pp., Color Illustrations.

ISBN: 978-87-408-3448-2

At a time when Greenland is becoming the focus of global attention *Magt og autoritet i Grønland* (Power and authority in Greenland) offers fresh insight into contemporary issues related to power and authority in the country. With contributions from leading Greenlandic and international researchers, this work analyzes the political, economic, and cultural forms of power and authority shaping Greenlandic society. The book is divided into four main sections:

The first section, *History of Power*, examines the historical foundation of power relations in the country, including pre-colonial and early colonial organizational structures, the work of National Councils, the negotiations that led to Home Rule, and the influence of experts.

The second section, *Looking back at Power*, explores power in relation to particular episodes in Greenlandic history, including the creation of Greenlandic television, Greenlanders' views of Danish military and mining efforts, and the experience of Danish teachers in Greenland.

In the third section, *Self-Government in Function*, authors investigate the increasing role of Greenland in Arctic political institutions and the Greenlandic Government's response to major disasters such as the 2017 tsunami and the COVID-19 pandemic. This section also explores how debates surrounding Greenlandic identity have taken shape during the Self-Government period.

Finally, in *Self-Government and Society*, researchers examine the Greenlandic Government's recent activities in relation to children's rights, the development of the Greenlandic school system, ethics and the healthcare system, elder care, and the transmission of tradition. Finally, subjects such as sexual violence and responses to homelessness are also discussed.

Magt og autoritet i Grønland is dedicated to Robert Petersen, Greenland's first professor and one of the founders of Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland. The book opens with words of remembrance from the university's current chancellor, Gitte Adler Reimer.

This publication is currently only available in Danish.

Your publication in Northern Notes?

Suggest new publications within the field of Arctic social science for Northern Notes!

We are always eager to disseminate interesting reads and publications within our research field to our members. Give us a hint about your latest reading interests at IASSASecretariat@nord.no or on Twitter [@IASSA_SocSci](https://twitter.com/IASSA_SocSci)