

Contested identities, contested cultures and contested rights - Change and challenges in the Northern European periphery



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Final Call for Papers

Multidisciplinary conference and PhD course on past and present challenges and changing condition of living (in) the north.

Tromsø University Campus, 23 - 25 September 2009.

CEPIN Research School (Citizenship, Encounters and Place Enactment in the North),
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tromsø, Norway.



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The conference will focus on various issues of (political, economic and cultural) rights, identity, sense of place and belonging. Internationally acknowledged researchers are invited to give keynote lectures and to contribute in workshop sessions. Although most of the research at CEPIN concern issues related to the northern European periphery, we have invited main lecturers to the conference to present research from other peripheries where people, regions and ethnic groups face comparable challenges and problems. We will therefore also welcome participants and papers that focus on issues not specifically related to the northern periphery, but who may contribute to a more general and/or comparative discussion of identity, culture and rights. PhD candidates can achieve ECTS' by participating and presenting papers. The Barents Arctic Network of Graduate Schools (BANG) cooperates in arranging this conference. Participants can apply for travel grants from BANG – see detailed information for PhD-students.

The Northern European periphery constitutes a scene where claims of rights, culture and identity has been and still are contested in various ways. The area has been described in contrasting ways: Narratives of life in the North tell of welfare and security, but also of fear, 'outsidedness' and marginalization. The northern areas are associated as rich in regard to natural resources, but just as much as remote, backward and struggling with distances to the centres of power. The image of the north as the 'barbaric' wilderness still appears together with that of a nevertheless exotic outpost of the European civilization. Today, we are witnessing efforts of defining the northern area as a "new dynamic region" in Europe - characterised by advanced technology, knowledge based industry and exploitation of various natural resources (marine resources, oil, minerals, etc.).

The high north has been facing important changes due to technological, cultural, social and political changes. The transnational and global dimensions of the current changes are obvious. Who has the right to the welfare, security and natural resources of these territories? Who has the right to define what the north is and should be, and for whom - and how has it been defined in the past? What roles have ethnic identities and differences had - and how do they matter today? Concepts of rights, culture and identity provides for perspectives that illuminate the contrasts and tensions on this Northern European scene in interesting ways. Investigations of such tracks may be of help also to identify geographically relational features of cultural, social and political processes: What is the North in Europe, or what is the North in the 'globalised' world? How is the situation today different from that of earlier periods?

Most claims for rights, culture and identity are contested in various ways and situations, both by the actors themselves and in disciplinary disputes in the social and cultural sciences. The contested claims in the northern periphery are in many ways connected to international and global currents of ideas - i.e. matters of ethnicity, migration, citizenship and participation, as well as management of land and places, natural resources, environment issues and security. We wish to bring such global connections and issues into the conference.

The aim of the conference is to prepare an arena for dialogue and exchange of ideas that cut-cross discipline specific approaches concerning issues of right, culture and identity in past and present. This also makes up an opportunity for critical investigation of the tasks for social scientific and humanist researchers that approach the North.

15 May 2009: Deadline for registration

5 August 2009: Deadline for submission of papers to be presented in the conference

Key note lecturers

Professor Julie Cruikshank, University of British Columbia, Canada
Senior lecturer Dr. Bülent Diken, Lancaster University, England
Ass. Professor, Kjersti Fjørtoft, University of Tromsø, Norway
Professor Knut Kjeldstadli, University of Oslo, Norway
Professor Oren Yiftachel, Ben-Gurion University, Israel

Program

Wednesday September 23rd

- 11.00 Registration
- 12.00 Information and welcome
- 12.20 Introductory statement, Professor **Willy Guneriussen**, Head of CEPIN
- 12.40 Key note **Julie Cruikshank**: Do glaciers listen? Historically contested identities, cultures and rights in Northwestern North America
- 14.10 Coffee/tea
- 15.15 Key note **Oren Yiftachel**: Contested identities, contested spaces: ethnocracy and the indigenous Bedouin Arabs in Israel/Palestine
- 16.45 Break
- 17.00 - 20.00 Parallel thematic sessions with presentation of papers

Thursday September 24th

- 9.00 Key note **Knut Kjeldstadli**: Conflict, coalition, compromise, consensus, and other c-words. Are procedures possible in contentious politics?
- 10.30 Coffee/tea
- 11.00 Key note **Kjersti Fjørtoft**: Citizenship, Rights and Justice
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 - 18.00 Parallel thematic sessions with presentation of papers
- 19.30 Conference dinner

Friday September 25th

- 9.00 Key note **Bülent Diken**: Re-visiting the concept of revolution / the concept of revolution re-visiting: identity, culture and radical politics today
- 10.30 Coffee/tea
- 11 - 13 Panel discussions and conclusions with short introductory statements from the lecturer

Thematic sessions with paper presentation

Detailed program for the thematic sessions will be ready in June 2009. Researchers and PhD students are welcome to submit papers. The thematic groups may be combined or rearranged when we have an overview of the participants and the various papers to be presented.

1) Contested borders and identities

Chair and opening statement: Associate Professor Paul Fryer, University of Joensuu, Finland and Post.doc. fellow Trine Medby Fosslund, CEPIN, UiT

In an increasingly globalised world we continue to face contested borders in our everyday lives. "Being contested" means being in the middle. Contested borders and identities can take many forms,

from political or national borders, to cultural, social, ethno-religious, or gender divisions. Representations, presentations or negotiation of borders and identity can be ordinary and trivial, but can also be contested and shake the foundations of people's lives in various ways. Questions related to contested borders and identities are often important beyond the encounters of individual lives. Processes of framing collective rituals of identification and political mobilisation are essential in all modern conflicts. Changes and negotiations are often required to assume a public identification of different identities. Borders may be within a society, or appear externally. In the Northern European periphery, many of these 'lines' have been imposed by far-away powers (in, for example, Oslo, Helsinki, or Moscow), or by dominant societies (Nordic over Sámi) or social groups. The various borders may be scenes of deep conflict or meeting points for peaceful interaction. Borders may be open or closed, highly visible or invisible. In this panel we invite you all to a multidisciplinary discussion on how contested borders and identities can be defined, negotiated or crossed in the 21st century.

2) Contested regions in the European periphery

Chair and opening statement: Research fellow Ketil Zachariassen, CEPIN, UiT

Regions, as nations, can be understood as contested territorial concepts on the one hand, and as a form of community and institutional behaviour on the other. Region belongs to the type of notions that has been characterised as 'essentially contested concepts', and where there always are equally plausible rival interpretations that ensure consensus cannot be established. Region is often used as a collective 'code of difference', both as self-representation of what social actors regard as their relevant collective identities and as representations of collective identities regarded by others, not least by states, social scientists and historians. In both sorts of representation 'codes of difference' identify a 'difference that makes a difference', but the two kinds of representation do not necessarily coincide. All representations of collective identity are embedded in a politics of recognition and are related to political movements and to political struggles, and keep being contested in political practice, in the social sciences and in historical analysis. In this session we call for papers that explore how different kinds of regions are contested in past and present.

3) Restoring local peace and justice in the Barents Region: Challenges for peace research and justice practices

Chair and opening statement: Professor Ida Hydle, Centre for Peace Research, UiT

Centre for Peace studies at the University of Tromsø works to establish Restorative Justice as a new participatory method for sustainable cooperative development of local democracy and welfare in the Barents region. Restorative Justice is a field of justice based on the assumption that harm to people and communities can be repaired by the active participation of the concerned parties in the process of responding to the harm and its consequences. It is practiced by the Norwegian Mediation Service that arranges meetings and conferences between parties at conflict (e.g. victims and offenders) which can include the participation of family members, community support groups, local police and representatives from private and public sectors, also in multi-ethnic conflicts. There is a need for research into intercultural communication and dialogue in the context of restorative justice in order also to enhance the participation of minorities (indigenous, immigrant and refugee groups) in civil society in the Barents region.

4) Voicing life?

Chairs and opening statement: Professor Anne Britt Flemmen, UiT, and Associate Professor Marit Aure, UiT

What does it mean to give people a voice, to voice life? The ethical ambitions of research that aim at this and the political connectedness of such considerations have been widely discussed within the social sciences and humanities. Such topics are for example approached along the lines of critical research and activist research, explored in regard to issues of gender and ethnicity, and they appear as central points of consideration within postcolonial inspired theory. Another example deals with how

specific geographical contexts may challenge questions of 'voicing life' in particular ways. In this workshop, we invite people to discuss considerations and limits in regard to researchers' translations of people's experiences and questions of how such translations imprint on societal transformations. This includes methodological, ethical and political reflexivity in processes of knowledge production.

5) Performing nature

Chair and opening statement: Dr. David Anderson, University of Aberdeen & Research fellow Bente Sundsvold, UiT

Differentiating nature from culture cascades internationally through debates about environmentalism, biodiversity, global climate change, and indigenous rights (Haraway 1991, Latour 1993, Law 1986, Argyrou 2005, Cruikshank 2005). In these debates the Arctic plays a central part. The pole ice is melting, in the shallow banks of the Arctic Sea rich oil & gas fields are recently found in the midst of the breeding areas for the North Atlantic cod. Several restructuring experiments by different nation states have transformed local life conditions and viabilities for the last few centuries and in these days a new wave of political enthusiasm is flowing over the Barents region through the High North initiatives. Natural resources, as oil and gas, are pivotal concerns in the negotiations and reconciliations across nation state borders. Within such frames people and species live their lives, and a multitude of experiences, stories, ideas and imaginations exist, both challenging and supporting established narratives, discourses and policies. In the workshop we would like to address questions and issues focusing on nature, be it as materiality, human knowledge practices or as collective representations. We welcome cases which can question and discuss the 'transformativity' of concepts, practices, things and people in the passages of time.

6) Human security

Chair and opening statement: Associate Professor Gunhild Hoogensen, UiT, and Research fellow Tor Ivar Hanstad, CEPIN, UiT

The concept of human security advocates a broader approach to security. In addition to the aspect of traditional state security, the concept also includes development and social politics. However, there is no consensus among academics or policy makers concerning how to use the concept, and the almost pre-paradigmatic disagreements are frequently shown in the various debates going on between academics from different disciplines. The main reasons for the disagreements within the academia and the politic circles seem to be rooted in different views on three cardinal questions. The first is the question of what security actually means to people in the globalized context of today, and how this translates into actual security politics. Then, there is the normative question of what security should mean in today's context? Finally, there is the methodical/analytical question of how to approach the field? This panel will provide the opportunity for an interdisciplinary forum to discuss these questions, and welcomes empirical research on the subject as well as more philosophical and theoretical approaches.

Literature

- Agamben, G. (1993): *The Coming Community*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press
- Bærenholdt, J.O. & B. Granås (eds.) (2008): *Mobility and Place. Enacting Northern European Peripheries*. Aldershot: Ashgate
- Carey, M. (2007): "The History of Ice: How Glaciers Became an Endangered Species", *Environmental History* 12, no. 3: pp. 497-527
- Champagne, D., I. Abu-Saad, et al. (eds.) (2003): *The Future of Indigenous Peoples: Strategies for Survival and Development*. Los Angeles: American Indian Studies Center
- Cruikshank, J. (2005): *Do Glaciers Listen? Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters and Social Imagination*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press

- Cruikshank, J. (2007): "Melting Glaciers and Emerging Histories in the Saint Elias Mountains", in: de la Cadena, M & O. Starn (eds.): *Indigenous Experience Today*. Oxford, New York: Berg: pp. 355-78
- Derrida, J. (1994): *Specters of Marx*. New York: Routledge
- Fraser, N. & A. Honneth (2003): *Redistribution or Recognition*. London: Verso
- Mann, M. (2004): *The Dark Side of Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Minde, H. (ed.) (2008): *Indigenous Peoples. Self-determination, Knowledge, Indignity*. Delft: Eburon
- Nadasdy, P. (2005). "Transcending the Debate over the Ecologically Noble Indian: Indigenous Peoples and Environmentalism", *Ethnohistory* 52:2: pp. 291-331
- Parekh, B. (2000): *Rethinking Multiculturalism. Cultural Diversity and Political Theory*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, chapter 9, "Logic of Intercultural Evaluation", pp. 264-294
- Thornton, T.F. (2008): *Being and Place Among the Tlingit. Culture, Place and Nature*. Seattle: University of Washington Press
- Yiftachel, O. (2006): *Ethnocracy: Land and Identity Politics in Israel/Palestine*. Philadelphia: Pennpress
- Zizek, S. (2008): *In Defense of lost Causes*. London: Verso

Registration

Please register for the conference at our web site: <http://uit.no/reg/9530> - press the 'new registration' button, complete the form, confirm that you want to save the changes (press 'lagre'/'save' in the dialog box).

- Deadlines: 15 May 2009: registration and 5 August 2009: submission of papers to be presented in the conference
- Conference fee (including refreshments, lunch for 2 days): NOK 500,- when registering before deadline 15 May 2009
- Conference dinner: NOK 500,- (you can choose to not attend the dinner in the registration form)
- The registration is binding. Please note that participants cancelling their registration will be charged a fee of NOK 500,- .
- Invoice: After the registration deadline we will send you an invoice to your invoice address.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked at the registration form: <http://uit.no/reg/9530>

Please let us know 1) if you want accommodation, 2) the preferred price level, 3) whether you want a single or a double room (see registration form) and 4) exact dates for departure and arrival.

We have made reservations at hotels in Tromsø, mainly double rooms but also some single rooms.

▫ Prices for double room (including breakfast) vary from NOK 475 - 650 (approx. 48 - 65 Euro) per night per person. Participants that do not inform us about another person they want to share room with will be accommodated in a room with a person of the same sex.

▫ Prices for single room (including breakfast) vary from NOK 745 - 1045 (approx. 75 - 105 Euro) per night.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that everyone get the preferred type of room or price level (depending on the number of participants). Participants are of course also free to arrange accommodation on their own.

Information for PhD students

The PhD course is a part of the conference and yields 5 ECTS for approved participation with paper (approx. 10 pages, Times New Roman 12p, line spacing 1.5).

- Deadlines for PhD students
 - 15 May 2009: Application deadline
 - 5 August 2009: Deadline for submission of paper to be presented at the conference
 - 2 November 2009: Deadline for submission of exam paper (final submission of paper)
- Work load: 5 credits (ECTS)
- Target group of the PhD course: PhD students in social sciences and humanities
- Prerequisites: Prerequisite for participation is Masters Degree in social sciences or humanities - documentation has to be submitted before the registration deadline (please notice that participants do not need to be PhD students to attend the course and receive ECTS).
- Language of instruction: the language of group sessions and lectures will be English.
- Language of examination: submission of paper can be in English or Norwegian.
- Program and literature: see conference program and literature list.

Examination

Each student at the PhD course will be required to submit a paper of approx. 10 pages (Times New Roman 12 p., 1.5 line spacing).

The students will be able to choose topics they wish to write about. Students will be encouraged but not required to submit first drafts of their papers before the course/conference. Papers that are submitted before the course/conference will be presented and discussed in the thematic group sessions, providing the students with extra feedback. Participants with papers must indicate in which session they want to attend and present their paper (please see the application form). The paper submission for exam can be the same or a revised/improved version of the paper presented at the conference or it can be a new paper (participants who do not present papers at the conference can also write a paper for exam).

- Deadline for exam paper submission: 2 November 2009.
- How to submit exam paper: Hand in three copies to this address: University of Tromsø, Faculty of social sciences, Att.: Hege Folkedal , NO-9037 Tromsø, Norway.

Final versions of the papers will be reviewed by internal and external examiners after the course. The terms of assessment for examination: pass/fail.

Application for travel grants (PhD-students) from BANG (Barents Arctic Network of Graduate Schools): Information about BANG: <http://www.arcticcentre.org/?DeptID=24862>

Information about travel grants for PhD students from BANG: mail to marjo.lindroth@ulapland.fi
Marjo Lindroth, coordinator, Barents Arctic Network of Graduate Schools, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, FIN-96101 Rovaniemi

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions. Welcome to Tromsø.