

ECoHuCy PROJECT MEETING REPORT

Enablement besides Constraints: Human security and a Cyber Multi-disciplinary framework in the European High North (ECoHuCy).

BRITISH ACADEMY, LONDON

18 September 2017



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On September 18th, the Swansea University invited its project partners of the ECoHuCy project for a one-day meeting to London. The project meeting took place in the Cornwall room of the British Academy. Participants were Alan Collins, Kristin Gulbrandsen, Michael Sheehan (Swansea University, UK), Christer Pursiainen (UiT Arctic University of Tromso, NO), Sandra Cassotta (Institute for Security and Development Policy, SE), Tiago de Melo Cartaxo (University Lisbon, PT), Marcin Dymet, Kamrul Hossain, Mirva Salminen, and Gerald Zojer (Arctic Centre / University of Lapland, FI). The project meeting was followed by a steering group meeting.



METING PARTICIPANTS

Project Development

The ECoHuCy project formally took off with a kick-off meeting in Stockholm earlier this year. While the focus then was to discuss on the operationalization of the project and to agree on the distribution of administrative tasks, this meeting in London was

mainly aimed at addressing the substance of the project and to discuss the individual academic contributions. The participants also conferred on suitable venues for disseminating their work. In this regard it was reported that some participants will present their research during a joint session on cyber security at the Polar Law Symposium in Rovaniemi, in November 2017. The participants moreover agreed that the contributors based at the Arctic Centre will design a session proposal for the UArctic Congress 2018, which will take place in Oulu and Helsinki in September next year.

Individual Contributions

The project meeting started with welcoming words by the host, Michael Sheehan, and an opening speech by the principal investigator, Kamrul Hossain, who reported on the project development. The morning session of the meeting consisted of the project contributors' presentations to elaborate on their planned, individual contributions. Mirva Salminen ("Refocusing and redefining cybersecurity: Human Security in the European High North") and Gerald Zojer ("Contextualizing cybersecurity as a domain of human well-being: The interconnectedness of digitalization and human security in the European Arctic") will work on theorizing the human security perspective on cyber security. Kamrul Hossain ("The evolving information-based society and its influence on

SANDRA CASSOTTA PRESENTING HER WORK



traditional culture: framing community culture and human security of the Sámi in the European High North") will address aspects related to indigenous peoples. Christer Pursiainen ("The state-society perspectives

on cyberspace: the Case of Norwegian High North”) will work on citizen and civil society perspectives. Tiago de Melo Cartaxo (“Smartening Law and Governance for the Brave New World of a Digitalised European High North”) is preparing a contribution to show how digitalization may contribute to governance and law making processes. Mike Sheehan (“Deep and Concentrated Social Exclusion? Human Security and the Digital Divide in the European High North”) will connect digitalization with social exclusion. Marcin Dymet (“Digital language divide in the European High North. The level of online presence of minority languages from northern Finland, Norway and Sweden and its consequences for the minorities”) will address minority issues related to digitalization. And Sandra Cassotta (“Cyber Threats, Harsh Environment and the Arctic: A Regulatory Pluralistic and Polycentric Framework applicable to Critical Infrastructures under ‘Exceptionally Critical Infrastructure Conditions’”) will focus on the interrelation between climatic conditions and digitalization.

Academic Discussions

In the afternoon session the participants continued to debate on the individual contributions in an open form. Participants who are planning to conduct field work received valuable feedback on their research plans, providing some inputs to help designing their

field

investigations.

This session also provided space for more general

comments on how to



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

conceptualize the interrelations between cyber security and human security in the Arctic. The discussion took off with addressing some technical questions, such as connectivity issues in the European High North, the development state of cyber-infrastructure in the region, comparisons to other regions in the Arctic and other – more southern – parts of the world, or on the potential influence of cold weather and climate on cyber technologies. During the debate the participants discussed that the view point of various stakeholders on the effects of digitalization might vary significantly. For instance, while policy makers often tend to point out positive effects of digitalization, individuals may perceive traditional patterns in the absence of information technologies more convening. Digitalization was also discussed as part of power politics between traditional actors (i.e. states), citizen, and new powerful actors, such as GAFSA companies (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon). Yet, as part of the same discussion, digitalization was also addressed as having the potential to contribute to democratizing policy making, for example by providing access to or allowing participation in Environmental Impact Assessments or Social Impact Assessments.

Generally speaking, the afternoon session provided space for feedback on the individual contributions, for brainstorming, and for discussing the importance of addressing digitalization from a human security perspective, by addressing also opportunities and challenges facing individuals and communities in the European High North.

More information:

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