

Brain circulation in Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland mitigating very small absolute capabilities for international engagement?

By Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen

This paper will analyze and discuss the role of high levels of brain circulation for academic, business, civil society and government organizations in Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. The argument is that high levels of brain circulation (highly developed relative capabilities in international affairs) can mitigate challenges from very small organizations (very low absolute capabilities).

High levels of brain circulation with international educational and/or professional experience are hypothesized to allow very small North Atlantic academic, business, civil society and government organizations to operate much more effectively in international affairs. The causality is hypothesized to be cognitive in terms of increased cognitive complexity, relational in terms of networks, experiential in terms of tacit and formal knowledge, and finally reputational with foreign counterparts explicitly or implicitly recognizing competence based on international education and experience.

Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are very small or micro-states, which are characterized by high levels of relative capabilities and development, but extremely limited absolute capabilities. This dilemma is heavily accentuated by very large air, land and sea spaces, difficult climate and geography and very sparse population. The North Atlantic has been a heavily contested geostrategic space for centuries by outside great and super powers, which was particularly clear during the Second World War and the Cold War.

Today, the North Atlantic is influenced by international environmental and socio-political-economic systemic processes of climate change, globalization and power transition. Globalization is the compression of time and space between societies, where also North Atlantic societies are affected faster and harder by outside forces, the case in point was the Icelandic financial crisis. Power transition with the rise of China also affects North Atlantic societies, where China has become a key political, economic, cultural, etc., partner for many academic, business, civil society and government actors. The Chinese involvement has often been extremely controversial. The North Atlantic is also affected by the ongoing struggles over the post-post-Cold War international position of Russia and its domestic socio-political-economic system, whether Russian financial and commercial relations to Iceland and the Faroe Islands, or US renewed interest in the Keflavik airfield.

Iceland has a strong history of brain circulation (*ad sigla*), which has supplied relatively very competent international actors, while very few in absolute numbers. Data on Icelandic foreign educational experience shows how Iceland especially after WWII have studied in a range of Northamerican, Nordic, and European countries. The Faroese also have strong brain circulation, however far too narrowly concentrated to

Denmark, which limits the search networks of Faroese organizations. Greenland is severely hampered in its socio-political-economic development by far too little and too narrow brain circulation.

Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen is a Danish international relations scholar and currently Professor of Northern Studies and Barents Chair in Politics at the University of Tromsø-The Arctic University of Norway. Rasmus grew up in Iceland and therefore has a deep academic and personal interest in the past, present and future of the North Atlantic and Denmark's relationship with the region. Rasmus has studied at the Universities of Copenhagen, Iceland, Geneva, Lausanne and Amsterdam. He holds a PhD from Cambridge and was a visiting PhD candidate at Sciences Po. Rasmus held postdocs at Harvard, Tokyo Institute of Technology, United Nations University and Aalborg University. His field of research is transnational knowledge relations.

Post-Normal Diplomacy in the Arctic

By Lau Øfjord Blaxekjær

This paper argues that the West Nordic nations of Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Norway should develop and apply Post-Normal Diplomacy in the Arctic. This type of diplomacy builds on insights from the theory of Post-Normal Governance; a new governance framework responding to a situation of wicked crises where "facts are uncertain, values in dispute, stakes high, and decisions urgent". Diplomacy has already developed from a traditional approach to a hybrid one, and in the Arctic it is often connected with science, cooperation, economic development, and dialogue. However, the Arctic is evidently home to many ontological and epistemological risks connected with e.g. climate change, environmental degradation, economic development, shipping, and even security issues in Ukraine. This paper describes what Post-Normal Diplomacy is and argues why it is a suitable approach for the West Nordic nations. Post-Normal Diplomacy focuses on engaging an extended peer community, co-production and sharing of knowledge, inclusion of other knowledges, and building trust as the basis of crisis management.

Lau Øfjord Blaxekjær holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen. Lau is an engaged scholar working with environmental transformation of society in the Faroe Islands and the West Nordic region. He represented the Faroe Islands at COP21 in Paris, and has also advised the Nordic Council of Ministers in UN climate negotiations. Lau is Leader of University of the Arctic's Thematic Network on Arctic Coastal Communities for Sustainability. He developed and leads the Green Growth Dialogue (a West Nordic – Canadian Science-Policy-Society network). He has also been visiting professor at the Sino-Danish Centre for Education and Research in Beijing, China. He is author of 'New practices and narratives of environmental diplomacy', In. Sosa-Nunez and Atkins (eds.), (2016), Environment, Climate Change and International Relations, E-International Relations; and co-author of 'Mapping the narrative positions of

new political groups under the UNFCCC', in *Climate Policy* (2014, with T. D. Nielsen).

Climate change and mobility in the Arctic: The case of Greenland

By Uffe Jakobsen

Climate Change is said to increase the accessibility of natural resources in the Arctic and to be an important driver of socioeconomic change and to cause problems of sociocultural interactions as part of domestic human mobility and transnational migration. This paper will first look at the statistics on societal impact of climate change, domestic human mobility and transnational immigration and emigration by asking questions on climate change migration in the Arctic as such compared to patterns of migration in Greenland. Further, it will look at socioeconomic opportunities and sociocultural challenges of migrating peoples coming to Greenland and leaving Greenland. In the literature, white papers and the press focus has been on Arctic-Asian intercultural relations and Greenlandic-Danish identity politics. The paper will analyse relations between climate change narratives and manifest.

Uffe Jakobsen earned his Ph.D. in Political Science (University of Copenhagen, 1994). He is Associate Professor at University of Copenhagen (Arctic Politics Research Group, Department of Political Science) and Affiliate Professor (adjungeret professor) at University of Greenland. He was Vice President (prorektor) of the University of Greenland from 2010 to 2013, and Director of Centre for Baltic Sea Region Studies (CEBAST) at the Øresund University and University of Copenhagen from 2002 to 2010. His main research areas are Arctic maritime security, security risk management, Asian interests in the Arctic, climate change impacts on society and developments in Greenland, conceptual history, democratisation and sustainability. His latest publication is "Politics of sustainability in the Arctic: A research agenda" in: Gail Fondahl and Gary N. Wilson (eds.), *Northern Sustainabilities: Understanding and Addressing Change in the Circumpolar World*, Springer International Publishing Switzerland, 2017, pp. 13-23 (with Ulrik Pram Gad and Jeppe Strandsbjerg).

Climate Change and the Arctification of Northern Tourism

By Dieter K. Müller

This presentation offers some preliminary thoughts on the nexus of climate change and tourism. Often climate change is portrayed as a potential threat to tourism in high latitudes, not least because of its impact on fauna and a seemingly pristine nature. However, it has also been claimed that media attention around climate change triggers what has been called "last chance tourism". It lures people to the North offering experiences of its wildlife before climate

change extinguishes the current ecosystem. Hence, there is a risk that climate change becomes a competitive advantage and an integrated part of the commodification of Northern environment and communities. In this context a re-labeling of tourism in the North as Arctic tourism becomes a marketing tool benefitting from the current interest for environmental change in the Arctic.

Dieter K. Müller is professor of social and economic geography at Umeå University and the chair of International Geographical Union's Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change. He has been a founding member of the International Polar Tourism Research Network (IPTRN). Müller has research interests with respect to tourism and regional development, mobility and tourism in peripheral areas. Moreover, he is the chairperson of the board of the Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University (ARCUM) and currently Deputy Vice-chancellor of Umeå University.

Under the Shieldshaped Mountain

By Jóhanna Björk

Under the Shieldshaped Mountain is a visual ethnography with the children in Kulusuk, East Greenland. Tsumu? I asked them when they came to my storytelling workshop, where do we go? In the smartphone, children down to 6 years old have access to all the audio-visual tools needed to tell and share their stories. These workshops framed my visual ethnography and participant observation and was the gateway to learn more about the community. At the same time as national politics are advocating for urbanization and cutting in services to the settlements, there is a continuing urgency to better the children's welfare, especially the settlement children's. This contradiction drove my fieldwork forward. The research showed me that as teenagers the children have outgrown both the geographical and social landscapes and there is little their community can provide for their future (Ingold 1993). They know that to build a future they must leave and it scares them. The multiple audio-visuals created during the workshop are thus a fundamental part of the research. Throughout the presentation I will be referring to relevant clips. A significant part of the study is the exhibit: 12 smartphones with short videos hang on a wallpapered landscape of the children's photos, suggesting a link between their geographical and social landscapes.

Jóhanna Björk is a visual and media anthropologist. Her work centers around visual methods and representation, cooperative anthropology, the arctic, climate change, knowledge transmission, migration, colonialism, childhood, media, storytelling and mapping. Her last research focuses on participatory visual ethnography, using smartphones as a tool to find, record and share stories and world-views in Kulusuk, East Greenland, where Jóhanna also works a tour-guide and hostel-manager. Jóhanna I holds an M.A. degree from the Freie Universität Berlin, where she graduated in 2015. She is preparing to continuing her research as a PhD student with the University of Iceland. The focus of this research will be

on knowledge transmission. Jóhanna was born in 1983, in Reykjavík, Iceland. She lives in Reykjavík, but also lives and works part time in Kulusuk, Greenland and Berlin, Germany.

The relationship between Greenlanders and sled dogs: an ethnographic case study in Kulusuk, East Greenland

By Andrea Fiocca

Due to the harsh climate conditions, the inhabitants of the Arctic have limited resources, which leads to a very unique way of life. The relationship between dogs and humans is one of the characteristic relationships in the area, a coexistence based on survival and mutual stewardship. Sled dogs, whose role is deeply implanted in Greenlandic culture are essential for human mobility in the Arctic and are a significant part of the local subsistence-economy. The goal of this ethnography is to offer a comprehensive view of hunting activities with the use of sled dogs in Kulusuk, a small village in East Greenland.

Through participant observation of practices linked to sled dog use this research project will address perceptions of local inhabitants regarding sled dogs, environment and tourism. The relationship between Greenlanders and their dogs can unveil multiple meanings regarding how the value of animal, environment and heritage vary and change through traditional, rural and urbanizing areas.

In recent years, both climate change and increasing tourism have been transforming the use of dogs in the Arctic, offering new perspectives for these traditional practices in the Arctic, both in the economic and cultural dimensions. The research will focus on these changes and see how they affect the people's survival and access to resources. In this context, the analysis of new challenges for Arctic communities will throw light on the future dynamics of mobility in these areas.

Andrea Fiocca is a Master Student in Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) at the University of Iceland and young researcher of the Northgate Network. In 2013 he got his bachelor degree in Literature, Writing, Publishing and Journalism at La Sapienza, University of Rome. Andrea did an internship in communication with the Italian Red Cross (IRC) and the European Network on HIV, AIDS and tuberculosis (ERNA), but after that he started to focus entirely on environmental issues. His interest in climate change and adaptation measures of small communities in the Arctic has led him to doing research on the relationship between Greenlanders and their sled dogs in Kulusuk, East Greenland, where he will be doing a four month ethnographic field work in 2017.

Moving and melting: identity processes in a mobile North Atlantic

By Katla Kjartansdóttir and Kristinn Schram

In the wake of climate change, and anticipating its great challenges, cooperation and mobility in the North Atlantic is both a matter of policy and a lived reality of everyday life. In the “West Nordic” context a relevant question is how mobile people negotiate and adapt to emerging opportunities, lasting bonds, old tropes and new connections. This presentation looks at the identification processes and identity politics of the area. Focusing on networks of mobile people in Greenland and Iceland it discusses transnational uses of ethnicity, national and regional images, heritage, and how discourses of climate change and resource development may shape identity negotiations between and amongst these groups and individuals. With a backwards glance to vertical, or top-down, perspectives of discourse and governance, this research project will look to the horizontal practices of these political, cultural, and territorial issues. It will also offer thoughts on future trends and possibilities in identity formations to come.

Katla Kjartansdóttir is a PhD-student within the Department of ethnology/folklore and museum studies at the University of Iceland. Her research is on museums, mobility and contemporary cultural politics in Iceland. Her work includes: “Þjóðminjasöfn og móttun þjóðernismyndar” in Hrefna Róbertsdóttir and Páll Björnsson (2005), “Mótmælastrengur í þjóðarbrjóstinu in Sigurjón Baldur Hafsteinsson and Helga Lára Þorsteinsdóttir (2010), “Re-negotiating Identity within the National Museum of Iceland” in K. Goodnow and H. Akman (2008) and “Something in the Air: Performing the North within Norden” in P. Aronsson and L. Gradén (Ashgate, 2013).

Kristinn Schram is lecturer/assistant professor in Folkloristics/Ethnology at the University of Iceland. He received his PhD. in Ethnology from the University of Edinburgh in 2010 after which he conducted postdoctoral research at the Reykjavík Academy, the Icelandic Centre for Ethnology & Folklore and the University of Iceland. He was director of the the Icelandic Centre for Ethnology & Folklore (2008-2011) and the Centre for Arctic Policy Studies (2012-2015). His research interests include mobile people and contested constructions of the North in relation to national, cultural and gendered identities and transnational interaction. Kristinn also conducts and coordinates research, publications, events and networks on Arctic discourses, their practice and relationship with climate change, society and culture in the North.

Climate change, economic activities and risks: A viewpoint of insurance

By Lára Jóhannsdóttir

The benefit of economic activities in the Arctic are frequently stated. These include exploration of energy resources, both non-renewable and renewable resources, mining, fisheries, shipping and logistics, and tourism. Risks of those

activities are to lesser degree discussed, and the academic literature on risks, economic activities such as shipping, and insurance is almost non-existing. Nevertheless, the insurance sector has identified several risk categories, including operational risks, environmental risks, reputational risks, legal and liability risks - including risk of prosecution -, economic risk and insurance related factors such as lack of insurance coverage, high premiums and stringent insurance terms and condition. Additionally, there are political risks that the insurance sector has not discussed, such as the outcome of the presidential election in the United States (US), bi-polarization between US and China, and conflicts between China and Japan which may have impact on Northern Sea Route sailings between Asia and Europe. These risk factors have been identified, for instance in NORASIA VII: Maritime Asia conference held in Oslo in January 2017. The research gap in this field will also be discussed, in particular if and how this issue could be brought into studies on sociocultural aspects of climate change in the Arctic region.

Lára Jóhannsdóttir is an Assistant Professor in Environment and Natural Resources, at the School of Business, University of Iceland (UI). She is a board member of the Institute for Business Research. Lara was the Managing editor for Research in applied Business and Economics from 2015-2016. She is a nominated board member in the Sustainability and Environmental committee of the UI. Furthermore, she has served as board member of an occupational pension fund in Iceland from 2011. Lara holds a PhD degree in Business (2012), MBA degree in Global Management with honors (2007), and BSc in Business Administration (1992). She has published findings of her studies in high ranking academic journals and book chapters have been published by John Wiley & Sons, Palgrave Macmillan and Springer-Gabler. For a period of 14 years (1992-2006) she worked as an executive and a specialist in Icelandic non-life insurance and life insurance companies.