CONFERENCE REPORT

OCTOBER 2014 | AKUREYRI, ICELAND

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE ARCTIC

CURRENT REALITIES FUTURE CHALLENGES

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Forewords

Gender equality is an important policy priority for Iceland, both domestically and in our foreign policy. For the past six years Iceland has been at the top of the Global Gender Gap Index of the World Economic Forum, making it the country with the narrowest gender gap in the world. The index is important as it helps us understand and map the disparities between women and men in terms of health, education, economic participation and political empowerment over time. One of the Forum's general conclusions in 2014 is that the gap between women and men with regard to economic participation and political empowerment remains wide and must be addressed. Our common goal is to secure equal opportunities for men and women, to enable boys and girls to lead the lives they desire in a world without gender discrimination. Iceland is no exception to this rule and remains committed to closing the gap.

This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Platform for Action still remains one of the most important frameworks of the international community. While progress has been made in strengthening women's rights and gender equality in general, we still have a long way to go. Discrimination and unequal opportunities persist across the globe, including in the Arctic.

The geopolitical and global economic significance of the Arctic region has been growing fast, inter alia as a consequence of climate change as well as resource and economic development. The changes we are witnessing in the Arctic – ecological, social and economic – are affecting both men and women, sometimes in different ways.

In the autumn of 2013 Iceland put forward a proposal to the Arctic Council aimed to promote dialogue on gender equality in the Arctic region and to raise awareness of the situation of women and men in the Arctic by addressing key issues such as control over resources, representation in decision-making, political participation, and material and cultural well-being. Following this proposal, we worked with our partners in the circumpolar region to organize the conference Gender Equality in the Arctic – Current realities, future challenges. The conference was held in Akureyri in October 2014. It attracted 150 scholars, NGOs, politicians, government and business representatives from all the Arctic States.

It gives me great pleasure to present this report which builds on the comprehensive presentations and discussions that took place during the conference in Akureyri. I am confident that this report helps us advance public debate and research on gender issues. This report, like the World Economic Forum's report, calls attention to the disparity between women and men with regard to economic participation and political empowerment. This subject remains an integral part of our Arctic policy to strengthen social well-being and support sustainable development in the region. I thank Finland, Sweden, Norway, the Faroe Islands, the Aleut International Association, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Arctic Council for their strong support and cooperation on this important project. I also take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all the speakers, panelists, the scoping committee and the organizers for their invaluable contributions.

Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Publisher
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland
in cooperation with Icelandic Arctic
Cooperation Network and the Centre
For Gender Equality

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Photo Credits
Cover: Gunnar Salvarsson
Conference photos: Daníel Starrason
Other photos: (1) Ministry for Foreign
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Printing
Prenttækni

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Acknowledgements

The conference organizers are grateful for the sponsorship of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, the Icelandic government's Equality Action Fund, the Foreign Ministry of Sweden, and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The organizers are further grateful for the important support of the Arctic Council, Sweden, Finland, Norway, the Faroe Islands and the Aleut International Association.

The conference also received invaluable support and expertise from members of its scoping committee, including: Dr. Gail Fondahl, University of Northern British Columbia; Assistant Professor Erika Hayfield, University of the Faroe Islands; Assistant Professor Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir, Bifröst University; Assistant Professor Anna Karlsdóttir, University of Iceland; Ph.D. student Liza Mack, Aleut International Organization; Dr. Päivi Naskali, University of Lapland; Senior Adviser Lise Östby, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Families; Director Kristinn Schram, Centre for Arctic Policy Studies of the University of Iceland. Thank you all for your valuable insights and dynamic discussions.

Not least the organizers would like to acknowledge and thank all the individuals who participated in this important conference. This includes not only the speakers and the panelists but also the general participants. Thank you for travelling far and wide to contribute to the conference and the creation of the Arctic Gender Network.

Last but not least we thank all those who contributed to making the conference a success.

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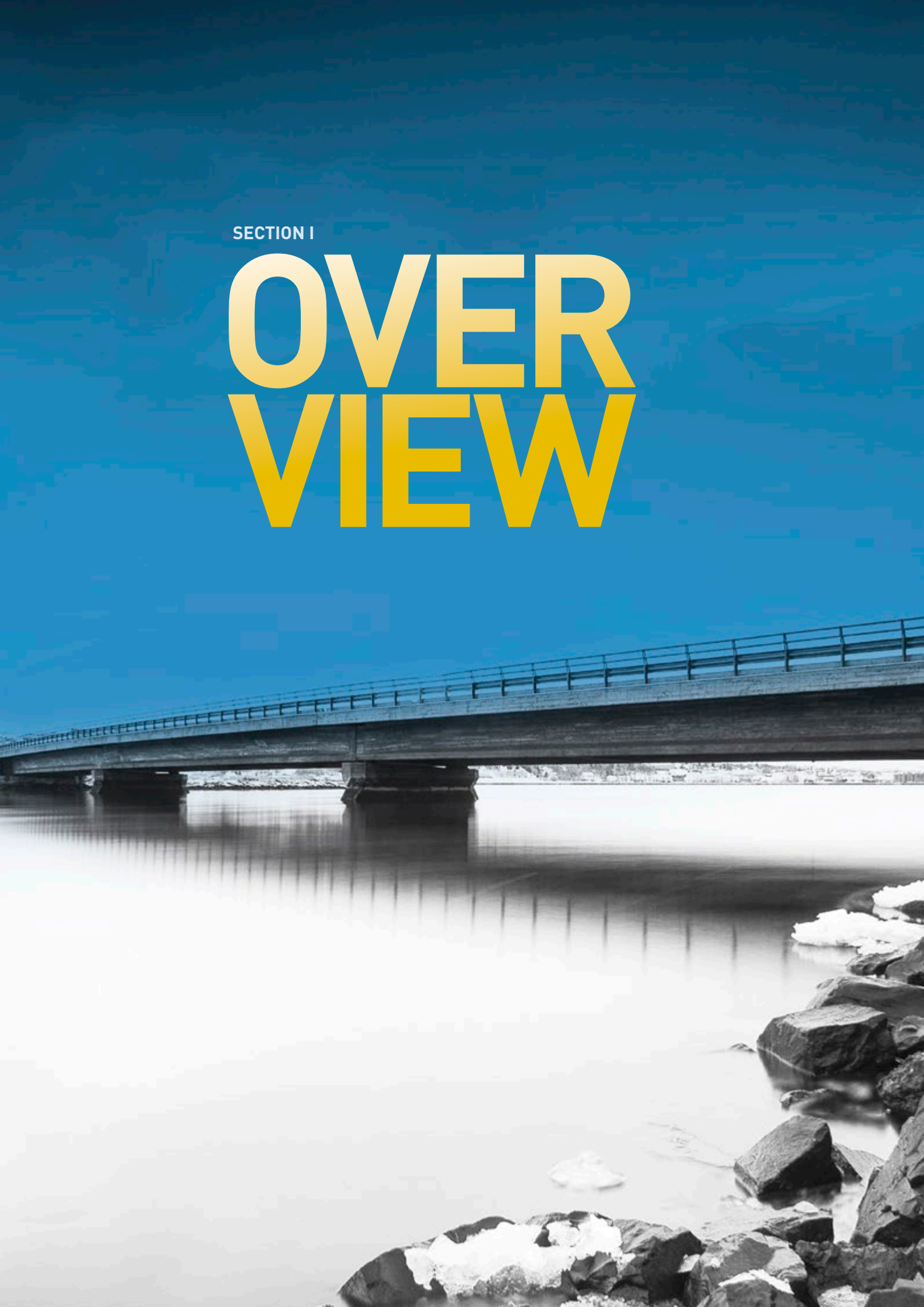
SECTION I

OVERVIEW



Executive Summary

The conference was held in Akureyri, Iceland on 30-31 October 2014 with 150 participants representing various stakeholders from all member states of the Arctic Council: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Iceland, Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United States, and representatives of the Permanent Participants.

The main organizers of the conference were the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, the Centre for Gender Equality in Iceland, the Stefansson Arctic Institute, and the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network in collaboration with the conference scoping committee and with the strong support of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Sweden, Finland, Norway, the Faroe Islands, the Aleut International Association, and the Arctic Council.

The conference was generously sponsored by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, the Icelandic Government's Equality Action Fund, the Foreign Ministry of Sweden, and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The main objective was to promote an extensive, policy relevant dialogue on gender equality putting current realities and future challenges into context with climate and environmental changes as well as economic and social developments. Another goal was to raise decision-makers' awareness of the situation of women and men in the Arctic and to strengthen cooperation among different people working with gender issues.

The report is divided into four sections. Section I includes the executive summary, policy relevant highlights, and an overview of the main sections and speakers. Section II includes an introduction, information concerning the main organizers, and composition of participants. Section III provides summaries of presentations in all panels followed by policy relevant highlights from each panel. Section IV provides additional material in appendices, such as the keynote speeches of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland and that of Mrs. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland, the program, and biographical statements of speakers and panelists.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson opened the conference, followed by Mrs. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland.

The main part of the conference was divided into seven plenaries:

1 Gender Equality and the Arctic: Current Realities, Future Challenges;

2 Political Representation and Participation in Decision-Making: Gendered Dimensions;

3 Regional Socio-Economic Development and its Gendered Impacts;

4 Climate and Environmental Change, Natural Resource Development, and Gender;

5 (Re-)Construction of Gender in the Arctic;

6 Human Security: Gendered Aspects; and

7 Human Capital and Gender: Migration, Mobility, Education and Adaptation.

The conference addressed various topics, but throughout a consistent theme of diversity emerged, highlighting the importance of recognition and approval of diversity in terms of discourses, gender, peoples, education, economies, social realities, and balanced participation in leadership and decision-making both in the public and the private sectors. Among other prominent themes were: the importance of gender mainstreaming into all aspects of Arctic development as well as implementing effective tools for gender analysis at all levels of governance; the obligation of Arctic states to ensure gender equality and to eliminate all forms of discrimination; the need for making gender-related issues a priority in the Arctic; and the necessity to adopt a holistic, context-based approach to Arctic development.

The conference in Akureyri brought together government representatives, policymakers, academics and a wide range of stakeholders including members of the business community, resource managers and users, community leaders, and NGO representatives. The presentations and discussions that took place during the two days are presented in this report, which will contribute to the foundation of a cooperation network of the various stakeholders researching, teaching, discussing, and promoting gender equality in the Arctic.

The views expressed in this report are the opinions of the speakers and do not reflect official policies of the Arctic States or the Arctic Council.

An Overview of Main Sections and Speakers

The conference plenaries included gendered aspects and dimensions of the following themes:

1 Gender Equality and the Arctic: Current Realities, Future Challenges;

2 Political Representation and Participation in Decision-Making: Gendered Dimensions;

3 Regional Socio-Economic Development and its Gendered Impacts;

4 Climate and Environmental Change, Natural Resource Development, and Gender;

5 (Re-)Construction of Gender in the Arctic;

6 Human Security: Gendered Aspects;

7 Human Capital and Gender: Migration, Mobility, Education and Adaptation; and,

finally, a summary session and open discussion.

Each session consisted of speakers who presented their topics and then joined a panel of experts from various sectors who contributed and participated in a question-and-answer session. This report is structured around the conference, its background and plenaries.

Section I includes an executive summary and provides a brief overview highlighting the main points and presenting the main conclusions, outcomes and policy relevant recommendations.

Section II outlines the background of the conference, the importance of gender issues and their increased visibility in the Arctic and how an Arctic gender network could contribute to research and the sharing of knowledge by connecting different stakeholders and interests throughout the Arctic region.

Section III comprises the proceedings from all plenaries and provides summaries of presentations as well as themes and topics which emerged through the panel discussions.

Section IV provides additional documentation including the conference agenda, a complete list of participants, a list of speakers with brief biographical statements, and welcome and keynote addresses.

Panel Composition

Plenary 1: Gender Equality and the Arctic: current realities, future challenges was moderated by Mr. Níels Einarsson, Director of the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland.

Speakers were Ms. Claudia David, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Canada; Ms. Gunn-Britt Retter, Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council, Norway; Ms. Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, Director of the Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland. Mr. Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, Mayor of Akureyri, participated in the panel discussion.

Plenary 2: Political Representation and Participation in Decision-Making: gendered dimensions was moderated by Mr. Birgir Guðmundsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland.

Speakers were Ms. Eva-Maria Svensson, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway; Ms. Natalia Kukarenko, Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Russia; and Ms. Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Fox Consulting, Canada. They were joined in the panel by Ms. Annemieke Mulders, Status of Women Council of the NWT, Canada and Ms. Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir, MP Independence Party, Iceland and Vice-Chairman of the West Nordic Council, Iceland.

Plenary 3: Regional Socio-Economic Development and its Gendered Impacts was moderated by Ms. Shari Fox Gearheard, University of Colorado Boulder, U.S.A.

Speakers were Ms. Elisabet Ljunggren, Nordland Research institute, Norway; Ms. Kriss Rokkan Iversen, SALT, Norway; and Mr. Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Nordregio, Sweden. Other panelists were Ms. Janne Sigurðsson, Director of Alcoa Fjardaal, Iceland; Ms. Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir, MP Progressive Party, Iceland; and Ms. Marit Helene Pedersen, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise, Norway.

Plenary 4: Climate and Environmental Change, Natural Resource Development, and Gender was moderated by Ms. Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway.

Speakers were Ms. Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir, Bifröst University, Iceland; Ms. Liliia Vinokurova, The Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North, The Russian Academy of Science, Russia; and Ms. Shari Fox Gearheard, University of Colorado Boulder, U.S.A. In the panel they were joined by Ms. Beza Seyoum Alemu, U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, U.S.A. and Ms. Birna Bragadóttir, Talent Manager at Reykjavik Energy, Iceland.

Plenary 5: (Re-)Construction of Gender in the Arctic was moderated by Mr. Jón Haukur Ingimundarson, Senior Scientist, Stefansson Arctic Institute and University of Akureyri, Iceland.

Presenting were Mr. Firouz Gaini, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway; Ms. Þorgerður Þorvaldsdóttir, Reykjavík Academy, Iceland; and Ms. Valerie Alia, Professor Emeritus and independent scholar and writer, Canada. The panel was completed by Ms. Anna Karlsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland and Mr. Kristinn Schram, Centre for Arctic Policy Studies, Iceland.

Plenary 6: Human Security: gendered aspects was moderated by Ms. Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Fox Consulting, Canada.

Speakers were Ms. Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway; Mr. Jack Hicks, Carleton University, Canada; and Mr. Valur Ingimundarson, University of Iceland, Iceland. In the panel discussions they were joined by Ms. Gunn-Britt Retter, Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council, Norway and Mr. Søren Stach Nielsen, Director, The Greenlandic House in Aalborg, Denmark.

Plenary 7: Human Capital and Gender: migration, mobility, education and adaptation was moderated by Mr. Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Nordregio, Sweden.

Speakers were Ms. Erika Anne Hayfield, University of the Faroe Islands, Faroe Islands; Mr. Timothy Heleniak, George Washington University, U.S.A.; and Ms. Tine Pars, University of Greenland (Ilisimatusarfik), Greenland. They were joined in the panel by Mr. Eyjólfur Guðmundsson, Rector of the University of Akureyri, Iceland and Ms. Katrín Jakobsdóttir, MP Left-Green Movement, Iceland.

The final summary session was moderated by Ms. Ingibjörg Elíasdóttir, Legal Adviser, Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland where moderators from all plenaries participated in an open discussion.

Policy Relevant Highlights

Gender issues and equality should be a priority in the Arctic region.

Achieving gender equality requires a combination of different tools, f.ex. Gender Based Analysis (GBA) and Gender mainstreaming.

Women's access to and participation in political and economic spheres in the public or private sectors must be improved.

Arctic states bear an obligation to ensure gender equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination.

State centered discourses continue to set the agenda in the Arctic. The traditional "state security" framework needs competition and critical analysis.

Diversity within gender categories must be respected and complex gender identities taken into account.

Diversity in educational opportunities and in the labor market must be created or maintained. Education has a gendered dimension and attitudes towards education must change.

Economic diversity and knowledge based companies will be a key to sustainable northern development in the future. Innovation and entrepreneurship are vital to community and regional development in the north.

Responses to change are diverse and context based, and require adaptive capacity from individuals as well as communities. Males and females respond and adapt differently to change.

Policy concerning climate change must include women's and indigenous peoples' perspectives.

Analysis reveals a contradiction between a "masculine" discourse of resource utilization and "feminine" discourse of climate change threats.

Gender roles are in the process of gradual transition. Men need to be more actively engaged in the gender debate.

Health and well-being in Arctic communities must be taken into account in policy making

A greater understanding of social contexts and determinants is needed for effective suicide prevention.

The concept of historical trauma can be useful in explaining social realities in troubled Arctic communities.

Migration patterns must be taken into account in policy-making.

Alternative media provides opportunities to view, re-view, observe and recreate representations of gender.

SECTION II

BACK GROUND

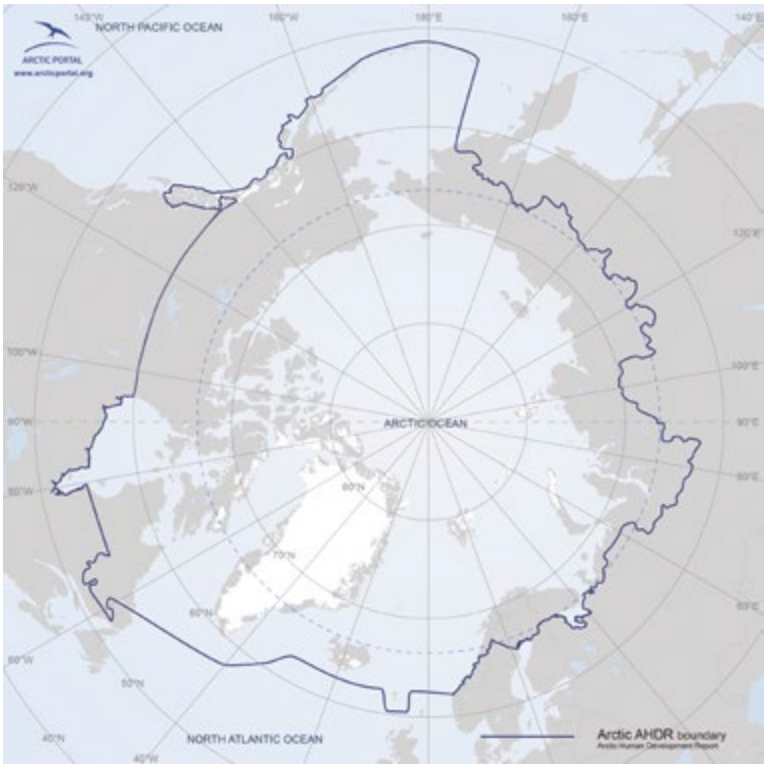
Introduction

In August 2002, the Arctic Council co-organized a conference on gender equality and women in the Arctic entitled Taking Wing in Inari, Finland. The conference focused on the three broad themes of women and work, gender and the self-determination of indigenous people, and violence against women. The goal of the conference was to raise decision-makers' awareness of the situation of women in the Arctic and to make recommendations for integrating a gender perspective into the work of the administrative bodies in the Arctic, including the Arctic Council.

Although several chairmanships have highlighted gender equality issues, they have not featured prominently in the work of the Arctic Council during the past decade. At the same time, most Arctic states have actively promoted gender equality and women's empowerment within various international fora such as the United Nations.

The first Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR), published in 2004, includes a significant multi-authored chapter on gender issues, addressing critical subjects such as men's changing roles in society in relation to social problems; women's security, job opportunities and out-migration; and women's positions of leadership and representation in decision-making bodies. In the second Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR II), which was published in February 2015, gender equality issues are mainstreamed into each chapter rather than being addressed as a separate subject.

The conference Gender Equality in the Arctic: Current Realities and Future Challenges focused on the living conditions of women and men throughout the Circumpolar North, addressing key issues such as access to and control over resources, representation in decision-making positions, political participation, regional development, human security, and material and cultural well-being. The purpose was to promote an extensive policy relevant dialogue on gender equality issues in terms of current realities and future challenges and in the context of climatic and environmental changes and economic and social development.



Arctic boundary: the Arctic Human Development Report (2004)

The geopolitical and global economic significance of the Arctic region is growing, inter alia as a consequence of climate change, accelerated resource development, and prospects for trans-Arctic shipping. There is an inherent gender imbalance in the ongoing policy discussions and decision-making about the Arctic, as women are underrepresented in Arctic governing bodies, administration, business and science, a fact which has significant implications for the future development of the region.

Despite the cultural and social diversity of the North, economic development throughout much of the region seems to be affecting men and women differently. It is of concern that the current discourse on future development in the North for the most part focuses on traditional male-dominated sectors such as oil and gas, mining, shipping and tertiary industrial development. Disproportionate out-migration of women characterizes many rural areas of the Arctic, primarily as a result of diminishing employment and lack of educational opportunities for women. The resulting gender ratio imbalance negatively affects the resilience and development of Arctic communities, many of which are seeing very high death rates for males, especially from external causes.

The conference in Akureyri contributes to the foundation of a cooperation network of the various stakeholders researching, teaching, discussing and promoting gender equality in the Arctic.

Main Organizers

The main organizers of the conference were the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality, the Stefansson Arctic Institute and the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, with the strong support of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Sweden, Finland, Norway, the Faroe Islands and the Arctic Council.

Composition of Participants

This conference brought together government representatives, policymakers, academics and a wide range of other stakeholders including members of the business community, resource managers and users, community leaders, and NGO representatives as the first graph shows. The second graph illustrates that to the heart and mind gender equality is still struggling to be free of the label 'womens issues'.

Conference participants by sector

Conference participants by gender

Cooperation Network on Gender Equality in the Arctic

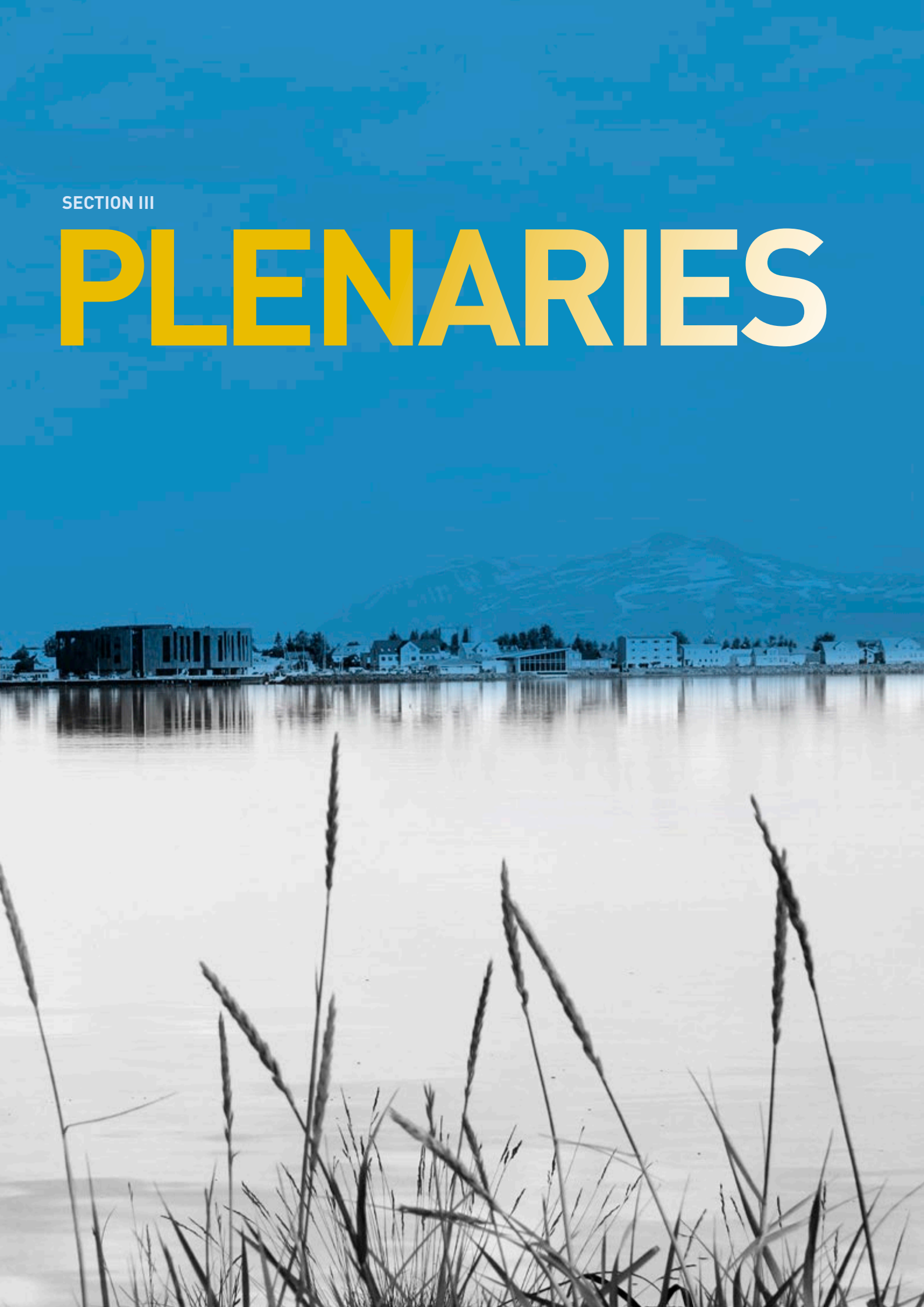
The objective of this project is to reach out to stakeholders such as policymakers, academics, students, media, business leaders, community leaders and civil society organizations, with a view to strengthen their cooperation on gender equality issues in the Arctic. At the same time this project could serve as an important support to the Arctic Council, especially its Sustainable Development Working Group, in future work on the subject.

The conference (October 30-31, 2014) and this follow-up report will help lay a foundation for a formal cooperation network of various stakeholders interested in researching, discussing, and promoting gender equality and gender issues in general in the Arctic. Such a network could lead to a wider discussion and serve to facilitate dissemination of research, articles, publications and conference information, and material relevant to gender equality in a Circumpolar perspective to a broad group of interested parties.

The conference participants showed strong support for such a cooperation network. Ideas for a similar network may already have been put into practice in the Circumpolar region. The way forward with this project in the months to come will therefore consist of finding ways to establish a website and ensure the sustainability and operation of the network, while avoiding duplication or repetition of comparable work.

SECTION III

PLENARIES



PLENARY 1

Gender Equality and the Arctic: Current Realities, Future Challenges

The first plenary focused on different realities of gender equality in the Arctic, providing examples from Canada, Iceland, and Norway. Included were perspectives from governmental bodies and institutions as well as from the municipal level and the Saami Council. The importance of gender-based analyses in policy, legislation, and programs was emphasized as well as access to effective instruments to implement gender policy and achieve targets of gender equality. The need to consider alternative paths of development in the Arctic was also highlighted to include considerations of community, culture, and context.

Panelist: Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, Mayor of Akureyri.

Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, Gunn-Britt Retter and Claudia David

Gender-Based Analysis in a Northern Canadian Context

Claudia David | Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Canada

Claudia David works within the Canadian Federal Government at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in the Northern Affairs Organization (NAO), more specifically, with the Northern Contaminated Sites Program (NCSP). The NAO's program mandate includes the management of resources, land, and environmental management responsibilities.

Listen to the audio or watch the slides

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David's presentation focused on Gender-based Analysis (GBA) in the Northern Canadian context and the way in which GBA is applied practically in project work. David provided background information on the Canadian North, its geography, demographics, and sectorial distribution in terms of employment and gender, with jobs in the healthcare, social services, and educational sectors being more dominated by women as opposed to the business sector which is more male-oriented.

The history of GBA in Canada can be traced back to 1995 when Canada adopted the UN Beijing Platform for Action which requires all member states to "seek to ensure that before policy decisions are taken, an analysis of their impact on women and men, respectively, is carried out." That same year the government of Canada committed to applying GBA to all future legislation, policies, and programs. This has since evolved into GBA+ to also include factors such as age, education, language, geography, culture, and income.

According to David, gender equality is considered a core value in Canada, enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms where it states that "women and men in all their diversity are able to participate in all spheres of Canadian life." There is a general assumption that gender equality has been fully realized in Canada. However, while many advances have been made, equality gaps still remain, for example the college dropout rate of young men is higher than that of women and women still bear the brunt of domestic duties.

Gender-based Analysis is defined in this context as "the process by which a policy, program, initiative or service can be examined for its impacts on various groups of women and men," providing "a snapshot that captures the realities of women and men affected by a particular issue at a specific time."

In a federal context, Canada's commitment to using GBA in all legislation, policies, and programs while identifying and addressing equality gaps provides analysts, researchers, evaluators, and decision-makers with the opportunity and tools to continually improve the status of women and men by being more responsive to specific needs and circumstances. Federal departments, overseen by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, are responsible for incorporating gender considerations where appropriate into proposed policies, programs, initiatives, or services as well as for identifying potential gendered issues.

The Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in Canada have adapted the GBA to include themes more specifically relevant to the needs of Inuit peoples, consisting of four cornerstones: 1) taking into account the Inuit way of life; 2) the assessment of traditional influences; 3) contemporary influences; and 4) gendered impacts in an Inuit cultural context.

In terms of the application of GBA, David provided two examples from the program Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) and the Northern Contaminated

The application of GBA in government provides decision-makers with valuable information on the impacts of proposed legislation, policies, and programs on men and women.

Sites Program (NCSP). The first example is CHARS, which is scheduled to be in operation in 2018, and will provide a year-round facility for interdisciplinary science and technology in Canada's Arctic, including natural and physical sciences, economic and social sciences, health and life sciences, the humanities, engineering, and technology development.

Northerners – particularly women – have expressed concerns on the one hand regarding a lack of local capacity to participate directly in the growing non-renewable resource extraction industries, where skilled trades are generally dominated by males, and on the other hand with regard to the potentially differential impacts on women and men. Statistics reveal that Northerners, and in particular Aboriginal people, have lower educational attainment than their Southern counterparts and Northern men have on average lower educational attainment levels than Northern women. Implementation of the project will have to include a gendered approach in outreach activities and capacity building through education attainment, targeting women and men equally in knowledge application activities and delivery and encouraging greater participation of youth in polar science.

The other example, NCSP, is responsible for the remediation of contaminated sites in the territories providing potential positive impacts through reduced contamination, diminished environmental and social risks, increased employment and local business opportunities, and local capacity building. However, these projects often are in remote and isolated sites, are physically harrowing, and engage labor from the largely male-dominated mining and construction industries. This tends to exclude various groups from participation in these projects, including women, who often do not possess the required skills or the opportunity as they are often the primary caregivers in the family.

David's conclusion is that the application of GBA in government provides decision-makers with valuable information on the impacts of proposed legislation, policies, and programs on men and women, as well as permits evaluation of existing initiatives. GBA also enables senior management to improve their work and attain a higher level of efficiency by being more responsive to specific needs and circumstances.

Family on evening walk (Qequrtasuaq beach)

Sustainability and Development in the Arctic

Gunn-Britt Retter | Arctic- and Environmental Unit, Saami Council, Norway

Gunn-Britt Retter is a Saami from Unjárga/Nesseby in Varanger, North-East Norway. Retter is chair of the local Saami association. She is a former advisor to the Arctic Council's Indigenous Peoples Secretariat in Copenhagen. Retter is a teacher by training and holds an M.A. in bilingual studies from the University of Wales. Since 2005, Retter has been the head of the Arctic and Environmental Unit of the Saami Council.

Listen to the audio

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She is an active spokesperson on issues related to indigenous peoples in the Arctic. Her interests include the role of traditional knowledge in adapting to climate change, as well as biodiversity, language, pollution, and management of natural resources, including from a gender perspective.

Retter's presentation dealt with the growing interest in the Arctic worldwide, reflected by numerous Arctic Conferences which largely focus on opportunities and challenges within the energy sector, the extractive industries, and infrastructure for transportation of resources out of the Arctic.

Arctic and non-Arctic states, investors, and NGOs have developed Arctic strategies that confirm their desire to access Arctic resources, with what Retter described as "lip-service being paid to environmental concerns and indigenous peoples' well-being and culture." Gender-related questions, often misperceived as merely 'women's issues' as opposed to social and economic issues impacting communities and nations on the whole, are mostly left out. Current Arctic discourses reflect a very masculine Arctic agenda. To Retter, diversity is defined within a very narrow scope, and there appears to be little room or funding for themes within social sciences to address questions regarding gender equality, indigenous peoples, and Arctic societies in general. Retter described her feeling that un-smart societies were being developed in the North and posed the question:

"If all the wet dreams presented at those Arctic conferences came true what kind of Arctic would we see then?"

There are conflicting paths of development and a diversity of perspectives and goals within the Arctic, for example the expanding mining industry in a municipality in Finnmark, Norway where the unemployment rate is as low as 3%. At the same time women are leaving their communities to seek higher education and too often do not return. She pointed out that family-based businesses play a meaningful role in and for their respective communities, while the development and encouragement of male-dominated industries can intensify an already existing gender imbalance and, potentially, create instability. Another example Retter gave is the iron mine in Kiruna, Sweden, stating that the mine's expansion conflicts with traditional uses of land.

The above-mentioned cases highlight that 'development' means different things to different people. The dominant rationale for increased industrial activity is that economic development must be achieved. The Saami Council maintains the importance of viewing development in a more holistic, long-term, and sustainable manner. It is important to recognize that reindeer-herding, fishing, hunting, recreational activities, and eco-tourism are important for indigenous peoples engaged in and depending on sustainable traditional activities, as well as for non-indigenous people moving into the Arctic in the future.

Retter stressed the necessity of ensuring smart investment in the Arctic region by developing opportunities for all and by achieving gender-balanced sustainable communities.

Maintaining existing traditional ways of life, which have survived throughout history and still flourish today, represents future economic prosperity in the Arctic region. Retter wondered why it should be preferable to engage in short-term destructive mining activities at the cost of long-term sustainable economies already existing in the North and put forward the question of whether it's possible to maintain traditional sustainable livelihoods like fishing and reindeer-herding, while at the same time increasing industrial activities of various kinds in the North.

The Saami Council has had the opportunity, and challenge, to address issues like gender equality, specifically among indigenous peoples in the Arctic, posing questions such as how to maintain values across different modes of understanding and diverse cultures in the context of gender equality in the North. It also addresses the question of how to make sure that opportunities in the Arctic are for all, women and men, indigenous and non-indigenous people. The Saami Council will continue to work towards changing and strengthening frameworks, to regulate the traditional sustainable livelihoods, with a view to secure economic development in the future, thus ensuring sustainable and viable communities in the North.

The Arctic Council has addressed values other than those purely of economic development, for example the focus on human health and well-being in the Arctic Human Development Report II. Retter stressed the importance of ensuring equal and varied dialogue, and Arctic conferences should take note of the example set by the Arctic Council and include a diverse panel of representatives from indigenous and non-indigenous peoples, elders and youth, men and women, and representatives of various livelihoods, including both fishing and mining, where each other's needs and interests are respected.

Retter left the audience with pressing questions such as whether we are going to repeat history by promoting an end to traditional, sustainable, livelihoods like fishing and reindeer herding to replace them with mining and other exploitative industries? Is it wise to replace family-based businesses with far more male-dominated industries? Why is the exploitation of non-renewable resources perceived as more beneficial than that of renewable resources? She stressed the necessity of ensuring smart investment in the Arctic region by developing opportunities for all and by achieving gender-balanced sustainable communities.

Tundra Blueberries in Kuksa (Paul's Slough)

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Gender Equality in the Arctic - Iceland

Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir | Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland

Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir is Director of the Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality and was Deputy Director for the Centre for Women's and Gender Research at the University of Iceland (2003-2007). She holds an M.A. degree in history and is a former Member of Parliament for the Women's Aliance (1991-1999).

Ástgeirsdóttir presented the situation of gender equality in Iceland, the major reasons for the relative success Iceland has enjoyed, the methods and mechanisms with which this was achieved, as well as current challenges. For six years in a row Iceland has been at the top of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report. The primary reason is that decades of work on gender equality have resulted in positive achievements in education, health, and participation in politics and decision-making processes. The weakest link in Iceland's performance is that of economic power as the labor market is still highly gender-segregated with female-dominated professions generally at the bottom in terms of wages. This is similar to the Nordic countries in general.

Equality for men and women was formally constitutionalized in Iceland in 1995, the same year as the Beijing Conference was held. Iceland has international obligations and institutional mechanisms in place deriving from the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, the Beijing Conference in 1995, and directives from the European Union. Legislation which allows for affirmative action – although this has not been used to the fullest extent possible – also includes obligations for the labor market.

Companies with over 25 employees are required to have in place an action plan on gender equality.

The bulk of the work at The Centre for Gender Equality is to monitor such action plans and discuss them with businesses and institutions. Negotiations with the labor market are an important tool, such as in the case of parental leave, a very important component in social development. Iceland has used gender quotas, provided for through legislation from 2008 and 2011, including on every official committee or board of directors, as well as in private enterprises with over 50 employees, and in pension funds. Significantly, the current situation can be attributed to activism, lobbying, and pressure, mostly from women's movements in the country.

Ástgeirsdóttir highlighted positive developments and achievements in gender equality in Iceland, such as the increase of women in parliament from 5% in 1970 to 40% in 2014 and the current 44% participation of women in governance at the municipal level. The primary reason for this positive development in Iceland is women's high level of participation in the labor market: 65% have full-time jobs and 35% have part-time jobs, compared to 86% of men with full-time jobs. Thus, a greater number of women have full-time jobs than part-time jobs. Women's working hours are increasing while those of men are decreasing. These statistics reflect transformations in social and economic forces, including in the level of economic growth apparent in the last 50 years or so, resulting in the greater need for workforce, a call which women responded to.

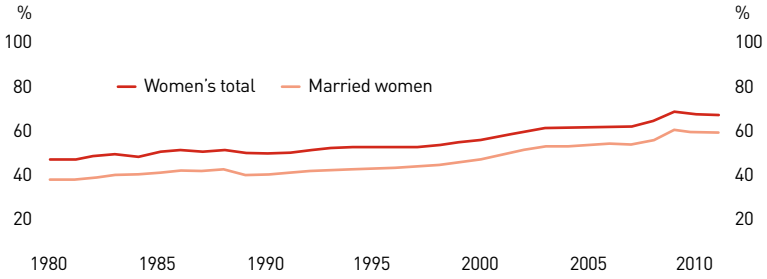
Parental leave has also been crucial to the development of increased gender equality. The current system is referred to as 3+3+3, which is three months for the mother, three for the father, and three to share. The objective is to increase parental leave to 12 months, five months for the mother, five for the father, and two months to share. The pre-school system has also been a very important factor; today approximately 95% of children between the ages of three and five attend pre-school.

While women's levels of education are rising, drop-out rates of young men are also rising, the consequences of which are indeed a cause of concern for the future.

In spite of all these positive developments, a number of challenges still exist. Men in general have long working hours which directly affects family life and the sharing of household work. Women still bear the brunt of domestic duties and family responsibilities, although this is changing. Female-dominated sectors are undervalued. Although women's education and education levels have greatly increased, this has not been sufficient to secure gender equality. While women's levels of education are rising, drop-out rates of young men are also rising, the consequences of which are indeed a cause of concern for the future. Women continue to be a minority in terms of management of enterprises, although this is changing following the implementation of the quota legislation. The sharing of household work is still unequal and often very traditional, and the wage gap is narrowing very slowly.

Ástgeirsdóttir's final conclusion is that gender equality is not only smart business, but also a fundamental principle of respect for human rights and the foundation of the creation of a just and fair society anywhere, not least in the Arctic.

Women's income from employment as percentage of men's income 1980-2011
Men's income and married men's income = 100



Highlights From the Panel

Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir touched upon various issues, including unpaid work in the home, suggesting that more analysis is needed and the care for elderly parents as well as for sick relatives should be taken into that analysis. The labor market is still very gender-segregated and that needs to change. The fishing industry is one of the most important industries in Iceland and remains very gender-segregated, although an important step in the right direction has been taken by implementing gender quotas in company boards both in the public and the private sectors. Gender quotas have generally been well-received but studies on how the measure works in the rural areas of Iceland are needed.

Gunn-Britt Retter emphasized the importance of seeking opportunities to maintain sustainable communities, big and small, and to bring the traditional economies into the modern economy, where business opportunities are created based on traditional crafts. For example, Saami women develop traditional patterns and indigenous culture brings prosperity to the smaller communities.

Policy Relevant Highlights

Achieving gender equality requires a combination of different tools. These can include commitment to international conventions and obligations, national legislations, negotiations with the labor market, and gender quotas. Current successes can to a considerable extent be attributed to activism, lobbying, and pressure from society or grassroots community movements.

Gender-based Analysis* (GBA) should be included at all levels of government. GBA has proved its relevance in Canada, where the method provides analysts, researchers, evaluators, and decision-makers with valuable information regarding the impact proposed legislation, policy, or programs may have on men and women, while measuring the utility of existing initiatives. GBA provides senior management with the means to continually improve their work and be more responsive to specific needs and circumstances. The GBA method has revealed an urgent need to strengthen the framework in order to ensure equal opportunities for all in gender-balanced sustainable communities.

Gender mainstreaming should be incorporated into all aspects of Arctic development, while taking local knowledge into consideration. It is important for communities in the North that local knowledge be incorporated into GBA analyses. Preserving cultural components and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities is significant to community viability in the Arctic and needs to be included when considering paths of development. The creation of opportunities must include multiple perspectives and values, and be for all: women and men, indigenous and non-indigenous alike.

Diversity should be recognized and celebrated in Arctic discourses. Current Arctic discourses reflect a highly masculine agenda where diversity and development is defined within a narrow scope. This is reflected among other things in the relatively little attention and funding for social and gender-related issues. An equal and diverse dialogue emphasizing respect for different interests must be ensured by including representatives from all spheres of social and economic life.

Positive developments but a number of challenges still remain. Women continue to be underrepresented in high level and economic power positions and the labor market remains highly gender-segregated. Female-dominated sectors continue to be undervalued and females still bear the brunt of domestic responsibilities. The wage gap is slowly narrowing but remains surprisingly resilient. Higher education levels among women have not proved sufficient to secure gender equality and the growing drop-out rate of male students is of great concern across the Arctic.

* Gender-based Analysis is in this context defined as "the process by which a policy, program, initiative or service can be examined for its impacts on various groups of women and men" providing a "snapshot that captures the realities of women and men affected by a particular issue at a particular time."

PLENARY 2

Political Representation and Participation in Decision-Making: Gendered Dimensions

The second plenary focused on the status of gender equality in the Arctic region, responsibility of states to eliminate discrimination and ensure equality, and whether strategies for achieving such objectives have been sufficiently implemented. The plenary endeavored to demonstrate the different dimensions of women's participation in decision-making. Social networks and non-governmental organizations play an important role in promoting greater participation of women. However, national institutional policy processes and regulatory frameworks can impede such efforts leading to stagnation in the course of achieving gender equality.

Panelists: Annemieke Mulders, Status of Women Council of the NWT, Canada and Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir, MP Independent Party Iceland, Vice-Chairman of West Nordic Council, Iceland.

Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir and Natalia Kukarenko

Annemieke Mulders and Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox

Gender Equality in Public Governance of the Arctic

Eva-Maria Svensson | University of Gothenburg, Sweden and The Arctic University of Norway UiT, Norway

Eva-Maria Svensson is a professor of law at UiT The Arctic University of Norway and at The School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She is also Director for the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Research (GIG) at the University of Gothenburg.

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Her presentation focused on Arctic discourses in bodies of public governance and the very limited attention and priority gender equality issues have received in the governance of the region.

Gender equality has been defined as a fundamental value in terms of rights, responsibilities, and opportunities in all aspects of life. It is an important target in both law and policymaking and an obligation for states to strive for all over the world. Moreover, gender equality is embodied in specific indicators, such as the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. The core international framework, legally binding for states party to it, is the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). With the exception of the United States, all the Arctic states have ratified the convention, as well as the extensive implementation obligations spelled out in the Beijing Platform for Action. Furthermore, almost all these countries have implemented domestic governance structures with the aim of promoting equality between women and men.

Gender equality has not been achieved in the Arctic region, or indeed in any part of the world, but the situation varies depending on the state in question. The eight Arctic states are all among the most prosperous countries in the world. However, high levels of human development do not necessarily guarantee high levels of gender equality. Observations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national reports of states party to the CEDAW convention reveal gender inequality in all Arctic states, although the degree of inequality varies between states.

In light of the fact that the states have committed themselves to achieve objectives of gender equality, local Arctic public governing bodies might reasonably be expected to apply gender-mainstreaming in order to fulfill the obligation of taking every appropriate measure to realize those objectives. That way the needs and interests of all citizens could be met and equality in rights and access to resources be promoted.

Svensson pointed out that if Arctic and Northern regions in each of the Arctic states were evaluated separately from their Southern counterparts, rankings of human development and gender equality would without a doubt be lower than their country averages. It is also likely that the most vulnerable group would include indigenous women as they are subject to both inequality and discrimination to a greater extent than non-indigenous women. In the AHDR I (2004), issues of migration, mobility, gendered violence, and lack of political representation have been identified as problems of gender inequality in the Arctic region.

New research on these and other problems, including the effects of cross-border marriages, intergenerational demographic changes, trafficking, diverse patterns of indigenous recognition and self-determination, and economic issues, has been published and is currently being conducted by research networks such as the TUAQ Research Network on Gender Equality in the Arctic. An ongoing study, performed within this network by Svensson, on gender equality in public governance in the Arctic focuses on exploring and analyzing approaches to gender equality in public governance bodies in the Arctic with

States involved in public governance bodies in the Arctic have a responsibility to adhere to nationally and internationally binding documents, implement action to ensure gender equality, and not forget the role of eliminating discrimination.

emphasis on the way in which gender equality is understood, practiced, and whether it has been achieved. Svensson presented some of the findings from this study.

The international Arctic cooperation among the region's eight states through intergovernmental bodies and public governance consists of agreements, soft law, law, policy, and science. The different definitions and perceptions of the area present a challenge, as well as the various demarcations of land, where indigenous groups are located largely in the northern regions and non-indigenous groups largely in southern regions.

An overview of gender equality in the Arctic requires a look at the larger context of growing interests in the region and its economic importance, largely due to its natural resource potential which is increasingly becoming accessible. The potential to increase economic activities must be taken into account, as increased activities will inevitably have an effect on local populations in terms of climate, economic, social and legal changes, bringing the possibility of both positive and negative consequences.

Popular buzzwords within Arctic governance, particularly resource management and marine and shipping activity, but also sustainable development (even though often in contrast with economic development), environmental protection and biodiversity, reflect an emphasis on cooperation and the promotion of economic development. In reference to Arctic peoples, the emphasis is on indigenous groups, health and well-being, cultural heritage and vitality. Finally, Arctic governance appears to emphasize political and military stability in the region. However, gender equality, surprisingly, although a fundamental value in democratic systems and an obligation of states throughout the world, doesn't figure on the list of the usual buzzwords. States involved in public governance bodies in the Arctic have a responsibility to adhere to nationally and internationally binding documents, implement action to ensure gender equality, and not forget the role of eliminating discrimination. Despite that fact, Svensson concludes that the discourse concerning the promotion of gender equality is very limited in Arctic governance, although some concern is evident regarding social and health issues. Political discourse largely revolves around indigenous women and men's violence towards them.

In the chapter on gender issues in the Arctic Human Development Report published by the Arctic Council in 2004, different perspectives of feminism are introduced, including perceived contradictions between 'Western' and 'non-Western' feminism. This is certainly an important contradiction to discuss, but there is an apparent lack of reflection on gender equality as such. The chapter also calls for a greater focus on men, but lacks further elaboration. Discussion of the structural level of gender inequality and its relation to power is almost absent. Furthermore, it is stated in the report that economic development affects gender equality; however, no one is identified as responsible, as if such development is a law of nature we can neither question nor control. In addition, women and indigenous peoples are presented as 'the others' affected by this inevitable development.

Within the Arctic Council, numerous non-mandatory ambitions exist in terms of gender equality but without any practical action plans. This leads to the conclusion that gender equality is not taken seriously in the public governance system in the Arctic. There is no discourse, action, or outcome, and there is a distinct lack of structural analysis and knowledge regarding obligations. Svensson concluded by saying that it's high time to create strategies for mainstreaming gender equality in the Arctic.

Gender Equality in Russia: Is there such a thing?

Natalia Kukarenko | Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Russia

Natalia Kukarenko holds a Ph.D. in social philosophy; she is Assistant Professor at the Philosophy Department and Director of the Institute of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences at Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Arkhangelsk, Russia. Her fields of expertise are multiculturalism, gender studies, migration, and political activism.

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In her presentation Kukarenko looked at the Russian public sphere from the perspective of gender, how gender equality discourse has changed since the Perestroika period, and what new gender challenges have appeared on the agenda. Kukarenko argued that the subject of gender equality, especially in the public sphere, has undergone some major shifts, from being a 'non-issue' before the Perestroika times to becoming an agenda discussed throughout the country in the 1990s, and then again losing its 'topicality' over the last decade. While tracing these transformations Kukarenko focused on the implications of the process for Russian society, the women's movement, and activism in general.

Russian women recognize the issue of gender equality as one of the problems of Russian society. Towards the end of the '80s and in the beginning of the '90s, the level of women's political activism increased tremendously in Russia and the first women's organizations in Russia appeared. Two forums focusing on women's active participation in decision-making processes found that society and its institutions maintained and reproduced discrimination mechanisms against women and that there was a need to create national mechanisms for establishing a state policy addressing women, at that time quite a new phenomenon in Russian public discourse. This resulted in some positive developments, including equal rights for men and women, freedoms, and opportunities, incorporated in 1993 as article 19 of the state constitution. Women entered the arena of politics as an independent political party The Women of Russia, which managed to get into the State Duma, where they introduced, for example, a white paper on domestic violence.

Unfortunately in a period of instability the party lost the trust of female voters but was however successful in providing a number of role models for women. A women's network was established in Russia and in cooperation with international women's organizations they received financial support, largely from the U.S. This support was useful in battling gender-based domestic violence and human trafficking. At the same time gender studies emerged at universities both as specific studies and as integrated themes within political and social disciplines. A special council on women's issues was established at the presidential level and Russia became signatory to various relevant and important international documents related to gender equality matters.

In the year 2000 the situation changed again and there was a definite lack of political willingness to work towards and achieve gender balance and equality. Several legislative projects and initiatives concerning the promotion

Women's organizations in Russia have low levels of networking, they lack common goals, and have stagnated. Women have low level impacts on decision-making and public opinion, and have a marginal place within academia with low impact on social policies related to gender and women's issues.

of gender equality were sabotaged. Currently (14 years later) the participation of women in the State Duma is still low. The same applies for decision-making bodies where there are only nominal appointments of a few women to high level, but generally non-critical, positions. Only one political party includes gender equality in their agenda. Further challenges also include limited means and measures to promote gender equality and neo-patriarchal ideology revival within the country because of widespread sexist prejudices. While there is recognition that discrimination against women exists, the rhetoric remains determined by an unfavorable attitude towards gender equality; people claim to be tired of gender equality which many claim they had enough of during the Soviet period. Some researchers have claimed that women's civic associations have neither managed to be a uniting force for women in Russia, nor succeeded in promoting gender equality to the public or in the political sphere. Women's organizations in Russia are active, although they often work within the framework of social issues and human rights in general, rather than working against inequality specifically focused on women.

One more factor that has recently negatively affected women's activism in Russia is the new law on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-commercial organizations. Collaboration with international foundations and agencies used to be important to support women's work in Russia but at present foreign-funded organizations in Russia are proclaimed "foreign agents." Another obstacle that the organizations face is that in order for them to get national funding they have to be apolitical and non-critical, making it impossible for women's organizations to introduce into public discussions such a critical agenda as gender issues.

Kukarenko came to the conclusion that women's organizations in Russia have low levels of networking, they lack common goals, and have stagnated. Women have low level impacts on decision-making and public opinion, and have a marginal place within academia with low impact on social policies related to gender and women's issues. Information exchange among women's organizations and from these organizations to the public and their target audiences is inadequate. In addition, new laws on NGOs introduced in 2006 resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of public organizations; today women's public organizations, national, and cultural associations count for less than 1% of the total of non-profit organizations.

Political Participation of Women in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Canada

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox | Fox Consulting, Canada

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox holds a B.A. and M.A. in political science from the University of Alberta, and a Ph.D. from Cambridge University. Based in Yellowknife, Canada, Irlbacher-Fox owns Fox Consulting Ltd., and has spent the last 18 years working for indigenous peoples as an advisor on political processes. She is Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Native Studies and at Carleton University's School of Public Policy and Administration.

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In her presentation Irlbacher-Fox focused on different forms of political participation in the Northwest Territories at the community, regional, territorial, and national level, analyzing participation along two distinct themes: elected representatives and un-elected yet powerful decision-makers. The dismal level of women's political participation in the NWT is accentuated by several significant 'outliers': the very few women politicians who have nonetheless distinguished themselves as political leaders. Similarly, while a significant number of women exercise power through occupying un-elected yet influential positions of authority, gender analyses are arguably either subject to benign neglect or actively stifled within policy development processes.

At the local level in the Northwest Territories, women's representation in leadership and community councils is 39%, whereas in Yukon and Nunavut women are 35% and 44%, respectively. The government provides about 40% of employment in the Northern territories. Irlbacher-Fox estimates that it is likely that a higher percentage applies to women occupying management positions within indigenous, community, and the territorial governments. In many small communities it is often the women who are in control. Men are elected to speak on behalf of the community but women are generally the executive directors, the senior administrative officers or the managers of the band councils. There appears to be considerable influence exerted by women, circulating at different levels, both in terms of decision-making and the administration of government programs and services.

At the territorial level the scenery is vastly different with regard to the legislature. Each territory has its own legislature where it makes law for the whole territory. In the Northwest Territories there is one legislature where for the past 20 years only two or three seats out of 19 are occupied by women. Generally, when women are elected to the legislature they don't make it into the cabinet, even though members of the legislative assembly elect the cabinet members from within their own ranks. Generally they don't elect women although a few women in the NWT have distinguished themselves admirably. Irlbacher-Fox noted that in the last election, out of the 47 candidates who ran, nine were women and only two got elected.

Why aren't women running? Why isn't society electing them? Irlbacher-Fox suggests that one of the answers to these questions could be related to the high prevalence of violence or sexual assault against women in the North. Women living in one of the Northern territories are between nine to 12 times more likely than women in other Canadian provinces to have been the victim of sexual assault or domestic violence. Half the women in the Northwest Territories are indigenous and in Canada indigenous women are far more likely to be subject to violent assault. Recent headlines in Canada reveal that there are about 1200 murdered or missing indigenous women in Canada since the early 1980s. Women facing violence are vulnerable and may not have the means to escape their situation. This is not conducive to them going into politics or other leadership positions; rather, their primary concern is survival.

Women living in one of the Northern territories are between nine to 12 times more likely than women in other Canadian provinces to have been the victim of sexual assault or domestic violence.

According to Irlbacher-Fox, colonial relations between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples have played a large role in this situation, where non-indigenous people have privileges at the expense of indigenous people and specifically indigenous women. The government of the Northwest Territories has put in place a Status of Women Council responsible for undertaking initiatives specific to women in the NWT. Further there is a women's advisor to the minister for the status of women. However, the government has significantly decreased funding to the Status of Women Council to less than 80% of what it was only six years ago. Irlbacher-Fox's scholarly opinion is that the government is fundamentally lacking in any robust effort to really analyze the barriers to women's participation, particularly indigenous women's participation, in politics in the NWT. Furthermore, unlike the federal government, the territorial government doesn't perform Gender-based Analysis on its programs and services.

The territorial government therefore doesn't see the situation clearly, nor is it able to identify the need for cross-cutting analysis and policy to address the situation. Proposals for remediation seem haphazard and at times bizarre: for example, holding a mock women's parliament as a proposed means to improve women's political participation. There seems to be a tendency to treat women's issues as isolated, rather than a part of a larger reality and context connected with colonization, settler colonialism, and circumstances among men resulting in high rates of violence toward women. Although violence against women has received some attention, there is no attempt to look for evidence of broader challenges facing women that intensify implications of violence, and what measures could be taken to achieve gender equality.

Irlbacher-Fox concluded by proposing as steps towards improvement that the government could take on the Gender-based Analysis approach and truly look at the situation and how it can be rectified, collect comprehensive evidence, and insist on the participation of all government departments. The government must devote resources to the Gender-based Analysis approach, become more engaged, and secure resources for the Women Council's work so that they may adequately address the challenges women face.

Moreover the government needs to take a decolonizing approach, recognizing that indigenous communities are facing social suffering as a direct result of colonialism, and scrutinize what the underlying causes actually are. She said patriarchy is reflected in the laws and gender analysis is excluded when law and policy are being created.

Highlights From the Panel

In discussing how to correct the gender imbalance, Eva-Maria Svensson noted that providing concrete solutions is difficult but that law is not the ultimate solution. Legislation can provide the basis, but a strategy is needed for active implementation of legal obligations.

Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir added that the single most important factor is to attract the attention of the highest levels of political parties. Gender considerations should always be included in selective processes for boards and committees by the political parties themselves. Having access to current data on gender equality situations is vital and must be followed by action. Women's visibility in media also deserves further consideration as role models are of vital importance.

Natalia Kukarenko stressed the importance of raising awareness and good role models. She pointed out that it is very important to keep women in politics and to create an open platform for communication where women have a strong voice. If the media has no interest in gender issues, women don't stand a chance. Finally, Kukarenko underlined the importance of raising the profile of women's organizations through social media.

When asked about social attitudes in the Northwest Territories towards women, Annemieke Mulder stated that powerful women are seen as a threat to the male-dominated system. On that note, Stefanie Irlbacher-Fox noted that the responsibility of correcting the gender equality deficit lies with women. All women have men within their sphere of influence, whether boys or older men. It is up to women to affect change in the daily routine in the homes as children observe and copy their parents. Again, the importance of role models in public and private spheres emerges as an important component of gender policies.

Describing the situation in Russia, Natalia Kukarenko identified censorship and access to information as important factors to take into consideration. She said that censorship was tight in Russia and that Russian people have difficulties accessing independent information.

On the proposition to establish special male/female constituencies in Iceland, Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir stated that although an interesting idea she believes the current system should be sufficient to achieve gender equality. Irlbacher-Fox said it needed some consideration, and that she was keen on the idea as a potential strategy for Canada.

Policy Relevant Highlights

Arctic states bear an obligation to ensure gender equality and to eliminate all forms of discrimination. The Gender-based Analysis approach should be incorporated into government policies and knowledge about gender equality obligations improved. Strategies for action must be created and implemented and resources devoted to address challenges faced by women and men.

Gender issues and equality should be a priority in the Arctic region. Arctic rhetoric largely excludes discourses of gender. However, gender mainstreaming has to some extent been incorporated into Arctic governance, yet governments need to be more engaged in implementing effective gender strategies.

The role of civil society in achieving gender equality should be identified and supported. Governance structures should facilitate rather than hamper efforts to move forward issues of gender. Open platforms for debate including media and social media - without censorship - must be available for effective and critical exchange of perspectives and information.

Women's access to and participation in political and economic spheres in the public or private sectors must be improved. Public and private role models are of significant importance, as is women's access to media and power. Exploring perceptions and context, living conditions, and reasons for female exclusion from politics and power have been identified as some of the crucial factors.

PLENARY 3

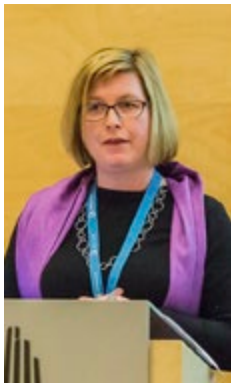
Regional Socio-Economic Development and its Gendered Impacts

The third plenary addressed the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship, and small businesses for regional development and gendered dimensions of different work environments. Taking responsibility for the future, quality of life, education levels, female emigration, urbanization, and the mainstreaming of gender equality in policy was also discussed. Gendered perspectives of path dependency, changes in settlement structures, and adapting to change were explored in terms of gendered socialization patterns.

Panelists: Janne Sigurdsson, Alcoa Fjardaál, Iceland; Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir, MP Progressive Party, Iceland; Marit Helene Pedersen, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise, Norway.

Kriss Rokkan Iversen, Janne Sigurðsson and Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir

Marit Helene Pedersen and Elisabet Ljunggren



Gendered Entrepreneurship and Regional Development

Elisabet Ljunggren | Nordland Research Institute, Norway

Elisabet Ljunggren, Ph.D., is a Research Professor at Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway. Her research interests include gender aspects of entrepreneurship, innovation, and business polices. She has published work on the entrepreneurial process, the household dimensions of entrepreneurship, and policy initiatives to enhance entrepreneurship and innovation.

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In her presentation, Ljunggren focused on entrepreneurship and innovation in the context of gender, regional, and rural development from an industry or business perspective. Regional development in Norway is an important topic and necessarily includes questions of gendered entrepreneurship as the labor market, including the private sector, is highly gendered in terms of industries and management, such as in the agricultural, fisheries and manufacturing sectors. This has implications for regional development policies in general and more specifically for policies concerning entrepreneurship. Ljunggren's presentation dealt with these issues and provided examples from rural Norway.

Entrepreneurship and innovation are generally seen as the first buds of wealth creation, and are a complex social phenomenon involving women and men, start-up teams, and households. Entrepreneurship is about creating business organizations and viable business models, but it is also about different types of 'capital', including human capital of which education is a part. Ljunggren pointed out that in the Nordic countries, education is strongly gender-segregated, where young women generally choose an education providing them with employment in the public sector, whereas young men are inclined to seek education providing them with employment in the private sector, which offers them better access to the entrepreneurial market. Being an entrepreneur has a gendered dimension where males are the dominating participants, as is also generally the case in trade and industry. This is reflected in the distribution of wealth from a gendered perspective. Although common knowledge, research has also shown that when it comes to starting up businesses there is a clear gender division; more men than women start up or intend to start up businesses.

This gendered division varies between countries. Ljunggren presented a slide on facts and figures retrieved from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitoring (GEM studies) which provides indications of Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) in populations between the ages of 18 and 64, through interviews with a large number of individuals. Figures reveal that Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, and Norway have in common large differences between men and women in the categories TEA rate (% adult population) and Established Business Ownership (% adult population), with women lagging considerably behind.

The inclusion of women in the promotion of regional development is a necessary tool in mainstreaming gender equality in policy and policy measures.

Regional development is gendered as well; research reveals that regional innovation systems (including businesses, R&D institutions and public sector agencies) are male-dominated, something which should be taken into account when trying to encourage women to participate to a greater extent in regional development. Infrastructure, nursing, pedagogy, and kindergarten are also a part of regional development, but market opportunities are scarce in rural areas although there are numerous opportunities within tourism and the recreational industry.

Access to capital for new business or business growth, or rather the lack thereof, is a very important factor in rural business development. Innovation Norway is the Norwegian government's most important instrument for innovation and development of Norwegian enterprises and industry. Having access to capital through this instrument would provide greater functionality in terms of business ventures in rural areas. Quality of life is also an important factor for people deciding to start their own business and having more control over their lives.

The inclusion of women in the promotion of regional development is a necessary tool in mainstreaming gender equality in policy and policy measures, for example applying public quotas of business grants to women and maternity leave for self-employed women. Maintaining public services in rural areas is essential and enables women to become self-employed.

Ljunggren also concluded that attitudes toward education must change. Boys should be introduced to educational opportunities in the currently female-dominated sectors, such as in nursery schools, pedagogy, and in the social sector, and vice versa. The situation today is that perception of opportunities for young people is still strongly gendered and narrow, particularly in the case of the girls. Entrepreneurial training for young people is important and should continue. Furthermore, in order to create or maintain economic diversity, continued support must be provided to industries started by women in a variety of sectors, including tourism, galleries, or shops, securing the growth of female entrepreneurs. Attitudes toward financing opportunities and business development in rural areas must change, and focus more on women.

Mrs. Tarja Halonen

Owning the Arctic Future: When Gender Becomes a Crucial Factor

Kriss Rokkan Iversen | SALT, Norway

Kriss Rokkan Iversen holds an M.Sc. (University of Bergen) and a Ph.D. (ARCTOS Ph.D. School, University of Tromsø) in marine system ecology. She is one of the founders of the knowledge-based company SALT in Svolvær, Northern Norway. SALT provides services in research, consultancy and outreach related to the ocean, marine resources, and coastal communities to both public and private customers nationwide and abroad.

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Iversen's presentation focused on communities and ownership, where individuals take responsibility for knowledge, possibilities, and challenges. Her central question was: How do you own the future? She added that it is an infinitely complex question with a diversity of answers. Iversen provided examples of her own journey of taking responsibility by returning to her roots and using her knowledge to engage in innovative business development.

For Iversen the answer lies at the intersection of being given an opportunity while at the same time taking on responsibility. From this perspective, central incentives for ownership of future development patterns in Northern communities are balanced demography, diversity in employment markets, and human resources with the competence to engage in an Arctic future.

In Northern Norway, as in many communities across the Arctic, gender is becoming a crucial factor in influencing these central incentives. In order to own the Arctic future, Northern communities must themselves create or request ownership of knowledge of their own resources, their possibilities, and challenges. In this context, gender is emerging as a central parameter that needs to be addressed by decision-makers and stakeholders in the communities themselves.

Brainpower and competent human capital are key factors in innovative solutions for the successful development of productive Northern futures. The population in Northern Norway is falling behind when it comes to taking part in local and regional socio-economic development. That is a challenge indeed, not least because of the educational level. In Northern Norway an average of 35-40% of the population has a low educational level, meaning non-graduation from high school.

The pervasive pattern, with central sectors being male-dominated while women are taking the lead in acquiring university degrees, is also found here. In Northern Norway 6-11% more women than men graduate from universities. Thus ownership of the Arctic is a highly relevant dialogue not only in terms of how the region can be more attractive to women with regard to education and employment, but also in how to prevent the increased tendency of female migration from the North to the South. There is an urgent need to create employment prospects embracing educated women.

Iversen shared the story of her own knowledge-based company SALT; how two women with doctoral degrees invested their competence and engagement in a small community far away from universities and research and development facilities. The area in question is endowed with extensive natural resources supporting traditional industries, like fisheries, but also providing opportunities for new knowledge-based industries, such as Arctic cultures, renewable energy, and tourism. Northern Norway has significant potential and opportunity to take the lead in contributing to a productive future in the North. Iversen and her business partner Kjersti Eline Tønnessen Busch jointly decided that they would contribute to the future of the North by allocating their common passion for the ocean, coastal communities, and Northern wealth creation locally and close to marine resources. It was a decision about taking social responsibility.

We can own the future; we can secure ownership of knowledge whether it comes in formal, inherited, practical, or traditional forms, and whether it comes in the form of a man or a woman.

The founders of SALT were determined to secure local ownership of knowledge, central to the future in the North. Through their venture several jobs were created for highly-educated young women and men in the Lofoten archipelago, north of the Arctic Circle. They believe that the establishment and utilization of a combination of formal, practical, and inherited knowledge within Northern communities is a way towards greater ownership of the future. They believe that knowledge-based jobs, in both public and private sectors, will be the key in future development of Northern settlements and small knowledge-based companies can provide new possibilities and reinforce a diverse job market attracting both women and men with highly relevant competence for the Arctic future.

SALT knowledge is attractive, not in spite of, but because of their location in the Northern periphery. The combination of high formal competence and local perspective is considered highly valuable in a knowledge-based market. They bring together formal, practical, and traditional knowledge and serve as an intersection for science, industry, and politics.

The SALT experience provides a clue as to how Northern communities can take responsibility for their own future by transforming gendered challenges into new possibilities. We can own the future; we can secure ownership of knowledge whether it comes in formal, inherited, practical, or traditional forms, and whether it comes in the form of a man or a woman.

Blue future

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Gender Perspectives on Path Dependency

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen | Nordregio, Sweden

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Ph.D., is Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio – Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers, and Associate Professor at Roskilde University, Denmark.

Rasmussen's presentation focused on gendered perspectives of path dependency, on changes in settlement structures and the gendered differential perceptions thereof, and responses to these changes. The process of urbanization has led to much more than half of the population in the Arctic living in cities. There is furthermore significant out-migration of women both away from the Arctic region and from rural settlements to urban cities within the region. Reasons for this development include differential socialization of males and females with consequences for path dependency and adaptive capacity.

Ongoing changes in the North produce very different gendered responses, clearly reflected in differences regarding employment and work-related activities. While customary male activities continue to be perceived as being connected with exploitation of resources, renewable as well as non-renewable – and as being a means of protecting their own status – women appear considerably more receptive to change. The relatively high number of women employed in the service sector has often been viewed as some kind of an escape valve to move away from traditional activities, while male activities become increasingly more mechanized and masculine.

This situation is clearly reflected in the push-pull effects where, on the one hand, women are pushed away from rural communities due to lack of adequate employment opportunities, but on the other hand, out-migration of women from rural communities demonstrates the pull of opportunities not available locally.

Men appear to have found it difficult to move on from what at one time were considered key activities of society but which now constitute only a small percentage of available jobs. Contrary to this, females are socialized into collective activities, tending to become more attentive to others' needs and consequently much more open to change. As a result they become less limited by specific job characteristics.

Males, on the other hand, appear to have been socialized into a path dependency and consequently have difficulties accepting alternative paths and changes. At the same time, females tend to be socialized into situations where adjustment and change are required, leaving them with greater capacity for adaptation, and thus better prepared to move between job categories and options. Consequently females develop a greater capacity for mobility, both socially and geographically.

In contrast, males lure themselves into a kind of catch-22. They are socialized into maintaining traditional work activities that no longer enable them to secure the proper investment needed to modernize and expand their activities. Without a wife with a second income, the investment is absent. At the same time, they lack the education and financial means that might provide them with alternatives. So they are stuck, without options for mobility, both geographically and socially.

Rasmussen provided an example of Greenlandic fishermen who depend on the steady income of educated women to enable them to continue to fish and invest in items, equipment, and new technologies. For these fishermen it is of significant importance to have a wife who is a good provider. The fishermen themselves are unable to leave as outside options are few, if any. However, it is essential for women to have access to cultural opportunities and better education

This situation is clearly reflected in the push-pull effects where, on the one hand, women are pushed away from rural communities due to lack of adequate employment opportunities, but on the other hand, out-migration of women from rural communities demonstrates the pull of opportunities not available locally.

in their community – for their own benefit as well as for their children – and mobility is very important in that context. These differences in gender-related perceptions of, and responses to, change have to be clearly identified and recognized.

Differences between male and female perspectives are also revealed when it comes to defining what 'community' is, and the nature and role of relations in the community. In the context of the male, the community consists of the village, whereas in the context of the female it includes the outside world and connections to that world. In Northern Greenland, only a few women are participants in municipal governments, while in the more Southern communities you will find more women at this level of governance. Gender discourses also vary to a significant degree between communities making it very difficult to reach some of the goals discussed here today, particularly in the more Northern communities. The question is to what extent gender equality discourses are influencing people and especially children in the communities. Taking the example of internet connections, yet again differences in the use of this medium are revealed between males and females. Males use the computer for a more recreational type of activity, such as playing games, while females are more involved with communicating with the outside world and seeking opportunities outside their own communities.

Social media can be a very revealing method of exploring gendered communication patterns of males and females in rural settings, and in the context of Greenlandic diaspora. Rasmussen specifically mentioned the gendered aspect of tweeting, including the way in which these tweets reflect different methods of communication, life and future perceptions and expectations, but not least the different considerations of options for residence and mobility. Rasmussen concluded by saying that it would be worthwhile to explore these differences further.

Highlights From the Panel

Janne Sigurðsson discussed the implications of women entering non-traditional, male-dominated work environments. She explained how this can at times result in greater female vulnerability and how important it is to stay alert and to maintain a secure work environment to attract women. She stressed the importance of not generalizing when it comes to peoples' choices of workplaces.

Mrs. Tarja Halonen commented on the non-traditional angle, citing her experience of positive changes in attitudes toward female security personnel during her presidency.

Mrs. Halonen also pointed out that when discrimination against women and sexual harassment in the army was first raised, its existence was flatly denied, only to surface later on when gradually women began to talk more openly. Mrs. Halonen also commented on education and skills, urging the audience never to stop believing in education and information, concluding with: "I have seen many grandfathers changing their opinions and even sometimes the grandmothers. Don't give up your hopes."

Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir pointed out that gender equality works both ways; men who enter traditionally female-dominated workplaces have a similar experience both in terms of expectations and harassment. Workplace cultures play an important role in that respect and have to adapt.

Kriss Rokkan Iversen wondered if perhaps the central question was not only of gender but of feminine versus masculine values. Iversen explained her observations of techniques used by both sexes to suppress feminine properties or values in 'the boardroom.' Iversen concluded by stressing the importance for communities to acquire the necessary competence to deal with big corporations and development plans in the North, in order to enable the communities to reap the benefits locally.

Elisabet Ljunggren stressed the importance of diversity in innovation and entrepreneurship and its significance for the economy. "It is crucial to have the whole spectrum of industries and not leave out something as normal as hairdressers for example."

Eva-Maria Svensson pointed out that without gender mainstreaming there cannot be sustainable development; gender equality must be thoroughly discussed and not reduced to buzzwords without content.

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen followed where Svensson left off, emphasizing that the gender equality debate needs to be based on concept and content, as well as knowledge. Rasmussen pointed out the importance of the internet and education in that respect.

Turning to gender identities, Jón Haukur Ingimundarson drew attention to different types of masculinities and femininities. He pointed out that intolerance towards diversity inevitably poses a problem. Regions of intolerance, in general, face greater challenges of inequality whereas more liberal attitudes encourage the acceptance of men and women in whatever role they choose to adopt.

Policy Relevant Highligts

Innovation and entrepreneurship are vital to community and regional development in the North. Entrepreneurship is a male-dominated field, as is reflected in the distribution of wealth. Women should be included in the promotion of regional development and provided with better access to capital for business start-up.

Education has a gendered dimension and attitudes towards education must change. Gender programs at the pre-school level may be the appropriate venue. Entrepreneurial training for young people is crucial.

Economic diversity and knowledge-based companies will be the key to sustainable Northern development in the future. The Norwegian SALT experience can provide clues as to how Northern communities can secure local ownership of knowledge, take responsibility for their own future, and transform gendered challenges into new possibilities.

Males and females respond and adapt differentially to change. Gendered perspectives of path dependency, changes in settlement structure, female migration, and urbanization must be explored when considering policy options in the North. Gendered perceptions of change differ as do responses and capacity for adaptation

PLENARY 4

Climate and Environmental Change, Natural Resource Development and Gender

The fourth plenary addressed gendered aspects of climate change, natural resources and development, including inherent contradictions. The panel further explored gendered dimensions with regard to exposure and responses to natural disasters.

Panelists: Beza Seyoum Alemu, U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, U.S.A. and Birna Bragadóttir, Reykjavik Energy, Iceland.

Jón Haukur Ingimundarson, Beza Seyoum Alemu, Liliia Vinokurova and Birna Bragadóttir

Climate Change in the Arctic – The Relevance of Feminism

Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir | Bifröst University, Iceland

Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir is an assistant professor at Bifröst University, Iceland. Prior to taking up her post at Bifröst, she worked abroad for the Icelandic Crisis Response Unit, first participating in the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, and later in the Balkans as a gender advisor for UNIFEM (now UN Women).

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In her presentation Ingólfsdóttir focused on the relevance of feminist perspectives when exploring climate change, emphasizing differential perceptions and discourses – masculine and feminine – their relationships and influence on Arctic debate, decision-making and policy. She first spoke broadly of climate change and disparities of impacts on women and men, and differential contributions of men and women to the process of climate change through lifestyle behaviors and participation in decision and policymaking. Ingólfsdóttir then spoke more specifically about masculine and feminine discourses and values in the context of Arctic future development trajectories and policymaking.

When exploring literature and current research on gender and climate change three themes quickly emerge: 1) impact of climate change (how will men and women be affected?); 2) emissions (how do men and women contribute to the problem?); and 3) representation in climate negotiations and policy formation (are both men and women involved in finding solutions?). In her research, Ingólfsdóttir endeavors to move beyond these themes and look at gender more symbolically by applying concepts from gender studies as analytical tools. Using a feminist analysis to deconstruct dominant theories and explore underlying assumptions can bring some fresh insights into understanding the climate crisis and possible solutions. Two climate-related discourses in the Arctic are of special interest. Firstly, a masculine discussion emphasizes the increasingly important geopolitical role of the Arctic and how the melting of the ice will lead to more utilization of natural resources in the region. Secondly, there is a more feminized dialogue pointing to the threats climate change brings, for example with regard to human security, in particular that of indigenous groups and rural communities in the Arctic. Ingólfsdóttir threw out the questions: which of the two is more dominant in shaping our view of the current realities in the Arctic and what is the relationship between those different approaches?

When discussing the Arctic it is necessary to reflect on historical Arctic dialogue, shaped by traditional gender roles, partly in the guise of the brave Arctic explorer who conquered feminized nature. This gendered approach remains evident in today's Arctic debate. The discussion continues to favor the masculine side, particularly at the high political level where decisions are taken and policy is formed. A counter discourse does exist, based on the Nordic countries' values of gender equality and strong indigenous leaders, including female leaders. Hence, Ingólfsdóttir remarked, it will be interesting to learn how strongly alternative ways of presentation can influence future policy and development in the Arctic. Not least if masculinity will make room for more 'feminine' perspectives to address challenges of climate change.

Feminine values tend to be put in boxes only to be used in the context of education of children and in terms of family well-being, but Ingólfsdóttir proposes that these values could also have a role in a geopolitical debate. The Arctic paradox reveals that climate change is going to provide access to resources, including those of oil and gas, providing economic opportunities while at the same time such activity will contribute to aggravation of the problem of climate change, perpetuating a vicious cycle.

Ingólfsdóttir's central question is whether it is an option not to exploit those resources, as it appears that raising such a natural question has developed into some kind of taboo, something which should simply not be considered as a viable option. That brings further questions regarding human values, including whether nature is only there for us to exploit. She concluded by envisaging that if alternative values or characteristics of the feminine could be successfully integrated into what is currently predominantly a masculine line of thought, a more balanced dialogue about the Arctic could be created.

Is it an option not to exploit those resources?
... Is nature only there for us to exploit?

I can't bear this any longer (melting pack ice between Kvitøya and Storøya)

Social Impact of Climate Change and Gender in Rural Communities of Yakutia

Liliia Vinokurova | The Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North, The Russian Academy of Science, Russia

Liliia Vinokurova, Ph.D., is the Lead Researcher at the Arctic Research Sector of the Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North (The Russian Academy of Sciences). She specializes in the social history of the indigenous peoples of the North, focusing on gender processes, and has extensive experience researching rural ethnic communities in the Arctic.

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Vinokurova focused her presentation on the results and observations from her research in rural communities in Yakutia in the years 2008-2014, where she studied issues of development and equality, including aspects of gender and fluctuations in changes of gender roles. Gendered aspects of social history were also explored. The objective of the research was to study people's potential exposure and responses to disasters such as floods and wildfires and how gendered responses are reflected in post-disaster behavior and activities.

The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) is the largest Arctic region of the Russian Federation, which for the most part remains rural with indigenous Arctic and Northern nations still maintaining or preserving a traditional way of life. Yakutia is rich in water resources and most of the population resides on the water-front of any of the region's thousands of lakes and rivers. In recent years sustainability of rural communities in Yakutia has been closely associated with climate change, as the area has experienced numerous floods. This has called for research to identify social impacts of climate change on rural communities. Vinokurova's research explored in what way people were exposed to potential disasters like floods and wildfires.

Observations reveal clear shifts in traditional gender roles. Men appear more likely than women to attempt to preserve traditional ways of life, choosing to hold on to traditional occupations such as hunting and fishing. Interestingly, women are more likely to explore alternative roles both in terms of employment and lifestyles, taking an increasingly active role in economic life through start-up of their own micro-businesses and by adopting increasingly more prominent roles within local government.

However, at times of natural disasters such as flooding or wildfires, both men and women reverted to traditional roles. In some areas women and children were evacuated. Following the disasters, men's activities were characterized by the organization of meetings in order to mobilize people into action; they rescued livestock, repaired buildings and fences, and generally attempted to secure public safety. Women's activities were characterized by taking on the family care responsibilities. They assisted in evacuating patients followed by participation in public mobilization and meetings. Women also initiated social charity work, setting up meetings with local authorities, and including teenagers in the work where possible.

Impacts of climate change are experienced through the local natural environment and observed in greater detail by those members of communities who spend more time outdoors. These are predominantly men, who frequently raise concerns over the future of traditional ways of life. Although more economically active, rural women are physically more isolated within their households and less aware of the impacts of climate change. Overall, local mobility of rural women – who do not migrate – has declined compared to the Soviet period.

As people get older – especially men – they tend to express more anxiety faced with the impact of climate change, while women, motivated by the desire to help their children and families, seem more open to challenge.

As previously mentioned, sustainability of rural communities in Yakutia has been closely associated with natural disasters caused by climate change. Gendered behavior of rural residents during and after natural disasters varies by age group and social status. For example, natural disasters frequently serve as a catalyst for migration and relocation. Young and educated people have a better chance of succeeding in a new environment. People of an older age group find it more challenging to abandon established households and their social status within the community. Vinokurova came to the conclusion that men are more commonly concerned with maintaining their social status and are reluctant to move. As people get older – especially men – they tend to express more anxiety in these situations, while women, motivated by the desire to help their children and families, seem more open to the challenge.

Strong Women: Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change through Women's Leadership, an Example from Baffin Island, Nunavut

Shari Fox Gearheard | University of Colorado Boulder, Canada

Shari Fox Gearheard is a geographer and research scientist with the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), University of Colorado Boulder, U.S.A. Since 1995, Gearheard has been working with Inuit communities in Nunavut, Canada, on environmental research topics, in particular, on Inuit knowledge of climate and environmental change, sea ice, and weather.

In her presentation Gearheard shared her study (conducted with research partners Martha Dowsley, Noor Johnson, and Joanna Qillaq) of women's experiences and responses to the impacts of climate change at Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River), Nunavut. Drawing on the recent study, and primarily a week-long women's land retreat where the women discussed these issues, Gearheard explored women's observations, concerns, and perspectives on how to address not only climate change, but also social, economic, and other changes that they stress must be addressed at the same time.

The women emphasized that many approaches for 'adapting to climate change' miss the point of how communities can and need to respond.

They defined their own approach and priorities, laying out concrete ideas for strengthening the community. These ideas have since been, and continue to be, implemented. At the heart of the approach is the importance of supporting and empowering girls, the relationships between girls and women, and the role of women in society. The women of the community are very active; the Elders provide important leadership and have strong ideas concerning the direction of their community, including a vision for the younger generation. Elderly women teach and advise the younger ones at home, in the community, as well as planning and delivering specific community-based programs to boost girls' self-esteem and confidence. These programs often draw on traditional skills and values, and include activities such as skin preparation, sewing, and food preparation. Also discussed was the importance of role-models and making sure that women and girls have the support and knowledge they need for leading a good life.

Studies on peoples' relationships with the environment, particularly studies on Inuit-environment relationships in the North, tend to focus on hunting and related activities. Documentation of Inuit perspectives and knowledge of the environment and environmental change has thus largely been done with men. Women's perspectives and knowledge, women's relationships with the environment, and women's roles in hunting activities (including sharing networks) have not received the same attention. This applies also to climate change research where women's voices are often absent. That prompted Gearheard's research to have these three main focal points: 1) women's observations and knowledge of environmental change; 2) women's narratives concerning environmental change; and 3) women's responses to change.

When it comes to women's observations and knowledge about environmental change, women engage with the environment in both similar and dissimilar ways to men. Their specific ways of engaging with the environment directly are mainly through travel and activities like fishing, skinning animals, and picking berries.

Focusing on hunting activities and material resources leaves us with an incomplete understanding of the impacts of climate change and we lose a great deal of knowledge concerning the 'pre-material' aspects of impacts on relationships and social fabrics of communities.

In many ways women corroborate what men say about specific environmental changes and resulting impacts, for example, changing dynamics of sea ice, including timing of the break-up of ice. However, women's knowledge can also expand on that knowledge, for example, through their work on sealskins they observe certain changes in the quality of the skins, providing additional, and very detailed, information about the nature and timing of new break-up conditions. Women also bring different observations and knowledge altogether based on their activities, such as through harvesting plants and berries.

Gearheard observed that women talked extensively about the interactions between environmental and social conditions and changes, not least in historical terms such as: colonialism, imposed regulations (e.g. hunting quotas), or different institutions that have been put in place in Nunavut. Women appear to have greater sensitivity to aspects of family or emotional stress. They have unique perspectives as decision-makers in the community not least within sharing networks. How resources – whether food, money, time, or other resources – are shared is often greatly influenced by women. When women talked about climate change, they tended to focus less on the physical world, but more so on non-material relations, such as the social relationships tied to a place (e.g. traditional family camps) or the timing of the seasons on the land or to the availability of resources. Both men and women think about changes in the climate and environment in practical ways, finding ways to respond, although women generally seem to focus on relationships and the way the social fabric of the community could be impacted.

In discussing responding to impacts of climate change, the women pointed out that the issue wasn't really climate change in itself, but the importance of a strong community, food security, education, language vitality, healthy relationships, and good housing. They maintained that if they are strong as women and as a community, they can respond to anything, whether it's climate change, social change, or any other stress that comes their way.

Gearheard's presentation concluded that Inuit women have extensive knowledge to contribute to the discussion on climate and environmental change, complementing and adding to the narratives of men. Focusing on hunting activities and material resources leaves us with an incomplete understanding of the impacts of climate change and we lose a great deal of knowledge concerning the 'pre-material' aspects of impacts on relationships and social fabrics of communities.

When policy is considered, whether at the community level or in broader context, it is necessary to explore how to bring together the different perspectives of women and men on climate change responses and action. In any case, women's leadership and perspectives on actions will be needed in order to move forward.

Highlights From the Panel

In a discussion concerning Nordic feminine cultures and feminine and masculine values, Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir said that the Nordic countries have reached a certain level of feminine culture. Ingólfsdóttir then observed that defining feminine and masculine values is venturing down a rather slippery slope. Feminine and masculine values are constructed, dynamic and localized, making them hard to pin down.

Policy Relevant Highlights

Analysis reveals a contradiction between 'masculine' discourse of resource utilization and 'feminine' discourse of climate change threats. The discourse of resource utilization is still today a dominant one. Alternative perspectives must be given space to influence future policy and development in the Arctic.

Responses and adaption to climate change and natural disasters reflect certain gender differences. Responses are context-based depending on factors such as location, age group, and social status, and include migration and relocation. Younger, educated people are more adaptable to change than older generations.

Policy concerning climate change must include women's and indigenous peoples' perspectives. Policy, whether at the community level or in broader contexts, must embrace the different perspectives of women and men with respect to responses. Local, traditional knowledge is a significant component to take into account when determining relevant policies for community adaption to climate change.

PLENARY 5

(Re-)Construction of Gender in the Arctic

The fifth plenary focused on conceptions of identity in terms of change and tradition. The discussion included the diverse gender perspectives among young people and between generations and the negotiation of contemporary complex identities. Alternative gender images, diversity, and the concept of intersectionality were addressed as was media representation and the way in which the media provides opportunities to view, re-view, observe, and recreate representations of gender.

Panelists: Anna Karlsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland
and Kristinn Schram, Centre for Arctic Policy Studies, Iceland

Kristinn Schram and Anna Karlsdóttir

‘Boys Will Be Boys?’ Boys and Masculinities in Contemporary Greenland and the Faroe Islands

Firouz Gaini | University of the Faroe Islands and Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Firouz Gaini is Associate Professor in Social Anthropology at the University of the Faroe Islands, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Norwegian Centre for Child Research (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), and one of the Faroe Islands’ leading social scientists. He has done fieldwork in Southern France, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland.

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In his work, Gaini observed a need for greater knowledge of boys’ everyday lives and identity in Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and in the Arctic in general. There is a tendency to stereotype boys as either heroes or villains without any intermediary alternatives. This predicament is partially an outcome of men’s lack of engagement in the debate on gender issues. Non-academics from rural communities are particularly under-represented within these debates. In some cases this may stem from lack of knowledge but doesn’t necessarily indicate a lack of interest in their status and role in society. The reason for their absence might be found in the premises on which the structure of formal debate and policy is based. Policy in turn influences how we connect gender equality ideals to local cultural values and norms.

There is a need for a stronger focus on young men based on the impression that their gender identity is pre-judged without awareness of the cultural complexity found in late-modern societies. This represents a deadlock and the only way out is to address young people directly, explore their attitudes and perspectives in an attempt to make all groups of a given society feel recognized and included.

Based on ethnographic material acquired through fieldwork in Greenland and the Faroe Islands, Gaini shared his findings. His core question concerned how to illustrate differences between traditional and modern or late-modern masculinities in the North. Greenland and the Faroe Islands are modern societies, yet the important features of traditional hunting and fishing communities have continued. It is essential to take note of the cultural continuity evident in societies in transition and be aware that it takes more time to change established ideas than it does to change the environment. Most people are both traditional and modern at the same time.

Traditional hunting and fishing activities could be presented as archetypal characteristics of traditional masculinities in the Arctic. Such activity is easily contrasted with, for example, urban intellectual activities. They are strongly male-dominated and thus easily rejected as incompatible with modern principles of gender equality in the labor market. In the past Greenlandic men, not least the hunter, were described exotically as heroes. Today less than 5% of Greenlanders are professional hunters. However, the culture lives on through recreational hunting by men who are also engaged in other professions and do not feel the need to sacrifice one or the other when confronted with constructions of traditional versus modern lifestyles and the corresponding masculine connotations. Young men speak of their connection with nature as easily as they do of changing roles within the domestic arena, with greater participation of men in childcare and housework, moving into what was previously conceived of as the domain of women.

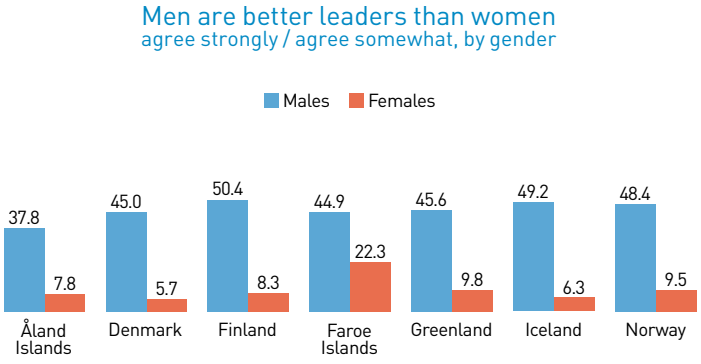
With regard to competing masculinities in society, even if masculinity assigns to the ‘correct’ way of being a man, a standard set of attitudes, values, and styles, we cannot expect to find a model which fits all men, although according to some theorists there will always be one hegemonic masculinity dominating

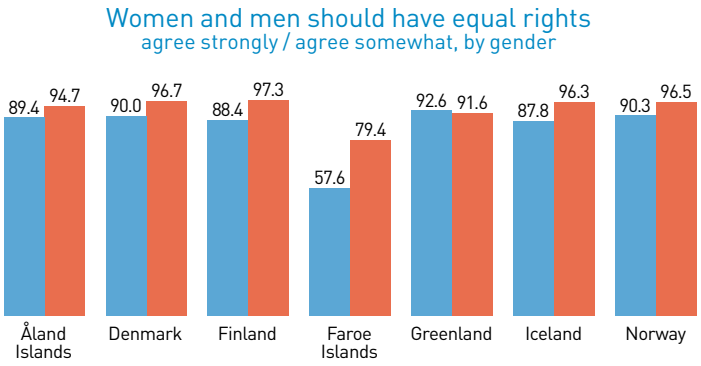
In urban discourses the so-called heroes of the past are often labeled, implicitly or explicitly, as lost or self-destructive men who need to change their masculinity in order to adapt to contemporary realities. Conversely, they are also described as role models for troubled youth. In both cases they represent the 'other' in the context of modern society.

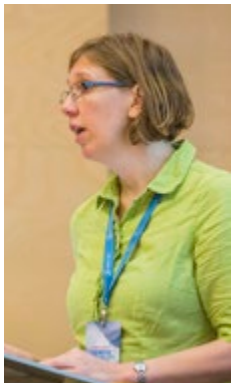
others. The question remains who it will represent: Men from cities or villages? Men from the upper or lower classes? Or, Gaini asked, is the hegemonic man media-constructed? No simple answers exist to these questions.

In urban discourses the so-called heroes of the past are often labeled, implicitly or explicitly, as lost or self-destructive men who need to change their masculinity in order to adapt to contemporary realities. Conversely, they are also described as role models for troubled youth. In both cases they represent the 'other' in the context of modern society. This disconnect also has implications for rural/urban differences, the educational system, and the way in which education fits with realities in more traditional communities. Educational procurement is an increasingly important factor in identity negotiations of both boys and girls. Therefore it is a particular cause for concern that a 2010 survey on young people's opinions showed conservative perspectives in the Faroe Islands, particularly among the male respondents. The implication is that although in practice gender equality is changing in the Faroe Islands, gender values remain largely unchanged. Youth in the Faroe Islands, compared with that of Greenland or indeed youth from other Nordic countries, appear to be relatively conservative and traditional when it comes to values of gender equality. Some appear even more conservative than their parents.

Greenland and the Faroe Islands have often been seen as relatively male-dominated societies with patriarchal characteristics, while at the same time also being described as non-hierarchical, family-oriented societies with a high degree of gender equality. Evidently gender identities are changing, being negotiated and put into new contexts; young people are testing and even mixing categories in order to find their own identities. Gaini closed by calling for further research, not least among men, as they urgently need to be more seriously involved in gender debates.







Reimagining Authoritative Masculinity and the Female Slut – Snapshots from Reykjavík

Þorgerður H. Þorvaldsdóttir | Reykjavík Academy, Iceland

Þorgerður H. Þorvaldsdóttir, Ph.D. in gender studies from the University of Iceland, holds an M.A. in gender studies and feminist theory from The New School for Social Research, New York, and a B.A. in history from the University of Iceland.

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Þorvaldsdóttir analyzed alternative gender images in contemporary Iceland focusing on three examples: Former Prime Minister Mrs. Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir; Mr. Jón Gnarr, who served as the mayor of Reykjavík from 2010-2014; and the Icelandic Slut Walk of 2014. According to The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index, Iceland has been declared the most gender equal country in the world from 2009-2014. Þorvaldsdóttir then introduced her three-layered periodic division, which is based on prevalent but often contradictory gender images in Iceland from the seventies to date. In her presentation, Þorvaldsdóttir focuses on the era after the economic collapse in 2008 and demonstrates how Icelanders might finally be turning intersectional.

Before starting her analysis she defined the concept of 'intersectionality.' It derives from feminist theories of how various socio-cultural categories like race, ethnicity, nationality, class, disability, gender, age, sexuality, etc. interplay or interact and mutually construct one another. Related is the notion of 'Gender+ Equality Policies,' but behind it is the belief that gender equality can never be accomplished unless we attend to all of its troublesome additions, and strategically ask whether and then how other inequalities are tackled as well.

When discussing gendered Iceland, the historical overview can be divided into three parts. The first period is from the year 1970 to 1999, known as the women's or the feminist era. The next period is from the year 2000 to 2008 and is the era of masculinities. The current period, from the year 2008 – the post-Icelandic economic meltdown – could be referred to as the intersectional era in the sense of diversity, as Icelanders appear finally to be moving towards that definition.

Following the economic collapse, the international media highlighted women's roles in cleaning up men's messes. In this forum the importance of role models has been discussed; Iceland's Prime Minister Mrs. Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir (in office 2009-2013) was both one of those cleaning up the mess and a role model. Sigurðardóttir is a lesbian who during her last year in office turned seventy. In 2009, she became the first female Prime Minister of Iceland – more importantly she was the first openly gay prime minister in the world. She stands as a prototype for an image of the Icelandic women who took on the task of cleaning up men's messes and, in addition, as an elderly lesbian woman she can be viewed as a token of intersectionality.

The next role model, on the masculine side, was Mr. Jón Gnarr who served as Mayor of Reykjavík from 2010-2014. The economic crisis in Iceland resulted in a widespread demand for a reformed society. This call was partly reflected in a political party called the Best Party which was a collection of punks, artists, and comedians who half-mockingly ran for election. The Best Party, with comedian Jón Gnarr as its front man, won a great victory in the Reykjavík municipal elections in 2010. As Mayor of Reykjavík Gnarr personified a mixture of an authority figure and a clown. He queered and somehow de-masculinized the position of the mayor by actively participating in gay pride parades dressed in highly political drags. Moreover, Gnarr destabilized the image of the almighty leader who is always an expert. In

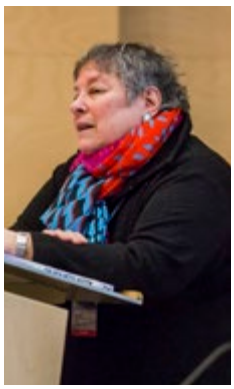
Gender inequalities aren't either/or questions and importance must be placed on respecting the diversity within gender categories, asking what can be done differently. Acknowledging how gender intersects with other forms of inequalities and listening to critical voices although they might contradict the glossy image of world leadership in gender equality would be a step towards turning society in the right direction.

television interviews, he repeatedly announced that he had no knowledge of the subject at hand and needed to consult with specialists within the bureaucracy before making any comments or decisions. He became popular as a mayor, gaining nationwide and international respect as an active spokesman for human rights, thereby jeopardizing the old-fashioned, power-driven, authoritative masculine figure. Consequently, Gnarr and the Best Party filled in a crack which in other European countries has been filled by fascist-oriented, far-right-wing, populist, anti-immigration parties. The Independent quoted Jón Gnarr on the subject: "We are occupying a space that might otherwise be occupied by fascists."

The last example to be analyzed was The Slut Walk of 2014, which was perhaps the first occurrence where the feminist movement(s) in Iceland appeared to be truly intersectional. The walk is a transnational feminist movement originating in Canada, and has been held in Iceland for three consecutive years with the objective of fighting against rape culture. The Slut Walk is characterized by the participating women dressing 'like sluts' for the purpose of drawing attention to sexual violence and the aberration that the community tends to blame victims for their attire instead of the sexual violators. The 2014 Slut Walk marked the emergence of new voices joining in. Among prominent speakers who took part were: an immigrant woman from Asia who spoke of the innumerable prejudices which she encounters in her daily life in Iceland; a young lesbian woman with disabilities who articulated how ableism affected every aspect of society and turned her disabled body into public property; and, lastly, a group of young female rappers who chanted "I'm the owner of myself" and "Sluts think about human rights."

In spite of these somewhat exceptional examples, Icelandic society has probably not turned intersectional yet. In her conclusion, Þorvaldsdóttir stressed that the questions of gender inequalities aren't either/or questions and importance must be placed on respecting the diversity within gender categories, asking what can be done differently. Acknowledging how gender intersects with other forms of inequalities and listening to critical voices although they might contradict the glossy image of world leadership in gender equality would be a step towards turning society in the right direction.

Former Mayor of Reykjavik Mr. Jón Gnarr participating in Gay-Pride 2013 wearing traditional dress



Gender and 'The New Media Nation'

Valerie Alia | Professor Emeritus, Independent scholar and writer, Canada

Valerie Alia, Ph.D, is known for her work on media ethics and indigenous and Arctic media. She is Professor Emerita and former Running Stream Professor of Ethics and Identity at Leeds Metropolitan University; Senior Associate of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, U.K.; and was Distinguished Professor of Canadian Culture at Western Washington University, U.S. She was advisor to the Canadian Centre for Social Justice Nation of Immigrants project, and co-chaired the women's caucus/women's issues network of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities (formerly Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada).

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Alia discussed how the media provides opportunities to view, re-view, observe, and recreate representations of gender. Governments offer different levels and kinds of support for journalism and the media; their countries' national and private media outlets are subject to the ever-shifting winds of political change. Some of the most important media projects operate across or outside of national boundaries, and many of the most innovative ones originate in the Arctic and sub-Arctic. Some started as pirate stations; other examples include the Saami radio in Finland and Norway.

Indigenous peoples have been key players in the new media development, using old and new technologies to amplify their voices and disseminate information to a rapidly expanding global audience. In her observations of this movement, Alia has extended Ien Ang's idea of the 'progressive trans-nationalization of media audience-hood' to the internationalization of media audience-hood and production, which she calls 'The New Media Nation.' The Arctic has been a founding region of this quiet and barely visible movement taking place through the reversal of the usual structures of power and privilege. The dominant voices are indigenous and Northern, and news is carried from the sparsely-populated, often marginalized North to the more populous and politically-dominant South. Women feature prominently among the founders and leaders. Their power transcends the bounds of journalism, since political and community leaders often begin their careers as journalists.

Collective action can help improve gender balance and the participation and representation of women in the Arctic.

The New Media Nation provides examples of ways in which collective action, and what Gayatri Spivak called 'strategic essentialism,' can help improve gender balance and the participation and representation of women in the Arctic. The focus is on what people want to share with others and the purpose is a political one. To some extent the movement has challenged truisms by unfolding in ways perceived as impossible, inter alia Alia pointed out, because the movement of The New Media Nation emerged and spread out from the rural areas. The World Indigenous Television Broadcasters Network, founded in 2008, is an example of the movement, using a traditional, indigenous way of presentation in broadcasting.

Media has provided indigenous women with access to broadcasting time and given them a voice, which in some cases has served as a stepping stone for these women into the political arena.

The national and the private media tend to be subject to the ever-changing winds of political climate change, which has been especially challenging for women, although some of the strong female leaders in the world received their experience in journalism. Alia referred to Canada's example as the first country to develop a domestic television and communications satellite system. Indigenous peoples, especially the women, have been at the front and center from the beginning. It is an effort to create something completely new as well as a new understanding of what is normal. Media has provided indigenous women with access to broadcasting time and given them a voice, which in some cases has served as a stepping stone for these women into the political arena, and in some cases back into journalism.

Through these quiet and barely visible Arctic currents, people without direct access to the spotlight of political and social worlds have gained a voice. The Arctic Alia remarked, is at the breaking edge of information technology thanks to computer systems and the internet resulting in the revival of the old tradition: the oral, the visual presentation, and age-old practice of story-telling. This is where The New Media Nation is excelling and continues to move forward and develop.

Highlights From the Panel

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen commented on the possibility of linkages between traditional work such as fishing and hunting and approaches to issues of gender equality, that traditional notions of the division of labor influence the debate on gender equality and vice versa.

Kristinn Schram followed up on Rasmussen's comment, saying that there has indeed been a significant change in recent years. This is evident looking at the relationship between Icelanders and their neighbors to the east, demonstrated by cooperation in fisheries, as well as by increased material and cultural exchange.

Schram further stressed the importance of distinguishing between colonial history and historical reality. Both must be taken into account in gender discourses, not least because people segment relationships and future possibilities based on perceptions of history rather than the concrete realities of the past.

Continuing on the traditional gendered working culture, Anna Karlsdóttir observed that in Iceland both the fisheries sector and caretaking have long been gender-segregated. Karlsdóttir argued that industrialization of the fisheries sector in Iceland has been perceived in terms of loss of status in an ever more urbanized Iceland. Migrant and immigrant labor has replaced settled workers in the rural fishing industry, where whole villages have often depended on only one fish factory for jobs. Iceland is not unique in this respect.The same pattern emerges across the Arctic region without policy addressing the subject. Karlsdóttir concluded by stating that the positive status of the ocean and the fishing industry in Icelandic society should be restored to some extent with room for educated women in the sector. Issues of class must also be addressed.

Policy Relevant Highlights

Men need to be more actively engaged in the gender debate. Conservative values regarding gender equality still remain and to some extent an intergenerational backlash can be observed. There is a distinct lack of male representation in the gender equality debate. More research is needed on the reasons for men's absence, but greater male participation would be highly beneficial to the cause and should be encouraged.

Diversity within gender categories must be respected and complex gender identities taken into account. In order to provide space for innovation and alternative approaches, current categories and methods of achieving equality necessitate critical reviewing, not least in the context of how gender intersects with other forms of inequalities.

Alternative media provides opportunities to view, re-view, observe, and recreate representations of gender. Alternative and innovative media coupled with modern technology provides access and venue for diverse and critical voices as well as a platform for communication. Media can serve as an instrument for leaders to emerge from the margins; indigenous peoples, especially women, have been at the front and center from the start.

PLENARY 6

Human Security: Gendered Aspects

The sixth plenary focused on the concept of human security and the way in which human and gender security studies have questioned power structures, masculine narratives, and dominant security discourses. The human security paradigm has provided an alternative reading of security, drawing attention to those sidestepped by geopolitics and gendered representations. Also discussed was the concept of historical trauma in the context of social situations and specifically suicide rates in troubled communities in Nunavut.

Panelists: Gunn-Britt Retter, Arctic- and Environmental Unit, Saami Council, Norway and Søren Stach Nielsen, The Greenlandic House in Aalborg, Greenland and Denmark.

Jack Hicks, Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv and Gunn-Britt Retter

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Gendering Human Security in the Arctic

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv | UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv is Professor of Political Science at the University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway, as well as Research Associate at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). Hoogensen Gjørv was the International Principle Investigator for the International Polar Year project "The Impacts of Oil and Gas Activity on Peoples of the Arctic using a Multiple Securities Perspective" (with Canadian Dawn Bazely, York University), and is currently co-leader of the Arctic Extractive Industries Ph.D. program with Jessica Shadian (University of Lapland and UiT The Arctic University of Norway) and Florian Stammler (University of Lapland) that examines the impacts of extractive resource development on Arctic communities.

In her presentation, Hoogensen Gjørv addressed some of the ways in which security has been imagined and re-imagined in the Arctic context, and how the concept of human security potentially translates into an Arctic context. She discussed how human security has been and continues to be problematic as the human dimension enters into conflict with the concept of state security. However, feminist and gender security studies have been useful in informing human security debates. They have opened up the concept as a site of intersectional engagement for local, national and international actors and practices. Human security in the Arctic necessitates an understanding of local practices, the role of institutions of patriarchy, and ways of resisting oppression/colonialism or violence in relation to the local communities. Prioritization of a human security perspective is examined against the demands of dominant geopolitics that attempt to direct attention away from the security of Arctic communities to potentially militarized concerns of the state, although marginalization of human security can impact the abilities and practices of states.

Traditional notions of security are exclusive, involving only the state, the military, and its border security. Security in this sense is an elite concept where only a select group of actors are allowed to participate, the rationale being that security is about state survival. This traditional notion of security has historically, particularly during the Cold War, been applied when security was concerned with military exercises or the protection of the state through military means. A narrow and exclusive concept ensues where the state is considered the primary unit to be protected.

Security studies are male-dominated, "the territory of the big boys," as Hoogensen Gjørv described it, although this is gradually changing.

As long as the myth remains that state security is paramount, that is, if the state doesn't exist, the security of everything else is rendered unnecessary, it is difficult to resist the exclusion of other dimensions of security, including human security.

In reality we observe that in so-called failed states, people continue to survive. Hence, the state is not integral to the survival of other actors. Additionally in the event of failure of states to provide security for its population, non-state actors take on the role of trying to provide a form of security, for example, for a particular group of people or a particular region. In fact, security is operationalized on multiple levels in spite of a very powerful state-centered discourse.

The state needs competition from other voices when prioritizing values for the future.

Failure of states can also be reflected in the ways in which a state, in the drive to provide for its own security, creates insecurity for other actors. An example would be extermination, or assimilation, of populations in the name of state security. State security has also been applied in military domination within its own territory or between countries. Women have been excluded in the military for the purpose of state security.

Many reject this notion of security because of its military connotations, not least in terms of the Cold War legacy. At the end of the Cold War, this notion of state security, particularly in terms of its military association, was challenged as it didn't adequately reflect reality. Post-Cold War, in the 1990s, alternative dimensions of security were developing and challenging the traditional notion of security. Environmental security, turning away from exploitation towards preservation, was one of those dimensions with the view that the environment is significant for human survival. The notion of human security also re-emerged, viewing security from the position of the individual and recognizing that the security of a state does not necessarily mean equal security for all groups within the state.

The concept of human security in a broader context is a complex and dynamic phenomenon which includes environmental, human, political, and economic, as well as food security. Also included could be health, identity, or sense of community, as all these factors are essential for future security. The concept has thus been criticized for being rather all-encompassing. According to Hoogensen Gjørv, the difficulty with this concept is that it was designed to be largely employed by Northern states and was then exported to the South, something which she referred to as virtuous imperialism, implying the intangible dominance of Southern states over the recipients of 'assistance' and the marginalization of democratic voices.

In conclusion, security is not exclusively for the use of the state. The state needs competition from other voices when prioritizing values for the future, which is part of the reason why gender and female security studies have been attracted to the human security concept. It provides avenues for democratizing the notion of security, making visible voices and needs for survival that are not necessarily relegated to the state.

Unresolved Historical Trauma as a Threat to Human Security in Nunavut: Gender Aspects and Other Aspects

Jack Hicks | Carleton University, Canada

Jack Hicks served as Director of Research for the Nunavut Implementation Commission, the federal commission responsible for advising on the design and implementation of the Nunavut government. As Suicide Prevention Advisor to the Government of Nunavut from 2008 to 2010 Hicks worked across institutional 'silos' to build the interagency partnership which developed the evidence-informed Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy. He currently teaches in child studies at Carleton University, and is completing an external Ph.D. dissertation at Ilisimatusarfik (The University of Greenland) on the social determinants of elevated rates of suicide behavior by Inuit youth in Nunavut.

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In his presentation, Hicks reviewed the concept of historical trauma with two recent examples of viewing the modern social history of Nunavut through a trauma 'lens.' He also presented new data showing the ways in which gender does (in some cases) and doesn't (in other cases) appear to structure health outcomes, and how a historical trauma framework can help explain the gendered outcomes. Such a framework was central to the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy and the Final Report of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission.

Nunavut, as a territory, is 15 years old. 85% of the population is Inuit. Nunavut's 25 communities are not connected by roads. And according to Hicks, the social situation is grim. Hicks asserted that the Canadian government does not want to talk about social realities in Nunavut. In this jurisdiction of Canada, 41% of adults have reported sexual abuse during childhood and rates of violence against women and children are extremely high. The same applies to sexual violence against children and other serious violations and problems. At this moment in the evolution of the Canadian Arctic, it is the responsibility of the Nunavut government to create a healthy, educated workforce in the territory, but the new government seems unable to rise to the challenge.

Hicks traced the two main reasons why: the government lacks focus on the well-being of children, and the same lack of focus on mental health.

The suicide situation in Nunavut is critical, and is not improving. Inuit in Nunavut die by suicide at a rate 11 times that of other Canadians. The year 2013 was the worst ever. Suicide rates in the community of Nunavut reflect a pattern similar to what was seen in Greenland some years earlier. The pattern is highly gendered; young men display particularly high rates, but there are also elevating rates among young women. As in most countries, data from Nunavut indicates that suicide attempts are more common among women, whereas men more often complete their intention due to their choice of method and difference in determination.

Hicks explained that the uniqueness of Nunavut lies in significant historical trauma, an accumulative and generational collective phenomenon, and the way in which trauma is passed on from parents to children. The concept of 'historical trauma' has been expressed in Inuktitut as "Sivulirijat aksurur-naqtukkuurnikugijangat aktuiniqaqsimaninga kinguvaanginnut" or "trauma experienced

"If Nunavut would do like Quebec has done, we would start to see a difference and taking the step further, if the Canadian government were to do the same, we would see a change across the country, but as I said that would require both leadership and public investment".

by generations past having an effect on their descendants." The Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy suggested that historical trauma requires suicide prevention measures unique to the territory in addition to those needed nationwide. Canada doesn't yet have a national suicide prevention strategy. Quebec, however, has energetically implemented its own provincial suicide prevention strategy and has succeeded in cutting its youth suicide rate in half in a decade.

Hicks presented data indicating that in Nunavut, consequences of historical trauma are a primary influence on high suicide rates. Rates between the communities vary and this may be linked to the varying intensity of historical trauma, not least in connection to government policies in the past. The suicide rates of teenage males largely explain the critically high rates in the smaller communities, whereas in Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, rates for middle-aged people appear to be particularly high, but the rates for teenage males seem relatively low. This is similar to patterns among Inuit men in Nuuk in Greenland, as well as in cities in Alaska. In terms of suicide patterns, the safest place for teenage Inuit boys appears to be in the biggest urban centers. Hicks suggested influencing factors which should be further explored: coherence in life-scripts of boys, positive role models, greater access to activity and people, stronger public services, improved living conditions, and not least – hope for the future.

Hicks concluded by emphasizing the need for a greater understanding of social contexts and determinants when it comes to suicide prevention. The risk factors are known. What is needed now is further research into the protective factors at the social and community levels.

Recasting Sovereign Rationalities: Gendered Visions, Human Security, and Arctic Geopolitics

Valur Ingimundarson | University of Iceland, Iceland

Valur Ingimundarson is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Iceland, where he is also the Chair of EDDA – Center of Excellence in Critical Contemporary Research. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Centre for International Studies (CIS), London School of Economics, and at the Paris-based École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), and an Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London.

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In his presentation, Ingimundarson discussed the interaction among gender representations, security, and geopolitics. The basis of his intervention was his paper "Recasting Sovereign Rationalities," where he juxtaposes gender and human security approaches, which seek to counter the dominance of state-centered readings and practices, against predominant neo-realist and liberal scholarly frameworks in order to explore Arctic power structures.

Gender theories have used discourse and spatial analysis, as well as the concept of human security, to question power constellations, masculine narratives, and dominant security discourses. The epistemological goal is to counter the dominance of state-centered approaches and to recast the geopolitical agenda by prioritizing societal concerns, including gender-based violence and the empowerment of marginalized groups. Such critical engagements have not managed to displace state sovereignty discourses or to end their predominance. However, to Ingimundarson, they can be a useful tool to deconstruct the prevalent geopolitical and security structures in the Arctic and highlight problems associated with the production of sovereign power through the construction of subjects and territories.

He also made the case that gendered approaches can be complemented with other concepts such as "haunting" or "spectrality" to account for endurance of past masculinities and rationalities that reinforce power constellations in the present, including past colonial discourses of Arctic exploration, science and exploitation, and Cold War militarism. Such paradigms may have lost the capacity to act as officially sanctioned and hegemonic narratives, but the old patterns linger on and can be revived.

Expressions of power emerge, in part, through the debate about jurisdiction and control of territory. Legitimacy of the current framework for integration of governance in the Arctic is based on UNCLOS and the region's most influential intergovernmental forum, the Arctic Council. The Council has been opened up to various national and transnational influences, exercised by various governmental and non-governmental actors. However, Ingimundarson pointed out that the eight Arctic states have carved out a hegemonic role based on sovereign rights and regional presence. While there is no one hegemonic power in the Arctic, the multilateral dominant framework is based on various types of hierarchies reflecting the disparities among stakeholders: between the Arctic Five and the Arctic Three; between the Arctic Eight and indigenous populations; and between the Arctic Council states and the observers.

The geopolitics of the Arctic have produced an uneasy synthesis between liberalism – with its emphasis on possibilities of cooperation through regimes – and realism, with its preoccupation with states and national security interests. According to Ingimundarson, an incremental securitization has already taken place in the Arctic in the last few years. It has not been about projecting power over the region as a whole, but the present situation

What gender and human security interventions can do is disturb state-centered rationalist geopolitics by pointing to alternative sites where gendered Arctic identities, subjectivities, and securities are negotiated.

is characterized by the ambiguities inherent in the dichotomies between cooperation and conflict and between state sovereignty and international regimes. The tension between the West and Russia over the Ukrainian civil war has already affected Arctic cooperation and raised the specter of great power rivalry in the region. It is clear that state-centered discourses continue to set the agenda in the Arctic.

However, in Ingimundarsson's view, that does not mean that security is confined to the military domain; there is still widespread recognition that it should include other areas such as social and economic protection. Thus, human security, which is based on the universalist notion that vulnerable people should be provided with freedom from fear, has a role to play. To be sure, the concept has been contested for attempting to incorporate too much and it has also been associated with humanitarian militarism. The UN adoption of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine was meant to establish a code of conduct for international intervention, advocating greater reliance on non-military measures. In practice, however, the doctrine has run the risk of rationalizing military activity in the name of human rights protection.

Despite these caveats, the human security paradigm provides a different reading of security and draws attention to those sidestepped by geopolitics and its gender representations. In the case of the Arctic, for example, it reflects pressure to give Arctic indigenous peoples more of a say in Arctic governance and to acknowledge the input from external actors concerning climate change impacts that go beyond narrow traditional state and regional interests.

Ingimundarson concluded that sovereign powers are making concerted efforts to preserve their privileged position in the Arctic, although the Arctic Council has opened up space for cooperation by allowing a number of stakeholders, such as observer states, non-state actors, and the scientific community to have a voice. The political order, however, rests on the notion that traditional sovereignty discourses and state behavior trumps human security of individuals and social groups. This is not to deny that the state has an important role in societal and human security, rather to question its overarching position. What gender and human security interventions can do is disturb state-centered rationalist geopolitics by pointing to alternative sites where gendered Arctic identities, subjectivities, and securities are negotiated.

Royal Navy Sea King Mk4 helicopter pilots and aircrews carry out a load lifting exercise in Norway

Highlights From the Panel

Asked how the data he presented can be translated into useful action and what can be learned from the Qubec experience, Jack Hicks pointed out that Quebec has effectively implemented national best practice with impressive results. That requires political leadership and involves mobilizing large numbers of people, including high school teachers, college teachers, and youth mental health personnel, as well as an anti-stigma campaign, suicide intervention training, and training frontline workers to be more aware of what they might see, not to mention 24/7 helplines. Hicks added that "if Nunavut would do like Quebec has done, we would start to see a difference, and taking the step further, if the Canadian government were to do the same, we would see a change across the country, but as I said that would require both leadership and public investment."

Moderator Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox asked the panel for one key factor which might lead the way forward. Søren Stach Nielsen answered first: "To help men in trouble the first step is to ask them directly what can I do for you, how can I help you?" He added that starting a men's support group has proved useful in Greenland and may be a step forward in a healing process.

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv mentioned the importance of human security, which perhaps should be an integral part of the debates. "Our security concerns are about fundamental survival."

Valur Ingimundarson adopted a different approach suggesting a democratization of the Arctic Council itself. The Council is basically an intergovernmental organization but should, in his opinion, be more of a regional organization where security should be openly discussed.

Gunn-Britt Retter provided a Saami perspective, calling attention to the importance of a greater promotion of the different cultures and cultural products, including food. She stressed the importance of the health of and access to Arctic ecosystems in that context.

Jack Hicks reminded the audience that a greater understanding of modern and social change in Nunavut from the trauma perspective was needed. "People aren't willing to accept a status quo, but must figure out how to move forward," he concluded.

Policy Relevant Highlights

State-centered discourses continue to set the agenda in the Arctic. Although the Arctic Council has opened up space for cooperation by including voices from different stakeholders, the political order still rests on the notion that traditional sovereignty discourses and state behavior trumps human security of individals and social groups.

The traditional 'state security' framework needs competition and critical analysis. Gender theories question the traditional power constellation and masculine narratives of the dominant security discourses. The human security paradigm provides a different reading of security as well as avenues for democratizing the notion of security.

The concept of historical trauma can be useful in explaining social realities in troubled Arctic communities. Governments must be willing to discuss human security in terms of individual and community resilience with an increased focus on well-being and mental health.

A greater understanding of social contexts and determinants is needed for effective suicide prevention. Greater research is needed into protective factors at social and community levels. The Quebec experience in implementing suicide prevention strategies is a shining example. The risk factors are known, but the protective factors, both social and communal, call for further research.

PLENARY 7

Human Capital and Gender: Migration, Mobility, Education and Adaption

The focus of the seventh plenary ranged from migration patterns, mobility, and education to shifting gender roles, coping mechanisms, and regional development. The cross-cutting theme was the importance of incorporating gender dimensions into policymaking to ensure sustainable and dynamic communities in a changing Arctic. Differences in living conditions, with regard to access to education and employment opportunities as well as life expectancy and adaptability, must be taken into account.

Panelists: Eyjólfur Guðmundsson, Rector of the University of Akureyri, Iceland and Katrín Jakobsdóttir, MP Left-Green Movement, Iceland.

Erika Anne Hayfield, Eyjólfur Guðmundsson, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Tine Pars and Timothy Heleniak

What's Gender Got to Do with it? Migration and Gender in the Periphery

Erika Anne Hayfield | University of the Faroe Islands, Faroe Islands

Erika Anne Hayfield, Ph.D., is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of History and Social Sciences of the University of the Faroe Islands. Hayfield has worked for a number of years at the Ministry of Trade and Industry as a Senior Advisor to the Minister. Her research interests include out-migration from the periphery and gender equality.

Listen to the audio or watch the slides

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In her presentation, Hayfield focused on the out-migration of young people as a significant challenge the Faroe Islands are faced with, as recent population projections paint a bleak picture. Her objective was to examine the unbalanced demographic structure in the Faroe Islands and how Faroese culture may contribute to out-migration in general. More specifically, Hayfield centered her discussion on how migration can be linked to gender issues, presenting the following main questions: 1) What cultural values are associated with out-migration from the Faroe Islands? 2) To what extent does Faroese culture, the welfare system, and domestic labor market dynamics perpetuate demographic trends of the islands? The presentation was based on data collected in connection with the Faroe Islands governmental program action, Migration and Population Growth, as well as preliminary findings from interviews with young people in the Faroe Islands regarding migration.

The population of the Faroe Islands is approximately 50,000. In recent years, the Faroe Islands have experienced ever stronger out-migration by young people. This is especially true for women, although not a new phenomenon. Young women go abroad to attain education and new experiences, but unfortunately not enough return. A study conducted among young people in the Faroe Islands in 2014 may shed light on how young people see their future.

Migration is embedded in cultural and social life in the Faroe Islands and viewed as a natural part of life. For young people, growing up and moving away is seen as a natural aspect of every individual's development. The research revealed that a majority of 14-15-year-olds expect to leave the Faroe Islands; all the girls and half of the boys. They also mentioned their desire to attain education or to travel abroad. Many participants viewed leaving as being a necessary part of personal development and self-improvement; however, they intended to return to the islands. The youngsters have a vision of their future way of life without being sure where exactly that future lies. They appear to prefer to live in the Faroe Islands, but future opportunities are perceived as scarce. According to Hayfield, young people think of the future in terms of mobility; a transnational existence where the focus is not on where to live but rather to keep an open mind in an open world. This is the reality for young people in the periphery.

Hayfield discussed other trends revealed during the research, one of which was a somewhat conflicting discourse of freedom. While children saw their childhood as having been positive, free and safe – providing one reason for staying – at the same time, social constraints and lack of anonymity was given as a reason to leave.

Another important discourse revolved around lack of opportunities and development. The actual culture of migration was apparent and almost all the respondents referred to individuals who either currently live or have lived abroad. This involved what Hayfield termed a migration risk assessment by young people, e.g. Copenhagen was perceived to be a

A mobile lifestyle provides people with the opportunity to live in more than one place, which is the challenge we face at the moment.

relatively risk-free choice due to the extensive Faroese social networks there, thus making migration easier. For some, low risk was preferable, whilst for others the low risk option was not sufficiently challenging.

Gender culture, structure, role, and values in the Faroe Islands are very traditional. This is clearly evident inter alia in the labor market where relatively few females are in management positions and more than 50% of females work part-time, consistent in all age groups. According to Hayfield, the situation is complex as the labor market, most especially the private sector, doesn't seem able to provide adequate opportunities for young people, women especially. In some cases part-time work is voluntary, while in others it is the result of structural exclusion. Another reason could be linked to the apparent familialism in the Faroe Islands' welfare model.

Hayfield concluded by stating that a key issue in addressing gender culture in the Faroe Islands is the high mobility of people. In terms of policy, the gendered nature of migration must be incorporated and educational opportunities and a dynamic student environment created. Opportunities for migrants to return should be provided through labor market policies and the labor market should assist in facilitating return. Furthermore, it is important to enable mobile lifestyles, particularly in small peripheral communities. A mobile lifestyle provides people with the opportunity to live in more than one place, which is the challenge we face at the moment.

Where to go from here? (Rovaniemi Airport in cold winter)

The Changing Gender Composition of the Russian North

Timothy Heleniak | George Washington University, USA

Timothy Heleniak has researched and written extensively about migration, population change, and regional development in the states of the former Soviet Union and the Arctic. He is currently a research professor in the Department of Geography at George Washington University. He previously worked at the U.S. Census Bureau, UNICEF, and the World Bank. He is the Editor of the journal Polar Geography.

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Heleniak presented a paper examining the extent of the decline in the male population in the Russian North over the past two decades. The research is based on data from the 1989, 2002, and 2010 population censuses in Russia and looks at changes in population in terms of natural increase and net migration, followed by an examination of causes of death in the regions of the Russian North. The research is a part of a larger project called "Polar Peoples: Past, Present and Future," where past, present, and future population changes across the Arctic are examined.

Similarly to the Arctic periphery regions of other Northern countries, the Russian North has a higher male to female sex ratio than the rest of the country. However, in the two decades from the breakup of the Soviet Union and the start of the economic transition, male numbers in the Russian North have declined considerably.

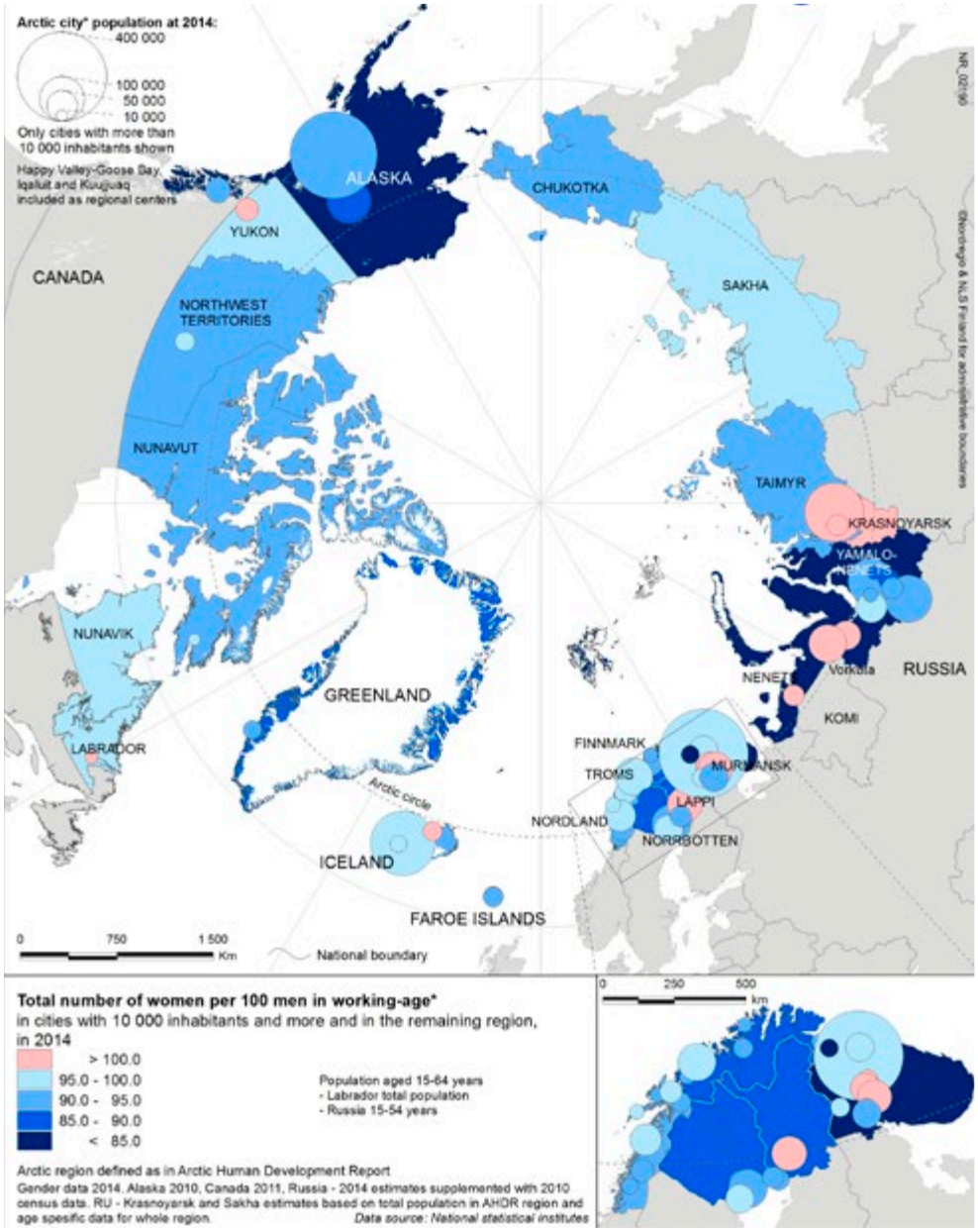
In 1989, there was a predominantly male periphery and female core in Russia. These patterns were largely attributable to past migration and occupational demands of Northern industry. In 2002, the Northern periphery witnessed a decline in the male population although its level still remained higher than those of other regions in Russia. In 2010, there was a further population change in the North with the overall population declining by about 18%, of which male and female populations declined about 22% and 15%, respectively. According to Heleniak, these changes in sex ratios might reflect how the downsizing of the Northern economy has affected men more than women, resulting in men leaving the area in greater numbers.

However, by disaggregating the figures and the population change, one finds that out-migration for males and females are similar in the Russian North. What actually accounts for the differences in sex ratios in these regions is rather the differences in life expectancy of males and females, perhaps reflecting to some extent shifting gender roles, loss of employment opportunities, and a lack of coping skills among males. Within the Arctic there are vast differences in life expectancy from region to region. In Iceland and the Faroe Islands life expectancy is among the highest in the world, whereas the Russian peripheral and Arctic regions have the lowest. It appears, says Heleniak, that a widening life expectancy gap - resulting from excess male mortality - has played a larger role in changing gender composition than out-migration. Heleniak's study shows that in the Russian North, the most common causes of death were external, such as murder, suicide, accidents, and cardiovascular diseases. These regions also have the widest gender gap in the country, perhaps in the world.

Heleniak concluded by stating that only one-quarter of the decline in the male sex ratio in the Russian North could be attributed to higher male out-migration and that the three remaining quarters are the result of significantly higher and widening gaps between females and males in terms of life expectancy. Thus, men in the Russian North responded to social and economic upheavals impacting the region by dying prematurely. Further analysis by age, ethnicity, level of education, and with an urban-rural comparison must be made.

A widening life expectancy gap - resulting from excess male mortality - has played a larger role in changing gender composition than out-migration.

Male-Female Sex Ratios in the Circumpolar North



Gender Equality in Greenland: Structural, Cultural and Educational Challenges

Tine Pars | Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland

Tine Pars, born and raised in Ilulissat, is the Rector of the University of Greenland, Ilisimatusarfik. She was trained as an experimental biologist specializing in human nutrition from the University of Southern Denmark in 1992. Rector Pars has diverse experience, including from industry, government, outreach programs, and consulting work. She sits on numerous committees including: Nordforsk, Dudo and Poul Brandt's Fund, and the Greenland Environmental Fund.

Listen to the audio or watch the slides

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Pars's presentation focused on the way in which social challenges in Greenland are reflected in demographic, educational, and economic realities in the population. Pars explained how in Greenland a similar trend exists as in other societies where women are surpassing men in terms of educational levels, out-migration, and mobility towards better living conditions. However, also similarly to other societies, women have lower income than men do and are not as well represented at high level positions in politics and business management. In her presentation, Pars used symbols for traditional male and female values to describe and suggest what can be done to move social development towards the management of structural, economic, and social challenges.

The population in Greenland is about 56,000 and declining, as in other Arctic regions where out-migration is prevalent. According to Pars, men hold a more dominant status in the settlements than they do in towns, but when it comes to education more females than males are attending high school and vocational training schools. Approximately 62% of the educated population is female; there are about 600 university-level students in Greenland, of which 75% are women. The University of Greenland's primary focus is on humanities and social sciences, such as teacher's training, nursing, and social work, which arguably represent studies more sought after by women. In spite of women's higher educational levels, men still have higher incomes.

Overall unemployment in Greenland in the year 2012 reveals gendered differences primarily in rural communities, where 17% of the women and 11% of the men were unemployed, whereas unemployment in towns was practically equal for men and women, approximately 9%. According to Pars, women lead more traditional lives in the settlements – as opposed to women in Nuuk – staying home to take care of the family and domestic work, leaving them with fewer opportunities in terms of employment, positions, and careers. As regards the political sphere, women are increasingly being elected to parliament; in 2013 women represented 35% of parliamentarians.

A 2013 Greenlandic Act on Equality between Men and Women states among other things that public committees, boards, commissions, etc. must be represented equally by men and women, to exceed only by one in either direction. It further states that authorities or organizations recommending board members must suggest equal numbers of men and women.

Men and women in the traditional egalitarian society had specific roles in which they assumed leadership. The male traditional role in Greenland was as the hunter, the provider. He built kayaks and hunting tools, providing food for the family in the settlement. He educated his sons with a specific focus on hunting and surviving. Masculine skills and abilities were courage, physical strength, precision, speed, watchfulness, fearlessness, mobility

In a traditional society the "woman followed the man"
... in the new situation "man follows woman".

for hunting purposes, and outdoor work. This role as provider continued throughout industrialization with the fishing boat replacing the kayak.

The female traditional role in Greenland was that of a hunter's wife. She was the distributor in the family, mother, cook, sewer, rower, berry picker, cleaner, and she would bring up the children. Her skills consisted of being a hard worker, supporting the man and the family. She was a good coordinator, skilled at adapting and multi-tasking. Pars suggested that the women moved from being the hunter's wife to becoming factory workers; they went out into society but kept their domestic duties and low status. This was a traditional society where the "woman followed the man" and a greater value was placed on boys than girls.

Pars wondered whether men have lost their traditional social position today. Today man is no longer in the center alone, although it appears that Greenlandic boys are still being brought up as if they still held this central position in society. The current situation in Greenland is, according to Pars, quite flammable with a discourse reflecting concerns regarding a crisis of masculinity and masculine identity because in the new situation "man follows woman."

Modern women's position has also changed and women dominate social institutions. They are the educators, moving towards development. Women have retained their ability for hard work and skills of adaptation, their family duties, and low status jobs. Pars argues that the women have not gotten used to being considered equal to men, much less to surpassing them, although this could vary between Nuuk and other parts of Greenland.

The symptoms of the conflict are, for example, jealousy and violence in partner relations. About 62% of all women in Greenland have been exposed to violence or serious threats inside or outside their homes. In 65% of the cases where women experience violence, the perpetrator of violence is a partner or a former partner. There are about 9,000 reports of domestic violence filed each year; the situation is relentless and impacts both boys and girls.

Perceptions have to change, says Pars. Men must accept that women aspire to be a part of the power team and the men must re-learn to take responsibility for development, education, and to be daring and courageous. Women must learn not to hide, to be braver, and to be out in the light. They must share the responsibility for economic development, not only for the social institutions.

Highlights From the Panel

The many facets of mobility were discussed, including long-distance migrant workforce and issues of taxation and the way in which mobile lifestyles can conflict with the welfare state's survival. Erika Hayfield also pointed out that mobility may have implications for labor rights and pensions. Eyjólfur Guðmundsson noted that the next generation will be living in a completely different world, where location doesn't matter and nationality becomes less important than before. This development requires a new kind of social structure and infrastructures will have to accommodate.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir observed that nation-states are a relatively new invention, only dating from the 19th century, so that it is highly probable that they will change. However, envisaging some sort of a social welfare state without the state may be a challenge. Jakobsdóttir concluded by saying that the question of how to reconcile increasing mobility with a welfare state remains unanswered. Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir noted that in Eastern Iceland people are generally inclined to contribute to the society where they grew up, in spite of having moved away.

Tine Pars described the endeavors in Greenland for finding ways to attract more males to the university by providing fields which seem to appeal more to males, such as engineering and natural sciences, particularly in relation to fisheries. She explained that the University of Greenland had originally sprung from a study from Copenhagen University with a focus on the humanities. However, the programs now need rethinking with the purpose of increasing diversity in education in Greenland "so that not all courses must be taken in Denmark." "I think this is the only way forward," Pars said, "starting up some of the programs in Greenland, then the student can continue in other places. Building bridges between universes is very important for us because international relations are very valuable."

Katrín Jakobsdóttir wondered whether men don't go to university because of lack of diversity or whether an educated male is somehow not a part of their masculine identity.

Tine Pars picked up the discussion on identity, remarking that in her experience Greenlandic men's identities are so connected to hunting and fishing that it's hard for them to envision the world consisting of other alternatives. Pars also echoed a previous discussion on the importance of role models. They seem to be in place for women. Young girls see more and more educated role models. Demonstrated by a Greenlandic saying, she quoted: "Young Greenlandic women are taking over middle-aged Danish men's jobs." Pars stated that for development in Greenland, the key lies in education, as Pars's theory is that educated women experience less violence as a result of greater self-esteem and firmness in setting boundaries in their daily lives.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir finally reminded the audience that the history of the Arctic is being rewritten and reinvented right now, largely by big corporations looking toward resource utilization in the region. She also observed that most corporations are male-dominated, indicating that women aren't the ones rewriting. "The biggest political issues," she said, "are very heavily male-dominated. Women living in the Arctic and interested in the Arctic should consider how they can participate in the Arctic narrative currently being negotiated."

Policy Relevant Highlights

Migration patterns must be taken into account in policymaking. It is important to consider male and female migration patterns in policymaking, not least in shaping education and labor policies. It is furthermore important to consider the perception of the young and their vision for their future opportunities.

Health and well-being in Arctic communities must be taken into account in policymaking. For example, data shows that life expectancy differs greatly from one Arctic region to another. In certain areas excess male mortality from external causes has played a larger role in changing gender composition in the Arctic than out-migration.

Diversity in educational opportunities and in the labor market must be created or maintained. A dynamic, sturdy work environment and a flexible labor market is the key to addressing the emigration of young people and females from the North to the South. A mobile labor market is highly important for peripheral communities. National and international normative frameworks and structures must adapt to a changing world where localities are becoming less important.

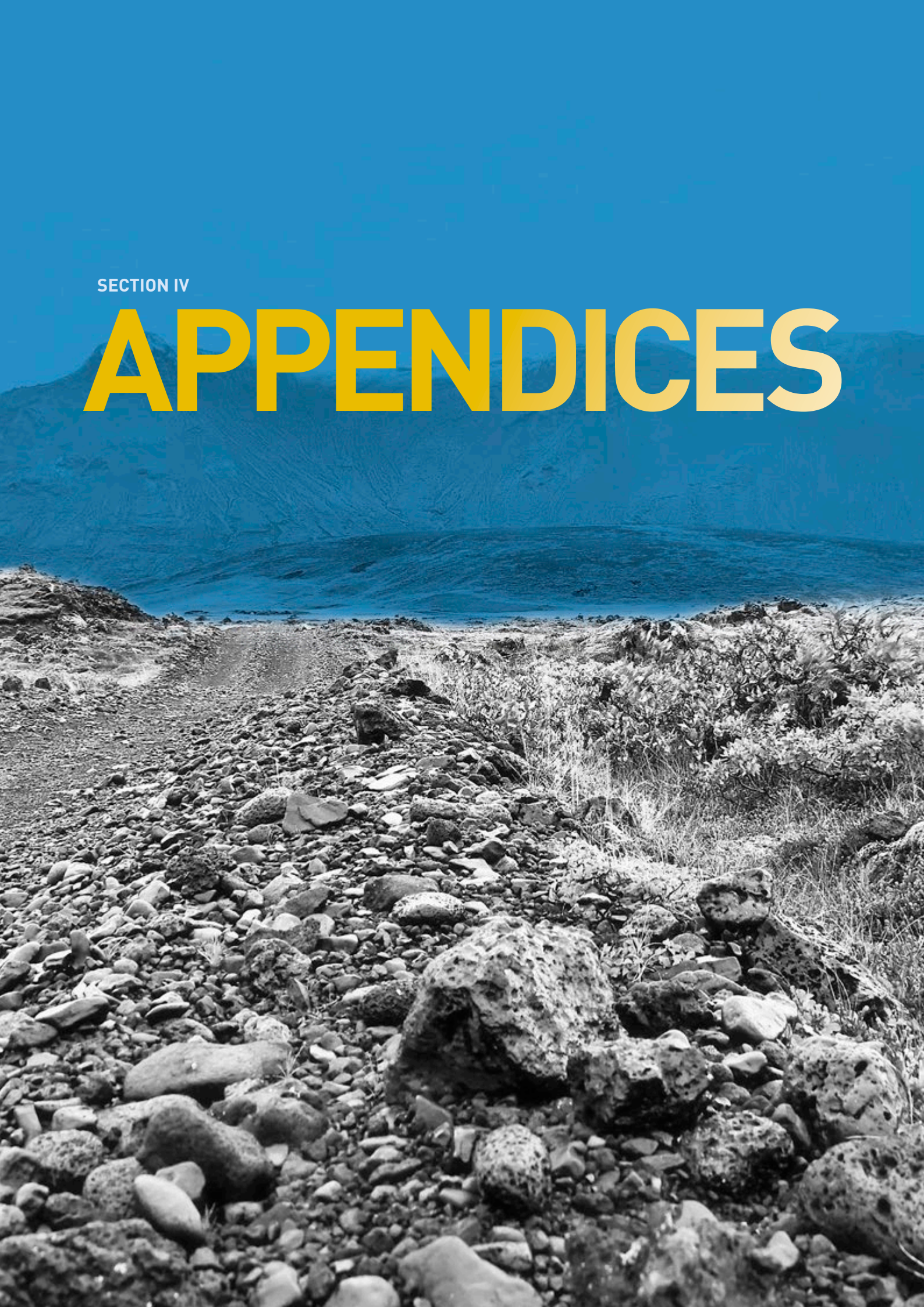
Gender roles are in the process of gradual transition. Women are increasingly receiving education although this fact isn't adequately reflected in their social status or income. Of concern is also men's lack of university education. Both females and males have a responsibility in negotiating traditional and modern notions of gender roles. Men need to come to terms with women as an active part of the power team. Women must be more assertive in claiming access to power positions. Diversity and shared responsibility for social as well as economic development is of vital importance.

Responses to change are diverse, context-based, and require adaptive capacity from individuals as well as communities. For the sake of fully comprehending the underlying causes of social decline, further analysis by age, ethnicity, level of education, and urban versus rural must be conducted.

Chatting with friends (Uummannaq)

SECTION IV

APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

Welcoming Address – Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

Listen to the welcoming address

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Gender Equality in Arctic: Current Realities, Future Challenges
Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Akureyri, Iceland 30-31 October 2014

Madame President, Tarja Halonen,
Mayor of Akureyri,
Rector of the University of Akureyri,
distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this international conference on Gender Equality in the Arctic. Akureyri is the capital of Northern Iceland and a thriving center for Arctic research and education – hosting the University of Akureyri, a partner in the University of the Arctic and host of the secretariat for the Northern Research Forum.

The Stefansson Arctic Institute is also located here, and two Arctic Council Working Groups secretariats, PAME and CAFF, the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, as well as private entities such as the Arctic Portal and Arctic Services – all contributing to a strong knowledge base in Arctic science and information.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Gender equality is an important policy priority for the Government, both domestically and in our foreign policy. For the past six years, Iceland has been at the top of the Global Gender Gap Index of the World Economic Forum, meaning that it is the country with the narrowest gender gap in the world.

We are proud of progress made in advancing gender equality. Nevertheless, we are fully aware of the numerous challenges that we still need to address in our country.

Only a week ago I was a guest at the Government's Equality Action Fund's conference, where new ambitious research projects were awarded grants and conclusions from previously funded projects were presented. Among the completed projects was a study on how Iceland stands with regard to equal pay for equal work. The conclusions of the research indicate 8,4 % unexplained difference between men and women. We obviously need to make an effort to close the gender wage gap.

Internationally, we remain committed to advocating actively for gender equality, including in the deliberations for a new development agenda to be adopted in 2015. Next year, we will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Twenty years on, the Beijing Platform for Action remains an important framework for advancing gender equality. Countries must use this occasion to strengthen implementation of the commitments they made in Beijing in September 1995. In this context, we find it particularly important to engage men and boys in the discourse on how to achieve gender equality – in a positive and constructive way.

At the United Nations, Iceland and Suriname have partnered to lead a friends' group of countries to galvanize support for gender equality and to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Together, Iceland and Suriname will convene what we call a "Barbershop" conference at UN headquarters in New York in January 2015. The aim is to mobilize men and boys into a pro-active commitment to gender equality in order to change the discourse among men and boys.

The conference will enlist men leaders as agents and stakeholders, who through their own actions and engagement can work toward the positive transformation of social norms, attitudes and gender stereotypes. A special focus will be on violence against women and how men can join forces to end it.

This initiative has already received considerable attention. To be honest, responses have been both positive and negative. Allow me, therefore, to use this opportunity to make clear that the idea is not in any way to exclude women from the discussion. We are simply trying to stress the importance of bringing men and boys to the table as well, in order to achieve our common goal of a world without gender discrimination.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Nordic Council of Ministers, where Iceland currently holds the presidency, is one example how we have tried to strengthen our international engagement on gender equality. The Nordic countries have been in the forefront in this field, with each country benefiting from the experience of others.

In our presidency program, named Vigour and Vitality, the spotlight is on equal rights and equal status in the labor market, the gender-segregated labor market and ways to combine family life and work.

The Arctic Council has admittedly been less focused on gender equality. Although several chairmanships have highlighted gender equality issues, they have not featured prominently in the work of the Arctic Council during the past decade. At the same time, Arctic States have promoted gender equality and women's empowerment in other international fora, such as in the United Nations.

But even though the focus on gender issues has been sporadic in the Arctic Council, efforts have been made to increase our knowledge and understanding of the gender perspective in the Arctic context with research, conferences and discussions.

Let me mention a few examples. In August 2002, Finland in cooperation with the Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers, organized a conference on gender equality and women in the Arctic entitled Taking Wing. The Conference, focused mainly on the three broad themes: women and work, gender and the self-determination of indigenous people, and violence against women.

At the Third Ministerial meeting of the Council in Finland, the recommendations of the conference were noted and the Ministers explicitly encouraged the integration of gender equality and women and youth perspectives in all efforts to enhance living conditions in the Arctic. Furthermore, they recognized the crucial role of women in developing viable Arctic communities.

At the same meeting Iceland took over the chairmanship from Finland. The Icelandic chairmanship put strong emphasis on enhancing the human dimension within the work of the Arctic Council.

The first Arctic Human Development Report was the main project of the coming two years' chairmanship. When presented in 2004 at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Reykjavik, the report was to become the most comprehensive assessment on human condition in the Arctic.

The meeting recommended that it be used as the Arctic Council's knowledge base for its sustainable development program and serve to direct relevant working groups of the Council to consider follow up actions.

The Report included an important chapter on gender issues, addressing many critical matters, such as men's changing roles in society, women's security and violence against them, job opportunities as well as issues of power and control.

Now bringing us closer in time. Later this fall, the second Arctic Human Development Report, will be published, ten years after the first edition.

In the new report gender issues are mainstreamed into each chapter, rather than being addressed as a separate subject. The Stefansson Arctic Institute is also leading the work on this second report, with great support from Canada and Greenland. I'm very pleased to note that some of the authors contributing to both of these reports are here today to share their knowledge and experience. My hope is that recommendations from this edition of the Report will be implemented more effectively than ten years ago resulting in a more systematic integration of gender perspective in the work of the Arctic Council.

Ladies and gentlemen,

One year ago Iceland put forward a proposal at the Arctic Council with the aim to promote extensive, policy relevant dialogue on gender equality in the Arctic region in the context of current realities, as well as future challenges. Since then we have worked diligently with our partners in the circumpolar region to organize this conference in order to open and strengthen the dialogue as well as to seek suggestions for possible measures and follow-up actions.

When preparing this conference, we have tried to build on earlier work and conferences. During the next couple of days we will address some of the pressing issues already identified, like gender and natural resource management; women's representation, participation and involvement in decision-making processes and security. Other important topics relate to imbalanced sex-ratio which negatively affects the resilience and development of Arctic communities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you have heard, Iceland has put great effort into advancing public debate and research on gender issues. This subject remains an integral part of our Arctic policy to strengthen social well-being and support sustainable human development in the region.

The changes we are witnessing in the Arctic - ecological, social or economic - are affecting both men and women, and sometimes in different ways. But our common goal remains the same: to secure equal opportunities for both men and women to achieve the life they desire and a world without gender discrimination.

I am well aware that one conference can never cover all the factors affecting gender equality and human well-being in the Arctic. However, based on the promising program before us, I know that the discussion will go far and wide over the next two days.

I am confident that this Conference will contribute to a strong cooperation network of the various stakeholders researching, teaching and promoting gender equality issues in the Arctic.

We will publish a comprehensive follow-up report from this event, with key conclusions and recommendations and present it at the Arctic Council before its next Ministerial meeting in April in Canada.

Before giving the floor to the real expert and strong advocate for gender equality, Madam President Halonen, I want to thank Finland, Sweden, Norway, the Faroe Islands, Aleut International Association, The Nordic Council of Ministers and the Arctic Council for the strong support. And last but not least I thank the Icelandic Center for Gender Equality, the Stefansson Arctic Institute, the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network and everyone who have worked very hard with us to organize this conference.

Now I would like to ask you to give President Halonen a warm welcome!

Thank you!

APPENDIX B

Keynote Address – Mrs. Tarja Halonen, Former President of the Republic of Finland

Listen to the keynote address

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Gender Equality in Arctic: Current Realities, Future Challenges
Akureyri, Iceland 30-31 October 2014
Gender Equality in the Arctic – Setting the scene
Statement by President Tarja Halonen

Mr. Foreign Minister and all other Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be back here in Akureyri and discuss the efforts towards greater gender equality in the Arctic. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the organizers for gathering and inviting all of us to this important conference.

Twelve years ago, in 2002, Finland organized the Arctic Council Gender Equality Conference entitled Taking Wing in Lapland. It was the Arctic Council's first conference focusing on the promotion of gender equality. Three themes were discussed in that conference: Women and work, Gender and self-determination and Violence against women. Today we will discuss the current realities and future challenges concerning gender equality in the Arctic.

Despite progress made in terms of commitments to women's rights and gender equality during the last decade, women and girls still suffer from violence and discrimination across the globe, regrettably also in the Arctic. At the same time, the Arctic is facing a number of other challenges such as climate change, youth unemployment and women's out-migration. We need closer and broader cooperation and more efficient work with partners both in the Arctic and beyond to tackle these and other challenges.

Economic policies have different implications for women and men. However, according to research and statistics, gender equality is smart economics: it can enhance economic efficiency and improve a broad range of development outcomes. The economies are also larger and more versatile when both women and men participate fully as equals. The continued domination of one gender is not smart policy.

In practice this means that the needs of women and girls must also be better taken into account when considering cuts to public spending. It is highly important for example that sexual and reproductive health services are provided despite long distances. A woman can be an active participant in her society and community only if her sexual and reproductive health and rights are fully fulfilled.

Another serious obstacle in the full enjoyment of human rights for women and girls is violence against women, including trafficking and prostitution. Intervening in violent situations can be particularly difficult in small communities where everybody knows each other. It is also difficult for a victim to get special care and attention in a small community for fear of being stigmatized. However, coordinated efforts to prevent this phenomenon, to protect victims and punish the perpetrators must be continued. Everyone must have the right to live without violence and fear of it.

Problems related to women's ownership, inheritance and control and management of natural resources also hinder women's opportunities in the Arctic. Climate change is very likely to affect the productivity and the use of land, and thus further increases the fragility related to land ownership. Therefore discussions on climate change, gender equality, ownership and control rights, and environmental protection must be closely interlinked. The law and equal and effective access to justice must be safeguarded for all.

Both women and men, indigenous and non-indigenous people, must have equal opportunities to take part in political, economic, cultural and social life and decision-making and leadership at all levels. Women can also for example offer knowledge, skills and first-hand experience of many practical aspects of life that have so far been left in the shadows. As the significance of the Arctic is growing, it is even more important to involve a greater number of women in the Arctic governing bodies, administrations and businesses. When women have equal opportunities to participate in decision-making and have equal access to labour markets, also the impetus for out-migration declines.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When discussing gender equality, the role of men and boys must not be underestimated. They have a crucial role to play in women's empowerment. I strongly encourage all of us to think how men could be brought in as even more active partners in this collaboration. I am happy to see this atmosphere here!

Let me mention here the HeForShe Campaign which was launched by the UN Women in New York in September. The idea is to create a vast solidarity movement in which men across the globe commit to take action against all forms of violence and discrimination faced by women and men. I challenge all men here to visit the website HeForShe.org and sign up!

To conclude,

Many of the challenges in the Arctic are of a global nature and some are maybe more regionally and culturally specific. We are working on many fronts to find solutions to find a path towards a more sustainable global development model which is key also to the survival and well-being of the Arctic regions.

We have understood and agreed that a sustainable future entails that all three aspects – the social, economic and environmental – are addressed as we make decisions about how to tackle the common challenges that accompany us into the future.

We also know that we need all our human potential and capital to find a new way. A lot of human resources are still untapped. In Brazil at the Rio+20 Summit, we agreed that especially the creative talents of the young and too many women are underused as are the skills and experience of the poor. I want to stress here again, that gender equality is not only a human rights issue, but also an economic, social and development issue. It is a smart investment, it is smart economics.

Dear friends,

I believe that together we will make this conference fruitful. We will generate and provide the Arctic Council, the national and regional bodies and each one of us more tools and ideas to work with even more energy and efficiency towards greater gender equality in the Arctic. I also strongly welcome the Icelandic cooperation for Beijing+20.

I wish you all a very successful conference. This conference I will follow with a great interest also due to my own duties in the UN and in other tasks.

Thank you.

APPENDIX C

Conference Program

PROGRAM
Thursday, 30 October

8:30 **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

9:00 **WELCOME AND KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**
Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland
Tarja Halonen, Former President of the Republic of Finland

9:30 **PLENARY 1 : GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ARCTIC: CURRENT REALITIES, FUTURE CHALLENGES**
Moderator: Níels Einarsson, Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland

Claudia David, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Canada
Gunn-Britt Retter, Arctic- and Environmental Unit, Saami Council, Norway
Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland

Panelist:
Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, Mayor of Akureyri, Iceland

10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 **PLENARY 2 : POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING: GENDERED DIMENSIONS**
Moderator: Birgir Guðmundsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Gender Equality in Public Governance of the Arctic
Eva-Maria Svensson, University of Gothenburg, and
The Arctic University of Norway UiT, Sweden and Norway

Gender Equality in Russia: Is there such a thing?
Natalia Kukarenko, Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Russia

Gender Equality and Political Participation in the Northwest Territories, Canada
Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Fox Consulting, Canada

Panelists:
Annemieke Mulders, Status of Women Council of the NWT, Canada
Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir, MP Independent Party Iceland,
Vice-Chairman of West Nordic Council, Iceland

12:30 **LUNCH BREAK AT 1862 NORDIC BISTRO**

13:30 **PLENARY 3 : REGIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ITS GENDERED IMPACTS**
Moderator: Shari Fox Gearheard, University of Colorado Boulder, Canada

Gender Entrepreneurship and Regional Development
Elisabet Ljunggren, Nordland Research Institute, Norway

Owning the Arctic Future: When Gender Becomes a Crucial Factor
Kriss Rokkan Iversen, SALT, Norway

Gender Perspectives on Path Dependency
Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Nordregio, Sweden

Panelists:
Janne Sigurðsson, Alcoa Fjardaál, Iceland
Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir, MP Progressive Party, Iceland
Marit Helene Pedersen, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise, Norway

15:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:30 **PLENARY 4 : CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AND GENDER**
Moderator: Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Climate Change in the Arctic – The Relevance of Feminism
Auður H Ingólfsdóttir, Bifröst University, Iceland

The Social Impact of Climate Change and Gender Relations in Rural Communities of Yakutia
Liliia Vinokurova, The Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North, The Russian Academy of Science, Russia

Strong Women: Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change Through Women's Leadership, an Example from Baffin Island, Nunavut
Shari Fox Gearheard, University of Colorado Boulder, Canada

Panelists:
Beza Seyoum Alemu, US Agency for International Development, Office of the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, USA
Birna Bragadóttir, Reykjavik Energy, Iceland
Heidi Sinevaara-Niskanen, University of Lapland, Finland

17:00 **END OF DAY ONE**

19:00 **CONFERENCE DINNER AT HOTEL KEA**

PROGRAM
Friday, 31 October

9:00 **SUMMARY FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY**
Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland

9:15 **PLENARY 5 : (RE-)CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER IN THE ARCTIC**
Moderator: Jón Haukur Ingimundarson, Stefansson Arctic Institute & University of Akureyri, Iceland

Boys Will Be Boys? Boys and Masculinities in Contemporary Greenland and the Faroe Islands
Firouz Gaini, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Reimagining Authoritative Masculinity and the Female Slut: Snapshot from Reykjavík
Þorgerður Þorvaldsdóttir, Reykjavík Academy, Iceland

Gender and the 'New Media Nation'
Valerie Alia, Professor Emeritus, Independent scholar and writer, Canada

Panelists:
Anna Karlsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland
Kristinn Schram, Centre for Arctic Policy Studies, Iceland

10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 **PLENARY 6 : HUMAN SECURITY: GENDERED ASPECTS**
Moderator: Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Fox Consulting, Canada

Gendering Human Security in the Arctic
Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Unresolved Historical Trauma as a Threat to Human Security in Nunavut: Gender Aspects and Other Aspects
Jack Hicks, Carleton University, Canada

Recasting Sovereign Rationalities: Gendered Visions, Human Security, and Arctic Geopolitics
Valur Ingimundarson, University of Iceland, Iceland

Panelists:
Gunn-Britt Retter, Arctic- and Environmental Unit, Saami Council, Norway
Søren Stach Nielsen, The Greenlandic House in Aalborg, Greenland and Denmark

12:30 **LUNCH BREAK AT 1862 NORDIC BISTRO**

13:30 **PLENARY 7 : HUMAN CAPITAL AND GENDER: MIGRATION, MOBILITY, EDUCATION AND ADAPTION**

Moderator: Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Nordregio, Sweden

What's Gender Got to do With It? Migration and Gender in the Periphery
Erika Anne Hayfield, University of the Faroe Islands, Faroe Islands

The Changing Gender Composition of the Russian North
Timothy Heleniak, George Washington University, USA

Gender Equality in Greenland: Structural, Cultural and Educational Challenges
Tine Pars, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland

Panelists:
Eyjólfur Guðmundsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland
Katrín Jakobsdóttir, MP Left-Green Movement, Iceland

15:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:15 **FINAL SESSION : SUMMARY AND OPEN DISCUSSION**

Chair: Ingibjörg Elíasdóttir, Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland

Moderators from plenaries:
Níels Einarsson, Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland
Birgir Guðmundsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland
Shari Fox Gearheard, University of Colorado Boulder, Canada
Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway
Jón Haukur Ingimundarson, Stefansson Arctic Institute & University of Akureyri, Iceland
Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Fox Consulting, Canada
Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Nordregio, Sweden

16:30 **MEETING CONCLUDES - FINAL REMARKS**
Matthías Imsland, Political Advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs and Housing, Iceland

APPENDIX D
List of Speakers With Biographical Statement

Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iceland

Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade since 23 May 2013 // Member of the Parliament of Iceland (Althingi) for the Northwest constituency since 2009

Political career: Chairman of the parliamentary group of the Progressive Party 2009-2013 // Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee 2011-2013 // Member of the Special Committee on the Standing Orders of Althingi 2011-2013 // Member of the Industry Committee 2009-2011 // Political advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs 1997-1999

Education: Economic sociology studies, University of Iceland, 1995 // Northwest High School, Sauðárkrókur. Final exam 1989

Other work experience: Managing director of Abær Ltd. 2002-2007 // Various working experience in commerce and marketing 1989-2002 // Editor of the district newspaper Einherji 1991-1992

Other: Member of the Northwest Cultural Board from 2008 // Member of the Board of the Icelandic Institute for High Technology from 2007 // Chairman of the Board of the Association of Local Authorities, Northwest Iceland from 2006 // Chairman of the Board of Norðurá, Waste Management Company from 2006 // Chairman of Skagafjörður's Data Distribution company from 2006 // Various positions on behalf of local municipalities in Northwest Iceland from 1998.

Mrs. Tarja Halonen, Former President of the Republic of Finland

President Tarja Halonen, former President of the Republic of Finland
Born in 1943, married with adult children
Master of Law, University of Helsinki, 1968
President of the Republic of Finland 1.3.2000-1.3.2012 // Minister for Foreign Affairs 1995-2000 // Minister of Justice 1990-1991, Minister for Nordic Cooperation 1989-1991 // Minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, incl. Minister for Equality 1987-1990 // Member of Parliament 1979-2000, Chairman of the Parliamentary Grand Committee 1995-1995 // Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Law Committee 1991-1994 // Chairman of the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee 1984-1986 // Member of the Helsinki City Council 1977-1996 // Prime Minister's parliamentary secretary 1974-1975 // Lawyer with the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions SAK 1970-1974 and 1975-1979 // Social Affairs Secretary and Organizational Secretary of the National Union of Finnish Students 1969-1970.

President Halonen has held and holds various national and international honorary positions. She was, among others, Co-Chair of ILO's World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (2002-2004) and Co-Chair of the UN High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (2010-2012) and is currently Co-Chair of the High-Level Task Force for ICPD (2012-), Member of the Leadership Council of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2014-), Member of the High Level Panel on Girls' and Women's Education for Empowerment and Gender Equality (2011-) and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights (2009-), where she also served as Member of the Board from 2006 to 2009. In 2013, she was designated as Drylands Ambassador of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. In Finland President Halonen has been Chair and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Solidarity Foundation. She is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees of WWF Finland.

President Halonen holds 17 honorary degrees from universities, including from her alma mater Helsinki University.

Valerie Alia

Dr. Valerie Alia, Ph.D, is known internationally for defining the sub-discipline of political onomastics (the politics of naming) and for her work on media ethics and Indigenous and Arctic media. She is Professor Emerita and former Running Stream Professor of Ethics and Identity at Leeds Metropolitan University; Senior Associate of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, U.K.; and was Distinguished Professor of Canadian Culture at Western Washington University, U.S. Earlier, she was a journalist and arts critic. She has served as consultant on media to Canada's royal commissions on Electoral Reform and Party Financing, and Aboriginal People and on language/equality to the Yukon government Women's Directorate; was advisor to the Canadian Centre for Social Justice Nation of Immigrants project; and co-chaired the women's caucus/women's issues network of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities (formerly Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada).

Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir

Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir has been director of the Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality since 2007. The Centre is a government agency under the Ministry for Welfare. Before that Ástgeirsdóttir was a researcher and deputy director for the Centre for Women's and Gender Research at the University of Iceland 2003-2007. She worked as a Project manager for UNIFEM in Kosovo 2000-2001 and was a Member of Parliament for the Women's Alliance 1991-1999. Ástgeirsdóttir holds a master's degree in history and has written numerous articles on the history of the women's movements in Iceland from 1875-2005 and edited books on women's history. She was one of three members of the Icelandic Parliament's Special Investigation Committee on the collapse of the banking sector in Iceland, a committee which dealt with the ethical side of the collapse.

Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson

Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson was appointed the Mayor of Akureyri on the 15th of August 2010. He was born in Reykjavík on the 6th of September 1966. He graduated from Fjölbrautaskólinn við Ármúla (The Comprehensive Secondary School at Ármúli) in 1987. Björgvinsson completed a degree in physical education at primary and secondary level from the Icelandic School of Physical Education in 1990 and a diploma from the Sport University of Cologne, Germany in 1994. Additionally he achieved a diploma in management skills from Kennaraháskóli Íslands in 2000. Björgvinsson was the youth and sports representative for the town of Egilsstaðir from 1994-1996 and the sports and leisure representative for the town of Akureyri from 1996-2002. In 2002 he was appointed Mayor of Fljótsdalshérað in East Iceland, a position he held until 2010.

Birna Bragadóttir

Birna Bragadóttir is a Talent Manager at Reykjavík Energy and project manager of a gender equality committee at the organization. She worked in the aviation industry (Icelandair), in operation, training, HR and customer service for 13 years before joining RE. Bragadóttir holds an MBA from Reykjavík University and a B.A. in Sociology of industry from the University of Iceland.

Claudia David

Claudia David is a Senior Advisor at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, a department with the Canadian federal government. She has worked in the federal government for nearly 14 years with the Northern Contaminated Sites Program; a program funded to remediate contaminated sites in Canada's three northern territories. She has B.A. degree in human geography from the University of Ottawa.

Shari Fox Gearheard

Shari Fox Gearheard is a geographer and research scientist with the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), University of Colorado Boulder. Since 1995, Gearheard has been working with Inuit communities in Nunavut, Canada, on environmental research topics, in particular, on Inuit knowledge of climate and environmental change, sea ice, and weather.

For the last 10 years, Gearheard has been living full time in Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River), Nunavut, where she works on community-based research and building collaborative teams of Inuit and visiting scientists to study shared research questions in the Arctic. Originally from southern Ontario, Canada, she has also worked in Alaska and Greenland and was lead editor of the recently published book, "The Meaning of Ice: People and Sea Ice in Three Arctic Communities".

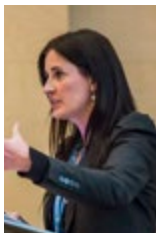
Firouz Gaini

Firouz Gaini is Associate Professor in Social Anthropology at the University of the Faroe Islands, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Norwegian Centre for Child Research (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), and one of the Faroe Islands' leading social scientists. He has done fieldwork in Southern France, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. His doctoral dissertation (University of the Faroe Islands, 2007) is a pioneering ethnographic study of youth cultures in the Faroe Islands. Gaini has continued to work with different childhood and youth research subjects with geographical focus on the Faroe Islands and neighbouring North Atlantic island communities. His newest books are Among the Islanders of the North (editor) from 2011 and Lessons of Islands – Place and Identity in the Faroe Islands from 2013, both from the Faroe University Press. He is currently working on a qualitative project investigating the cultural identities and masculinities of boys from Nuuk, Greenland.

Eyjólfur Guðmundsson

Eyjólfur Guðmundsson is Rector of the University of Akureyri, Iceland. He formerly worked for seven years as an economist at the game making company CCP. He has a B.S. degree in economy from the University of Iceland and a Ph.D. in economy from the Rhode Island University in U.S.A. Before going to work for CCP, Guðmundsson worked as Dean of the business and science department at the University of Akureyri.

Erika Anne Hayfield



Erika Anne Hayfield, PhD, is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of History and Social Sciences of the University of the Faroe Islands. Her research interests include out-migration from the periphery and gender equality.

Hayfield's first degree is in marketing management and her Ph.D. is titled "Children's cultures of consumption: An interpretive study."

Hayfield has worked for a number of years at the Ministry of Trade and Industry as a Senior Advisor to the Minister. During her employment at the ministry she was Chair Person of the working group that drew up the Faroe Islands' national programme of action titled: Migration and Population Growth. In addition, Hayfield headed the group which drew up the national programme of action to prevent and combat domestic violence. Whilst at the ministry she was responsible for a number of areas including gender equality and has represented the Faroe Islands in the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (EK-JÄM).

Timothy Heleniak

Timothy Heleniak has researched and written extensively about migration, population change, and regional development in the states of the former Soviet Union and the Arctic. He is currently a Research Professor in the Department of Geography at George Washington University. He previously worked at the U.S. Census Bureau, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

He has worked as an international development consultant to the World Bank, Economist Intelligence Unit, Migration Policy Institute, UNICEF, UN Development Programme, Oxford Analytica, Pew Research Center, and other organizations. He is the Editor of the journal Polar Geography.

Jack Hicks

Jack Hicks served as Director of Research for the Nunavut Implementation Commission, the federal commission responsible for advising on the design and implementation of the Nunavut government. Upon the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, he became the new government's first Director of Evaluation and Statistics. In 2004 he left the government to become Project Manager of the Qaujivallianiq Inuusirijauvalauqtunik ('Learning from lives that have been lived') suicide follow-back (or 'psychological autopsy') study. As Suicide Prevention Advisor to the Government of Nunavut from 2008 to 2010 Hicks worked across institutional 'silos' to build the interagency partnership which developed the evidence-informed Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy. He currently teaches in Child Studies at Carleton University, and is completing an external Ph.D. dissertation at Ilisimatusarfik (The University of Greenland) on the social determinants of elevated rates of suicide behavior by Inuit youth in Nunavut.

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv is Professor of Political Science (specialization international relations) at the University of Tromsø-The Arctic University of Norway, as well as being Research Associate at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). Hoogensen Gjørv was the International Principle Investigator for the International Polar Year project "The Impacts of Oil and Gas Activity on Peoples of the Arctic using a Multiple Securities Perspective," funded by the Norwegian and Canadian Research Councils (with Canadian PI Dawn Bazely, York University), and is currently co-leader of the Arctic Extractive Industries PhD program with Jessica Shadian (U Lapland and UiT) and Florian Stammler (U Lapland) that examines the impacts of extractive resource development on Arctic communities. She is also partner in two projects (Kolarctic and BARCOM) examining the physiological, social and economic impacts of resource industries on Arctic communities from a human security perspective (and the resulting policy implications.

Valur Ingimundarson

Valur Ingimundarson is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Iceland, where he is also the Chair of EDDA – Center of Excellence in Critical Contemporary Research.
He has written scholarly works on Arctic governance and geopolitics; U.S.-Icelandic relations; Icelandic foreign security, and Arctic policies; U.S.-European/German relations during and after the Cold War; transnational politics of memory in Europe; and post-war politics in the former Yugoslavia. Ingimundarson has been a Visiting Professor at the Centre for International Studies (CIS), London School of Economics and at the Paris-based École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), and an Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London. He received his Ph.D. in History from Columbia University in New York.

Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir

Auður H. Ingólfsdóttir is an assistant professor at Bifröst University, located in the western part of Iceland. Before entering academia, she worked as a journalist for a couple of years, was as a project manager for the University of Iceland, worked as a special advisor in the Icelandic Ministry for the Environment, and as a private consultant on environmental policy. During the period 2006-2008, prior to taking up her post at Bifröst, Ingólfsdóttir worked abroad for the Icelandic Crisis Response Unit, first in Sri Lanka as a ceasefire monitor, and later in the Balkans as a gender advisor for UNIFEM (now UN Women).

Ingólfsdóttir holds a B.A. degree in international studies from University of Washington (Seattle), a diploma in professional jouranlism from University of Iceland, and a Master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School, Tufts University (Boston). She is currently working on her Ph.D. dissertation where her focus is on the links between climate change and human security in the Arctic, using Iceland as a case study.

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox

A lifelong Northerner, Dr. Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Ph.D., graduated from Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in political science from the University of Alberta, and a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, England. Her scholarly areas of interest include governance, social suffering, Indigenous land relationship and economies. She is the author of Finding Dahshaa: Self Government, Social Suffering and Aboriginal Policy in Canada (UBC Press, 2009), which has become a standard text in Indigenous Studies programs across Canada.

Irlbacher-Fox is an Adjunct Research Professor at the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University, and Adjunct Professor with the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta.

Kriss Rokkan Iversen

Born with an integrated compass always pointing north, it was never a question where Kriss Rokkan Iversen would invest her future. Iversen was born and raised at 68°N in the Lofoten archipelago. With her roots in an area coloured by rich marine resources and traditional fisheries, she felt a deep fascination towards the ocean from an early age. This lifelong interest in the marine environment led to a M.Sc. (University of Bergen) and a Ph.D. (ARCTOS Ph.D. School, University of Tromsø) in marine system ecology. During her studies, involvement in boards, organizations and recruitment work nourished a growing interest in building projects and taking social responsibility.

On a sea voyage in Northern Norway in the middle of her Ph.D. work, Iversen met Kjersti Eline Tønnessen Busch. They shared ambitions for contributing to the Northern future through knowledge and engagement. Together they decided that their solution for making a difference was to allocate their joint passion for the ocean, coastal communities and Northern wealth creation closer to the marine resources. In 2010 they therefore established the knowledge-based company SALT in Svolvær, Lofoten, together with Akvaplan-niva. Through their first-row perspective on marine resources and industry, SALT was determined to secure local ownership of knowledge central to the blue future in the north.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir

Chairman of the Left-Green Movement since 2013 // Member of Althingi for the Reykjavík North Constituency since 2007 // Vice-Chairman of the Left-Green Movement's parliamentary group 2007-2009

Present committees: Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee since 2014 // Member of the Icelandic Delegation to the EFTA and EEA Parliamentary Committees since 2014.

Earlier committees: Member of the Environment and Communications Committee 2013-2014 // Member of the Education Committee 2007-2009 // Member of the Economy and Taxation Committee 2007-2009 // Member of the Icelandic delegation to the West Nordic Council 2013-2014.

Ministerial Career: Minister of Education, Science and Culture 2009-2013 // Minister for Nordic Cooperation 2009-2013.

Anna Karlsdóttir

Anna Karlsdóttir, Cand. Scient.Soc. in Human Geography and Public administration, and Ph.D. in social sciences. She has worked with resource extraction development in the Arctic and the North Atlantic context since the mid-nineties, focusing on gender and employment-related transformative dynamics in small coastal communities of the North. Karlsdóttir has worked with regional development issues spanning from primary industries to tourism activities in relation to gender and youth and rural development in Iceland. She has also worked with settlement dynamics and urbanization in the Arctic and most recently she has dealt with questions of youths' future perspectives in the Arctic part of the Nordic countries. As an activist, she has promoted greenmapping. Karlsdóttir is alternate member of the board of the equal council in Iceland and has been active in Nordic equality forums, i.e. as a board member in the NORA editorial board.

Unnur Brá Konráðsdóttir

Parliamentary Career: Member of Althingi for the South Constituency since 2009 // Deputy Speaker of Althingi 2009-2013.

Present committees: Member of the Economic Affairs and Trade Committee since 2014 // Member of the Judicial Affairs and Education Committee since 2013 (Chairman since 2013) // Member of the Icelandic delegation to the West Nordic Council since 2013 (Chairman since 2013) // Member of the Icelandic delegation to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly since 2013 (Vice-Chairman since 2014).

Earlier committees: Member of the Welfare Committee 2011-2014 // Member of the Credentials Committee 2013 // Member of the Education Committee 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 // Member of the Social Affairs and Social Security Committee 2010-2011 // Member of the Industry Committee on 2009-2010 // Member of the Parliamentary Review Committee on the SIC report 2009-2010 (Vice-Chairman 2010).

Natalia Kukarenko

Ph.D. in social philosophy, Assistant Professor at Philosophy Department, Director of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences at Northern (Arctic) Federal, Arkhangelsk, Russia. Kukarenko's fields of expertise are multiculturalism, gender studies, migration, and political activism. In the past five years she has been involved in cross-disciplinary research projects on climate change and human health; aging, ICT and nursing; bilingual children and limits of welfare; Russian immigrants in Norway and gender equality regimes. She has experience of working at NORUT (Northern Research Institute, Tromsø, Norway) as a social science researcher. As a lecturer she has experience of teaching courses in philosophy, social and political philosophy, gender studies, social issues and welfare in Russia and Norway.

Kukarenko has about 40 publications (articles, book chapters, monograph) in Russian, Norwegian and in English.

Elisabet Ljunggren

Elisabet Ljunggren (Ph.D.) is a research professor at Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway. Her research interests include gender aspects of entrepreneurship, innovation and business polices. She has published work on the entrepreneurial process, the household dimensions of entrepreneurship, and policy initiatives to enhance entrepreneurship and innovation (e.g. business incubators). She has conducted studies on entrepreneurship in agriculture and innovation in experience based industries. Dr. Ljunggren has published in international journals, been guest editor of IJGE and edited several research books both in Norway and abroad. She has an extensive research portfolio and has experience from EU, international and national research projects. She is currently a guest researcher at Turku University, Finland.

Annemieke Mulders

Annemieke Mulders is a lifelong northerner who has spent the past several years actively advocating for gender equality in Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT). Following three years managing the Northern Women in Mining, Oil & Gas Project (a multi-year project aimed at identifying and addressing the barriers to mining employment for marginalized women), she joined the Status of Women Council of the NWT's core team as Manager of Programs and Research in 2010. The mandate of the Council is to work for the political, social and economic equality of all women in the NWT, through advice to the Government of the NWT, research, public education, advocacy on behalf of women, identification and development of opportunities for women, and assistance to women's groups.

Sören Stach Nielsen

Søren Stach Nielsen served as Deputy Minister of Research for the Ministry of Housing, Nature and Environment 2013-2014. He came from the premier's office in 2013, where he served as Director from 2008–2012, and served as permanent secretary of state from 2012-2013.

Søren Stach Nielsen facilitated talking circles (men's group) for a number of years in Nuuk, worked with the local community in several project both as facilitator and as consultant. From the beginning of August 2014 he became Director of the Greenlandic House in Aalborg, northern Denmark.

Tine Pars

Ph.D. Cand. Scient. Tine Pars was appointed as Rector of Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland) in January 2009. She was born and raised in Ilulissat. She was trained as an experimental biologist specializing in human nutrition from Odense University (now University of Southern Denmark) in 1992. Her research has primarily focused on the consumption of traditional Greenlandic food, and as a Ph.D. student she was attached to the Department for Research in Greenland at the Danish Institute for Clinical Epidemiology (now the National Institute of Public Health) and the University of Copenhagen.

Rector Pars has had diverse experience in industry: She has worked in Greenland's self-government, partly as an administrator in the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Department, and partly as a campaign manager for a nationwide two-year campaign for the sustainable exploitation of living resources.

Marit Helene Pedersen

Marit Helene Pedersen has been employed as Regional Director of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise in Finnmark since 1 December 2007. She graduated with a Master of Public Administration from Copenhagen Business School and also has university and college qualifications. Her previous work experience includes a period as Head of Business Development for Finnmark County Council and tasks involving regional planning. Pedersen is passionate about development in the county of Finnmark, and has an extensive network of contacts and knowledge comprising all industries and most businesses in the county. She loves to work in a field that incorporates both profitable business and politics in the High North.

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen (Ph.D.) is Senior Research Associate at Nordregio – Nordic Centre for Spatial Development – under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers, and Associate Professor at Roskilde University, Denmark. Dr. Rasmus Ole Rasmussen has a profound research experience in relation to Regional Development, Regional planning, and Statistical Analysis. He has extensive knowledge in relation to the Nordic countries, is recognized as a capacity in relation to the North Atlantic and Arctic development, among other things being responsible for the Nordic Arctic Research Program, and the main author of the book Megatrends (TemaNord 2011:527).

Gunn-Britt Retter

Gunn-Britt Retter has since 2005 been the head of the Arctic and Environmental Unit of the Saami Council. She is an active spokesperson on issues related to indigenous peoples in the Arctic. Her interests include the role of traditional knowledge in adapting to climate change, as well as biodiversity, language, pollution and management of natural resources, also from a gender perspective.

Gunn-Britt Retter is a Saami from Unjárga/Nesseby in Varanger, northeast Norway. Retter is chair of the local Saami association. She is a former advisor to the Arctic Council's Indigenous Peoples Secretariat in Copenhagen. Retter is teacher by training and holds an M.A. in bilingual Studies from University of Wales.

Kristinn Schram

Kristinn Schram is director of the Centre for Arctic Policy Studies (CAPS) at the Institute of International Affairs at the University of Iceland, where he is also a postdoctoral researcher and adjunct lecturer. He has conducted research at the EDDA Center of Excellence and the Reykjavik Academy and directed the Icelandic Centre for Ethnology and Folklore 2008-2012. Schram received his Ph.D. in Ethnology from the University of Edinburgh in 2010. He conducts the Icelandic Centre for Research-funded project titled Borealism and Beyond, with research fellow Katla Kjartansdóttir, focusing on mobile people and contested constructions of the North in relation to national, cultural and gendered identities and transnational interaction. Schram coordinates research, publication, events and networks on the Arctic policy and discourses, their practice and relationship in societies and cultures in the High North. As director of CAPS he runs two publication series: Occasional Papers and Working Papers. He is a board member of the Greenland Fund and the Gender Equality Council in Iceland.

Beza Seyoum

Beza Seyoum is an AAAS Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development. She serves her Fellowship in the Office of the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, where she works on the implementation of USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy. Seyoum's work focuses on gender integration into science & technology and health sectors. She also works on the implementation of the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.

Prior to joining USAID, Seyoum completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health where she worked on malaria vaccine development as well as identifying new and existing collaborative research projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. While pursuing her interests in women's empowerment, global health, and capacity building, Seyoum also volunteers with underserved populations through non-profit organizations.

Seyoum has a B.A. in biochemistry from Wellesley College and received her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Janne Sigurðsson

In January 2012, Janne Sigurðsson was appointed Managing Director of Alcoa Fjardaál in Iceland. Prior to that, she was a production manager and has consistently improved key metrics covering production, customer satisfaction, financial performance, safety, and employee engagement.

She joined Alcoa in 2006 as an IT Manager, and in 2007 assumed the position of General Process Owner. A year later Sigurðsson stepped into the position of Potroom Manager where she oversaw production increases of the plant, making Fjardaál the highest amperage smelter in the Alcoa system.

Born in Denmark, Sigurðsson has a Master's Degree in mathematics and computer science from the University in Aalborg, Denmark. Prior to joining Alcoa, she had 11 years of management experience, including five years as department manager of embedded software development at Siemens Mobile Phone.

Eva-Maria Svensson

Eva-Maria Svensson, LL.D., LL.M., is Professor of Law at the The Arctic University of Norway UiT and at The School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg in Sweden. She is also Director for Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Research (GIG) at University of Gothenburg. Svensson is part of the TUAQ research network on gender equality in the Arctic, originally developed within the tripartite cooperation between the three universities The Arctic University of Norway UiT, Umeå University in Sweden, and Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M.V. Lomonosov (NArFU) in The Russian Federation, extended to including also researchers at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, University of Copenhagen in Denmark, and University of Lapland in Finland.

Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir

Parliamentary Career: Member of Althingi for the Progressive party, Northeast Constituency since 2013.

Present committees: Member of the Economic Affairs and Trade Committee since 2013 // Member of the Judicial Affairs and Education Committee since 2013 (2nd Vice-Chairman since 2013) // Member of the Icelandic Delegation to the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region since 2013.

Earlier committees: Member of the Constitutional and Supervisory Committee 2013.

Liliia Vinokurova

Liliia Vinokurova, Ph.D., is the Lead Researcher at the Arctic Research Sector of the Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North (The Russian Academy of Sciences). She specializes in social history of the Indigenous peoples of the North, focusing on gender processes, and has extensive experience researching rural ethnic communities in the Arctic. Vinokurova has over 100 publications, including the books on the history of agriculture in Yakutia and on the gender in the North. In addition to research activities, in 1990s-2000s she has taught at the Yakutsk State Agricultural Academy and at the Northeastern Federal University, and supervises a number of graduate students in Northern social history.

Þorgerður Þorvaldsdóttir

Dr. Þorgerður H. Þorvaldsdóttir, completed her Ph.D. in Gender Studies at the University of Iceland 2012. She holds an M.A. in Gender Studies and Feminist Theory from The New School for Social Research, New York, and B.A. in History from the University of Iceland.

She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at EDDA Center of Excellence and a member of the Reykjavik Academy collective, which is an academic institute and a society of independently working scholars.

Her postdoctoral research examines how equality discourses and equal opportunity work in Iceland have developed in the aftermath of the economic crisis in 2008.

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