



Social and Human Sciences Working Group Meeting

5 April 2014
09.00-18.00

Helsinki, Finland
The Dynamicum, Finnish Meteorological Institute

Draft Minutes

Participants:

WG MEMBERS PRESENT:

PETER SCHWEITZER - USA, CHAIR
PETER SKÖLD - SWEDEN, VICE CHAIR
GAIL FONDAHL - CANADA, VICE CHAIR
LOUWRENS HACQUEBORD - NETHERLANDS,
PAST CHAIR
LUDEK BROZ- CZECH REPUBLIC
LONE DIRCKINCK-HOLMEFELD - DENMARK
ARJA RAUTIO - FINLAND
LASSI HEININEN - FINLAND
JOACHIM O. HABECK - GERMANY
HIROKI TAKAKURA - JAPAN
MICHAL LUSZCZUK - POLAND
ELENA CONDE - SPAIN
SVEN D. HAAKANSON - USA
GUNHILD HOOGENSEN GJØRV - NORWAY

WG MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

LONG WEI - CHINA
ROBERT CHR. THOMSEN - DENMARK
SYLVIE BLANGY - FRANCE
JOAN NYMAND LARSEN - ICELAND
GISLI PALSSON - ICELAND
DHUJATI MAJUMDAR - INDIA
DONGMIN JIN - KOREA
HALVOR DANNEVIG - NORWAY
RYSZARD CZARNY - POLAND
PHILIPPE GESLIN - SWITZERLAND
MICHAEL BRAVO - UK

GUESTS AND OBSERVERS:

ANDREY PETROV – (WORKING GROUP MEMBER
ELECT OF THE USA)
PETER JORDAN (DIRECTOR OF THE ARCTIC
CENTRE OF GRONINGEN UNIVERSITY)
YANG YANG (CHINESE ARCTIC & ANTARCTIC
ADMINISTRATION)
SUSAN BARR (IASC EXCOM)
ABIGAIL DUNNING - NEWBURY (USA)
HANNAH STRAUSS-MAZZULLO (ARCTIC CENTRE,
FINLAND)
DORIS FRIEDRICH (ARCTIC INSTITUTE)
MARK MYERS (UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
FAIRBANKS)
YULIYA ZAIKA (LOMONOSOV MOSCOW STATE
UNIVERSITY)
HEATHER GORDON (UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
– MADISON)
VLADIMIR KONDRATEV (UNIVERSITY OF
HELSINKI)
TATIANA VLASOVA (IASSA, INSTITUTE OF
GEOGRAPHY, RUSSIA)
GERLIS FUGMANN (APECS)
ROBERT DELGADO (NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION – USA)

SECRETARIAT

VOLKER RACHOLD (IASC EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY)
HEIKE MIDDLEJA (IASC SECRETARIAT)
CANDICE LYS (APECS PARTICIPANT)
MALGORZATA SMIESZEK (APECS PARTICIPANT)

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1 OPENING AND REPORTING

1.1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (PETER SCHWEITZER)

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. New members (Elena Conde, Spain; Lassi Heininen, Finland; Michal Luszczuk, Poland) and members elect (Andrey Petrov, USA) were welcomed and continuing members and observers to the meeting introduced themselves. Observers were encouraged by the Chair not only to observe, but also contribute to and participate in the discussions.

1.2 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (PETER SCHWEITZER)

The Chair briefly introduced the agenda and highlighted the most important issues to be discussed at the meeting. The points requiring presence of Volker Rachold were moved until after lunch break when he joined the session.

1.3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (PETER SCHWEITZER)

The Secretariat did not receive any comments on the minutes of the last meeting from ASSW 2013 and they were approved.

1.4 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (PETER SCHWEITZER)

The agenda was adopted without modification.

2 MAIN ISSUES

2.1 REPORTS ON SHWG ACTIVITIES

The activities were presented in their chronological order. There were two main funded activities in the last year: the 'Russia and Arctic Anthropology' workshop and the Arctic Human Development Report II (AHDR II). Other activities (such as a community-based Kodiak workshop) that were discussed and postponed already at the previous S&HWG meeting in Cracow were eventually canceled and funds were reallocated due to logistical constraints. It was agreed that if the opportunity for another community-based workshop emerges, it will be undertaken but at present the item is taken out of the agenda.

2.1.1 RUSSIA AND ARCTIC ANTHROPOLOGY (PETER SCHWEITZER)

Ten Arctic social scientists, from eight countries, convened in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, for a workshop on "Russia and Arctic Anthropology: Toward an Agenda for the 21st Century." The workshop was organized by Nikolai Vakhtin and Peter Schweitzer,

supported by the European University – St. Petersburg and the IASC S&HWG. The participants included one indigenous scholar originally from the Russian Arctic. The group discussed the current state and future of Arctic anthropology and other social sciences research both broadly and specifically in Arctic Russia. Participants then worked towards developing a framework for a new, large-scale research initiative focusing on key elements of change in the Russian Arctic.

2.1.2 AHDR II (GAIL FONDAHL)

The Arctic Human Development Report II (AHDR-II) has been supported by SHWG providing financial assistance for a SHWG member to participate in the meetings of the writing teams. IASC has been also responsible for the review process of the AHDR-II, which is coordinated by the IASC Executive Secretary.

The AHDR-II is addressed to a group of post-secondary readers, but also the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council and other institutions. The report is slightly behind the schedule but the text is already at the editing stage. After peer-review most chapters have been delivered to the editors and a final draft is expected in a couple of weeks, which will then be sent to 2-3 reviewers. The report should be printed in mid-summer, unless the SDWG endorses it before its next meeting in fall 2014 the official launch of the report could be delayed. The formal launch of the report is expected to be in October 2014.

Gail Fondahl reported also on certain concerns raised by the SDWG with regard to content of the ADHR-II but it was clarified that the report is a peer-reviewed academic work. In response to questions from S&HWG members Gail Fondahl ensured that the scientific integrity of the ADHR-II will remain untouched.

2.2 UPDATES ON UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The chair informed about the Steering Group meeting in November 2013 where certain upcoming activities were discussed.

2.2.1 ICARP III TOWNHALL, TO BE HELD AT ICASS VIII (GAIL FONDAHL, PETER SKÖLD, PETER SCHWEITZER)

The ICARP III Town Hall will take place on May 23 2014, followed by a reception. Two rapporteurs will attend the meeting and draft a report to be edited by Gail Fondahl, Peter Schweitzer and Peter Sköld. The Town Hall will be live streamed on the Internet for those not attending.

The support by S&HWG to this event was agreed in the ASSW 2013. During an executive meeting it was decided to increase this support due to much bigger than expected size of the event.

2.2.2 UMEA WORKSHOP (PETER SKÖLD)

The workshop “Exploitation and Natural Resources in the Arctic: Past, Present and Future” seeks to address the social and human sciences dimensions of large-scale (non-renewable) resource use systems and their interactions with large-scale international projects. With long-term historical perspective it aims to include researchers working on the social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of exploitation of natural resources from local to global level. The workshop will be held at the Arctic Research Centre at Umea University on October 1-2, 2014 (preliminary dates). The program is not yet set and input into its development is encouraged.

The Chair welcomed the proposal by Gunhild Hoogensen Gjörv to search for links between the workshop and the University of the Arctic (UArctic) thematic network on Arctic extractive industries.

The presentation is given in ANNEX 2.2.2

2.2.3 THE 54TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (PETER SCHWEITZER AND GAIL FONDAHL)

The S&HWG will be present at the 54th Congress of the European Regional Science Association in August 2014 in St. Petersburg with ICARP III related outreach activities in Russia. The intent is to involve more Russian scholars to reach the Russian community as well. One of the focus areas of this Congress is the Arctic, and results from the Prince George conference will be used for the outreach event in Russia. Once the exact date and venue are confirmed, they will be put on the website. This activity will not be a part of the Congress, but will instead be outside of it to reach people interested in arctic social sciences who might happen to be at the Congress.

The Chair and Peter Sköld pointed the necessity of addressing the agreed research priorities with the limited resources at the disposal of the S&HWG.

2.3 REVIEW OF IASC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SHWG

2.3.1 SECRETARIAL SUPPORT (VOLKER RACHOLD)

The aim is to find a more sustainable solution in providing secretarial support to all the IASC WGs. As such the proposal for establishment of the ‘IASC Fellowships’ will be presented to the IASC Council during its ASSW 2014 meeting to determine whether the Council will endorse it. The idea stemmed from the support that the IASC already offers to early-career scientists in a form of travel grants to attend the ASSW – in return young scientists could provide their support to WGs of their interest and also gain insight and experience in science management. The IASC fellows would be selected from among early-career scientists and they would support the IASC WGs for one year and attend two consecutive ASSW as rapporteurs. In between WGs’ meetings the IASC fellows would provide organizational support and help with day-to-day WGs activities. The benefits for fellows will encompass networking, opportunity to observe how research priorities are being developed, receiving funding for attendance to two ASSWs, and learning management skills. The individuals are to be fellows because they will receive training and

become involved, rather than merely supporting the IASC.

In response to a question whether fellowships should not last longer than one year, Volker Rachold explained that it was aligned with the Association for Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) whose terms are also one year long. The APECS helped a lot with the fellowship concept and development of its criteria.

2.4 OTHER SOCIAL AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES EXTERNAL TO IASC

2.4.1 NEW GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EUROPEAN ARCTIC (PETER SKÖLD)

The program places focus on the European Arctic mainland, defined as the northernmost parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland. Its main theme is governance. The project started on April 1, 2014 and will last at least 4 years. It includes 36 salaried researchers from 5 countries, encompasses 8 different social sciences and humanities disciplines, and received 4.5 million EUR funding from the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA).

- **ACTION: Description of the program to be sent out via S&HWG mailing list. (done)**

The presentation is given in ANNEX 2.4.1

2.4.2 NETWORK ARCTIC-FROST: RESOURCES, SOCIETIES, ENVIRONMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHANGING NORTH - A NEW US NSF ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COORDINATION NETWORK (ANDREY PETROV)

Arctic-Frost (Arctic FROntiers of SusTainability) builds international interdisciplinary collaborative network that teams together social and environmental scientists, local educators and community members from all circumpolar countries to enable and mobilize research on sustainable Arctic development, specifically aimed to at improving health, human development and well-being of Arctic communities while conserving ecosystem structures, functions and resources under changing climate conditions. The purpose of the project is to contribute to conceptual, applied and educational aspects of sustainability science about the Arctic and beyond, and to define research agenda for a next decade after this 5-year project expires.

Network membership is open to all scholars, students, and community members with interests in Arctic sustainability and sustainable development. Many funding opportunities are available and both registration to the network and more information can be found at www.uni.edu/arctic/frost.

The network will have its 2014 meeting in Anchorage, Alaska in September in conjunction with workshops for early-career scientists. One of deliverables of the project will be a book on the meaning of sustainability in the Arctic.

The very inviting and encouraging presentation of the network was highly appreciated by WG members.

The presentation is given in ANNEX 2.4.2

2.5 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCTIC RESEARCH PLANNING (ICARP III) (VOLKER RACHOLD AND PETER SCHWEITZER)

Under this agenda item, the Chair introduced the selected proposals from the ExCom meeting. The IASC WGs are expected to play an important role in the ICARP III and the Chair pointed out that high marks were received for social sciences' proposals submitted for the ICARP III. ICARP III aims to build on comprehensive science plans that currently exist and complement existing activities in order to identify and fill gaps that may need further attention (rather than developing new science plans).

The Chair welcomed the proposal by Gerlis Fugmann on behalf of APECS and CliC to produce 'Frost-bytes' (30-60 second audio or video recordings designed to help researchers easily share their findings to a broad audience) for all the ICARP III activities.

Volker Rachold outlined the main information about the ICARP III, which will have its launch on Tuesday April 8, 2014 in the ASSW 2014 and will conclude during the ASSW 2015 in Toyama, Japan. The IASC Executive Secretary noted that Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council joined ICARP III as partners and that contact was established also with the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat in Copenhagen. All materials related to ICARP III were received by ASSW participants on the conference USB-sticks.

2.5.1 ICARP III ACTIVITIES SPEARHEADED BY ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

2.5.1.1 PERMAFROST INDIGENOUS LAND USE WORKSHOP (JOACHIM OTTO HABECK AND HIROKI TAKAKURA)

This workshop will take place on 6-7 April 2014 in combination with the ASSW in Helsinki. It will focus on the Central Yakutian Lowlands, cyclical processes of thermokarst and permafrost build-up, and historical and contemporary forms of land use in alaa landscapes. The workshop aims to bring together expertise on how local communities have made use and are making use of permafrost dynamics for subsistence activities; assess how climate change is likely to change permafrost dynamics and indigenous land use in this part of the Sub-Arctic; and explore to what extent humans have appropriated and actively shaped the thermokarst landscapes of Northeast Siberia both in the short range of the current period.

The workshop received ICARP III funding to which the requirement was integration between different IASC WGs. Such integrative approach was ensured from the preparation phase of the project. Meeting's participants were invited and encouraged to attend the workshop.

The presentation is given in ANNEX 2.5.1.1

2.5.1.2 CULTURE AND ARCTIC CLIMATE CHANGE (PETER JORDAN)

The workshop 'Culture and Arctic Climate Change: Integrating Long-Term perspectives from Archaeology and the Environmental Sciences' will take place in May 2014 in Yale, bringing together researchers working across the full range of 'target' disciplines in order to identify key factors structuring the relationships between culture and Arctic environmental change. The central theme is how best to improve understanding of how the Arctic archaeological record can be better integrated with evidence for past climate and environmental change. The main goal is to stimulate new collaborations across disciplines, and to build the results of the focus-group discussions into the organization of the conference session and main publications.

The initiative 'Culture and Arctic Climate Change' will also run a conference session at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in December 2014 (funded by the IASC grant) and publish a journal special issue that provides a new baseline of knowledge about human responses to long-term climate change in the arctic over the last 10,000 years. The whole concept has been developed under the IASC Polar Archeology Network (PAN).

The funding was received from many sources, but the IASC support was very warmly welcomed.

In relation to this presentation Louwrens Hacquebord called for closer links with archeology and inviting archeologists to works of the S&HWG.

2.5.1.3 ICARP III ROUNDTABLE AT ICASS VIII (GAIL FONDAHL, PETER SKÖLD, PETER SCHWEITZER)

In contrast to the aforementioned ICARP III workshops, which received funding from the general IASC budget, the ICARP III Roundtable in Prince George in May 2014 is an event sponsored entirely by the S&HWG.

2.5.1.4 UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ARCTIC (GAIL FONDAHL, ANDREY PETROV, PETER SCHWEITZER)

This has grown out of the Arctic-FROST project from which a small group of people will come together in fall 2014 to synthesize the state of the art and develop a White Paper on sustainability in the Arctic. The funding proposal was submitted by Gail Fondahl as the president of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA). As a partner proposal, the allocated funding was smaller than for projects coming from within the WG.

2.5.1.5 "ARCTIC COASTAL COMMUNITIES OBSERVATORY NETWORK" (PETER SCHWEITZER)

The Chair informed that a first meeting of this network is to take place on April 14-16 in Copenhagen and that Joan Nyman Larson will ensure social science input, but no other

engagement of S&HWG apart from it.

2.6 NEW PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

2.6.1 NEW ACTIVITIES/TASKS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE MEMBERS

Under this agenda item, new suggestions and proposals on WG activities were brought forward by members of the Working Group. These included short presentations followed by a discussion. The decisions will be made during the closed meeting regarding which workshops will be funded.

Each year, there should be a new focus area. This year, it was human health and well-being research as it relates to social and human sciences. The Chair informed that there is still room for two or more workshops in the 2014 budget.

2.6.1.1 HEALTH (ARJA RAUTIO)

Health disparities among countries and regions still exist, within regions, among population subgroups and, between Indigenous and non-indigenous people in the North. Climate and environmental change not only affects living conditions and health but subjective well-being and the quality of life as well. There is a need to promote health programs.

Arja Rautio presented the short overview of current situation and major health-related trends in the Arctic, and provided information about the food and health security project funded by the KOLARCTIC ENPI, the EU funded ArcRisk project, as well as ongoing education initiatives (PhD and MA programs, summer and winter schools and seminars). She called for more collaboration among disciplines in order to better address the issue of human-health and well-being, a need to synchronize research efforts to avoid overlaps, and informed participants about the upcoming '16th International Congress on Circumpolar Health. Focus on Future Health and Wellbeing' which will take place in June 7-13, 2015, in Oulu, Finland and to which Arja Rautio is the head of the organizing committee. The presentation was followed by discussion how S&HWG could contribute to the topic of human health. The need for inclusion of more humanities into group dominated by social sciences has been recognized along with a proposal for organizing during the conference a panel on (missing) health data.

The presentation is given in ANNEX 2.6.1.1

2.6.2 PROPOSALS FOR NEW ACTIVITIES (ITEMS NOT LISTED EARLIER ON THE AGENDA)

- Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv proposed to focus on the extractive industries as a cross-cutting theme of relevance to all WGs and organize the workshops to this end. The Chair expressed concern that there are no funds at present to support a cross-cutting

issue. As such Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv requested to make the topic clearer on the IASC website as an issue that is important to IASC and of relevance to potential research funders. In addition, there was a deliberation on how the topic could be linked to already planned Umea workshop and the one of gender equality issue coming in fall 2014 (Gail Fondahl).

- Lassi Heininen together with Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv proposed two workshops on Arctic security and sovereignty, to be held along the Calotte Academy in June 2014 and the Arctic Circle conference in Reykjavik, Iceland in September 2014. The former would be oriented towards early-career scientists, whereas the latter would be a more high-level event. It was outlined that presently there is hardly any conference, which addresses primarily the issue of Arctic sovereignty, and the one in place does not include practically Russia and Russian perspectives on the topic.
- Arja Rautio: suggestion for a panel on the missing health data either during the 16th Circumpolar Congress on Human Health or as a separate event earlier.
- Tatiana Vlasova/ Andrey Petrov: proposal to support the event/ session at the International Geographic Union (IGU) during its Regional Geographic Conference in Moscow in August 2015.
- Gail Fondahl: fund a member of the S&HWG to attend the conference on 'Gender Equality in the Arctic: Current realities, future challenges' (also on the security dimension) in October 2014 in Reykjavik.
- Andrey Petrov: proposal for funding travel-stipends for early-career scientists to attend the Arctic-FROST workshop on sustainability in the Arctic, which will take place in Anchorage, Alaska in September 2014.

The Chair reminded that in the previous year 'Arctic in a global context' was added to scientific foci of the S&HWG and there is still room for initiatives related to this topic, also with inclusion of non-IASC members.

Gail Fondahl pointed to the possibility of bringing the Arctic social sciences to the World Social Science Forum in Durban in 2015.

2.6.3 INITIATIVES RELATED TO SHWG ACTIVITIES NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

In the time left before moving to the closed session, the Chair invited comments on initiatives related to the S&HWG activities but not listed earlier on the agenda.

Michal Luszczuk informed on the upcoming XXXV Polar Symposium on '*Diversity and state of polar ecosystems*' which will take place in Wroclaw, Poland from 5-7th June 2014. The Chair welcomed the information and encouraged also regular exchange of information on polar-related events between members of the S&HWG, e.g. via informing the IASC secretariat and through the IASC website.

Louwrens Hacquebord reported on a book '*Emerging Questions on Arctic Geosciences*' organized by the IASC Action Group on Geoscience and to be published by the Geological Society. The book will include the human dimension in its third part on 'A Long-Term Perspective on Human Uses of Arctic Mineral Resources', which is considered the

input of S&HWG to this publication.

Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld informed about establishment in 2012 of the Centre for Innovation and Research in Culture and Learning in the Arctic (CIRCLA) at the Aalborg University, Denmark. CIRCLA is a cross-faculty and interdisciplinary centre, with 95% social science and humanities research, and a number of events already organized and upcoming. The Arctic studies are planned as a specialization under the 2-years masters in Culture, Communication and Globalization.

Joachim Otto Habeck presented the new information brochure from the European Polar Board to which he, on behalf of this IASC WG, contributed with the input from some members of the S&HWG.

3 NEXT MEETING (VOLKER RACHOLD)

3.1 ICASS VIII (GAIL FONDAHL, PETER SCHWEITZER)

A discussion of the meeting plans to be held at ICASS VIII in Prince George, BC in May 2014. The Chair proposed two objectives for the ICASS VIII: informing the delegates of the conference about the existence of S&HWG, and to continue their discussions that started during the ASSW 2014.

3.2 ASSW 2015

The 2015 meeting will be held at the ASSW 2015 in Toyama, Japan on 23-30 April 2015, in conjunction with IASC's 25th Anniversary, the ICARP III and the 4th International Symposium on Arctic Research.

3.3 ASSW 2016

The next meeting of the WG shall be held in conjunction with the ASSW 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA (note: approved by the IASC Council on April 8).

3.4 ASSW 2017

Proposal in development for the ASSW 2017 to be held in Prague (note: approved by the IASC Council on April 8).

