



ARCTIC ENTWINEMENTS OF ENERGY, CLIMATE AND POLITICS

Day: Wed 13 Nov, 2019

Time: 09:00-11:00

Venue: Arktikum, Library

Moderators: Marjo Lindroth and Hanna Strauss-Mazzullo, Northern Political Economy Research Group, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

PROGRAM (speaking times include a short time for discussion)

09:00 – 09:40 Keynote: **Frank Sejersen**, Associate professor, University of Copenhagen
Infrastructures of hope. Disentangling the entwinement of energy, politics and climate

09:40 – 10:00 **Peter Schweitzer**, Professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, the University of Vienna, Austrian Polar Research Institute
Transport Infrastructures and the Future of the Arctic: Anthropological Perspectives

10:00 – 10:20 **Adrian Braun**, Researcher, Doctoral Candidate, Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland
Socially Responsible Investments (SRIs) as driving force to enable climate change solutions in the European Arctic

10:20 – 10:40 **Hanna Lempinen**, Senior Lecturer in Political Science, Visiting Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
“Prudent development”. The (r)evolution of the Arctic energy concern in the 2007–2017 Arctic Energy Summit Reports

10:40 – 11:00 **Philippe Boucher**, undergraduate student, First Peoples Studies and Minor in Sociology at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
Inuit relations with the energy industries in Canada



Infrastructures of hope. Disentangling the entwinement of energy, politics and climate

The presentation will make three interventions into the entwinement of energy, politics and climate with a focus on energy infrastructure (existing, planned and dreamt of) both as an empirical and analytical object. The first intervention concentrates on how infrastructures function as a medium of integration. The second intervention focuses on how infrastructures legitimate regimes. Finally, the third intervention unfolds how infrastructures have a distorting function. The proposed disentanglement of the entwinement does not necessarily lead to more transparency but rather allows us to investigate the changing dynamics that the entwinement of energy, politics and climate produce. The presentation argues that the analytical attention on how infrastructure creates integration, legitimation, and distortion may help us to understand the moral economies in the anthropocene.

*Frank Sejersen,
Associate professor, University of Copenhagen*

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Transport Infrastructures and the Future of the Arctic: Anthropological Perspectives

With the renewed interest in arctic resource extraction and geopolitics, the construction or upgrade of northern transport infrastructures has become an important issue. While these large-scale infrastructures are mostly sponsored by outside interests, they can have profound impacts on local residents. Using an anthropological vantage point privileging local and regional perspectives, the presentation explores the roles of transport infrastructures in sustaining arctic communities, and thereby intends to contribute to ongoing conversations about arctic futures.

Peter Schweitzer
Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
University of Vienna
Austrian Polar Research Institute

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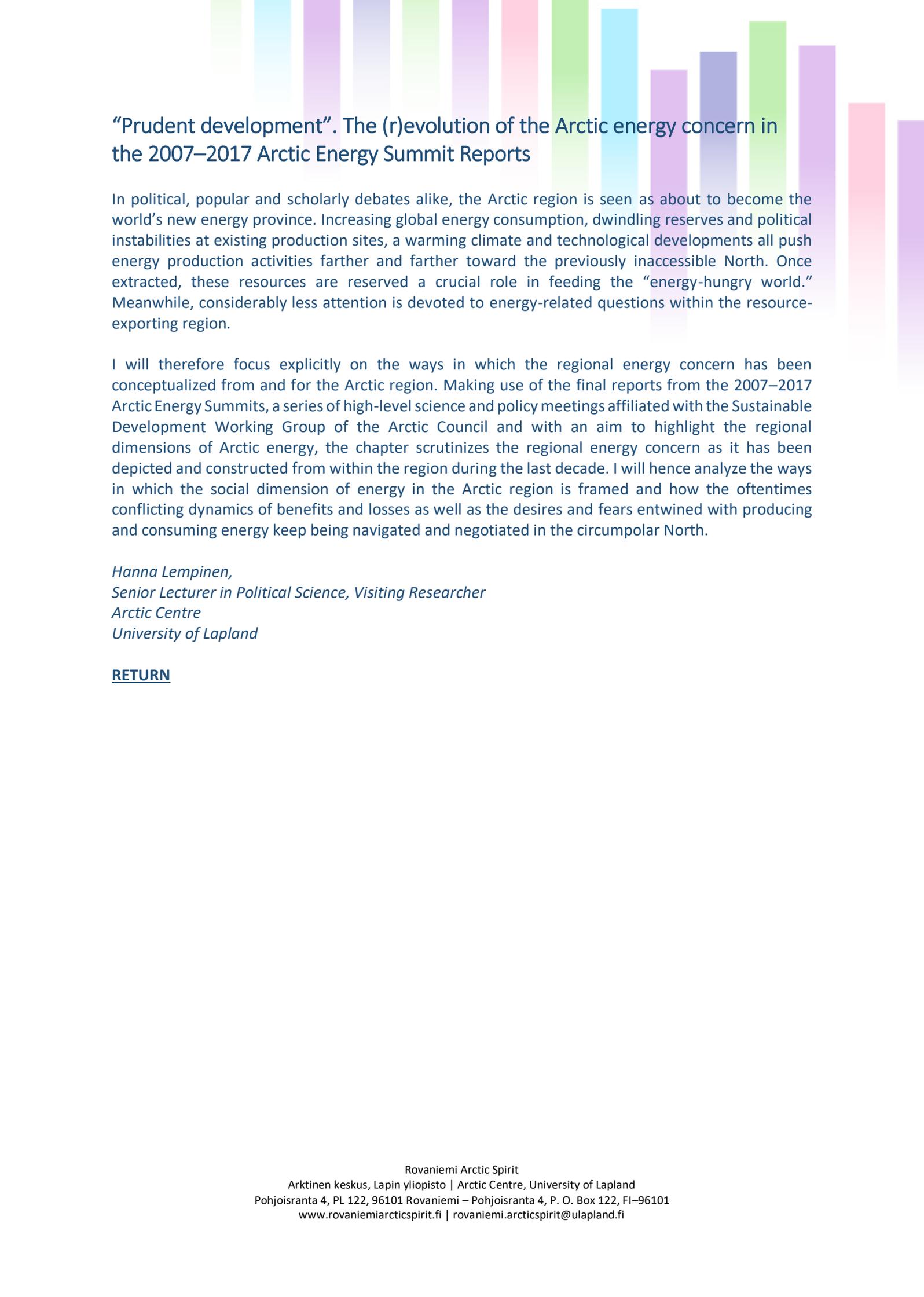


Socially Responsible Investments (SRIs) as driving force to enable climate change solutions in the European Arctic

Municipalities, cities and companies in the European Arctic have diverse possibilities to strive for social and ecological sustainability. Green financial products, such as socially responsible investments promise to be a tool to raise capital to improve the quality of lives and ecological footprints. This gives room for plenty of social imaginaries for a myriad of actors involved. Green capital, as raised for example via climate bonds, may not only enable communities to develop schemes for green housing, energy-efficient transport and other eco-friendly solutions, but it enables visions of the global investment community to generate double-benefit, comprising profits and reputation building. Nonetheless, in the European Arctic context there is still hesitation, to reach-out to the global capital markets, to finance green projects that correspond to mitigation and adaptation strategies in the climate change discourse. Though there is no lack of need for new capital sources. The social imaginations in the European Arctic mount into numerous green project ideas (green energy is an essential part of it) and there is a need to overcome the imaginary constraints that the global finance sector is “still” overlooking the Arctic. Global investors do not neglect opportunities. Thus, the combination of green investments and current challenges in the Arctic enables new opportunities in social, ecological, economic and cultural perspectives.

Adrian Braun
Researcher – Doctoral Candidate
Arctic Centre
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“Prudent development”. The (r)evolution of the Arctic energy concern in the 2007–2017 Arctic Energy Summit Reports

In political, popular and scholarly debates alike, the Arctic region is seen as about to become the world’s new energy province. Increasing global energy consumption, dwindling reserves and political instabilities at existing production sites, a warming climate and technological developments all push energy production activities farther and farther toward the previously inaccessible North. Once extracted, these resources are reserved a crucial role in feeding the “energy-hungry world.” Meanwhile, considerably less attention is devoted to energy-related questions within the resource-exporting region.

I will therefore focus explicitly on the ways in which the regional energy concern has been conceptualized from and for the Arctic region. Making use of the final reports from the 2007–2017 Arctic Energy Summits, a series of high-level science and policy meetings affiliated with the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council and with an aim to highlight the regional dimensions of Arctic energy, the chapter scrutinizes the regional energy concern as it has been depicted and constructed from within the region during the last decade. I will hence analyze the ways in which the social dimension of energy in the Arctic region is framed and how the oftentimes conflicting dynamics of benefits and losses as well as the desires and fears entwined with producing and consuming energy keep being navigated and negotiated in the circumpolar North.

*Hanna Lempinen,
Senior Lecturer in Political Science, Visiting Researcher
Arctic Centre
University of Lapland*

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Inuit relations with the energy industries in Canada

In a context where Inuit communities are already affected by climate change, their territory continues to be used by foreign industries which contribute at different degrees to climate change. Indeed, there is a diversity of industries that operate in the territory of the Inuit which they call “Inuit Nunangat”. I will dress a portrait of the major industries and their relationships with Inuit. Throughout the years, the industries coped variously with the communities. While some companies are well accepted and hire many Inuit, other enterprises see their energy projects contested as they do not have the consent of Inuit. I will discuss the recent case of the Inuit community of Clyde River in Nunavut (Canada) who went to the Supreme Court to stop a mining project. Because their Indigenous right to be consulted was not respected, they were able to end the authorization given to a Norwegian energy consortium to conduct seismic testing exploration in the waters of Baffin Bay. I will also include examples where the energy companies have been working with Inuit communities and where Impacts and Benefits agreements were signed. As I have been staying in Nunatsiavut (Labrador, Canada) and in Nunavik (Quebec, Canada), I will include the cases of Vale Mine and Raglan Mine who signed agreements in these regions. I will conclude by analyzing positive energy projects made in collaboration with Inuit communities. Indeed, through the cooperative movements, Inuit have been able to develop and invest in projects in which they believe in. This participatory and community-based approach is supporting the development of Inuit societies. Through their different organizations, Inuit have been able to organize and establish strategies to fight climate change while developing their communities by following their values of sustainability.

Philippe Boucher
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