Dear Readers and Arctic Law Thematic Network Partners,

This is the first newsletter of the University of the Arctic’s Thematic Network on Arctic Law. The newsletter is to serve Network members and partners as a medium for communication as well as to inform a wider audience of the Network’s activities. Our aim is to make the Thematic Network on Arctic Law a truly vibrant research community and to overcome the distances between legal, policy and governance researchers spread around the Circumpolar North and beyond.

The second issue of the Thematic Network Newsletter will be compiled in the Fall 2013. We already invite our Partners and Affiliates to send us (to agremspe@ulapland.fi) their contributions, information on recent publications, upcoming events, as well as suggestions on how we can make this Newsletter a better and more effective form of communication between the Network’s partners and towards a wider public. The Newsletter was compiled by the staff of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland), which acts as coordinatory institution for the Thematic Network of Arctic Law. Eventually, we would like to thank all those who contributed to the current issue of the Newsletter.

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Image credit: Arctic Centre
Introducing The Arctic Law Thematic Network

University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law

The Thematic Network on Arctic Law under the auspices of the University of the Arctic (UArctic) has been established in order to facilitate contact between Arctic legal experts throughout the academic world, exchange experiences, contribute to the development of legal education focusing on Arctic issues, and enhance research cooperation via multi-disciplinary research projects, seminars or joint funding applications.

What we do?

Our activities are dedicated to such themes as indigenous peoples' rights, minerals and hydrocarbon legislation, law of the sea (including continental shelf submissions, maritime traffic, search and rescue), environmental law and climate change as well as broadly conceptualized Arctic governance and Arctic cooperation.

Who we are?

The network brings together over sixty legal and policy experts focused on the circumpolar North from major academic centres and institutes. Partners come from both UArctic and non-UArctic institutions and, owing to affiliates from governmental and industry sectors, the network is able to involve and inform policy-makers. The Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law at the Arctic Centre (University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland) is responsible for the management of the network.

Why do we need to network?

The need to facilitate effective contacts between Arctic legal scholars is especially visible now, as the region is undergoing a major transformation. The double pressure from economic globalization and climate change cause diverse challenges to the existing legal frameworks in the region. Opening of the Arctic seas, new actors interested in the region, new technologies, development of indigenous rights, etc., test the resilience of international, regional, national and local legal systems and create possibilities for new developments.

How to do it?

The Thematic Network is divided into independent sub-groups dealing with specific areas of concern:

- Indigenous Peoples' Law (Leader: Professor Øyvind Ravna, University of Tromsø)
- Oil and Gas Legislation (Leader: Associate Professor Betsy Baker, Vermont School of Law)
- Arctic Governance (Leader: Natalia Loukacheva, University of Toronto)

Other sub-groups may be established in the future. Meetings of the network take place during various Arctic conferences and academic events and, in particular, at annual Polar Law Symposiums.

Website: www.arcticcentre.org/arcticlaw

Our annual goals for 2013:

1) Enhancing international communication of the network members by different means; for instance, creating a newsletter where different members of the network would be able to report about their activities, invite for cooperation etc. Creation of such communication platform should allow network members to be more aware of each other's various activities, initiatives and projects, as well as should strengthen the visibility of the TN.

2) Organizing a seminar on Arctic Law; with a goal to create a research project and mobility grant system for Master and PhD students as well as for researchers.

3) Strengthening the cooperation between the different sub-groups and other Thematic Networks.

4) Organizing international conferences and seminars together with the sub-groups.

5) Actively seeking funding for the events and coordination of the Network as well as for the student and research mobility between different institutions.

6) Applying an extensive EU Doctoral School funding for establishing an Arctic Law and Politics Graduate School.
Rule Of Law – A Guide For Politicians

Hans Corell

I have been invited to introduce you to a publication that was released in August 2012: Rule of Law – A guide for politicians.¹ The background to the publication of this Guide is the following.

There is an organisation called the InterAction Council of Former Heads of State and Government.² It was established in 1983 as an independent international organization to mobilize the experience, energy and international contacts of a group of statesmen who have held the highest office in their own countries. Council members jointly develop recommendations on, and practical solutions for the political, economic and social problems confronting humanity. A few months ago, Thomas S. Axworthy of Canada was appointed Secretary-General of the Council. He is well known to many of us who meet in Arctic circles.

In 2008, the Council had decided to address the topic “Restoring International Law”. Chairman of the Council that year was Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, Former Prime Minister of Sweden. He had asked me to advise him and the Council.

The Council started its deliberations in the city of Hamburg in mid-June 2008 in a High-level Expert Group Meeting on Restoring International Law: Legal, Political and Human Dimensions. Present at this meeting where, in addition to the Chairman, the following four members of the Council: Mr. Helmut Schmidt, Former Chancellor of Germany, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, Former Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Jean Chrétien, Former Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria.

During the meeting, the point was made that there was a need to raise the awareness of politicians of the basics of international law and the meaning of the rule of law. In accordance with the Council’s working methods, the Chairman delivered a report from the meeting to the plenary session of the Council.³

Representatives of Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mexico, Norway and Tanzania were present.⁴

¹ Available at http://rwi.lu.se/what-we-do/academic-activities/pub/rule-of-law-a-guide-for-politicians/
² See http://www.interactioncouncil.org/
⁴ The following members of the Council were present at the plenary session:

H. E. Mr. Helmut Schmidt, Honorary Chairman (Former Chancellor of Germany)
H. E. Mr. Malcolm Fraser, Honorary Chairman (Former Prime Minister of Australia)
H. E. Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, Co-chairman (Former Prime Minister of Sweden)
H. E. Mr. Jean Chrétien, Co-chairman (Former Prime Minister of Canada)
H. E. Mr. Esko Aho (Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland)
H. E. Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland (Former Prime Minister of Norway)
H. E. Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadóttir (Former President of the Republic of Iceland)
H. E. Mr. Bacharuddin Jusuf Habbie (Former President of the Republic of Indonesia)
H. E. Mr. Lee Hong-Koo (Former Prime Minister of Korea)
H. E. Mr. AbdelSalam Majali (Former Prime Minister of Jordan)
H. E. Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa (Former President of Tanzania)
H. E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori (Former Prime Minister of Japan)
H. E. Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo (Former President of the Nigeria)
H. E. Mr. Andrés Pastrana (Former President of Colombia)
H. E. Mr. Percival N.J. Patterson (Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Jamaica)
H. E. Mr. José Sarney (Former President of Brazil)
The discussion on the rule of law continued, and when the members of the Council adopted their Final Communiqué on 27 June 2008 it contained, among others, the following three recommendations:

- Acknowledging that the challenges mankind faces must be addressed through multilateral solutions within a rule-based international system;
- Encouraging non-governmental organisations to continue their activities in enhancing respect for human rights and the rule of law;
- Calling for all states to devote resources to education on global ethics, the foundations of international law and the meaning of the rule of law at the national and international level.

Within the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University in Sweden, where I am the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, we started to discuss the Communiqué. The more we thought about it, the more we believed that there ought to be a follow-up. The then Director of the Institute, Mr. Leif Holmström, and I contacted a friend in the Netherlands, Mr. Sam Muller, Director of the Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law (HiiL). We got together and decided to cooperate in preparing a guide on the rule of law that could be used by politicians all around the world.

Dr Ronald Janse of the Hague Institute was asked to take the lead in preparing a first draft, addressing the fundamental elements of the topic. So he did, and we are most grateful to him for this pioneering effort.

The draft was discussed and further developed within the two Institutes. It was then circulated to the members of the InterAction Council for comments. It was also shared with the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The IPU contributed highly pertinent and valuable suggestions and comments of which we took due note.

At all times, the lodestar was that the Guide should be as short as possible so that it could be read by busy politicians in different positions at the national level. At the same time, the Guide should also be useful to other decision-makers and policy-makers and to journalists and others who need to orient themselves in the topic.

The contents of the Guide should be self-explanatory. As it appears, the Guide can be freely downloaded from the websites of the two Institutes.

Presently, the Guide is available in English only. However, translations are forthcoming in different languages. We are happy to note that, for the worthy cause, translators are providing this assistance pro bono.

It is important to emphasise that the rule of law is certainly not a matter for lawyers only. Quite the contrary! It is an ideal that must be anchored at the grassroots level in all societies. Politicians, and in particular members of parliament, have an obligation to explain this ideal and to defend it.

Among other things, the Guide addresses one very serious question. It is related to the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Declaration on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels of 24 September 2012.

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8 A/RES/67/1.
The sad fact is that in some cases members of the Security Council, including permanent members, have violated the UN Charter. One example is the war against Iraq in 2003. In that situation, permanent members of the Security Council went to war in violation of both international law and domestic law. The leaders of those countries at that time believed that their national interest required the use of force contrary to the law. They were prepared to disregard the rule of law. Another example is the way in which certain counter-terrorist measures have violated international human rights standards.

This is an area where the responsibilities of politicians come into play. In particular members of parliament have a responsibility to see to it that the governments of their countries do not violate obligations under international law in the future.

Democracy and the rule of law are necessary pre-requisites for the maintenance of international peace and security. They are crucial for creating a positive development at the national level, since they enhance predictability and contribute to establishing the necessary pre-requisites for reasonable living conditions for all members of a society. It is therefore necessary that all politicians have a good understanding of what is meant by a society under the rule of law.

Needless to say, one can always have views about the contents of a short Guide of this nature. What should be included, and what should not? Let us hope that the present Guide will be of service to politicians in all countries and that it will contribute to a common understanding within countries and across borders of the meaning of the rule of law and of its contribution to international peace and security, good neighbourliness and a prosperous future for the present and coming generations.

Hans Corell (Sweden) was the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations from March 1994 to March 2004. From 1962 to 1972, he served in the Swedish judiciary. In 1972, he joined the Ministry of Justice where he became Director of the Division for Administrative and Constitutional Law in 1979. In 1981, he was appointed Chief Legal Officer of the Ministry. He was Ambassador and Under-Secretary for Legal and Consular Affairs in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 1984 to 1994. Since his retirement from public service in 2004 he is engaged in many different activities in the legal field, inter alia as legal adviser, lecturer, and member of different boards. He is involved in the work of the International Bar Association, the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University and the Hague Institute for the Internalisation of Law. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University, Sweden, from 2006-2012. See www.havc.se

Soon An APECS Working Group On Arctic Law & Governance?

APECS - the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists - has several thematic Working Groups connecting post-graduate students and young researchers across the circumpolar world and beyond. Right now, there is no such group focused on Arctic Law and Governance.

We hope to be able to fill this gap and create soon such an APECS working group to address more specifically issues discussed within the Arctic Law Thematic Network and provide new networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for students/young researchers. If you are interested to join or - even better – to participate in setting up such a group, please get in touch!

Looking forward to hearing from you!
Sébastien Duyck (sebastien.duyck@ulapland.fi)

APECS website: http://apecs.is/
Teaching And Arctic Legal Education
Polar Law Textbook II - 2013

Natalia Loukacheva

The idea for Polar Law Textbook II emerged from a further recognition of the need to disseminate information about Polar law as a developing field of legal studies in intersection with various areas of law and other social sciences. The first textbook came out under the auspices of the Polar Law Program at the University of Akureyri, Iceland in 2010 (see: Polar Law Textbook, N. Loukacheva ed., Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers, TemaNord 538, ISBN 978-92-893-2056-6; 245pp) as a pioneering educational material of its kind and received broad international exposure. Presently, developments in the Polar Regions – both the Arctic and Antarctica - continue to form the crux of growing interest and significance.

This new textbook shall reflect on important changes that have taken place since 2010 in the area of Polar law and shall focus on actual questions of: major trends in polar law, geo-politics, security, climate change, marine biodiversity, polar bears agreement, continental shelf, renewable energy, indigenous peoples of Scandinavia, search and rescue agreement of the Arctic Council, oil spills in the Arctic, devolution in the North, good governance, self-determination of small nations and governance (i.e., Faroe Islands), tourism, etc.

Polar Law Textbook II is a result of international collaboration of the world-recognized experts in Polar law with many years of academic and practical experience in this field (i.e., G. Alfredsson, N. Bankes, B. Baker, K.Bastmeijer M. Fitzmaurice, L. Heininen, T. Koivurova, N. Loukacheva, M. Lykke Thomsen, T. McDorman, O. Ravna, K. á Rógvi, M. Pettersson, T. Penikett, and A. Vasiliev). This publication is financially supported and endorsed by the Arctic Cooperation Program of the Nordic Council of Ministers. It is written under the auspices of the Polar Law Program (www.polarlaw.is) in collaboration with Arctic Governance sub-group of the Arctic Law Thematic Network of the University of the Arctic. The contributors hope that Polar Law Textbook II will be of interest to anybody who wants to receive more information about Polar law and gain more knowledge in this field.

Polar Law Textbook II will be published in 2013. It will be available in hard copy or electronically on the website of the Nordic Council of Ministers (www.norden.org). More information about this initiative can be obtained from the textbook editor and the project leader Dr. Natalia Loukacheva at n.loukacheva@utoronto.ca

The first volume of the Polar Law Textbook can be purchased in printed form or downloaded in pdf format free of charge at http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publikationer/2010-538
A Master In Northern And Indigenous Innovation Is On The Way

Øyvind Ravna and Else Grete Broderstad

The International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD) at the University of Saskatchewan, The Barents Institute and the University of Tromsø are currently developing a joint master’s degree with the tentative title ‘Northern and Indigenous Innovation’. The joint degree will apply for Master’s endorsement from the University of the Arctic (UA). The participating units at the University of Tromsø (UiT) are the Centre for Sami Studies, the Barents Institute, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education.

The main disciplines will be social sciences and law. As the different parts branch over a wide range of fields, a comprehensive method component will be important. A suggested common approach to the themes and their relationship is a focus on processes, frameworks, changes and structures.

In addition to involve several academic institutions, the master degree should work in partnership with northern and indigenous communities, local, regional and national authorities and industry on economic development in northern regions.

The program will deal with approaches to governance and it falls in line with the prevailing interest on the Arctic and northern vulnerable environment, the indigenous peoples and other permanent residents, and prospects of utilizing natural resources, where a central issue will be to alleviate tensions among major constituencies possessing legitimate interests in the North. Addressing this and similar questions, this study program aims to contribute to the discussion of how to improve insight concerning governance challenges resulting from large-scale changes to regional and local claims of effective participation in politics, management and industrial developments, including the integration of local knowledge in decision-making.

Master of International and Comparative Law (MICLaw)

- University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland
- M.A. 90 ECTS
- Starting: September 2013
- Application deadline: 31.01.2013
- Language: English

With specializations in:
- Arctic Law and Governance
- Transcultural Business Law

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Specialization

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Specialization in Arctic Law and Governance: Gives a comprehensive knowledge of the key areas related to the Arctic governance, such as climate change, ocean governance and the rights of indigenous peoples; Provides an understanding of international environmental law in general and its application in the Arctic region in particular, as well as a knowledge of the various levels of law- and policy-making in the Arctic; Develops skills for working with international instruments, case law, and literature with a view to writing research and engaging in legal praxis.

Information: www.ulapland.fi/MICL
No Polar Bears In The Qatari Desert - The Arctic At The Recent Climate Negotiations

Sébastien Duyck

The position of the Arctic in the climate change negotiations is somewhat paradoxical. On the one hand, the Arctic is in everyone’s mind as one of the key indicators of climate change. Did the whole community of climate researchers not have its eyes fixed on the day-by-day updates by the NASA reporting at the end of the past summer the unprecedented recede of Arctic sea ice?

On the other hand, the climate change regime does not specifically address or refer to regional aspects of climate change in the Arctic, neither as a focus for specific mitigation policies nor as a particularly vulnerable region that would require specific adaptation measures. At the Doha climate conference (COP18), the region was perhaps more than ever the elephant in the room. Are Arctic actors not interested in sharing their own experiences and securing a specific focus at the global level for the challenges that they face? Three types of Arctic stakeholders do play a role in relation to this question.

First and foremost, Arctic States are the most empowered stakeholders in this intergovernmental process. References to the Arctic actually echoed vocally in the main hall of the Doha conference centre during the statements delivered by the ministers at the end of the conference. While Martin Lidegaard (DK) emphasized his personal experience witnessing receding glaciers in Greenland, Peter Kent (CA) identified Canada as an “Arctic Nation” and emphasized the role of the Arctic Council in relation to both adaptation and mitigation policies. But these statements played only a very limited role in shaping the climate negotiations. No Arctic State put forward in Doha a proposal that would have enable the Climate Convention to contribute to address the specific nature of Arctic changes.
French & Scott highlighted in 2009 that the lack of specific focus in the climate change regime for Polar specific constituted a form of delegation of responsibility to the relevant regional cooperation forums. The Arctic Council was indeed present in Doha. But instead of organizing a formal side event as had been done at previous conferences, the Swedish chairmanship only hold a round table in the EU pavilion. In the past, the Council had certainly played an influential role as it highlighted the scale of the climate crisis with the release of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. This year’s contribution received however little notice, despite the emphasis in the official statement delivered by Lena Ek (SE) on behalf of the Arctic Council of the “spearheading” role of the Arctic states in addressing short term climate forcers. If the Arctic Council had played a precursor role to tackle this particular issue with the work of its task force on short-lived climate forcers, this impetus has now switched to the global Climate & Clean Air Coalition established in February 2012. The current legacy of Canada in the multilateral efforts to combat climate change does not provide many reasons to expect that the Council, once the chairmanship has been transferred to Ottawa, will play a more proactive role in climate diplomacy.

Finally, non-state actors used to fill the gap left by governments and share their concerns and frustrations at the annual climate meetings. This year the Arctic was however the theme of only one of the side event organized, with the European Space Agency showcasing its monitoring the cryosphere. Local communities certainly continue to seek remedies and forums to have their case heard (such as in the case of the Alaskan village of Kivalina claiming compensation from fossil fuel corporations). These groups seem however particularly blasé and disillusioned about the benefits climate change negotiations.

While climate change plays a defining role in shaping the future of the Arctic region, the absence of specific considerations in the global climate change regime might be one of the best symptom of the current shortcomings and failures of this process, with the voices of national governmental prevailing fully over more decentralized or regional interests. The opening of a new cycle of negotiations in December 2011 aiming at a 2020 global deal was perceived as an opportunity to give a new momentum to the climate change process. Twelve months later, judging by the position of the Arctic in these talks, it seems doubtful whether any lessons has been learned from years of deadlock.

In a recent contribution to the Polar Law Yearbook, I highlight the position of the Arctic in the climate change process and discuss the different status of the Arctic states under the international climate regime (Sébastien Duyck, “Which Canary in the Coalmine? The Arctic in the International Climate Change Regime”, in The Yearbook of Polar Law, Vol. 4, Timo Koivurova, Gudmundur Alfredsson and Walliul Hasanat (eds.), Leiden: Brill Editions, 583 – 617.)
Introducing Network Personalities: Interview With Stefan Kirchner

Human Rights And The Marine Environment

Questions: Adam Stepien

If you were to choose three major legal challenges for the Arctic in the next two-three decades, what would those be?

The major challenge for the Arctic are the effects of global warming. A warmer Arctic has a number of very diverse consequences which go beyond rising sea levels. The three most important of which are the possibility of increased shipping and a race for natural resources, both with potentially serious consequences for the environment, and the loss of the permafrost. In particular the latter deserves more attention: think of the effects the loss of the permafrost might have regarding the release of methane, which is known to accelerate the greenhouse effect even more. A thawing of the permafrost might make subsoil resources more accessible, but often areas will become less accessible due to a lack of solid ground on which to travel. This might become a serious concern for the local populations in the North, yet the issue receives very little attention so far. In terms of the marine industry, climate change means easier access to natural resources and the possibility to use the Arctic for shipping. Oil drilling in the Arctic has been controversial for decades. The debate which has raged in the United States with regard to oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR) for decades might be repeated elsewhere soon. At least I hope that there will actually be debates rather than simply an oil rush. In fact, the North has a great potential in the energy sector – but in renewable energy rather than in oil. There are already many examples for this, such as wind energy in Northern Europe, wave generators off the coast of Scotland and so on. The North has potential – but with and not against the protection of the environment.

You also worked on Antarctic and law of the sea issues and teach international human rights law. What is the role of human rights in sectors such as research or maritime transport, where the debate on human rights is currently much less visible?

Human rights do matter in maritime transport – in fact they matter so much that it is often not the “if” but the “how” of implementation which is debated. Think for example of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) which make it easier for seafarers to have their qualifications recognized abroad. In an industry which is as international as shipping, this is already a big step forward. Also, increased training standards mean that more is done for the safety of seafarers. Of course much more could and should be done, but the minimum standards which already are in place thanks to the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention are a good point of departure. Now it is up to the States to implement these rules domestically. European countries which have a strong maritime tradition should be at the forefront of these developments and should go beyond STCW in order to increase the training standards not only at home but also to act as role models for other nations. A lot can still be done in this regard, but at least there is now a minimum standard. The same holds true for the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), which will enter into force in August 2013. These are big steps forward concerning the protection of the rights of seafarers – but they are not yet the end of the journey because not everybody benefits from these developments: one issue which is still highly problematic are the low pay and the working conditions of employees in the maritime sector who work on ships which fly flags of convenience. Of course shipping is a business which aims at profit maximization, but the rights of seafarers have to be protected. Also the right to live in a healthy environment needs to be mentioned in this context. Human rights and the protection of the natural environment
are two issues which are not separate from each other. There are already many efforts to reduce pollution from ships but what is still missing is a more general understanding that these measures not only benefit society as a whole but that the protection of the environment also is a human rights concern. Here a more coherent approach is necessary – but also possible.

Part of your career developed around the Baltic rim: you are working for Germany’s Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, you also studied in Helsinki, you currently teach at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania, and you published, inter alia, in the Baltic Journal of Law and Politics. Is there anything the Arctic could learn from the Baltic cooperation?

There are many ways in which the Arctic might benefit from a closer look at the Baltic system. Yet, the situation in the Arctic is more complicated, think for example of the territorial questions, such as the disputed status of parts of the deep sea bed, the Canadian and Danish claims to Hans Ø/Hans Island but also the question as to the legal nature of Canada’s Arctic islands – are they an archipelago in the sense in which the term is used in the Law of the Sea Convention? Right now the run to the Arctic waters is still better characterized in terms of competition rather than cooperation. In a sense, the old explorers’ competitions still seem to continue: think of the race to the pole a century ago, the flight of the Norge, the journey of the submarine USS Nautilus and many similar endeavours and of course the (legally hardly relevant) planting of a flag on the sea bed under the North Pole by a Russian team in 2007. Yet the special challenges of the region, weather, remoteness etc., may actually force a higher degree of cooperation between competing states. Whether this will actually happen remains to be seen. After all, States also have tried to go it alone in Antarctica, therefore they might be tempted to do the same in the North.

At the same time, can the cooperation in the Baltic region, which concerns some of the countries which have a stake in the Arctic, notably Sweden, Finland, Russia and Denmark, provide an example to the effect that cooperation in such matters can be beneficial to everyone concerned? Of course the Arctic region is more conductive to cooperation already due to geographic characteristics of what long was simply a large inland lake. But effective cooperation in the Baltic might be the best advertisement for more cooperation in the Arctic. The Arctic is more accessible than Antarctica and is about to become even more so. Therefore it will not be enough to copy the Antarctic Treaty model one-to-one. Yet Arctic could benefit greatly from more cooperation in the spirit of the Antarctica Treaty and of the cooperation in the Baltic region.

**Stefan Kirchner** is a lawyer with Germany’s Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency in Hamburg and co-chair of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Interest Group of the American Society of International Law. He teaches International Law of the Sea and Human Rights at Vyttautas-Magnus-University in Kaunas, Lithuania. Since October 2012, Stefan Kirchner is a member of the Arctic Law Thematic Network. This interview only reflects his private opinion.

**Adam Stepień** is a researcher at the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi and a doctoral student at the University of Lapland.
Dr. Natalia Loukacheva

Dr. Natalia Loukacheva is a chair of Arctic Governance Sub-Group of the Arctic Law Thematic Network

Dr. Natalia Loukacheva is a Research Associate at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School graduate program on energy and infrastructure, York University (Canada), a fellow with the Canadian Institute of Defence and Foreign Affairs, a Visiting Professor of Polar Law in Iceland and Associate Scientist with Stefansson Arctic Institute. She was Director of the Graduate Polar Law Program and taught law at the University of Akureyri, Iceland (2008-2010). She holds a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada) (2004) and a Doctor of Philosophy (law) from the Urals State Law Academy (Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation) (1999).


She became interested in Northern issues while conducting her research at the Urals States Law Academy on comparative Arctic governance, Indigenous peoples’ rights and the concept of territorial autonomy in Greenland, Faroe Islands, Aland Islands, and ex-territorial autonomy of Saami in Norway, Sweden and Finland and minority rights in Italy, Spain and the status of Corsica (France). Since then she developed a true passion for the North and devoted all her academic and field-work interests to the study of various multi-disciplinary and legal issues in the Polar Regions. Over the years she has also been teaching several courses on various Polar law and Arctic governance topics. She also volunteered to interpret from English into Russian and vice versa at Arctic conferences and for research purposes in the area of her expertise.

Natalia is very enthusiastic about the Arctic Law Thematic Network initiative and Arctic Governance sub-group. This activity shall help to advocate and disseminate further information about Polar law and Arctic governance issues in the multi-disciplinary perspective and shall serve as a platform for further cooperation with the Arctic and Polar Law community. For example, at the moment, the Polar law program at the University of Akureyri, Iceland under the auspices of the Arctic Cooperation program of the Nordic Council of Ministers is working on Polar Law Textbook II. We do it in collaboration with this sub-group (see info in this newsletter). Further initiatives of the Arctic Governance sub-group will be determined in close collaboration with other sub-groups of this network, University of the Arctic and other related initiatives. For example, in the future, the sub-group on Indigenous Peoples’ rights and Arctic Governance sub-group hope to develop special volume of the Arctic Review on Law and Politics on topical issues of governance and Indigenous Peoples’ rights in the Arctic.

Contact: n.loukacheva@utoronto.ca
Introducing Network Personalities: Interview With Prof. Øyvind Ravna

Øyvind Ravna is a professor at the University of Tromsø and leader of the Indigenous Peoples’ Law subgroup of the Arctic Law Thematic Network

Who are you, and how did you become interested in arctic legal issues?

I am a Professor in law at University of Tromsø, where I am teaching indigenous (Sámi) law, human rights and property law. My field of research is indigenous law, especially protection and recognition of culture, land rights and livelihood, including the adoption and impact of the 2005 Finnmark (Land) Act. My Dr. Juris (PhD) thesis dealt with legal clarification, dispute resolution and land consolidation in Sámi reindeer husbandry areas, and it was published by Gyldendal Academic in 2008. I have been the editor-in-chief of Arctic Review on Law and Politics http://site.uit.no/arcticreview since the journal launch in 2009 and a I was heading the research group on Sámi and indigenous law at the University of Tromsø between 2008–2011. In 2011–2012 I was a visiting Professor at The University of Montana, USA, studying First Nations legislation and protection of lands and culture.

Of other juridical experience, I would like to mention position as a Land Consolidation Judge and President of the Finnmark Land Consolidation Court in Finnmark, which is the core the Sámi areas of Norway. I have also been engaged in research and investigations for the Sámi Right Committee, The Reindeer Pasture Committee of Finnmark and the Finnmark Commission. I have also published several non-juridical documentary books (about livelihood of Indigenous People) and participated in film making on the same topics.

Partly I became interested in Arctic issues already when I worked as a Land Consolidation Judge in Finnmark; the Northernmost County in Scandinavia. This interest was also trigged by the opening of the border to Russia in the end of the 1980s, when I used the possibilities to travel in the Russian High North where I learned a lot on the life of the locals and particularly the indigenous Sámi and Nenets. This kind of popular research resulted in several books, see http://www.ravna.no/boker.htm (unfortunately only in Norwegian). Later on the interest was developed through my legal research on Arctic Indigenous Peoples and in particular the Sámi. And of course the fact that I am of Sámi origin has not diminished that interest.

What are your main achievements in this field?

I guess my main achievements is that my research has been a small input to discussion among politicians and legislators on legislative issues affecting Sámi people and the population in the northernmost county of Norway in general. Another important achievement is participation in educating and supervising young Sámi students in being academics or practitioners, contributing to the Northern societies. Being the first Sámi to be professor in law is a more private achievement, but none the less important to me personally.

What is an idea that you are developing as regards the future of the Arctic law TN?

One of my ideas regarding international cooperation between academic institutions in the High North is to bring the scholars closer to each other. That is particularly important to our neighbors in the east, who for a long period has been isolated from us in the west, and vice versa. Peoples on both sides of the former iron curtain have suffered from the division.

Arctic law, i.e. law of the sea and sea routes, fisheries questions, jurisdictional matters and in particular Indigenous Peoples access to lands, natural resources and other human rights issues, concerns more or less academics in all the Arctic States. And therefore, these are natural topics for the Arctic law Thematic Network.

As a scholar in indigenous law, my focus naturally will be on developing research projects on that topic in a High North context. It includes focus on human right issues, legal question related to conflicting land use, extractive industries and processes for identifying and recognizing indigenous traditional lands.

As the editor of Arctic Review on Law and Politics my plans also include devoting a special issue for the Arctic law Thematic Network, which can be based on a conference aiming to develop good research for such a publication.
Network Partner In Focus:  
University in Akureyri (Iceland)

Compiled by Dr. Rachael Lorna Johnstone

The University of Akureyri (Háskólinn á Akureyri) is located in North Iceland and has served Akureyri and its rural surrounding since 1987. The University has built a reputation for academic excellence and good industrial relations. Located in the capital of North Iceland, Akureyri, the University has been instrumental in the area's economic growth and is central in the area's future planning as a knowledge based society.

News From Akureyri

• The law department at the University of Akureyri expands its cooperation with the University of Greenland. In Spring 2013, Akureyri teachers, Guðmundur Alfredsson and Rachael Lorna Johnstone will teach a graduate course in International Law for the Greenlandic students at the Nuuk campus.

• Also published by the University of Akureyri is the blind peer-reviewed, open-access, interdisciplinary journal, Nordicum-Mediterraneum. Now entering its eighth year of publication, Nordicum-Mediterraneum is a forum for the exploration of the ties between the Nordic and Mediterranean countries: historical, cultural, economic, political, scientific, religious and artistic. Information for contributors is available here and further inquiries can be directed to Giorgio Baruchello, giorgio@unak.is.

• The research group of the Nordic Summer University called “Towards a New Ethical Imagination” will hold its regular Winter Symposium at the University of Akureyri, 1st-3rd March 2013. The themes of the Winter Symposium are the same as for the previous sessions of the research group, namely: ethics in practice; capitalism; democracy; and societal ethics. However, an additional theme has been introduced for the March 2013 symposium: environmental, ethical, political and legal issues in the Arctic region from an interdisciplinary perspective. It is expected that the Summer 2014 symposium will also be held in Iceland, in the Northern town of Sauðárkrókur.

Further information can be found here and inquiries can be directed to Jacob Dahl Rendtorff: jacrendt@ruc.dk.

• The Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN), a joint venue for those working with issues concerning the Arctic region, will commence in January 2013. Participants include the University of Akureyri, the Polar Law Institute, the Stefansson Arctic Institute, the Icelandic Centre for Research and the Arctic Portal. Its primary goals are:

  • to provide information and resources concerning Icelandic activities, knowledge and experience in Arctic issues to academia, policy makers and the public;
  • to enhance visibility of the role and work of public and private institutions and organizations in Iceland involved in Arctic issues;
  • to improve distribution of and access to information concerning the Arctic;
  • to heighten communication and facilitate cooperation within Iceland regarding Arctic issues; and to provide guidance and consultation as requested and support for cooperation within Iceland regarding Arctic issues.

This is an initiative which seeks to be inclusive and welcomes any inquiries concerning participation which can be sent to: iacn@arcticiceland.is.

The University of Akureyri prepares students for a wide range of opportunities in both the private and the public sectors. Education at the University covers specific skills and scientific methods as well as other more theoretical skills that will enable graduates to improve their qualifications. Education and research are closely coordinated to achieve this, first and foremost by assigning them with equal importance in the daily work of the academic and scientific staff and whenever possible basing course work on research.

Introduction from UiA website: http://english.unak.is
• Downtown Akureyri hosts the ArcticPortal. The ArcticPortal is a comprehensive gateway to Arctic information and data on the internet, increasing information sharing and cooperation amongst Arctic stakeholders. The ArcticPortal is managed as a non-profit organisation, under an international board of directors. It provides communication, outreach consultation and web presence to numerous Arctic organisations and projects. Ongoing projects and developments include: Virtual Learning Tools project; EU Arctic Information Centre initiative; PAGE21 project - Permafrost in 21st Century; and the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network.

• Two working groups of the Arctic Council are located on the campus of the University of Akureyri: the Protection of the Marine Environment (PAME) and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF).

• PAME is currently conducting the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR). The AOR is a multi-phased project that will review the global and regional measures that are in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, and analyse options to strengthen how the Arctic marine environment is managed. This project will address both sea and land-based activities influencing the state of the Arctic marine environment. Phase one of the project was released in 2011. A final report with recommendations is scheduled for release in 2013.

• CAFF, the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council, will release the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) full scientific report and accompanying summary report for policy makers in Spring 2013. This major circumpolar effort will:
  • provide a description of the current state of Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity;
  • create a baseline for use in global and regional assessments of biodiversity;
  • provide a basis to inform and guide future Arctic Council work;
  • provide up-to-date scientific knowledge;
  • identify gaps in the data record;
  • identify key mechanisms driving change; and produce scientific and policy recommendations.

Projects
Settling Indigenous Land Claims: A Common Indigenous Title?

Øyvind Ravna, University of Tromsø and Nigel Bankes, University of Calgary

According to both international law and internal legislation, the National States have a duty to identify and recognize property rights of indigenous peoples within their territory. The state has also a duty to provide an adequate and effective procedure to resolve the land claims of indigenous peoples in such a context.

From this point of view, the idea is to develop a research project comparing how Canada and Norway are handling the process of recognizing indigenous claims, titles or use rights in their internal legislation. The first problem to be addressed is on what legal basis the two states recognize and protect indigenous ownership rights within their jurisdictions. Secondly, the project will address the key similarities and differences both in terms of formal law and application, including identification of reasons for the fundamental differences in approach. Thirdly, we will ask what can be the learning outcome from those similarities and differences, including possibilities for harmonizing the legislation.
Upcoming Arctic Law And Governance Conferences And Events
Co-organized or attended by Arctic Law Thematic Network members

Jokkmokk Winter Conference 2013
Jokkmokk, Norrbotten, Sweden
4 - 7 February 2013
Sparbanksalen Aja - Ajtte Sámi Museum

Jokkmokk Winter Conference 2013 focuses therefore on the following issues:

• A Planet under Stress: How much human activity can the biosphere afford?
• Climate Change, Energy Production and the Arctic: conflicts and solutions
• Covenant of Mayors: European municipalities planning actions for Sustainable Energy
• Traditional indigenous knowledge: A resource for today’s decisions?

Arctic Science Summit Week
15-19 April 2013
Krakow, Poland

The ASSW is the annual gathering of international organizations engaged in supporting and facilitating Arctic research. Its purpose is to provide opportunities for international coordination, collaboration and cooperation in all fields of Arctic science and to combine science and management meetings. Some sessions of interests for Network members:

• Arctic People and Resources: Opportunities, Challenges and Risks
• Applying Local and Traditional Knowledge to Better Understanding of the Changing Arctic
• Arctic System Science for Regional and Global Sustainability


Battle for the North: Is All Quiet on the Arctic Front
21-22 February 2013
East Lansing, Michigan, US

Hosted by Michigan State International Law Review

See more: http://msuilr.org/?page_id=273

Panel Perspectives on Public Policies in the Arctic Region
At ICPP 2013 - 1st International Conference on Public Policies
26-28 June 2013
Grenoble, France

Call for Abstracts Deadline: 1 February 2013 (to cecile.pelaudeix@scienciaspo-lyon.fr)

More information: http://icpublicpolicy.org/spip.php?article31#POLITICS
Climate Change In Northern Territories: Sharing Experiences, Exploring New Methods and Assessing Socio-Economic Impacts
22 – 23 August 2013
University of Akureyri, Akureyri, Iceland
Call for abstracts deadline: 28 February 2013

The aim of the event is to turn our attention towards this aspect of territorial challenges for European regions by organizing a conference where the focus will be on existing evidence and the need for future research in the northernmost regions of Europe and the Arctic, and the challenge of translating scientific knowledge into action. Conference is organized by ESPON Evidence in a North European Context (ENECON) in cooperation with Northern Research Forum.

Conference registration will open in April 2013. Inquiries can be sent to Embla Eir Oddsdóttir: embla@unak.is


Sámi Customary Rights in Modern Landscapes: Indigenous People and Nature Conservation
28-29 August 2013
Lulea, Sweden

The conference aims to explore how culturally defined values, ideologies and policies have formed, and continue to form, the basis of Indigenous rights and management models of nature conservation areas in Sápmi. Comparisons with, or cases of, the situations of other Indigenous Peoples are welcome. The conference seeks to bring together different disciplines such as history, political science, law, cultural geography, sociology and anthropology.

Call for Abstracts deadline: 1 April 2013
Registration: 1 April – 5 August 2013


Sixth Polar Law Symposium
August/September 2013
Akureyri, Iceland

The Annual Polar Law Symposium will return to Akureyri in August or September 2013 (precise dates to be confirmed). Scholars interested in presenting their research are encouraged to contact Ágúst Pór Árnason at the University of Akureyri: agust@unak.is. A formal call for papers will be issued in due course. The Arctic Centre in Lapland hosted the highly successful Fifth Symposium (www.arcticcentre.org/polarlaw2012) in September 2012 in Rovaniemi.

More information: http://www.polarlaw.is/
NORSIL Research Seminar

23-24 September 2013
Rovaniemi, Finland

NORSIL – the Nordic Research Network for Sámi and Indigenous Peoples’ Law

The network aims to strengthen and further develop the Nordic research community related to Sámi law and Indigenous Peoples Law. The annual seminars, rotating between the member institutions, are the core of the network, allowing training for participating Ph.D. students and young researchers as well as establishing a platform for all researchers to meet and discuss certain topics.

More information: www.uit.no/jurfak/norsil

Arctic Cities: In the Spirit of Rovaniemi Process Conference

2-4 December 2013
Rovaniemi, Finland

Global challenges in the Arctic from the perspective of environmental protection and sustainable development are the focus of the first ‘Spirit of Rovaniemi Process’ Conference. The goal of the conference is to present the latest research results about the ‘global processes as local realities’. The following themes will be discussed: environmental problems, indigenous identities, global economy, resource exploitation and management, energy questions, security and tourism.

Even if the Conference is scientific in orientation, it aims to bridge science and knowledge into action by bringing top scholars to share their research results, and to organize joint discussion with the leaders of the Arctic Cities. The Conference includes a special plenary panel on “Arctic Cities in the spirit of Rovaniemi process”.

The conference is organized jointly by the City of Rovaniemi and the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, Finland.

Call for Abstracts will be open soon.

More information: astepien@ulalpand.fi, timo.koivurova@ulapland.fi (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland)
**Event In Focus**

**Conference PROTECTING THE SACRED: Recognition of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples for Sustaining Nature and Culture in Northern and Arctic Regions**

11-13 September 2013  
Rovaniemi and Pyhä, Finland  
Abstract deadline: 28 February 2013

The conference brings together scientists, sacred natural sites custodians, Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations, policy makers, conservation and civil society leaders, to evaluate options for international and national law, policy and practice in order to better recognize, safeguard, conserve and manage Sacred Natural Sites (SNS) of Indigenous Peoples in Northern and Arctic regions.

SNS are being increasingly recognized as an important means for the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, and the transmission of culture and identity. Yet, legal protection of SNS and related policies are still often insufficient or absent. It becomes increasingly difficult for custodians in the North to protect these ancient sites, due to economic developments (tourism, mining, forestry) and infrastructural development (roads, dams, mega projects). At the same time the need for protection may be challenged by some protection measures (identifying of location, mapping) and may raise the question of keeping intimacy and sensitivity of these places.

At international level, SNS have been receiving increasing legal attention; they are now mentioned in several international legal instruments (e.g., CBD, UNDRIP). Yet, effective and culturally appropriate implementation is often still lacking.

The Conference is co-organized by the Arctic Centre (University of Lapland), University of Montreal and the University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law.

**Core themes**

- Multiple meanings of SNS: Identity, Ethnicity and transmission of culture; Education; Arts; Economics.
- Legal recognition of SNS: International and national law, institutions; Customary laws of indigenous peoples.
- Intangible cultural heritage connected to sacred sites: Mythology; Ritual and other spiritually relevant practices; Taboos; Oral history; The role of sacred sites for indigenous cosmologies.
- Biodiversity and SNS: Cultural and spiritual values of biological diversity; Nature-Culture interlinkages; Ecosystem conservation, Socio-ecological resilience.

Contact and abstracts:  
Leena Heinämäki (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland) leena.heinamaki@ulapland.fi  
Thora Herrmann (University of Montreal) thora.martina.herrmann@umontreal.ca
Chosen Recent Publications


Pettersson, Maria and Michanek, Gabriel (2011). “In search of legal pathways to a sustainable energy supply”, In: Johnsson, F. (ed.) Methods and Models used in the project Pathways to Sustainable European Energy Systems.


Publication In Focus

Yearbook of Polar Law 2012, Volume IV is finally out!

Among the 2012 Yearbook authors are: Matti Niemivuo, Gudmundur Alfredsson, Paula Kankaanpää, Terry Fenge, Thomas S. Axworthy, Betsy Baker, Øyvind Ravna, Malgosia Fitzmaurice and many others.

The Yearbook of Polar Law is a peer-reviewed publication based at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Akureyri in Iceland, covers a wide variety of legal and governance topics relating to the Arctic and the Antarctic. The Yearbook is published by Brill/ Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

The fifth volume of the Yearbook is currently in preparation. Polar Law Symposia contributors are encouraged to submit their papers but the Yearbook is open to unsolicited submissions from any scholar working in the field. Articles are subject to blind peer-review. Submission and purchasing information can be found on the publisher’s page at http://www.brill.com/publications/yearbook-polar-law

More information on the Volume 5 of the Yearbook of Polar Law: Adam Stepien, astepien@ulapland.fi.
UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law: Partners and Affiliates

UArctic partners:
- University of Lapland, NIEM/Arctic Centre, Finland (Lead)
- Institute of the North, Alaska, US
- Krasnoyarsk State Agrarian University, Russia
- Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- Mid-Sweden University, Sweden
- Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Russia
- North-East Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia
- Stockholm University, Sweden
- University of Akureyri, Iceland
- University of Oslo, Norway
- University of Tromsø, Norway

Non-UArctic partners:
- Queen Mary, University of London, UK
- Tilburg University, the Netherlands
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- University of Calgary, Canada
- University of Giessen, Germany
- University of Toronto, Canada
- University of Victoria, Canada
- Vermont Law School, USA
- Ecologic Institute, Berlin, Brussels, Washington DC

Affiliates:
- Arctic Institute of North America, Canada
- Director of the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, Canada
- Hans Corell, Former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, Sweden
- Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway
- Department of Foreign Affairs, Greenland
- Inuit Circumpolar Council, Canada
- IUCN-CEL Arctic Task Force (Arctic Council), Germany
- Kemijoki OY, Finland
- Elena Knyazeva, University College Cork, Faculty of Law, Ireland
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland
- Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russia
- Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Polar Law Institute of the University of Akureyri, Iceland
- Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of State and Law, Moscow, Russia
- Schulich School of Law (former Dalhousie Law School), Canada
- Victoria Sweet, Michigan State Collage of Law, US
- Stacy Fallon, Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando, Florida, US
- The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
- University of New South Wales, Australia
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- Universität Wien, Austria
- Professor Zhixiong Huang, Wuhan University, China
- Stefan Kirchner, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania
- Mary Durfee, Michigan Technological University, US

Contact:
Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law
Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
P.O. Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland

Professor Timo Koivurova (leader)
+358 405519522
timo.koivurova@ulapland.fi

Researcher Leena Heinämäki
+358 407233457
leena.heinamaki@ulapland.fi

Sub-group leaders:
Øyvind Ravna (UIT): oyvind.ravna@uit.no
Batsy Baker (VLS): bbaker@vermontlaw.edu
Natalia Loukacheva (UIT): n.loukacheva@utoronto.ca

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