

The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research  
Norges Vitenskapsakademi for Polarforskning

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Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center



The University Centre in Svalbard

The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP), in cooperation with  
The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) and  
The Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center (NERSC)

## Interdisciplinary PhD and Post-Doc summer school 2015

### Arctic Ocean Governance as a Multifunctional Challenge

**Venue:** The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP),  
“Isdammen 1” and UNIS, Longyearbyen, Svalbard

**Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9th August 2015

Preliminary programme

#### Introduction

In general, a governance system consists of two features: a **regime**, defining the “rules of the game” – the regulations - and **a structure**, defining the actors and their interactions – the decision-making apparatus. As such, a governance system is a practical political construct drawing on the insights of the social sciences. To be effective, a governance system also has to reflect and respond to the natural characteristics of the region of application. As such it has to address the natural peculiarities of the respective region drawing on the insights of the natural sciences. In this broad definition, a governance system is a *complex entity* spanning the gap between the natural and social sciences (interdisciplinarity) as well as the gap between academic (university) and stakeholder knowledge as expressed in government and societal organizations (transdisciplinarity).

A circumpolar system of governance is in the making for the Arctic Ocean, both when it comes to regime and structure. Among the eight Arctic states there is broad agreement (*Ilullisat-declaration of 28 May 2009*) that the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the*

*Sea of 1982* (UNCLOS) and other global ocean conventions is to be applied as the basic regulatory foundation of the Arctic Ocean. At the same time, the fact is that the UNCLOS mostly was developed to regulate the challenges of “blue water” Oceans. Out of the 320 articles of the UNCLOS, only one - Article 234 - deals specifically with ice-covered waters. Issues specific to Arctic natural conditions, such as sea ice, environmental fragility/sensitivity, polar darkness etc. are not fully or sufficiently addressed in UNCLOS. To make the existing regime fit the operational needs under polar conditions, *supplementary regulatory measures may/ will be developed* to fill in on those applicable from UNCLOS and other global conventions. This process is already underway and has manifested in the international endeavours to reach agreement on a *Polar Code* and on the *Search and Rescue Agreement of Aeronautical and Maritime Vessels and Passenger of 12 May, 2011* of the Arctic Council. These supplementary measures are not likely to be the last. Among other things, concerns for the polar environment have been voiced in need of more adequate regulations. Thus, there are still voids of open spaces in the existing regime before a fully developed governance system for the Arctic Ocean has been established.

The same applies to the existing governance structure of the region. The focus here is on the Arctic Council, which is the only intergovernmental forum in the region for handling circumpolar concerns among all the Arctic states. As of the present, the Arctic Council is basically *a soft law, consensus-based forum* between its eight members, addressing a restricted number of issue areas. Multiple states have expressed a wish to gradually develop the Council into an international entity dealing with a broader scope of issue areas and a strengthened decision-making structure – to move it closer to a multilateral organization. This drive towards change has manifested in the establishment of a permanent Arctic Council Secretariat in the city of Tromsø in Norway. The likelihood is that moves in a similar direction will be on the international agenda to further improve the effectiveness of the Council in the future.

The existing governance system of the Arctic Ocean is still an object of change and improvement, both when it comes to regime and structure. To help out, the summer school has invited societal stakeholders from shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, environment etc., as well as from governments to identify what supplementary Arctic-specific amendments are necessary to make the governance system of the region suitable to handle respective interests in a sustainable and effective way. The PhD-students of the summer school are supposed to write a multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary report on the matter to be published in an international peer review journal of high standard.

## Program

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August: Arrival in Longyearbyen, transport to Nybyen/UNIS**

13.55: Arrival at Longyearbyen, Svalbard, SAS SK4414. Participants are met by the summer school secretariat. Bus from Airport to UNIS Guesthouse and Nybyen

17.00-18.00: Registration at UNIS

#### **Chair: Willy Østreng, President, NVP**

18.00: *Brief information about the Academy and on the purpose of the summer school*, by Thor S. Larsen, Secretary General NVP

18.15: *Interdisciplinarity: Why?*, by Willy Østreng, President NVP

18.30: *Brief orientation on the organization of the summer school*, by Lasse H. Pettersson, Director International Cooperation, NERSC

18.45: Presentation of participators, lecturers and staff

19.15: *Student life at UNIS and security in Svalbard/Longyearbyen*, by Fred Schancke Hansen, UNIS

20.00: Dinner at UNIS

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August: Frame setting presentations and lectures**

Location: Isdammen 1

#### **Chair: Thor S. Larsen, Secretary General, NVP**

*All presentations 40 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions.*

09.30: *The Extreme Arctic Environment: Opportunities and Limitations* by Stein Sandven, Director, NERSC, Bergen

10.20: *Introduction to and establishment of thematic student groups, the inter- and transdisciplinary work and expectations* by Lasse H. Pettersson, NERSC, Bergen

11.00: Coffee break

11.30: *Productive hotspots along the Arctic Shelf: Climate change, wars, society and Arctic Sea ice distribution*, by Professor Stig Falk-Petersen, the Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø

13.10-14.10: Lunch

14.10: *Climate Projections for the Arctic*, by Igor Esau, NERSC, Bergen

- 15.00: *Arctic Governance and Polar Shipping* by Hanna Lee Behrens, Director, Norwegian Shipowners Association
- 15.50-16.15: Coffee break
- Chair: Ole Arve Misund, Director, UNIS**
- 16.15: General discussion related to the lectures.
- 17.45: End of day at Isdammen
- 18.30: Public lecture at UNIS: *Regime Formations: The Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears of 1973. Lessons learned over more than 40 years*, by Secretary General Thor S. Larsen, NVP

#### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August: Questions, discussions and student poster presentations**

Location: Isdammen 1

- Chair: Stein Sandven, NERSC**
- 09.30: *Arctic Governance: What is it and how do we achieve it?* by Professor Olav Schram Stokke, Fridtjof Nansen Institute/ University of Oslo
- 09.50: Student group work: Formulation of questions to the first day lectures.
- 11.00: Coffee break
- 11.30: Plenary session with questions and discussion with the lecturers
- 13.00-14.00: Lunch
- 14.00-18.00: Plenary session with student poster presentations: Max 5 minutes and up to 3 slides each and discussion about the posters.
- 18.30: Public lecture at UNIS: *Regime formations and practice: The Svalbard Treaty of 1920* by Willy Østreng, NVP

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August: Presentations, group work and plenum discussions**

Location: UNIS

*All presentations 30 minutes plus 10 minutes questions.*

- Chair: Willy Østreng, NVP**

- 09.15: *Regime application: The Arctic Seabed: National claims and Regulatory document*, by Harald Brekke, Norwegian Petroleum Directorate
- 10.00: *Is the Arctic Council the correct unit for 'arctic' governance? Municipal, local and regional perceptions of northern issues in northern Europe*, by Professor Carina Keskitalo, Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University, Sweden
- 10.40-10.50: Coffee break
- 10.50: *Arctic Fisheries and Fisheries Management*, by Ole Arve Misund, Director, UNIS
- 11.30: ***Examples of National Positions to Arctic Governance***  
*Russian Approaches to Arctic Governance*, by Norwegian Ambassador (retired) Øyvind Nordsletten.
- 12.10: *Norwegian Approaches to Arctic Governance*, by Norwegian Ambassador (retired) Øyvind Nordsletten.
- 12.50: *Rivalry in the High North: Is the Arctic at Risk of "Militarization"?*, by Professor Robert English, Director, School of International Relations, University of Southern California
- 13.30-14.10: Lunch
- Location: Isdammen 1
- Chair: Lasse H. Pettersson, NERSC**
- Rapporteur: Student appointed to summarize stakeholder accounts on governance needs
- 14.10: *Operational Monitoring and Forecasting of the Arctic*, by Lasse H. Pettersson, NERSC, Bergen
- 14.50: *Arctic Calanus, the most important animal in Arctic Seas: Climate variability and ecosystem effect*, by Professor Stig Falk-Petersen, the Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø
- 15.30: *Arctic energy futures*, by Dr. Arthur L. Mason, Visiting Researcher, Department of Political Science, University of Tromsø and Research Associate, Arctic Institute of North America, University of Calgary, Canada
- 16.10: *Arctic Governance and the Environment*, by Professor Olav Schram Stokke, Fridtjof Nansen Institute/ University of Oslo

16.50-18.45: Formulation of and plenum questions from students and discussion with the lecturers from today.

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>: Group work**

Location: Isdammen 1

**Chair:** Lasse H. Pettersson, NERSC

**Moderators:** The Chair, Stein Sandven, Ole A. Misund, Thor S. Larsen and Willy Østreng

09.30-17.30: The whole day will be devoted for interdisciplinary work, define key questions across the disciplines and across academic and stakeholder knowledge, create content of a report/paper, writing assignments, start writing the report/paper based on all the previous days' presentations, student posters, other information material and discussions. The outcome of group work is expected to be published as one or more peer review papers in international journals. Lecturers will be available for the groups and students may rotate between the thematic groups.

18.15: Public lecture at UNIS: *Polar Research and Science in Svalbard*, by Director UNIS, Ole Arve Misund

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August: Group work and Reporting**

Location: Isdammen 1

**Chair:** Willy Østreng, President, NVP

**Moderators:** The Chair, Stein Sandven, Thor S. Larsen, Ole A. Misund and Lasse H. Pettersson

09.30-13.00: Continue writing the report and prepare for reporting in the afternoon

13.00-14.00: Lunch

14.00-17.30: Group reporting, discussion and conclusions.  
Schedule for finalizing the report/paper from the summer school.

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August: Field Excursion**

08.30-18.00: Optional: Boat trip (Polargirl) to Pyramiden and Nordenskiold Glacier, or guided tour around Longyearbyen.

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August: Summary and Group discussions**

Location: Isdammen 1

**Chair:** Lasse H. Pettersson, NERSC

**Moderators:** The Chair, Stein Sandven, Ole A. Misund, Thor S. Larsen and Willy Østreng

10.00-14.00: Group work on finalizing the reporting.  
Conclusions of the report, including content of presentations and discussions at Friday

14.00: Free time to roam Longyearbyen/ Visit to the Svalbard Museum (TBD)

19.00: Dinner at UNIS

## **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August: Departure**

14.45: Departure from Longyearbyen to Oslo or Tromsø, SAS SK4425.

### **Program and Organizing committee**

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