

## Introduction: Sustainable development in the Arctic region through peace and stability

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**Abstract:** The Calotte Academy 2011 under the theme, “From Circumpolar Stability toward Nordic Peace” took place in May 26 – June 1, 2011 in Inari, Finland, in Kirkenes, Norway, and in Apatity, Russia. It consisted of 31 presentations, generating hundreds of questions and comments in the open discussions of the seven sessions in three sites of the Academy. This was implemented by an international group of scholars, (ranging from senior researchers to PhD students) as well as, number of policy-makers, coming from Canada, Finland, France, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and UK – who travelled from Rovaniemi to Inari, further to Kirkenes and Apatity, and back to Rovaniemi.

The articles of the theme issue “Sustainable Development in the Arctic region through peace and stability” of Nordica Geographical Publications – Yearbook 2011 is based on the papers presented in the sessions of the 2011 Calotte Academy.

### Stability, peace and sustainability

The focus of the 2011 Calotte Academy was on stability and peace, tension, conflict and war, and sustainability both generally and theoretically in international politics and IR, and particularly how they exist and are structured in the Arctic region.

Consequently, the main theme was “From Circumpolar Stability toward Nordic Peace” which is based on an interpretation that at the early twenty-first century’s Arctic region is a (very) stable and peaceful area without either armed conflicts, or an uncontrolled race on natural resources. Much opposite, it enjoys considerable international, mostly multi-national, cooperation by the Arctic states, the northern indigenous peoples and other non-actors, as has been the institutionalized Nordic cooperation within

the last 60 years. This can be taken as a success story in the broader context of the international system, where we see at least two large scale wars, and several minor wars and armed conflicts, and a constant fight against (international) terrorism. The current state is, however, neither guaranteed nor necessarily stable, but can be changed, since the northernmost regions of the globe are not isolated, but closely integrated into the global system and the international community. There has, however, been rather little discussion on this and how to maintain the current state of security in the Arctic in the globalized world and go beyond the post-Cold War.

Indeed, there is a growing global interest toward the Arctic region and its resources as well as the options to the utilization of them as is discussed in several articles of this volume. This is largely due to, climate

change and other global environmental problems, as well as, the combination of the strategic importance of energy security and a potentially bigger share of more accessible Arctic regions in the global economy. There is also a manifold growth in the geo-strategic importance of the Arctic in world politics and economics, which is on one hand, due to these more strategic and economic reasons. On the other hand, it is due to more immaterial values, such as the diversity of nature and life, innovations in political and legal arrangements, and the stability and peace of the region.

All this emphasizes the importance of continuing the current state of stability and peace in international relations between Arctic states and other northern actors as well as non-Arctic states and other actors who would like to become involved in Northern affairs. This also emphasizes a need to, and academic interest for, study further both stability and peace, and security in general, and particularly how stability and peace are structured in the Arctic region. Lying behind this analysis are core questions of International Relations, the discourses of security, safety, and war. Furthermore, in terms of defining peace and stability in the North, it relates to how war has been a defining moment in the region like for example, in the North Calotte and all of Northern Europe.

The original aim, which was successfully achieved, was to include presentations, in the 2011 Academy that dealt with stability, peace and security as well as sustainability on the one hand, generally and theoretically, and on the other hand, examining the circumpolar North, or Northern Europe or 'Norden' and/or the Barents Sea region

as case studies. Consequently, under the main theme there were several sub-themes and approaches, which were extensively discussed. Among them were: How has stability been reached, and is structured, in the Arctic; How to go further, from stability to confidence?; What kind of role institutions play there?; What do we mean by the 'Nordic Peace', is it a positive or (only) negative peace? Biopolitics or geopolitics, or aspects from the both?; Climate change and globalization – challenges or threats to stability and peace?; Furthermore, Interrelations between stability, peace, resources and sustainable development; Land use and resource conflicts, and positive peace; Importance of stability and peace on well-being, and when facing social challenges; Combating children poverty as peace-building factor; and final, Economic cooperation and trade, and local self-government strengthening stability and peace.

The core result was lively discussions and debates in the sessions of the 2011 Calotte Academy based on 31 expert presentations included the both academics and policy makers, empirical and theoretical discussions, including various relevant concepts and empirical cases. A selection of those presentations can be read as articles in this volume.

## **About the Calotte Academy**

The Calotte Academy is an annual, international travelling symposium for an 'inter-sectoriality' dialogue among members of the research community, and PhD and graduate students, and a wide range of other

experts and northern stakeholders, such as policy-makers, civil servants, community leaders and planners. It structured so that there are academic sessions with scientific presentations at each location, as well as public sessions with expert presentations in one or two locations. An international group of researchers, other experts, and PhD and graduate students from Europe, North America and Russia travels together to the sites of the Academy. These sites are (in most cases) located in Northern peripheries, in North Finland, North Norway, North Sweden and the Murmansk Region in Russia.

The 2011 Calotte Academy was co-organized by Municipality of Inari and its Learning Centre of Calotte, Sámi Educational Centre (in Inari), Faculty of Social Sciences at University of Lapland, ThinkBarents at Lapland University Consortium and Thule Institute at University of Oulu (from Finland); Department of Sociology, Political Science and Community Planning at University of Tromsø and International Barents Secretariat (from Norway); and Institute of Economic Studies at Kola Science Centre (from Russia) in cooperation with the Northern Research Forum (NRF) and the NRF-UArctic joint Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security (international).

The event also served as a sub-forum for the 6<sup>th</sup> Open Assembly of the Northern Research Forum, which took place in September 4-6, 2011 in Hveragerði, Iceland (see [www.nrf.is](http://www.nrf.is)), as well as an international platform for both the above-mentioned Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, and the Finnish Network on Northern Politics and Security Studies.

Finally, the Inari sessions of the 2011 Calotte Academy were co-organized together with the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the auspices of the Finnish chairmanship 2011 of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

All in all, as a travelling symposium with an emphasis on both expertise and dialogue the Calotte Academy is a new kind of academic stage and workshop that fosters ‘interdisciplinarity’, knowledge(s), and dialogue-building in order to implement on one hand, the interplay between senior scholars and young researchers, and on the other hand, that between science and politics.

The 2012 Calotte Academy under the theme “Water – globally and in North Calotte” will take place in the end of May 2012 in North Finland, North Sweden and North Norway (see 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Papers). For more detailed information see for example, the Final Reports of the previous Academies at the NRF website ([www.nrf.is](http://www.nrf.is)).

## Overview of the book

The contributions in this book examine strategic and geopolitical changes in the post-Cold War period in the Arctic region and discuss how climate change, natural resources, and environmental issues are shaping the cooperation between institutions and people operating in the Arctic region as well. A tenet of the book is to show how the current situation of peace and stability has been achieved and through what practices it is possible to maintain it despite the growing global interest for Arctic natural

resources and sea routes. Moreover, the book aims also to present elements which are respectively threatening or challenging and vice versa fostering the sustainable development in the Arctic region. The book is organized into two sections. The articles of the first part are chiefly dealing with the post-Cold War Arctic and its changes for the international system, international cooperation, and security and stability in the High North. **Teemu Palosaari** reminds us in his paper that the ongoing melting of the Arctic Ocean sea ice does not necessarily mean an increasing of conflict potential between its coastal states or a new wild competition for natural resources. On the contrary, through an analysis of the two main International Relations interpretations of the Arctic, i.e. state sovereignty and international governance perspectives, he points out that in the Arctic region a state of peace is prevailing and the cooperation is developed according to international law, UN conventions, environmental regimes and scientific guidelines. Finally, he argues that the main threats to the existing peaceful situation are posed by human and environmental security problems. **Lassi Heininen** suggests that the post-Cold War period has ended in the Arctic which is now, thanks to its transboundary cooperation fostered by states, sub-national governments and indigenous people, a peaceful region with high stability and facing a rapid, global and multi-functional change. The goal of his article is to discuss the impact of globalization in particularly on the Arctic States politics. **Alyson JK Bailes** scrutinizes the different and significant roles played by the international institutions in creating and maintaining

stability in a given region of the world. She approaches this topic by proposing an empirically based framework for the relationship between institutions, stability and security; and then by applying it to the circumpolar Arctic zone. **Margrét Cela** discusses how the size of a country matters in the context of security. In this regard, she argues that small and large states don't face the same challenges and opportunities, especially in terms of cooperation and influence. As such, this paper deals with the possibilities of the small Nordic States to increase their influence and contribute to peace and stability in the Arctic region. **Jari Koivumaa** emphasizes that post-Cold War structural changes, like the use of technology, in the International System have enabled new kinds of activities in the European North. Technology is now used more for capitalist markets and civil society than the military aims of states, and in turn, information technology is nowadays facilitating the interplay within the inhabitants of the Arctic region. In this current situation, he also notes that security issues like social problems, climate change, pollution and the problems in nuclear power are more challenging security risks than the military threats and are also giving a concrete opportunity for the people of the Arctic to empower their life and livelihood. **Gustav Pétursson** focuses on the multi-dimensional security threats and risks brought by climate change, which is opening the Arctic ice to new shipping routes and thus rendering Arctic resources more accessible. He points out that those new threats and risks are requiring new wide forms of cooperation between states in the High North. He also pays particular

attention to how Iceland has to cooperate with external actors such as the Arctic Council, the European Union, and as well NATO in order to respond to the challenges posed by climate change in the Arctic.

In the second part of this book climate change, use of natural resources, energy, sustainable development and environmental issues are scrutinized more from the strategic and geopolitical point of view. The first contribution deals with the two dominating discourses about climate change and security in the Arctic. One highlights competition and conflict possibility; the other emphasizes the need for cooperation. **Auður H Ingólfssdóttir** begins by looking at the tensions between those two main discourses from a feminist perspective, using concepts related to gender, masculinity and femininity to explore the values underpinning the different approaches. In this regard, particular attention is paid to the importance of feminine values and the contribution of feminist researchers in the field of geopolitics. The author indicates the need for a world view that is more inclusive of the feminine characteristics, emphasizing both the conflictive and cooperative elements of human nature. **Sébastien Duyck** presents us different procedures and formal opportunities offered to various groups of non-state actors to participate in international environmental decision-making in the Arctic region. He underlines that intergovernmental cooperation remains framed to a large extent by a state-centred vision of international affairs. Despite this fact, he notices that nowadays sovereign states are under increasing pressure to empower the roles and the rights of local and global actors and also to raise the participation of non-state actors in environmental matters.

**Simo Sarkki** examines the Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the Finnish forest industry as governance tools for enhancing sustainable use of natural resources at local level. By using the Muonio forestry dispute, where local tourism entrepreneurs and the municipality paid compensations for the state forestry enterprise not to log in state-owned commercial forests, as a case study he shows the challenges and difficulties of the PES systems to contribute to sustainability. **Jussi Huotari** analyses the energy policy of the Russian Federation and energy security in the political discourses of Russia and the European Union. In the last 10 years Russia has often been perceived as a powerful country using her Arctic oil and gas resources for imperialistic purposes. The author suggests that the current strengthening of Russia does not mean a return to the Soviet expansive foreign policy; on the contrary, Russia's energy policy is guided by the objective to maximize its economic growth. Hence, Russia's Arctic oil and gas resources must be seen as a means for integrating herself into global economy rather than a weapon for "energy blackmail".

In the columns section of the book the Finnish Ambassador for the Arctic **Hannu Halinen** presents different solutions for building confidence and reaching sustainability in the High North and also deliberates on future scenarios development of the Arctic region. After this detailed presentation, he concludes that the Arctic is more and more a global matter. Therefore in reaching "High North with Low Tension" the challenge is to conduct a dialogue, which is really international, interdisciplinary and inclusive.

## Acknowledgments

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