

**EUROCORES Program BOREAS: Histories from
the North - environments, movements, narratives**

**BOREAS Workshop "Heading North, Heading South:
Arctic social-sciences research in a global dialogue"**

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle
6-9 March 2008

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

BOREAS (www.esf.org/boreas/) has a commitment to placing Arctic social-sciences research into a global context. By inviting colleagues working in other regions, we seek to disseminate lessons from "the North" to the wider academic community, while simultaneously incorporating "Southern" prospects and experiences into our own work. Seven panel sessions will be organised around the themes: frontiers and borders; indigeneity and indigenism; conversion and community cohesion; migration; relocation; development and conservation; environmental change.

GOAL OF THE WORKSHOP

A major commitment of BOREAS is to "place the circumpolar North into wider contexts". From the very inception of the BOREAS Programme, members of the Scientific Committee and Project Leaders have stressed the need for "deprovincialising" Arctic/ Northern social-sciences research. BOREAS has the unique potential to demonstrate how social-sciences and environmental research activities in the Arctic can provide new insights for, and be linked up with, research in other parts of the world. The Workshop proposed here offers a major opportunity to do so. By inviting colleagues who work in other parts of the world, we seek to disseminate lessons from "the North" to the wider academic community, while simultaneously incorporating "Southern" prospects and experiences into our own work.

In addition, we propose to invite specialists from within the “South” as well as Arctic specialists from Russian institutions. We believe this is extremely important so that (a) the “South” will not be spoken for solely by scholars based in Europe and North America, and (b) BOREAS will remain in a close working relationship with specialists in Russian institutions despite the fact that Russia has been unable to participate formally in BOREAS. There will be three BOREAS Russian Academy fellowships to be awarded to participants selected by representatives of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. ESF funds will also cover the attendance of 10 junior researchers from other countries. A call for applications will be circulated widely (notably also outside the circumpolar research community), to generate interest among non-Arctic specialists.

The meeting is expected to result in a substantial, high quality publication; the BOREAS programme has set aside funds to support the publication; an international, high quality publishing house will be contacted by the local organisers.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Sessions will be arranged around the seven themes outlined below. Sessions will be organised as round-table discussions among all participants of the workshop. In order to lay the groundwork for discussion, in each session two or three BOREAS researchers plus one external participant with experience in the “South” will present short statements (10-15 minutes each). Accordingly, each panel comprises 30-40 minutes presentation time; the remaining 50-60 minutes are left for discussion.

The programme will be rounded off by an opening session with keynote speech and a two hours’ final session. Additional time will be reserved for inter-CRP meetings before and after the workshop. The three BOREAS Russian Academy fellows and the 10 junior researchers who join the workshop on the basis of a travel grant are expected to present their current research activities in a poster session.

March 6: inter-CRP meetings before the start of the workshop

March 7: opening session, keynote speech, sessions 1-3, poster session

March 8: sessions 4-7, workshop dinner

March 9: final session, inter-CRP meetings after the end of the workshop

DESCRIPTIONS OF SESSIONS 1 TO 7

1 Frontiers and borders

The Amazon and the Arctic, the deserts of Africa and Siberia all carry the notion of frontier. Previously perceived by colonial powers as peripheral regions that need yet to be conquered, civilized and exploited, these regions and their inhabitants were subjected to scientific inquiry in a specific way. Nation-state borders cut across the Arctic, fragmenting indigenous peoples' spaces politically and economically. Perceptions the North have somewhat changed over the last years, but the geopolitical role of the Arctic as a mineral resource base still prevails. What does the legacy of colonial research have to offer to the descendants of those who were then "under study"? How do incomers and long-time settlers negotiate "belonging" to the community and how do they deal with shifting notions of "home" and "frontier"?

2 Indigeneity and indigenism

In both the North and the South, indigenous movements have strongly grown in importance over the last 10 to 20 years. They have established trans-national and international networks. New forms of identity representation and political leverage have resulted in a much higher degree of complexity of legal and political negotiations. How do indigenous movements, organizations and spokespeople connect with and represent themselves towards official institutions on the one hand, and how with local communities on the other?

3 Conversion and community cohesion

Along with the growing importance of spirituality and the “return” to religion that can be observed in many regions of the world, there is increased interest in the activities of various religious denominations worldwide (for example, Pentecostalism). For the individual who has converted, religion provides a new sense of belonging and participation in a truly global network; however, missionary activities may have a negative impact on the social “fabric” of the local community. What do we know about the speed and intensity of conversion processes in different regions of the North/South? To what extent can we speak of religious identifications as either collaterals or alternatives to ethnic/indigenous ones? Why does religious conversion help create a particular local identity in some cases, whereas in other cases it has a disruptive effect on community cohesion?

4 Migration

Of all migratory processes affecting Northern and Southern countries likewise, rural out-migration is the most decisive one. More and more, sparsely populated areas lose permanent residents, as employment is more and more concentrated in urban areas. On the other hand, there is a trend to temporal forms of residency and land use (e.g. tourism, mineral resource extraction). How much do we know about the reasons for these migrations, and what are the likely consequences for both rural and urban areas? How do changing patterns of land use influence people’s perceptions of “home” and their degree of mobility?

5 Relocation

Patterns of displacement and relocation in the North seem to be caused by very different processes than in the South. While refugees appear to be a “Southern” problem, resettlement over large distances, organized by state authorities “from above”, is a phenomenon known from many parts of the North. These processes seem to lead in opposite directions: some people are pushed to the periphery whereas others are moved to the centre against their will. To what extent can such divergent cases be discussed and integrated within a common theoretical framework, such as colonialism?

What do we know about local responses and coping strategies, physically and psychologically?

6 Development and conversation

The political discourse on development is commonly associated with “third-world” countries in the South. Development policies in the North have received much less attention, although nation-wide modernization projects (e.g. during Soviet times) have led to large-scale social and economic change, and frequently also to environmental change. The discourse on nature conservancy runs counter to the one on development and modernization. Who takes part in the formulation of such principles as “rational land use”, “sustainable development”, protection of “cultural heritage”? How are they implemented in practice, appropriated and/or subverted by various actors? How, and how much, are social scientists themselves involved in local empowerment or paternalism?

7 Environmental change

Public awareness of global climate change has led to increasing attention of the Polar Regions. Research on the likely impact of global climate change on land use and human living conditions is now being conducted in many parts of the Arctic. Climate change in the Arctic is likely to improve access to mineral resources and spur new conflicts concerning the control over resources. Why is there, in comparison, such a small number of studies that address the impact of global environmental change on economies and populations in Africa or other “Southern” regions? How do farmers, hunters and pastoralists deal with climatic risk factors in semi-arid regions as compared to the tundra and tree-line regions? How can research on prehistoric environmental conditions and human adaptations help us to understand the consequences of climate change from a long-term perspective?

With the aim to assess these questions, the BOREAS Scientific Committee will bring together scholars who are known for their competence and international scientific impact.

SPECIFICATIONS CONCERNING TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

All seven CRPs of the BOREAS Programme will be represented in the workshop by two or three participants whose expenses will be covered by the ESF. CRP Project Leaders have the right to modify the list of participants (in consultation with the organisers). Moreover, each CRP may bring in additional people at their own cost.

On the basis of the financial support provided by the ESF, the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology will arrange accommodation for you during the conference, including the night before and the night after the workshop (i.e., from the evening of March 5th to the morning of March 10th). Meals will also be arranged for by the organisers.

This event, as part of the European Science Foundation EUROCORES Programme BOREAS, is supported by funds from the EC Sixth Framework Programme under Contract no. ERAS-CT-2003-980409. Travel costs will be covered in accordance with the ESF financial rules for the reimbursement of expenses. Participants in EUROCORES Programme networking activities should arrive and depart as close as possible to the beginning and end of the event. In cases where participants have been on non-ESF business either before or after the meeting, the organiser should only cover expenses incurred by attendance of the ESF meeting, unless extension of stay is justified by a significant reduction in overall cost (resulting e.g. from reduced air fares).

Air tickets should be tourist class (or at a lower rate if cheaper tickets, e.g. PEX/APEX, are available). To benefit from the most economical fare, early booking is essential. Where no price is indicated on the ticket, the invoice should also be provided to the organiser.

Taxi costs will be reimbursed under exceptional circumstances only (e.g., absence of public transport). Costs of health, life and luggage insurance are not reimbursed by the ESF. Cancellation insurance will only be reimbursed for PEX/APEX tickets. Use of private car (including road tolls and fuel) can be reimbursed up to 120 Euro maximum (for further details please contact Joachim Otto Habeck, habeck@eth.mpg.de).

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6-9 March 2008

PROGRAMME

Version dated: 19.02.2008

March 5

Arrival of participants

19:00 h Dinner at Restaurant LUCY
Burgstraße 48, 06114 Halle, Tel.: + 49(0)345- 6 82 41 60

March 6

BOREAS researchers only

09:00 h Registration
10:00 h Meeting of the BOREAS Scientific Committee
(Main Seminar Room)
11:30 h Reserved for individual meetings (inter-CRP and intra-CRP)
13:00 h Lunch in MPI Cafeteria
14:00 h Reserved for individual meetings (inter-CRP and intra-CRP)
16:00 h Coffee/tea
16:15 h Reserved for individual meetings (inter-CRP and intra-CRP)

Open to all Workshop participants

18:30 h Organisers pick up the participants at the hotels
and bring them to the restaurant
19:00 h Dinner at Restaurant ZECH
Kleiner Berlin 2, 06108 Halle, Tel.: + 49(0)345-2 79 80 68 1

March 7

- 09:00 h Registration
- 10:00 h Keynote speech by Tim Ingold
Dept of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen
- 11:00 h *Session 1: Frontiers and Borders*
- Jean Comaroff
Dept of Anthropology, University of Chicago
- Julia Lajus
European University St Petersburg
- Piers Vitebsky
Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge
- 12:30 h Lunch
- 13:30 h *Session 2: Indigeneity and Indigenism*
- Peter Loovers
Dept of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen
- Ron Niezen
Dept of Anthropology, McGill University, Montreal
- Gertrude Eilmsteiner-Saxinger
University of Vienna
- and
- Peter Schweitzer
Dept of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- 15:15 h Coffee/tea
- 15:30 h *Session 3: Conversion and Community Cohesion*
- Mathijs Pelkmans
Dept of Anthropology, London School of Economics
- Chris Southcott
Dept of Sociology, Lakehead University
- Virginie Vaté
Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités,
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
- 17:00 h *Poster session (see list below)*
- 19:00 h Dinner at Restaurant ZUM SCHAD
Reilstraße 10, 06114 Halle, Tel.: + 49(0)345-5 23 03 66

March 8

- 09:00 h *Session 6: Development and conservation*
Michael Bravo
 Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge and
Tina Sawchuk
 Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge
Patty Gray
 Dept of Anthropology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Wolde Gossa Tadesse
 The Christensen Fund
- 10:45 h Coffee/tea
- 11:00 h *Session 7: Environmental change*
Andre Costopoulos
 Anthropology Department, McGill University Montreal
Ron Doel
 Dept of History & Dept of Geosciences,
 Oregon State University
William Patterson
 Dept of Geological Sciences, University of Saskatchewan
Martin Welp
 Global Change Management,
 University of Applied Sciences Eberswalde
- 12:30 h Lunch
- 14:00 h *Session 4: Migration*
Ammar Bouhouche
 Institute for Political Science, Algiers University
Timothy Heleniak
 Dept of Geography, University of Maryland
Lee Huskey
 Dept of Public Administration,
 University of Alaska Anchorage
Maria Nakshina
 Dept of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen
- 15:45 h Coffee/tea
- 16:00 h *Session 5: Relocation*
Yvon Csonka
 Dept of Cultural and Social History, University of Greenland
Sharon Hutchinson
 Dept of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin Madison
Robert Wishart
 Dept of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen
- 19:00 h Dinner (location to be confirmed)

March 9

10:00 h Final session

12:30 h Lunch

BOREAS Researchers only

14:00 h Reserved for individual meetings (inter-CRP and intra-CRP)

16:00 h Coffee/tea

16:15 h Reserved for individual meetings (inter-CRP and intra-CRP)

Open to all Workshop participants

19:00 h Dinner at Restaurant ZUM SCHAD
Reilstraße 10, 06114 Halle, Tel.: + 49(0)345-5 23 03 66

Poster presentations of BOREAS Workshop Grantees

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|--|---|
| Maria Eugenia Brockmann Rojas
<i>Indigenismo in Bolivia</i> | McGill University Montreal |
| Russell Thomas Fielding
<i>Whaling in the Caribbeans and the Faroer Islands</i> | Dept of Geography and Anthropology,
Louisiana State University |
| Karin Granqvist
<i>Representations of Sámi in 19th-century polar literature</i> | Dept for History, University of Tromsø |
| Jen Hill
<i>The Arctic in 19th-century British imagination</i> | English Department,
University of Nevada Reno |
| Nilly Kamal El-Amir
<i>Environmental Security in international politics:
comparison between Japanese and American policies</i> | Faculty of Economics & Political Science
Cairo University |
| Richard Charles Powell
<i>Political geographies of environmental changes in the Circumpolar Arctic and their policy implications for UK energy security</i> | Dept of Geography,
University of Liverpool |
| Jenny Leigh Smith
<i>Downwind Up North: Radioecological Legacies of the Circumpolar Arctic</i> | Yale University |
| Manoj Kumar Teotia
<i>Mending the Environmental Fabric of Segregated Urban Settlements</i> | Panjab University Chandigarh |
| Clinton N. Westman
<i>Pentecostal conversion in Cree communities of Alberta</i> | Dept of Anthropology,
University of Alberta |
| Sveta Yamin-Pasternak
<i>Mushrooms and cross-cultural entanglements:
examples from North America, Africa, and the Russian North</i> | Dept of Anthropology,
John Hopkins University |