

24-25 May 2018

The ECoHuCy Conference Report

Enablement besides Constraints: Human
Security and a Cyber Multi-disciplinary
Framework in the European High North



The ECoHuCy Conference

Report

The ECoHuCy conference was organized by the Northern Institute of Environmental and Minority Law, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland in Rovaniemi at the Arktikum House on 24-25 May 2018. On the first day of the conference, all together 16 presentations regarding the Human security and development of information technology and digitalization in the European High North were given. The presentations were given by the participants from University of Lapland (FI), UiT – The Arctic University of Norway (NO), Swansea University (UK), The Institute for Security and Development Policy (SWE), Aalborg University (DK), University of Lisbon (PT), Murmansk Arctic State University (RU), Paris Nanterre University (FR), Royal Holloway University of London (UK), Lapland University of Applied Sciences (FI), Northumbria University (UK) and Royal Dutch Telecom.

On the second day, the conference continued with a workshop in which participants had discussions based on the presentations given during the previous day. The conference was followed by the steering committee meeting.



Project development

The ECoHuCy project has had two official meetings before this conference took place. The kick-off meeting for the project took place in the Spring 2017 in Stockholm. The second meeting was organized by Swansea University in London in the Autumn 2017. In these meetings, issues regarding the operationalization of the project and also some contextual issues were discussed. In addition, some of the project participants have presented their work in different conferences, for example, at the Polar Law Symposium in November 2017. Furthermore the session proposal (2.1. *Enablement besides constraints: A multidisciplinary approach to cybersecurity and its connections to human security in the Arctic*) made by Kamrul Hossain, the principal investigator of the project, has been accepted for the UArctic Congress 2018 under the connectivity cluster.

In this ECoHuCy conference the project participants and partners came together to discuss on their academic research done so far on the topics regarding the human security and the development of information technology and digitalization in the European High North. The participants approached their topics from the perspectives of different disciplines, which provoked fertile conversations and provided truly inter-disciplinary contributions to each participant's work. The four sessions of the conference were divided based on the topics of four different working packages of the ECoHuCy project; 1. Information Sharing and Communication; 2. The Role of Digitalisation for Sustainable Development and Human Security; 3. Digital Actors and Social Exclusion; and 4. Electronic Governance and Digital Citizen.

The second day of the conference started with the workshop in which discussions based on the presentations continued. The conversations touched upon such themes as definitions of different concepts used in the project, the impacts of digitalization on the civil society, the meaning and role of human rights and international law regarding rapid development of digitalization, and the development and



challenges in using artificial intelligence. Finally, after the academic discussions the participants had chance to visit the Arktikum Science Museum's exhibition.

All the participants have already been invited to the final conference of the project, which is expected to take place in Rovaniemi.

Presentations in the ECoHuCy Conference

The Principal investigator Kamrul Hossain (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland) opened the conference with introductory words and welcomed all the participants to the conference and to the project. He gave a general overview on the main components of the ECoHuCy project and introduced the project partners.

After the welcoming words, the first session chaired by Mirva Salminen (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland) started with the presentation of Valentina Maires (Royal Dutch Telecom) and Maud Sarlièves (Paris Nanterre University) given via Adobe Connect. The presentation titled *A cost/benefit analysis of the communication situation in the Arctic: a first step towards improved circumpolar policies* addressed the questions of the needs of the local communities when it comes to the telecommunication and development of infrastructure connected to it. The second presentation:

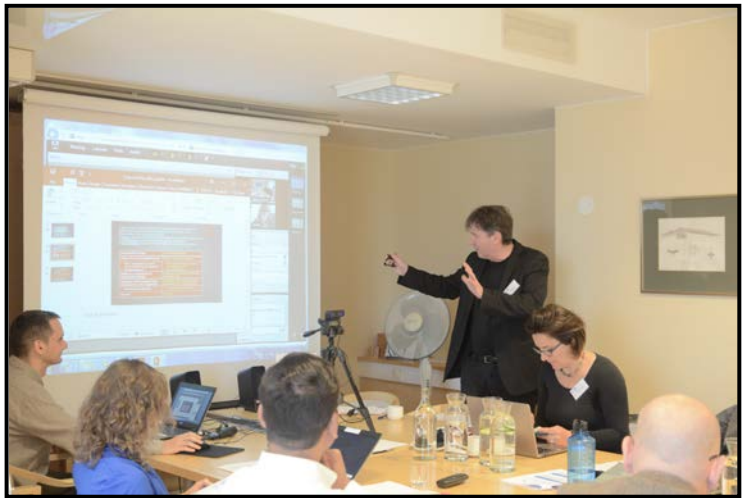


Analysis of Social Networking in Studying Structures of Identity of Local Communities was given by Maksim Shishaev (Murmansk Arctic State University). Shishaev concentrated on studying the social processes in the offline world by observing users of online social networking services.

Gerald Zojer (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland) introduced his current research on *Open Source Software Solutions as a Contribution to Human Security in a Digitalised Arctic*. In his work, Zojer

focuses on raising education and awareness in regards to the algorithms behind different software, and open access to these algorithms, as a mean to improve human security in a digitalized Arctic. The last speaker of the session was Marcin Dymet (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland), who gave a presentation with the title *Letters from the future: Science fiction as source material for thought experiments describing potential Arctic futures*. Dymet introduced his work, in which he studies the narratives regarding the future of the Arctic appearing in science fiction novels.

The second session of the day was chaired by Christer Pursiainen (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway). The first presentation was again given via Adobe Connect by Sandra Cassotta (The Institute for Security and Development Policy). Cassotta’s presentation *Climate Change and Cyber Threats in a Multi-regulatory Contextual Sustainable*



Global Approach with Sweden as a Case Study introduced her research in which she aims to understand and also to improve the effectiveness of the cybersecurity regime by viewing parallels between the environmental regime, cyber security regime and cyber space. Allan Collins gave his presentation *Human and Cyber Security; Enablement besides Constraints* straight from the core of the matter of the project. Collins viewed enablement and constraint from the perspective of



human security in the different faces of power. The third presentation *Digitalisation and Climate Change in the Arctic: Human Security Perspective* was given by Ilona Mettiäinen and Mirva Salminen (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland). Their presentation approached the topic by discussing on the impacts of the climate change

to the development of digitalization and, on the other hand, how the issues related to climate change and protection of the environment may affect digitalisation. The last speaker of the session was Stefan Kirchner (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland). Kirchner gave a presentation *The European High North as a Trailblazer for Communicative Human Rights: Access, Security, Development and Welfare* in which he focused on how digitalization has been taken into account in the international human right treaties, and discussed on the possible need for the norm development and decision making process in this regard in the future. He also was trying to answer the question of whether or not we have human right to access to the Internet connection nowadays, which especially in the North is essential.

The third session, chaired by Allan Collins (Swansea University), started with Alex Hardy's presentation *Everyday*

cyber security: Lessons from e-Estonia. Hardy discussed e.g. on the impacts of the security narratives on the attitudes towards cyber security and on citizens' role in ensuring cyber security. The second presentation with a title *Human Cyber-Security and*



Social Exclusion: Elderly Population in the European High North by Michael Sheehan and Kristin Gulbrandsen (Swansea University) applied Jan van Dijk's model of access to the case of elderly people living in European High North.

Mirva Salminen (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland) gave her second presentation of the day with the title *Everyday Digital Security in the European High North: the Case of Fjeld Lapland*. Salminen introduced her case study from Enontekiö, Finland, in which she views the access to digitalization and development of information technologies on the lives of locals. Laura Olsén (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland) and Liisa Hokkanen (University of Lapland) discussed in their presentation *Digitalization as a part of everyday life of Sámi persons with disabilities* on their research regarding the impacts of digitalization on the human security among the Sámi with disabilities.

The last session of the day was chaired by Michael Sheehan (University of Swansea), and it started with Tiago De Melo Cartaxo's (University of Lisbon) presentation *Digitalization and smartening*



sustainable city development: An investigation from the High North European cities. In his presentation De Melo Cartaxo discussed the concept of smart city and about the smartness of the cities located in the High North. The next presentation, given by Ville Kivivirta and Leena Viinamäki (University of Lapland), titled *Governing*

cybersecurity of the digital citizens in the remote areas of the European High North: Production of human security from the perspective of citizens and officials, dealt with the term of digital citizenship and the acceptability of services in rural areas in Finnish Lapland, Ostrobothnia and North Karelia. They presented the empirical studies they have already conducted and the ones that are planned.

The next speaker, Perla Innocenti (University of Northumbria) explored the topic of *Nordic multiculturalism, blockchain and human security in Finland: challenges and opportunities for asylum seekers and local communities.* Innocenti discussed the case of a Finnish pilot programme,

which aims to give asylum seekers pre-paid MIGRI MONI credit cards with a unique digital identity, stored on an Ethereum block chain – based system. The last presentation of the day, given by Johana Evelyn M. Castilla and Christer Pursiainen (The Arctic University of Norway), was titled *Cyberspace Effects on the Civil Society: the Case of (Northern)*



Norway. They raised the question about what kind of civil society the cyberspace enables or enhances and what kind of civil society it limits or constraints instead.

Discussions during the workshop

In the workshop, on the second day of the conference, discussions continued and were led by Gerald Zojer (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland). The participants of the conference had an opportunity to follow up some of the issues discussed the previous day, since all of them agreed on the fact that some of the issues raised are overlapping. Presenters discussed profoundly on different aspects and perspectives e.g. to certain conceptual matters. Topics raised varied from



the meaning and definition of culture in the context of human security in the ECoHuCy-project, to social responsibility of international companies in data protection systems. Also such themes as people's changing the notion of privacy due the development of digital

services, new European Union's Data Protection Regulations, development of artificial intelligence, the role of digitalization in organizing civil society and the meaning of resilience when it comes to the development of ICT, were brought up. Participants especially paid attention towards the threats that digitalization is bringing in the context of recent events related to Facebook's data protection policy.

The ECoHuCy Conference ended up with closing words by Professor Kamrul Hossain. He gave a brief overview of the next steps of the project and announced a book publication, which will be released by Springer publisher. To sum up, the seminar provided space for brainstorming, discussions and ensured feedback for individual participants. In a wider context, the project partners as well as the participants of the event are striving to raise awareness about the diverse issues related to digitalization and human security.

More information:

<https://www.arcticcentre.org/EN/projects/ECoHuCy>