

Tourism, People and Protected Areas in Polar Wilderness

Polar areas have recently raised enormous interest from various directions. Geopolitical struggle over resources and growing concern regarding the impacts of climate change on polar environments are only two reasons for the increasing awareness directed towards polar areas often focusing the regions' ecological vulnerability.

These changes are intertwined with issues related to human mobility and here particularly the role of tourism can be highlighted. The remoteness of the polar areas promises tourists extreme climatic conditions, undisturbed wilderness, authentic heritage and exotism. These factors have been successfully used to lure an increasing number of tourists into the Polar Regions. Hence meanwhile desired by national and regional governments and also some communities as a way of achieving regional development and sustaining livelihoods for polar peoples, the growing numbers of tourists have created concern among environmentalists, academics and locals. Obviously, the needs and desires of tourists collide with local subsistence, global conservation interest and other resource exploitation. Hence in some cases mining, tourism, nature protection and indigenous traditions compete for the same spaces. The idea of 'peripheral' polar areas is thus increasingly contested and in the light of global change polar areas have been moved into the center of interest as never before.

This forms the background for the 2nd conference of the International Polar Tourism Research Network in Abisko, Sweden.

This conference puts focus on the interrelationship of tourism development and polar communities and environments. Papers should address issues related to the following topics:

- Tourism and regional development in polar areas
- Tourism and indigenous peoples in polar areas
- Tourism and cultural change in polar areas
- Tourism and nature protection in polar areas
- Polar ecotourism and nature-based tourism
- Polar cruise tourism
- Polar mass tourism
- ... or any other topic relevant for the topic of the conference
- Science tourism
- Tourism and resource conflicts in polar areas
- Polar tourism experiences and their interpretation
- Management and planning for polar tourism
- Geopolitics of polar tourism
- Polar tourism history
- Constructions of polar tourism spaces

The local organizing committee contains

- Professor Dieter K. Müller, Umeå University, Sweden
- Assistant Professor Linda Lundmark, Umeå University, Sweden
- Assistant Professor Hans Gelter, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden

The scientific advisory committee contains

- Professor Dieter K. Müller, Umeå University, Sweden
- Professor Alain Grenier, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada
- Associate Professor Raynald Lemelin, Lakehead University, Canada
- Assistant Professor Pat Maher, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada
- Dr. Suzanne de la Barre, Whitehorse, Canada
- Dr. Machiel Lamers, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands

Program

Sun 13/6 1900-2000	Welcome dinner
Sun 13/6 2000-2045	KEY-NOTE
Chair: Linda Lundmark	Patrick Maher Looking Back, Venturing Forward: Challenges for Academia, Community, and Industry in Polar Tourism Research
Mon 14/6 0745-0845	Breakfast
Mon 14/6 0900-1030	The Construction of Polar Areas and Polar Tourism
Chair: Alain Grenier	Arvid Viken What is Arctic tourism - and who should define it? Eric. J. Shelton Narrative Frameworks of Consideration: Horizontal and vertical approaches to conceptualising the sub-Antarctic Valérie Kohler «EXOTIC IMAGINATION OF THE FAR NORTH THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHIES»
Mon 14/6 1100-1230	Polar Politics
Chair: Emma Stewart	Machiel Lamers and Kees Bastmeijer Two decades of Antarctic tourism policy: Linking insights from philosophy and law Daniela Liggett Antarctic tourism regulation – A policy “problem”? Maria Gavrilov and Vassily Spridonov TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC AND PROTECTION OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY: NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN?
1230-1400	Lunch
Mon 14/6 1400-1530	Tourism in Arctic Communities
Chair: Arvid Viken	Anna-Liisa Ylisirniö and Tuukka Mäkitie Conflicting discourses in tourism development: a case of Kilpisjärvi village, Finnish Lapland Sylvie Blangy, Vera Avaala, and Britt-Marie Labba Aboriginal Ecotourism in the Arctic: a collaborative research project between the caribou Inuit and the Saami reindeer herders Margaret Johnston, Jackie Dawson, Harvey Lemelin and Emma Stewart Climate change and tourism change in Arctic communities: An exploration of interactions, experiences and strategies

Tue 15/6 1530-1630	Tourism Development and Nature Protection
Chair: Edward Huijbens	Véronique Antomarchi The creation of the Pingualuit National Park in Nunavik (North Quebec), a lever for touristic exploitation Seija Tuulentie & Outi Rantala WILL THE "FREE ENTRY INTO THE FOREST" REMAIN? Analysis of the issues of everyman's rights in Finland and Sweden
1800-1900	Dinner
Tue 15/6 1900-	Social Program <i>Hiking trip along Abiskoajokka including a visit to Abisko National Park Visitor Centre</i>

Wed 16/6 0745-0845	Breakfast
Wed 16/6 0900-1000	Dark Perspectives on Polar Tourism
Chair: Patrick Maher	C. Michael Hall Biosecurity dimensions of Arctic and northern high latitude tourism operations Raynald Harvey Lemelin, Jackie Dawson, Emma Stewart, Patrick Maher, and Micha Lück Last-Chance Tourism: The Dark Side of Arctic Travel
Wed 16/6 1030-1200	Economic Perspectives
Chair: Per-Åke Nilsson	Alain Grenier POLAR TOURISM IN NORTHERN QUEBEC: MAPPING A YOUNG INDUSTRY Gunnar Thór Jóhannesson and Edward H. Huijbens How Tourism is to save Iceland: Discourse on tourism development in times of economic crisis Dieter K. Müller Tourism labour market change in the northernmost Europe
1200-1300	Lunch
Wed 16/6 1300-1430	Closing Session
Chair: Dieter Müller	
1430	Departure to Narvik
1800-1900	Dinner

Thu 17/6 0745-0845	Breakfast
0930	Deaprture to Kiruna

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Two decades of Antarctic tourism policy: Linking insights from philosophy and law

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Tourism in Antarctica has rapidly grown and diversified over the last two decades. Already in the 1990s stakeholders have expressed concerns about the increasing accessibility of the Antarctic, issues of safety, and potential environmental impacts of tourism growth. Since the adoption of the Environmental Protocol in 1991, tourism has become one of the central debates at Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings; however, the debates have not resulted in comprehensive regulations. In the view of the authors, reconciling different human-nature perspectives in the international Antarctic policy making context is an important process in the development of a strategic tourism policy. Previous studies stress that in many places (including the Antarctic settings) more ecocentric views of nature dominate the public opinion regarding environmental protection. Why then do we fail to consolidate these public opinions into more ecocentric laws and policies?

Contemporary Dutch environmental philosophers (Achterberg, Zweers, de Groot) have developed a typology of human-nature perspectives ('grondhoudingen') which have been used frequently in social science-research. Four main views may be distinguished ranging from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism: Mastery over nature, Stewardship of nature, Partnership with nature, and Participation in nature. Based on these categories, this paper aims to analyse the different human-nature perspectives that are reflected in the most important existing legal instruments applicable to tourism activities in the Antarctic as well as in the Antarctic tourism debate. The main sources for conducting this study include the 1991 Protocol, the Resolutions and Measures that have been adopted by the ATCM on the issue of Antarctic tourism, the Annual Reports of the ATCMs since 1991 and a selection of working papers that have been tabled at these ATCMs.

The outcome of this analysis may support the future debate on Antarctic tourism within the Antarctic Treaty System. An awareness of the different human-nature relationships of the Consultative Parties will help to understand each other's position and the obstacles for decision making that are experienced until today. Such a common understanding creates a more solid basis for future development of a concrete and comprehensive joint tourism policy for the Antarctic region.

Last-Chance Tourism: The Dark Side of Arctic Travel

Raynald Harvey Lemelin, Jackie Dawson, Emma Stewart, Patrick Maher, and Micha Lück

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The growing "death" appeal of the polar north, through vanishing landscapes and disappearing icons (i.e., polar bears) has been rarely discussed in the academic literature. This presentation provides evidence on the growing appeal of the traditional "darker" dimensions of tourism in the Canadian Arctic, including travel by cruise ship passengers to European and Inuit burial sites and areas where early Europeans explorers over-wintered in severe conditions (i.e., visits to Beechey Island). However, it will also look at "last-chance tourism" as termed by Dawson et al. (2009) and Lemelin et al., (2010), a visitor experience where tourists explicitly seek vanishing landscapes and disappearing wilderness icons. These components of last-chance tourism are similar to dark tourism, travel to a destination motivated in-part by the desire for actual or symbolic encounters with death (Seaton, 1996). The similarities between dark tourism and last-chance tourism, to be discussed in this presentation, include: Predication on vanishing landscapes/seascapes and disappearing wilderness icons, indirectly motivated by a desire to visit graveyards and burial sites; Association to social angst surrounding rationality, technological progress, and globalization; Symbolic representation of ecocide and anthropogenic impacts of climate change. Through the incorporation of these dimensions in a Canadian Arctic setting, this review of last-chance tourism will highlight the limitations of dark tourism which is largely anthropocentric and somewhat Euro-centric, and suggests how the concept can be improved through last-chance tourism.