

Breakout Sessions of the TN Geopolitics & Security

Security, Geopolitics & Governance of the Arctic

For the 7th Arctic Circle Assembly
October 10 – 13, 2019
Reykjavik, Iceland

The Thematic Network (TN) on Geopolitics and Security (co-)organizes the following breakout sessions at the 7th Arctic Circle Assembly, October 10 – 13, 2019 in Reykjavik.

TN Breakout Sessions

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- 11:30-12:15 - Global Arctic: From a Theoretical Concept to a Governance Instrument.....7
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Contact person/Convener:

Prof. Lassi Heininen (University of Helsinki), Leader of TN on Geopolitics and Security
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About the TN

The Thematic Network (TN) on Geopolitics and Security is a joint network by the University of the Arctic and the Northern Research Forum (NRF), and was established and approved in 2009. The TN consists of an international group of members with diverse backgrounds and expertise. The Networks main aim is to combine the two focus areas Studies on Geopolitics and Security Studies. Based on that, the TN aims to draw up a holistic picture on Arctic geopolitics and Northern security, as well as to identify and analyze the major changes of them. The TN is dedicated at promoting 'interdisciplinarity', to implement the interplay between research and teaching as well as the discussion between young and senior scholars, and to promote the interplay between science and politics, and that between scientific and traditional knowledge(s).

Research interests and themes:

In the context of this Thematic Network 'Geopolitics' include issues, such as:

- How geopolitics is present, and implemented today in the Arctic, in general and in national strategies and policies
- Changes in the Arctic, and major forces / drivers behind them
- Indigenous point(s) of view of Geopolitics?
- What is the importance and role of TNCs, and that of SOEs in the Arctic?
- The globalized Arctic in world politics and the global economy?

Correspondingly, studies on 'Security' include issues, such as:

- Who are subjects of (Arctic) security?
- Military strategies and defense policies in, and impacts of regional crises on, security of the Arctic
- Environmental and Human Security in the Arctic
- Resource extraction, the global economy, national interests, climate change and global governance – a new Arctic (security) nexus or Arctic Paradox

Main goals of the TN

The main goals of the TN are to promote interdisciplinary discourse as well as academic and policy-oriented dialogue of various stakeholders on the two focus areas Geopolitics and Security. The TN implements its goals by the means of:

- Making initiatives for, as well as to coordinate, support, and run international research projects on International Relations, Geopolitics, and Security studies.
- To regularly publish academic books as well as an open access journal. Since 2012, the TN annually publishes The Arctic Yearbook (see <http://www.arcticyearbook.com>).
- Organizing panels at international conferences, doctoral schools as well as arranging own workshops and brainstorming meetings, back-to-back to international conferences. For example, the TN organizes panels on Security in the Arctic at the annual Arctic Circle Assembly, and (co-)organizes the annual international traveling symposium and doctoral school Calotte Academy (see <https://calotte-academy.com>).

For more information on the TN and its activities, please visit the TN's website at

<https://arcticpolitics.com>

Programs of Breakout Sessions

Analysis of Arctic Policies, Strategies and Programs

Thursday, October 10

09:00 – 10:00

Location: Akrafjall (Harpa Fourth Level)

Organizing body: Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, together with Arctic Futures Initiative, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis AFI/IIASA

Description of the Session:

The session will deliver a summary of a systematic and holistic analysis of existing policies and strategies of the Arctic states (Member States), Arctic Indigenous peoples organizations (Permanent Participants) and non-Arctic states (Observer Countries), as well as pertinent Arctic Council (AC) documents. Analysis will include findings of the *Analysis and Synthesis on Arctic Policies & Strategies, and Programs* Report, how perceptions of the Arctic have changed over time, and how different states and Indigenous peoples' organizations address issues around human dimension, governance, international cooperation, environmental protection, climate change, security & safety, economy, infrastructure, and science & education. Further, what are new trends in Arctic policies. The findings will be compared to each other, and the AC ministerial declarations to determine policy consistency. The Report (by Heininen, Everett, Padrtova and Reissell) is coordinated by the AFI at International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, and co-funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and IIASA.

Panelists:

Karen Everett, Laval University and Barbora Padrtova, University of Masaryk:
Trends in Arctic Policies and Strategies – The Arctic States

Barbora Padrtova, University of Masaryk and Karen Everett, Laval University:
Trends in Arctic Policies and Strategies – The Observers of the Arctic Council

Lassi Heininen, Research Director, Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), University of Helsinki; Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland, Finland:
Indigenous Peoples Approach to Arctic Policies – The Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council

Tero Vauraste, Arctic Economic Council (tbc):
Importance and relevance of Arctic politics and strategies for business

Arctic Geo-economics, Development and Governance

Thursday, October 10

17:15-18:15

Location: Háaloft (Harpa Eighth Level)

Organizing body: Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, together with The Arctic Yearbook

Description of the Session:

Although Arctic governance, policy and social science is overwhelmingly concerned with development, it can be argued that the art of it is poorly understood, though not for lack of effort. Arctic development is hard: tensions exist between industrial activity and environmental protection; and between Western and Indigenous perceptions of quality of life. Populations are sparse and remote. There is a widespread lack of labour, financial capital, affecting investment and prosperity. Infrastructure – roads, airports, broadband, housing and hospitals - is expensive, where it exists at all. Southern or urban models of development don't usually apply, and even within the Arctic lessons learned do not always transfer across regions. Strategies for Arctic development remain a puzzle, despite, or perhaps because of, decades of state led efforts to grow economies, create jobs, improve health, increase educational attainment, and emphasize national security. This session is dedicated to discuss Arctic development and governance, as well as Northern economies: What kind of regional development do we want?

Panelists:

Heather Exner-Pirot, University of Saskatchewan & The Arctic Yearbook:

The Arctic Economic Development Paradigm and its Failures

Mario Pontes, Universidade de Lisboa, Institute of Social and Political Sciences, Centre for Public Administration and Public Policies-FCT:

The Growing Importance of 'Goeconomics' in the Security of the Arctic Region

Heather Nicol, Director, Canadian Studies, Trent University:

Relevance of Security Aspect in Regional Development

Ilya Stepanov, Higher School of Economics, Russia:

Russian Arctic and Far East Policy: Potential for Conjunction of Northern and Eastern Regions' Development

Moderator:

Lassi Heininen, Research Director, Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), University of Helsinki; Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland, Finland

Cybersecurity and Digitalization in the Arctic: Human Security Perspectives

Friday, October 11

11:15-12:00

Location: Esja (Harpa Fifth Level)

Organizing body: ECoHuCy Project, Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM) / Arctic Centre / University of Lapland

Description of the Session:

Followed by a rapid digitization in the past decades, the concept of cybersecurity has become widely discussed in literature, incorporated into national and international agendas for digital development, and introduced to organizations and corporations. However, the current approaches to cybersecurity often focus on the macro-level (national, supra- and/or international) and on the information infrastructure mainly addressing negative security. The aim of the proposed session is to discuss cybersecurity in the Arctic from a human security perspective. It facilitates a forum to address both the opportunities and challenges of digitization to individuals and communities also on the sub-national level. A human security approach enables the inclusion of positive security aspects to cybersecurity and the addressing of non-state actors and individuals as securitizing actors in the region. Beside the challenges that digitization pose to individuals and communities, the session contributes to a wider discussion on how the Arctic inhabitants may benefit from advanced digitization. The proposed session thus addresses cybersecurity as embedded in a multidisciplinary framework to widen the discussion beyond prevailing state-centricity. Questions addressed include, for instance: Can digitization in the Arctic raise participation levels in the civil society, freedom of choice, local and global awareness, or improve access to services? How is digitization in the Arctic related to environmental, social, health, civic, and security matters in the region? How does digitization in the Arctic affect sustainable regional development?

Panelists:

Mirva Salminen, NIEM / Arctic Centre / University of Lapland

Everyday Digital Security in the European High North: the Case of Field Lapland

Gerald Zojer, NIEM / Arctic Centre / University of Lapland

FOSS (free and open source software) as a Contribution to Digital Security in the Arctic

Marcin Dymet, NIEM / Arctic Centre / University of Lapland

Resilience and Transformation of Arctic Systems. Cases from Speculative Narratives

Joëlle Klein, NIEM / Arctic Centre / University of Lapland

Conceptualizing cyber security in the Arctic in light of human security and climate change

Moderator:

Prof. Kamrul Hossain, NIEM/Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

The New Arctic Circle Mission Council: the GlobalArctic

Friday, October 11

11:15 – 12:00

Room: Björtuloft (Harpa, 5th level)

Organizing body: A GlobalArctic Mission Council at Arctic Circle Assembly

Description of the session:

A GlobalArctic Mission Council at Arctic Circle Assembly aims to become an international platform and network for clear-thinking across disciplines and sectors, as well as beyond unified-states and national borders. It first, combines global - local (pan-Arctic) perspective; second, promotes ‘inter-disciplinary’ and policy-relevant research agenda, as well as open discussion between different stakeholders - “solution requires a great number of people to change their mindsets and behavior” -; and third, is an ecosystem for to gain better understanding of the globalized Arctic, i.e. both global impacts within the region, and even more world-wide changes and implications of the global Arctic. It is inspired and promoted by the GlobalArctic Project (www.globalarctic.com), and supported by the Pan-Eurasian Experiment, PEEEX coordinated by University of Helsinki.

The session will consist of first, brief introductions by the first expert members of the Council, and second discuss and brainstorm aims, objectives and activities of the Council.

List of the panelists:

Miayse Christiansen, Professor, Leading Research Environment in Global Media Studies and Politics of Mediated Communication University of Stockholm

Dalee Sambo Dorrough, ICC

Inuit perspectives on Global-Arctic dynamics

Heather Exner-Pirot, The Arctic Yearbook

Regional economic development rights under a Global Arctic regime

YANG Jian, Vice-President, Shanghai Institute for International Studies

Atsushi Sunami, Ocean Policy Research Institute & The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (tbc)

Moderator:

Lassi Heininen, Research Director, Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), University of Helsinki; Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland, Finland

Global Arctic: From a Theoretical Concept to a Governance Instrument

Saturday, October 12

11:30 – 12:15

Location: Björtuloft (Harpa Fifth Level)

Organizing body: Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, in cooperation with GlobalArctic

Description of Session:

The session aims to explore how the GlobalArctic concept may be translated into practice. For that purpose, this session will discuss the concept as an innovative research method and a useful public policy tool in the context of the Anthropocene. The globalized Arctic is a reflection of the dynamics the Earth system has caused by industrial civilization, a phenomenon also called the Anthropocene. New biophysical conditions of the Earth System will reshape our societies, impact social and economic conditions and alter geopolitical outcomes. From the global dynamics observed in the Polar regions to the socio-economic transition enforcement, the Arctic is attracting global attention. New approaches to research and policies are required. Since the Arctic is on the frontline of this transformation, there is a need for better and holistic system understanding of impacts, feedbacks and multi-dimensional changes. Participants to this breakout session will highlight how the Arctic is a relevant basis for operative and innovative governance instruments.

Panelists:

Hanna K. Lappalainen Research coordinator, INAR & PEEEX, University of Helsinki:
Global Relevance of Observation and Modelling of Arctic-Boreal Domain

Alexander Sergunin, Professor, St. Petersburg State University:
Global Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Arctic Marine Biodiversity - The Russian Perspective

Lassi Heininen, Research Director, Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), University of Helsinki; Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland, Finland:
Role of Societal Security in Arctic Policies – From a Global Perspective

Moderator:

Matthias Finger (EPFL)

Diversity in Unity/Unity in Diversity – the Nordic Models

Saturday, October 12

16:30 – 17:30

Location: Flói (Harpa Ground Level)

Organizing body: Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, in cooperation with CNARC

Description of the Session:

The Nordic Region (Norden) - as a political construction for multilateral, regional and functional cooperation, and modern region-building - is academically interesting and politically attractive in the globalized world. Behind is functional cooperation and deep integration based on several 'Nordic models', which cover and refer to governance, environmental protection, democracy, equality and peace, as well as welfare state and civil society. By virtue of their legacy, the Nordic cooperation & models are valuable outcomes and learned lessons in globalized world. By creating potential win-win situation they have a unique potential to play a proactive role in world politics, in particular, in confidence- and peace-building, and be influential in the global Arctic. The main aim of the session is to tell the 'Nordic story' to international audience, and test what are innovative features of the Nordic models. Finally, the session introduces a new book, "*Sino-Nordic Arctic Cooperation: Objectives and Approaches*", eds. by Heininen and YANG (in Mandarin).

Panelists:

Maria Ackren, Associate Professor, University of Greenland

Thorsteinn Gunnarsson, Senior Adviser, The Icelandic Centre for Research – Rannis, Nordic Cooperation in Higher Education and Research

ZHANG Pei, Deputy Director of Centre for Maritime and Polar Region Studies, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies

Egill Thor Nielsson, Doctoral Candidate, University of Lapland and University of Iceland; Senior Adviser, The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNÍS)

Moderator:

Lassi Heininen, Research Director, Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), University of Helsinki; Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland, Finland

Military-security and the Arctic Council

Saturday, October 12

17:30 – 19:00

Location: Silfurberg A (Harpa Second Level)

Organizing body: Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security

Description of the Session:

At the Arctic Council Ministerial in May 2019 no joint declaration was approved, which raises the question if turbulences & uncertainties of international politics have also taken over Arctic geopolitics? Further, does this mean that the high geopolitical stability based on constructive cooperation, as success story of Arctic governance is over? Or, is Arctic cooperation resilient enough to pass this, like it did the previous difficulties, and leave this as an episode of increased pressure by great powers' rivalry? While it is too early for final conclusions, this session discusses these issues by reminding the reasons behind Arctic cooperation, to decrease military tension for environmental protection as beneficial to all Arctic nations. As well as, that military-security matters are excluded the Arctic Council, and a state of disarmament is ambivalent - much needed but lacking. A new book, *Climate Change and Arctic Security – Searching for a Paradigm Shift* will be launched in the session.

Panelists:

Lassi Heininen, Research Director, Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), University of Helsinki; Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland, Finland:

Military Presence in the Arctic – Cold War legacy, ‘Great Power Rivalry’ or for national defense – what about disarmament?

Benjamin Schaller, PhD Candidate/Research Fellow, Centre for Peace Studies at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway:

Trust and Distrust – Defence and Security Relations in a Changing Arctic Security Environment

Sandra Maria Rodrigues Balão, Associate Professor, Universidade de Lisboa, Institute of Social and Political Sciences, Centre for Public Administration and Public Policies-FCT:

Security Challenges from the North - a critical reading of US policies for the Arctic region

Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, Professor, University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway:
Space, Polar Regions and International Security: The Arctic in Global Socio-Technical Systems

Moderator:

Heather Exner-Pirot, University of Saskatchewan & The Arctic Yearbook