



IASC & IASSA Workshop

Gender in Polar Research –

Gendered field work conditions, epistemologies and legacies

Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) in Akureyri, Iceland

29–30 March 2020

Saturday, 28 March 2020

19:30 h Informal get-together, food and drinks. Location to be announced

Sunday, 29 March 2020 – Room #N102

- 8:30 h **Opening**
Gertrude Saxinger, Stephan Dudeck, J. Otto Habeck
- 8:45 h **Finding Marguerite and Tookoolito: “Mapping Women of the Arctic”**
Introduction to the project and instructions for participation during the workshop
Carol Devine
- 9:00 h CHAIR: GERTRUDE SAXINGER
OPENER: Gendered barriers to Australian Antarctic research: a case study
Meredith Nash, Hanne Nielsen (BY SKYPE) (15 min)
- Polar gender networks and initiatives** (5 min each + 30 min panel discussion)
APECS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) group: *Carrie Harris*
Gender Equality in the Arctic & GEA Report III: *Embla Eir Oddsdóttir*
Women of the Arctic: *Malgorzata Gosia Smieszek*
- 10:00 h **Tea/coffee**
- CHAIR: HEIDI KASSENS (15+5)
- 10:30 h **Framework for fostering inclusive polar fieldwork**
Sasha Leidmann and Asa Rennermalm
- 10:50 h **Tackling the gender gap in marine science**
Anna Ólafsdóttir
- 11:10 h **Status of the gender discussion in polar cryosphere research**
Annett Bartsch, Birgit Heim, Pedro Freitas
- 11:30 h **Providing statistical information on the gender gap at institutional level (AWI, Germany; PROPOLAR, Portugal)**
Birgit Heim and Pedro Freitas et al.



- 11:50 h **Polar science, are we all included?**
Donna Frater
- 12:10 Discussion
- 12:30h **Lunch break**
13:15 – 14:00 DROP IN for participating in “Mapping Women of the Arctic”
with Carol Devine
- 14:00 h CHAIR: GERTRUDE SAXINGER, J. OTTO HABECK, STEPHAN DUDECK
Break-out groups and plenary discussion (10+40+40)
- Theme 1: The image of heroic and masculine polar research and contemporary consequences
 - Theme 2: Improving women’s careers in Polar science: tackling the glass ceiling, discrimination and harassment
 - Theme 3: How do gender, queerness, precariat, researchers’ origin, and institutional prestige impact on knowledge production
 - Theme 4: Desired practices of integration of gender dimensions and equality in large scale (interdisciplinary) (e.g. EU) projects. Actual inputs to the EU polar research program.
- 15:30 h **Tea/coffee**
- 16:00 h CHAIR: VIRGINIE VATÉ-KLEIN (15+5)
Risk management toolbox: facilitating a conversation around risk management
Anna Talucci
- 16:20 h **Working women in high latitudes: unproblematic house-keepers, troublesome scientists**
Petia Mankova and Elena Liarskaya
- 16:40 h **The distorted mirror – ethnographic forms of representation of non-heteronormative existences in the North**
Stephan Dudeck
- 17:00 h **Closing of the day**

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

Some of you are entitled to IASC funding: please note that your expenses for food and other subsistence will not be covered by the travel grant provided by IASC. The grant is meant to reimburse your travel and accommodation costs on a de-facto basis and only up to the announced maximum. Some participants have been informed that the registration fee will be reimbursed. By the end of the workshop, we are going to explain how to fill in the reimbursement form.



Monday, 30 March 2020 – Room #N102

- 8:30 **Informal DROP IN for participating in Mapping Women of the Arctic** with Carol Devine
- 9:15 h CHAIR: J. OTTO HABECK (15+5)
From Gender and access to decision making on natural resource management in the Arctic to young women’s empowerment in industrial cities in the Russian Arctic
Anna Karlsdottir
- 9:35 h **Gendered challenges for driving trucks in the arctic: contesting masculine spaces**
Roger Andre Sjøraa
- 10:00 h **Tea/coffee**
- 10:30 h CHAIR: STEPHAN DUDECK (20+10)
Polar exploration, heroic images, and the colonial gaze – interactive format
Dina Abdel Fattah
- 11:00 h **How to reclaim the Heroic Era of Polar Exploration: a case study**
Laura Farrely
- 11:30 **The limits of "leaning in": gendered dynamics of ethnographic fieldwork in a subarctic extraction zone**
Tara Joly
- 12:00 h **Lunch break**
13:15 – 14:00 DROP IN for participating in Mapping Women of the Arctic with Carol Devine
- 14:00 CHAIR: GERTRUDE SAXINGER, J. OTTO HABECK, STEPHAN DUDECK, DINA ABDEL FATTAH
Interactive *Walk of Ideas* and plenary discussion: strategies and action/summary of the workshop
„Afternoon Newcomers“ are also welcome! (10+30+30)
- 15:30 h **Farewell** and organisational details for IASC reimbursement
- 15:45h **End of the workshop and tea/coffee**

This workshop is organised by Joachim Otto Habeck, Gertrude Saxinger, Stephan Dudeck and Katariina Kyrölä – **International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) Working Group Gender in the Arctic**. Join the mailing list and working group at gender-arctic.jimdofree.com



ABSTRACTS

Finding Marguerite and Tookoolito: “Mapping Women of the Arctic”

Carol Devine, Canada, and the “Women of the Arctic” Initiative (Gosia Smieszek, Tahnee Prior)

Maps beautifully and at times wistfully tell us the story of us. “Mapping Antarctic Women” crowd-maps female place names of South polar women, to (re)map and discover the continent through a new lens. At ASSW, Carol converges with the non-profit association “Women of the Arctic” project co-led by Tahnee Prior and Gosia Smieszek, and its digital storytelling platform “Plan A.”, featuring stories of women who live in, work on, and engage with the Arctic, to explore a related “Mapping Arctic Women” project. Carol will launch the prototype online crowd-map with geolocations including names and short bios of “Women of the Arctic” and invite participants to locate and highlight, through short biographies, women’s contributions in the Arctic to science, arts, policy, culture, diplomacy, history, environment, exploration and more. The project also aims to include lesser known and little-documented stories of Arctic women.

Participants can also join in an installation mapping to add names and nominations.

Following the event, Carol together with “Women of the Arctic” will:

- seek partners to pilot a visual project to share the map in circumpolar communities in schools, libraries, academic or art institutions etc. to celebrate the contributions of Women of the Arctic, and to inspire young people, particularly young women and girls, and to collect map nominations.
- add “Women of the Arctic” bios to Wikipedia to help counter the content gender gap (only 18.19% of biographies are about women), recognizing the power of women’s stories and the dearth of women’s biographies in traditional and non-traditional sources.

BIO: Carol is a writer, humanitarian and researcher living in Canada. She’s a member of the Society of Women Geographers and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group. Carol was a fellow in the 2016 Arctic Summer College and panelist at the Arctic Circle Assembly, Iceland 2016 on Indigenous health and climate change in circumpolar regions. She co-wrote a cultural history book, *The Antarctic Book of Cooking and Cleaning*, about a civilian Antarctic cleanup expedition she led and does public speaking and sciart on polar marine pollution and exhibits widely (TEDxMontreal Women, Canada Science & Technology Museum, New York Hall of Science, on an icebreaker in Svalbard with Oceanwide Expeditions). Carol has an ongoing Mapping Antarctic Women project. She presented prototypes at the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research’s Humanities and Social Sciences meetings in Colorado 2015 and Malaysia 2016. An illustration of her map was featured in *Ernest Journal*, spring 2018. She was a member of the Antarctic Wikibomb team to promote and celebrate the achievements of female Antarctic scientists and support staff, which in part inspired this Mapping Women of the Arctic project. You can read more about her work at: <http://caroldevine.info/>.



Gendered barriers to Australian Antarctic research: a case study

Meredith Nash and Hanne Nielsen, University of Tasmania, Australia

Antarctica is often associated with Heroic Era images of masculine figures battling against the blizzard. The pervasiveness of heroic white masculine leadership and exploration in Antarctica and, more broadly, in STEM research cultures, has meant women have had less access to Antarctic fieldwork and research opportunities than men, although there has been a marked increase of women in Antarctica since the 1980s. This paper presents findings from an exploratory online survey examining how 95 women experienced research and remote Antarctic fieldwork within the Australian Antarctic program. Although women are entering polar science in greater numbers, a key theme of this survey is that gendered barriers to participation in research and fieldwork persist. We discuss five key gendered barriers including: 1) physical barriers, 2) caring responsibilities/unpaid work, 3) cultural sexism/gender bias, 4) lack of opportunities/recognition, and 5) unwanted male attention/sexual harassment. We argue that the lack of attention paid to gender and sexuality in polar fieldwork has contributed to the invisibility and exclusion of women and other marginalised identities broadly. To conclude, we point to the importance of targeted inclusivity, diversity, and equity initiatives through Antarctic research organisations and National Antarctic Programs, and invite engagement with case studies from other national and polar contexts.

Introducing movement: APECS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) group

Carrie Harris, APECS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) group

The Association for Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) introduced a permanent project group on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) during our 2018/19 term. Our goals are to: (1) facilitate international, interdisciplinary dialogue about DEI topics in polar research, (2) provide resources for APECS members facing identity-related challenges, as well as for bystanders, allies, and leaders in our community, and (3) promote DEI principles within the structure of APECS and related communities, now and in the future. In practice, we facilitate discussion and action related to DEI issues in polar research to ensure APECS supports all members in their professional endeavors regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic class, disability, physical appearance, age, or career status. This project group is structured as an umbrella group that provides guidance and support for APECS Council and National Committee members to lead activities related to the issues that are most concerning or important to them. Activities may focus on a single, narrowly defined issue (e.g. organizing a webinar on addressing sexual misconduct in the field) or on a broad issue (e.g. generating a network of mid to late-career mentors with DEI experience available to APECS members). In our first year, our successes include (1) collating a queryable database of DEI resources, disseminated via our webpage, (2) hosting three webinars, now permanently archived, on field conduct, harassment, and addressing bias in professional relationships, and (3) creating a network of mid to late-career researchers available as mentors to APECS members.



Gender Equality in the Arctic//GEA Report III

Embla Eir Oddsdottir, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN), Iceland

The Arctic region experiences the consequences of global warming and environmental change intensely and such rapid environmental changes have significant effects on the social, economic and cultural well-being of Arctic peoples. Responsible policy making for sustainable development in the Arctic requires diversity in perspectives and knowledge, a clear understanding of the larger context and solutions built on creative imaginings of the future, through diversity in leadership, and within policy and decision-making bodies and processes. *Gender Equality in the Arctic (GEA)* project is an international collaborative project focusing on gender equality in the Arctic dating back to 2013. GEA highlights the importance of recognition and appreciation of diversity in terms of discourses, gender, indigenous and non-indigenous peoples, governance, education, economies, social realities, sustainability and balanced participation in leadership and decision-making both in the public and private sectors. The purpose and objective of the project is to raise visibility and understanding of the importance of gender issues in the Arctic, to identify priorities and concrete strategies for increased diversity and gender balance in policy- and decision-making processes and to provide information to facilitate sustainable policy making for the future. GEA III is an Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) project and a chairmanship project of the Icelandic Arctic Council Chairmanship 2019-2021, as part of the priority “People and Communities of the Arctic”.

Framework for fostering inclusive polar fieldwork

Sasha Leidmann and Asa Rennermalm, Rutgers University, United States

Inhospitable cultures of harassment and assault are rampant in polar field science. 71% of women and 41% of men surveyed have experienced harassment while in the field (Clancy et al., 2014). This is often associated with structural problems and a lack of transparency within field team preparations that hinder reporting and dissuade conflict resolution. In response, we have developed a series of resources aimed at fostering better communication between field team members and decreasing instances of harassment. These resources include a detailed code of conduct that is read and signed by all team members as a group. This code of conduct includes additional provisions about responsibilities as a bystander, methods for communicating with outside help, detailed disciplinary actions, alcohol policies, and more. These resources were tested during multiple field campaigns in Greenland and have proved important for eliminating instances of harassment, increasing safety, and reducing interpersonal conflicts. In coordination with the APECS Project Group on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, these resources were broadcasted through the APECS website to be made publically available. Through continued use of codes of conduct, extensive pre-fieldwork planning, and continued multi-channel communication, we find that cultures of harassment are minimized and team members can feel safe and appreciated.



Acknowledging the gender gap in ocean science in Iceland

Anna H. Ólafsdóttir, Hafogvaten Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Island

Icelandic society is a poster child for gender equality. Ranked on top of the Global Gender Gap index for the last decade, the country had the first nationally elected female president in the world, and has high participation of women in the labour market (~80%). It is also a society with 5% adjusted gender pay gap, women are 20% of private company's directors, and 12% of supreme court judges. Gender equality varies between sectors of society. Ocean science play a pivotal role in Icelandic society as the commercial fishing industry provides 30% of annual export value for goods. There is one governmental ocean research institute in Iceland, founded in 1965. In 2019, it had approximately 130 science positions and annual budget of \$30 million USD. Preliminary research on gender equality at the institute in 2005, 2015 and 2019 reveals a male dominated reality with few women in senior roles despite them being ~40% of scientific employees. During this period gender equality has slightly improved as proportion of women in junior scientific positions increasing from 47% to 59%, and for senior positions from 23% to 26%. No woman was in a scientific management position in 2005 and 2019, but one in 2015. Women as head scientists for research projects increased from 12% to 16%, excluding 2019. Proportion of women participating in research surveys at sea increased from 20% to 50% and as survey leaders from 15% to 40%. No woman was on the executive board in 2005 and 2015, but one joined in 2019. The director is a man and always has been.

Status of the gender discussion in polar cryosphere research

Annett Bartsch, b.geos GmbH and Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI), Austria

Birgit Heim, Alfred Wegener Institute AWI, Germany

Pedro Freitas, CEG/IGOT, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

In STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) communities, in general, and polar cryosphere research is no exception, the research questions, findings and hierarchical titles and status of the 20th century are all "masculinized." The largest of the polar cryosphere STEM communities focuses on glaciology which also started the first dedicated discussions on gender, specifically the role of women over time about a decade ago. The topic was extended to issues of epistemologies in detail several years later. Discussions in the scientific literature extended beyond access to education and carrier opportunities to the topics of harassment and assault only recently with a focus on Antarctic fieldwork settings. It is still an issue that at the majority of polar institutions performing fieldwork there are no fitting survival suits, working gloves, boots for woman, becoming a safety problem specifically for the smaller sizes. There are not enough offers from producers due to too small order quantities for special sizes. Also, focusing fieldwork in remote areas, some research stations still don't have women adapted facilities, aggravated by the masculinist "body culture" of some fieldwork activities. Slowly awareness of these serious work-impeding issues is rising. In addition, nowadays expeditions are physically easier and safer to take part and the time spent in the field is shorter. Whereas there is an ongoing discussion with focus on glaciology, other fields such as sea ice research or permafrost are not discussed in the literature.



Gender related data sets for polar research from Germany and Portugal

Birgit Heim, Alfred Wegener Institute AWI, Germany

Pedro Freitas, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

ABSTRACT 1: Providing statistical information on the gender gap at institutional level: AWI, Germany. Gerit Birnbaum; Birgit Heim; Inka Bartsch; Tanja Glawatty, all at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI)

In the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) gender balance needs to be established on all levels of research institutions. Polar research is no exception and although women represent nowadays half of the PhD students and postdocs and frequently take leadership in research projects and expeditions, institutional support is needed to reduce the gender gap on higher career levels.

The Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Germany has currently a team of three women representatives who contribute to personnel, organizational and social issues at AWI. The right to vote and stand as a candidate extends to all female *employees* at AWI. The women representatives in cooperation with the human resources department regularly carry out investigations on gender statistics at AWI. The latest assessment in 2019 still shows that the gender imbalance is inversely proportional to the career stage and that the main share in female employees is in the service roles of administration. AWI STEM communities are bioscience, geoscience and climate science. From the level of PhD students to leaders of research groups, the best, but by far not perfect, gender balance has been built up in the Bioscience Department. The Geoscience Department is characterized by high male dominance at higher levels and the Climate Science Department shows gender imbalance at all levels.

Providing public information on the gender gap supports female employees in understanding the relationship between work, family life and gender and how important it is to discuss problem-solving strategies.

ABSTRACT 2: Providing statistical information on the gender gap at institutional level: PROPOLAR, Portugal. Maria Teresa Cabrita; Margarida Queirós; Ana David; Pedro Freitas, all at Centro de Estudos Geográficos (CEG), Instituto de Geografia e Ordenamento do Território (IGOT), Universidade de Lisboa

Whilst the presence and impact of female Polar researchers has increased rapidly over the past decade, gender inequalities concerning scientific empowerment and participation in field missions remain wide in Polar science. Inequity also exists in Portuguese Polar community, and a first step in bringing gender inequalities into debate is to analyse and evaluate the situation of Portuguese female and male researchers. This study aims at providing statistics about gender in Portuguese Polar community, while addressing key issues shaping the path of Portuguese women and men researchers in Polar science. Data regarding 100 polar researchers was analysed and a Principal Component Analysis was also performed to help understand variables triggering men and women inequality in Portuguese Polar community. With about 40% of Portuguese Polar community being female, women are still under-represented in decision-making and international representation positions. In contrast, management roles are mainly performed by women. Regarding education and research activity, the gap is less pronounced, in terms of academic qualification and scientific polar project leadership roles. However, high male dominance was found amongst young scientists. The feature that most distinguishes female and male researchers is the number of polar missions, with men carrying out more field work in these extreme regions. This points to less opportunity or time availability for prolonged field work away from



other professional responsibilities or family environment, for women. These results highlight the need for deeper insight into the constraints triggering the work-life balance in the Portuguese Polar research community.

Polar science, are we all included?

Donna Frater, Diversity in Polar Science Initiative at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), United Kingdom

Scientists study every element of the natural world we can reach, from the smallest animals in the depths of the oceans to particles in the stratosphere. Some of the fields of science that the STEM students who are studying now will investigate, do not even exist yet. There is not a typical STEM job but there is a 'STEM stereotype' that society learns, and for Polar Science in particular, there is a gender and racial stereotype of a Polar Scientist, which resonates as an older, bearded, white male. This stereotype complies with the hegemony of the colonial model and severely impacts who looks at polar science and who connects with the vital research done there.

Polar science currently impacts the global understanding of climate and claims to want to educate and influence the world's population with its exploration and findings. If the collectors of these findings are all a narrow segment of the world's population how can you expect the polar science voice to influence change across a diverse planet?

25% of the UK's population have BAME [black, Asian, minority ethnic] backgrounds. Yet only 6% of students studying STEM subjects identify as BAME. Less than 3% of scientists in the UK Polar Science environment come from BAME backgrounds. There needs to be a genuine desire to effect change to ensure that gender diversity is strengthened and that racial diversity is embraced with active and visible changes to culture, policy and practice.

The competition for the brightest, most innovative minds in the UK STEM landscape is very strong. Young BAME scientists who do complete relevant degrees are encouraged into medicine and industry roles and do not see general research as an acceptable career as it is less secure and less remunerated. If Polar Science is going to attract the bright minds it needs from the UK scientist pool it needs to change its image and make a commitment to be more welcoming and embracing of diversity and innovation.

Lack of diversity limits innovation and it limits the relevance to a broader group of people. If you do not have diverse scientists, you do not have the point of view of particular life and cultural experiences of that person being represented. You stifle creativity and complex innovation. You are constrained by a select view of the world from people with a limited exposure to a great deal of the planet. As Sir David Attenborough recently said, "Those in power can influence change. And those with knowledge and the ability to innovate can provide solutions to a great number of problems." If those who gather the knowledge of Polar science are of a monoculture, then their collective experience will not reflect the multiculturalism of their nations nor the relevance to the much larger global population outside Europe who are not white males. We are losing the opportunity to gain innovation and very different ways of looking at the current scientific issues at the poles. We are also missing the chance to connect



using modern media, with people across the globe by having Polar Scientists who look like them and who have the cultural and life experiences that will make polar research relevant to them and critical in their own climate change policy discussions.

Risk management toolbox: facilitating a conversation around risk management

Anna Talucci, Colgate College, United States

Remote backcountry fieldwork can be an integral part of natural science-based research and a crucial component of research in the Arctic. Typically, research that relies on fieldwork is often composed of less diverse teams, which can be challenging to navigate for minorities. Fieldwork can often be associated with stereotypes of heroic masculine activities. Principal investigators and advisors need to be proactive in facilitating conversations around risk management and communication to engage all members of the team regardless of their background, to change these perceptions, and increase diversity. Being able to define what risk is and develop situational awareness is critical to developing more open and enjoyable fieldwork conditions for all. Two types of hazards, human, which we create as humans, and environmental, which are inherent in our surroundings, can overlap in time and space, leading to cascading effects that induce personal harm. However, my experience has shown me that principal investigators and advisors have little training in how to facilitate a risk management conversation or how to assess risk management preparedness for remote backcountry fieldwork. A background in outdoor education and working as a field ecologist has given me the tools to evaluate risk as well as teach and provide tools for others to understand and identify the human and environmental risks that we encounter in the field. I would be interested in facilitating an intentional conversation that spans the three strands of debate for the workshop that could contribute to improved dialogue and changes in these research environments.

Working women in high latitudes: unproblematic house-keepers, troublesome scientists

Petia Mankova, University of the Arctic UiT, Norway

Elena Liarskaya, European University at St. Petersburg, Russia

The Soviet Union declared itself a land of gender equality, encouraging and promoting women in polar research. In the 1930s questions of women's participation in scientific projects in the Arctic were widely discussed and debated. To what extent was it necessary and feasible to send women beyond the Arctic circle, how would they bear the harsh conditions and wouldn't they just disturb the rest of the scientific team with their presence? Nevertheless, Soviet women joined overwintering expeditions, became appointed as heads of Arctic stations and as professionals on Arctic vessels. The analysis of historical documents shows that the participation of women in polar expeditions or overwintering in the Arctic was considered problematic especially when these women were professional scientists. If a woman went as the wife of a member of an expedition, or if she belonged to the assisting staff (cooks, nurses, housekeepers) her status was completely different, her participation rarely evoked debates, her presence was unremarkable. A similar pattern could be observed on Svalbard. In the beginning of the 20th century women came to be accepted as home-makers and even as hunters and trappers there, while women like Hanna Resvoll-Holmsen and Brit Hofseth who pursued scientific interests were



met with unwillingness by the stakeholders in polar research. In our presentation based on historical documents from the Soviet Union and Svalbard covering the period before the Second World War, we shall juxtapose and discuss controversies in the roles of women in polar research: as homemakers and housekeepers and as science professionals.

The distorted mirror – ethnographic forms of representation of non-heteronormative existences in the North

Stephan Dudeck, European University at St. Petersburg, Russia

Not only scientific research, but also local activists turn towards historical sources witnessing successful social integration of diverse configurations of gender arrangements in local communities of the Arctic. They try to recognise but also to safeguard, rehabilitate and sometimes reconstruct local forms of sociality often including gendered practices contradicting Eurocentric heteronormativity. In ethnographic accounts of the past, we look at local forms of gender arrangements, especially non-heteronormative ones, like through a distorted mirror of researchers' own concepts of gender and sexuality. The paper will address the following questions: What kind of methodology could make these historical sources productive for an understanding of present-day gender activism? Are we able to see through researchers' biases and colonial phantasies the social reality of individuals the researchers encountered in the North? Can we look through the distorted mirror and find a link between historical sources and present-day practices and activism? The paper will address these questions mainly through ethnographic sources from the Russian North but will take into account also material from other regions of the Arctic.

From Gender and access to decision making on natural resource management in the Arctic to young women's empowerment in industrial cities in the Russian Arctic

Anna Karlsdottir, Nordregio, Sweden

Gender and empowerment in the Arctic is an important social research arena that has tended to be shunned from the mainstream scientific accounts describing and analysing Arctic Human Development. In this presentation I will look back to a circumpolar Arctic cooperation focusing on women and natural resource management in the rural North and on women's participation in Decision making processes in Arctic Fisheries Resource Management conducted for the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working group 2002-2006, and compare to research in 2018 focusing on empowerment of young women in North West Russia and Murmansk Oblast. I will compare methods and accessibility in the field work and address challenges. The time in between and the variety in social conditions reveal that there exists a great gap in women's conditions within the Arctic that has not been addressed to any significant extent in broader accounts of Arctic Human Development.



Gendered challenges for driving trucks in the Arctic: contesting masculine spaces

Roger Andre Sjøraa

How are gender roles entangled, challenged and broken in the masculine world of truck driving? This paper is based on ethnographic 'ride-along' studies of truck drivers in the Arctic northern part of Norway, and gives an insider look at the world of truck drivers. Based on a project on self-driving vehicles and automated transport systems, which is situated in an area that lacks thousands of truck drivers annually, women truck drivers are seen as an alternative pathway for the sector, as self-driving vehicles are becoming increasingly complex (and deadly). I look at non-conventional gender roles on research practice, by situating myself in the driver cabin of the trucks, sharing the space with my truck informants, while addressing interpersonal situations and epistemic practices of driving, which I connect to the feeling of 'freedom on the road'. The truck as a sociotechnical artifact has been highly connected to masculinity, but by looking at gender in this fieldwork and research setting, the discourse on Arctic work masculinity can be enlightened.

Polar exploration, heroic images, and the colonial gaze

Dina Abdel Fattah, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

I would like to engage in the dialogue on how polar research can be seen less as a heroic and masculine feat. Polar research can also perpetuate colonial-based thinking, and at worst, colonial action. As a minority – as a female and someone from a former colonized country – it is important to me that my work environment and my peers pursue moral and ethical research. This is especially important when polar researchers conduct work with Indigenous communities. Co-production of knowledge is not only important from an interdisciplinary perspective but also from the standpoint of respect from the communities and lands researchers interact with. The scientific research community should be critically aware of the difference of research with, rather than research on, polar communities. I would be happy to share perspectives from within Alaska as well as from across Scandinavia. Furthermore, a discussion of what are research best practices for researching with polar communities will be something I would be happy to engage in. Trying to counter images of heroic and masculine polar research is one way researchers can be mindful of how they represent their research. Specifically, portraying the Arctic as a pristine, unexplored area furthers colonial images of the Arctic. Polar research should be portrayed not as a feat of exploration but rather as an arena of collaboration, particularly since many cultures have had long-standing experience and knowledge in this important region of the world for millennia.



How to reclaim the Heroic Era of polar exploration: a case study

Laura Farrelly, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

In this presentation I will look at how the so-called Heroic Era of polar exploration can become more accessible for any group of people who have been at a remove due to gender, cultural or other reasons. I will use Ireland as an example of a success story of how this can be achieved from a national, and by extension, a gender perspective. The Heroic Era is the period that can claim to be the introduction most people have to the world of polar history. To this day however, how the legends of that period are received varies across cultures and genders. In Ireland, the perception of dominance that the Heroic Era and its conquering heroes espoused was, until relatively recent, problematic. For example, the accounts of Irish men who joined expeditions were relegated to the footnotes of history, an experience shared by women throughout time. I will outline how we in Ireland have been successful in sensitively reclaiming this part of our heritage through forums such as the Shackleton Autumn School. I will also explain how such methods can be utilised to address the gender gap in a previously male dominated subject.

The limits of "leaning in": gendered dynamics of ethnographic fieldwork in a subarctic extraction zone

Tara Joly, Willow Springs Strategic Solutions, Inc., United States

That the patriarchal and heteronormative nature of the Alberta Oil Sands region in subarctic Canada places women and non-binary identified individuals at risk is increasingly documented in media and grey literature. However, there are few academic studies that offer a thorough social scientific analysis of gendered experiences and violence in northern Alberta's extractive zones – regarding both Indigenous peoples and researchers (Westman & Joly 2019). I take up the latter gap in this academic paper, by reflecting on my experience as a white, young, bisexual, cis-gendered woman conducting research in a male-dominated, heteronormative field site. Using an auto-ethnographic method, I use my personal experiences of gender discrimination and sexual assault in the field to analyze the unique and often undocumented challenges, opportunities, and traumas that affect and shape social research in the North. I discuss how contemporary (sub-) Arctic training in the social sciences can reproduce narratives and expectations of the heroic/masculine ethnographer. I question whether a practice of "leaning in" (Sandberg 2013) to male-dominated spaces affords women, queer, and non-binary individuals the promised professional benefits and personal fulfillment in northern research. Instead, I argue that women, queer, and non-binary researchers create unique networks of support in which to conduct their research successfully, often requiring a divergence from what could be considered conventional method, ethics, and professional outputs. The gendered challenges faced by researchers is not one that can be resolved by "leaning in" to a male-dominated field, but by challenging or creating space to conduct research beyond that very system.