

Migration in the Circumpolar North

The circumpolar north provides an interesting region in which to study migration. It is a region that shares certain environmental characteristics and an economic base dependent on natural resource production. Migration patterns relate to the type of rural-urban migration that occurs throughout the world, but the importance of place-specific, traditional economic activities among the indigenous population of the North makes the migration stories unique in the developed countries of the world.

The papers in this volume were originally presented at a workshop at the University of Roskilde in Denmark, organized by researchers with the Boreas project, *Understanding Migration in the Circumpolar North*. Boreas is a program of the European Science Foundation's EUROCORES developed to promote circumpolar research. Two research themes of Boreas—the relationship between humans and their environment, and population movement associated with community change—were especially relevant to the study of migration. The aim of this project is to improve our understanding of the causes and consequences of migration flows for various groups throughout the circumpolar north.

The workshop served to identify both what we know about migration in the north and what important research questions remain. The motivation for the exchange was a sense that while there is a great deal of research being done, this research is specific to both discipline and region. The workshop provided an opportunity to explore the northern experience through a representative selection of research with various disciplinary foci. The divergent histories in a land of similar environmental circumstances suggest that much can be learned by comparing and contrasting the migration experiences around the region.

This book represents the first step in an ambitious research agenda. The intent is to continue this dialogue through a series of future workshops and meetings where the sharing of ideas will contribute to answering research questions, generate new questions, and provide opportunities for future collaboration. The lessons learned can be useful both to academics studying the region and to policy makers.

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