



Programme

Thursday 19 May

18:30 Hotel Hans Egede, lobby. Those interested meet for a guided walking tour with Uffe Jacobsen and dinner at a local restaurant, at your own cost.

Friday 20 May

Ilisimatusarfik – University of Greenland

Northgate workshop, moderated by Kristinn Schram and Pia Hansson

09:00 Welcoming words and introduction
Kristinn Schram, University of Iceland

09:15 Arctic Sea Level Change in a Warming World
Halldór Björnsson, Icelandic Met Office

09:35 Sea Ice, Resource Development and Community-Based Monitoring in Northwest Greenland
Mark Nuttall, Ilisimatusarfik/Greenland Climate Research Centre and University of Alberta

09:55 Climate change and maritime security in the Arctic: Activity levels, risk patterns, emergency preparedness institutions and cooperation between Greenland and Denmark
Uffe Jakobsen and Birger Poppel, University of Copenhagen and University of Greenland

10:15 Discussions

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Tourism and Arctic Socio-Economic development in times of climate change.
Edward Hujbens, University of Akureyri

11:35 “We don’t want to become Henningsvær”
The potential of and limits to ‘turistification’ in Lofoten, Norway
Berit Kristoffersen (UiT), post-doctoral researcher, Arctic Encounters

11:55 Forms and materialities of mobility in Nuuk’s recent past: towards a political economic history of the city
Tone Huse, Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø (UiT)

12:15 Discussions

12:45 Lunch

13:45 Discussions about possible funding applications and the way forward

15:45 Wrap up by Kristinn Schram

18:30 Dinner at Hereford Beefstouw, Hotel Hans Egede



Abstracts

Halldór Björnsson: Arctic Sea Level Change in a Warming World

During the 20th century global sea level rose by almost 0.2m. IPCC projections of global sea level rise during the 21st century range from about half a metre (in scenarios of moderate warming) to almost a metre (in scenarios with intense warming). While there is disagreement on the reliability of these estimates, with some modeling groups claiming the rise could be at least double the IPCC projections, it is well understood that the sea level rise will not be uniform spatially. Some locations, especially in the tropics can see local sea level rise far exceeding the global average, while in other locations the local sea level rise will be much less than the global average and in some locations the local sea level may actually drop. The talk will discuss the factors affecting global and local sea level rise, and discuss the problems to built-up infrastructure when sea level changes.

Mark Nuttall: Sea Ice, Resource Development and Community-Based Monitoring in Northwest Greenland

The marine ecosystem underpins the livelihoods of communities in northwest Greenland and changes to sea ice and to northern waters have significant and far-reaching impacts for hunting and fishing activities and practices. People are having to adapt to changes experienced in the availability, abundance and distribution of living resources—for example, Greenland halibut are moving further north while seals are becoming scarce in some community waters—but a significant question that needs to be addressed is how barriers to adaptation affect local livelihoods. Climate change has to be understood in a wider context of other drivers of social and economic change, as well as environmental politics and governance. Northwest Greenland, particularly the Upernavik area, has also seen significant oil exploration in recent years, seismic activities affect Melville Bay communities, and mining exploration is increasing in the Qaanaaq area. The presence of exploratory activity related to extractive industries has brought different kinds of pressures and anxieties, as well as hopes for the future. This presentation discusses how changing sea ice conditions and challenges arising from resource development activities are understood and spoken about in northwest Greenland, and how discussions are focusing on the need for community-based monitoring.

Uffe Jakobsen and Birger Poppel: Climate change and maritime security in the Arctic: Activity levels, risk patterns, emergency preparedness institutions and cooperation between Greenland and Denmark

Climate change narratives include that melting sea ice in the Arctic causes more maritime activity (oil and gas exploration, cargo transportation, passenger traffic, including cruise tourism) and an increasing risk level of oil spill and human casualties. Using Greenland as an example, we will look at this as hypotheses rather than mere facts and investigate the recent developments and future perspectives for maritime activity and risk patterns and discuss the need for emergency prevention, preparedness and response in the Arctic and the organizational aspects of search and rescue cooperation between Greenland and Denmark.

Edward Hujbens: Tourism and Arctic Socio-Economic development in times of climate change

The Arctic is susceptible to climate change at the same time global interest in the region grows when it comes to attractions and resources. This talk will focus on the systems devised to monitor the impacts of tourism on arctic socio-economic development and the issues that need to be included for tourism's role to be understood.



Abstracts

Berit Kristoffersen: “We don’t want to become Henningsvær” The potential of and limits to ‘turistification’ in Lofoten, Norway

After concerted efforts, the Lofoten islands, known for being the centre for cod fisheries for decades, have established itself as an internationally acclaimed Arctic tourist destination. However, the continuous and unrestrained number of visitors sparks local debates over whether Lofoten is now reaching its ‘limits’. This potential ‘overcrowding’ of Lofoten speaks to ongoing challenges across the Arctic where the increased mobility and inflow of tourists is both an economic opportunity but also represents cultural and ecological challenges. These range from the increasing amount of ‘self-serviced’ tourists putting local ecologies and vegetation under pressure to the degree of the ‘turistification’ of Lofoten as a whole, where many locals fear that autonomy and authenticity might be lost if tourism is to become the new backbone for economic development. This paper analyzes contemporary challenges and possible long-term sustainable strategies in and for Lofoten, drawing on ongoing fieldwork, which also includes a new collaboration with the Lofoten Council, which aims to fill knowledge and policy gaps. A key question is here how to develop and integrate tourism as part the cultural and economic societal basis. And further, how this may ensure that tourists are engaged in a responsible relationship with Lofoten’s seascapes and landscapes.

Tone Huse: Political Materials - Imprints and Mobilities of Nuuk’s Colonial Past

This paper discusses urban transformation in Nuuk, where I study, along with photographer Carsten Aniksdal, the demolition of what was once Greenland’s largest housing estate and building – Blok P. Built between 1965 and 68, Blok P was part in a Danish led strategy to centralise the Greenlandic population and industrialise the country’s economy. In exploring whether Blok P can be treated as an imprint of colonialism in the Arctic we draw on a methodology inspired by visual ethnography, contemporary archaeology and material semiotics. This has provided us with an eclectic intake on the becoming and destruction of Blok P, as well as a particular optics on the human and non-human mobilities that enabled this centralisation strategy. These mobilities, and the physical geographies they compose, are in the paper actualised as metaphors to think by and to scrutinise the dilemmas of the Arctic’s travelling researchers.

