



WORKSHOP ABSTRACT

Arctic Sustainability Revisited: Mixing Methods to Study Communities in Transition

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Abstract: In recent decades, social science discussions on sustainability in the Arctic have been revolving around the impacts of climate change, infrastructural development, energy production and consumption and natural resource extraction on human well-being. Social anthropologists, who, more than other social scientists, have been preoccupied with the local socio-economic and socio-cultural consequences of these global and pan-Arctic processes are well-versed in ethnographic research. Yet, the challenges they face, especially in large-scale, comparative, and interdisciplinary projects, is how to synthesise different approaches, data, and types of knowledge to make sense of the multiple drivers of change and multidimensional transitions and uncertainty that Arctic communities are going through.

This roundtable will discuss challenges and best practices of anthropological and social science research on Arctic sustainability and communities in transition. What kinds of configurations and combinations of ethnographic research and quantitative approaches are considered most useful for a comprehensive understanding of social, economic and environmental changes? How to best engage local communities, stake-, rights- and knowledge holders in the co-design of research, the co-production of knowledge, and social learning? What is the potential of innovative - such as art- and software-based methodologies - as analytical lenses and science communication tools? This roundtable will assemble anthropologists and other social scientists to discuss these and other ethical and methodological questions drawing on their research practices in the Arctic and beyond. The round table will include inputs by invited participants, but we welcome the audience to join the discussion.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 | Slot 4 | Room 1

Peter Schweitzer

Henri Wallén

Ria Adams

Tanja Joonas

Sophia Elixhauser

Olga Zaslavskaya