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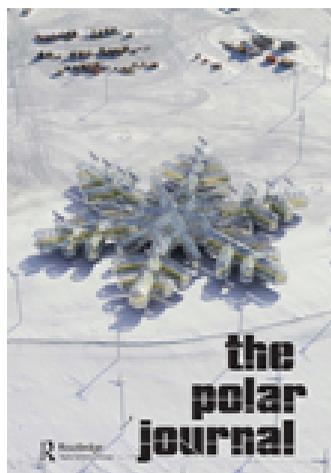
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APECS Nordic Workshop: connecting early career researchers and community driven research in the north

(7–8 April 2014, Helsinki, Finland)

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists' (APECS) Nordic Workshop was an opportunity for early-career researchers, students and Indigenous people to meet and discuss the challenges and opportunities of collaborative efforts. Increasing attention is being paid to collaborations and relationships between Indigenous people and academic researchers internationally; so, it was timely for such a workshop to be organised.

Fifty-eight participants from 12 countries, with most of them being graduate students, gathered for two days of presentations and breakout discussions covering four major themes: (1) Guidelines, ethics and policies for working with Indigenous people, with a particular focus on the Sámi; (2) Effective communication practices; (3) Successful collaboration models with Indigenous people; and (4) Broader impacts: Communicating results and outreach. Mentor presentations provided opportunities for participants to learn from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars with extensive experience in working with Indigenous communities in Canada, USA, Finland and Russia.

One of the major successes of the workshop was bringing together early-career researchers from various disciplines from around the world. Ample time for networking allowed participants the opportunity to get to know each other and to sow seeds for future international collaborations. By virtue of the ways in which the workshop was designed, we saw the principles of collaboration being realised in the networking done by early-career researchers.

Attendees met in breakout discussion groups to identify stakeholder groups and needs in the Nordic region and also to share the challenges and successes they personally experienced during outsider research collaborations with Indigenous communities. Many examples provided in the discussions were situated in a North American context, in addition to some examples related to the Nordic region. The breakout discussions emphasised that Indigenous people are not homogenous groups across the circumpolar Arctic and that attention to suitable and respectful engagement with the local community is essential for the success of the collaboration. Unfortunately, Indigenous people were under-represented at the workshop, which left participants with a skewed perspective on the topics of engaging Indigenous people in research. This speaks to one of the issues in working with Indigenous communities – their voices are often not heard. Despite the fact that all presentations included an Indigenous component, it was unfortunate not to hear the perspectives from a wider range of Indigenous people themselves, which would have been essential for early-career researchers to gain a better understanding of Indigenous perspectives and thoughts on respectful research relationships.

Having said this, we feel the workshop did benefit the early-career researchers who attended and participated in the lengthy discussions about the successes and challenges related to outsider research collaborations with Indigenous communities. The results of the breakout group discussions can be synthesised as three key factors that are essential for any respectful research relationship.

- (1) Knowledge about the communities' culture and history is essential and will help to inform about culturally appropriate communication and respectful protocols for making initial contacts.
- (2) The concept of relationality should be well understood. In a research relationship with an Indigenous community, the community will be observing and responding to how this relationship is established and maintained over the course of a research project.
- (3) It is important to give back to the community. Too often, research projects have been of the "fly-in-fly-out" variety, which is no longer acceptable. The notion of giving back to the community can take on many forms, such as presenting one's research results in a format and language that communities find useful; having a presence in the community so that members know who the researcher is and what he or she is doing; and building community capacity. When in doubt of what the community wants in return, it is important to ask.

Early-career researchers are in an excellent position to improve the perception of poor relationships between outside researchers and Indigenous communities that has been so prevalent in the past. The group of researchers who met in Helsinki for the APECS Nordic Workshop has clearly shown an interest and capacity in paving the way towards successful and respectful relationships between researchers and Indigenous communities.

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Arctic Frontiers Conference 2014: *Humans in the Arctic*

(19–24 January, Tromsø, Norway)

Under the theme "Humans in the Arctic", the 8th Arctic Frontiers Conference, hosted by the Arctic University of Tromsø, addressed the two sub-themes "Health, Environment and Society" and "Offshore Maritime Challenges". The meeting proceeded in tried-and-tested fashion: a policy section (19–21 January) followed by a science section (22–24 January). During the latter, four parallel science sessions focused on "Live, work and stay healthy in the Arctic", "Health & Environment in the Arctic", "Shipping & Offshore in the Arctic" and "Arctic Offshore Search and Rescue (SAR)."

A colourful 28-page supplement of the local newspaper *Nordlys* preceded the event. As announced, the policy section was particularly high-profile with governmental representatives of the Arctic states providing a comprehensive if somewhat lifeless overview of national Arctic agendas. The most poignant questions were regrettably greeted with polite laughter as if not to upset the speakers, and Pandora's Polar Box remains safely unopened for yet another year. It seems that only Jane Rumble of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK, an outsider looking