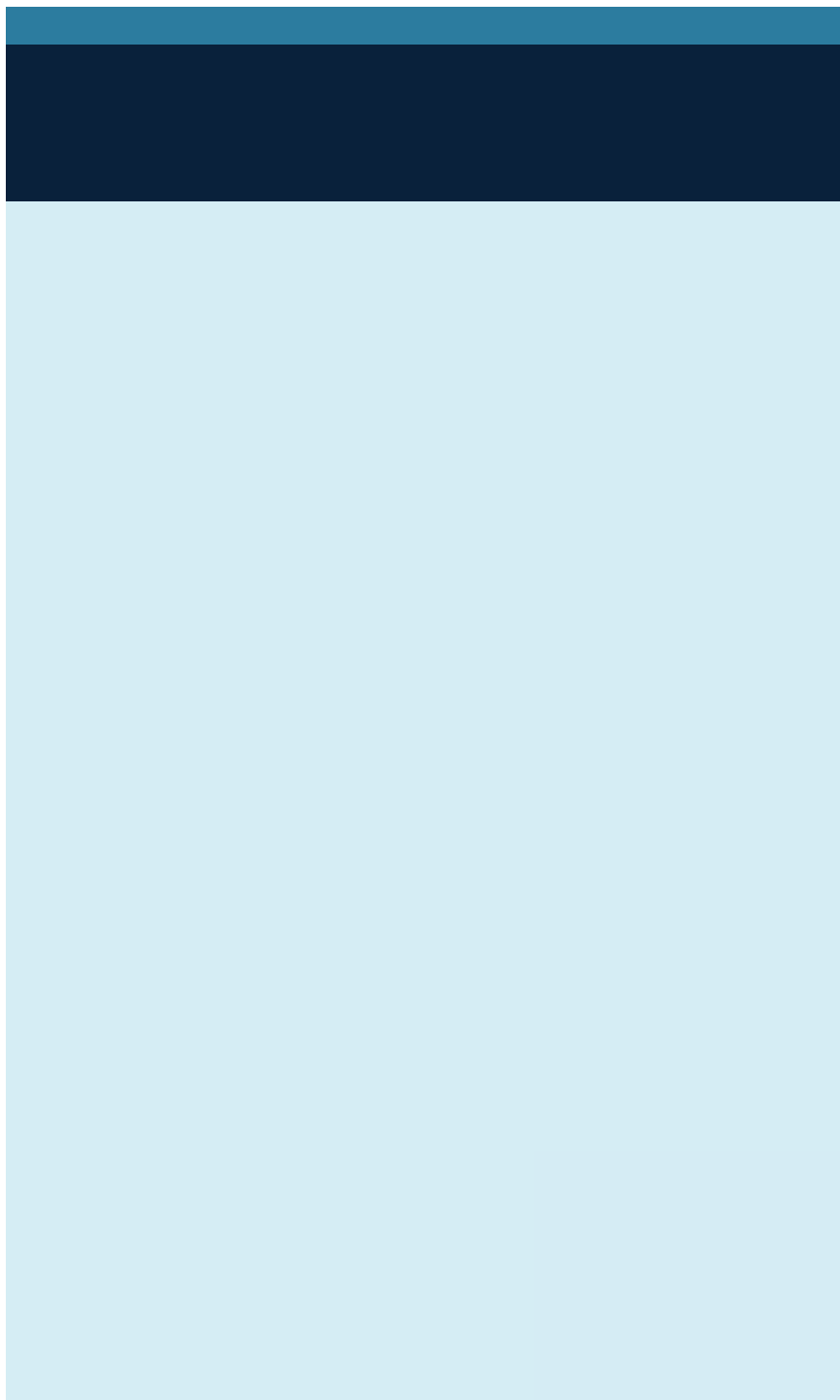




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# Forging of cultures in the Circumpolar North – a comparative perspective

Arctic Research Centre, Aarhus University  
presents:  
24-25 September 2015, Moesgaard Museum



# Program

**Thursday 24 September 2015**

**Session A: 9.00 – 13.30 – Disequilibrium Dynamics**

Chair – Rane Willerslev

9.00-9.10     **Introduction to Session A** – Søren Rysgaard / Rane Willerslev

9.10-9.40     **Signe Normand and Toke Høye**  
'Disequilibrium dynamics in Arctic ecosystems'

9.40-10.10   **Anna Prentiss** 'Evolution of Arctic Cultures: Exploring the Roles of Cultural Inheritance and Ecology'

10.10-10.50 **Bjarne Grønnow** 'Instability and Isolation: High Arctic Settlement Patterns in a Long Term Perspective'

10.50-11.15 *Coffee*

11.15-11.45 **Igor Krupnik** 'Arctic Crashes': Studying Polar Human-Animal Disequilibria at Times of Climate Change'

11.45-12.15 **Andrew Dugmore and Jette Arneborg**  
'Disequilibrium, Adaptation and the Norse Settlement of Greenland'

12.15-12.30 **Peter D. Jordan** 'How Does Human Social Learning Produce Diversity and Adaptation in Circumpolar Cultures?'

12.30-12.45 **Closing remarks** – Rane Willerslev

12.45 -13.30   *Lunch*

# Program

**Thursday 24 September 2015**

**Session B: 13.30– 16.40 – Arctic Resource Strategies**

Chair – Felix Riede

13.30-13.40 **Introduction Session B** – Felix Riede

13.40-14.10 **Tom Gilbert** 'Palaeogenomics as a Tool for Reconstructing Human Exploitation of Animal Resources'

14.10-14.40 **Brian Wygal** 'Beyond Typologies: New Interpretations of Artifact diversity and Land Use in Post-glacial Alaska'

14.40-15.10 **Martin Appelt** 'Beyond the Historic Past – Other Cultures'

15.10-15.30 *Coffee*

15.30-16.00 **Ulla Odgaard** 'Differing Concepts: Hunting Rights and Ethics in Greenlandic Caribou Hunting.'

16.00-16.30 **Robert Brightman** 'Technical vs. Ritual Managements and Human-nonhuman Socialities Across the Bering Strait'

16.30-16.40 **Closing remarks**, Felix Riede

16.40-18.00 *Drinks reception*

# Program

**Friday 25 September 2015**

**Session C: 9.00 – 13.45 – Global connectors**

Chair – Djuke Veldhuis & Pelle Tejsner

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 09.00-09.10 | <b>Introduction to Session C</b> – Pelle Tejsner  |
| 09.10-09.40 | <b>Gro Birgit Ween</b> 'The King of Fish in the High North: Comparative Salmon Experiences in Two Arctic Rivers'  |
| 09.40-10.10 | <b>Olga Ulturgasheva</b> 'Distributions, Cycles and Returns: Exploring the Relationship between Contemporary Sharing Practices and Transition to Adulthood among Alaskan Yup'ik and Siberian Eveny' |
| 10.10-10.40 | <b>Susan Crate</b> 'Investigating the Bottom-Up Complexities and Adaptive Challenges of Contemporary Climate Change in Northeastern Siberia and Nunatsiavut, Canada                                 |
| 10.40-11.00 | <i>Coffee</i>   |
| 11.00-11.30 | <b>Stine Vestbo</b> and <b>Claus Hindberg</b> 'Eiders as Long Distance Connectors in Arctic Networks.'  |
| 11.30-12.00 | <b>Stuart McLean</b> 'A Modern Film About Modern Thinking": Zacharias Kunuk's The Journals of Knud Rasmussen and the Fabulation of Inuit Pasts and Futures.'  |

# Program

## Friday 25 September 2015

### Session C: 9.00 – 13.45 – Global Connectors

- 12.00-12.30     **Anne Lisbeth Schmidt** and **Peter Toft**  
'Comparisons of Circumpolar Clothing: Parka Materials, Designs and Transculturations in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century'
- 12.30-12.40     **Closing remarks** Djuke Veldhuis & Pelle Tejsner
- 12.45-13.45     *Lunch*

### Session D: 13.45– 16.00 – Arctic Cultures: Health & Well being

- 13.45-14.00     **Introduction to Session D:** Djuke Veldhuis
- 14.00-14.30     **Frank Sejersen** 'System Collapse and Human Agency: Interpretive Perspectives on the Hunger Catastrophe in East Greenland in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century'
- 14.30-15.00     **John Ziker** 'Inequality, Demographic Health, and Social Support in Northern Siberia'
- 15.00-15.30     **Jeanette Lykkegård Nielsen** 'The Circle of Death: A Chukchi Perspective on Alcohol and Alcohol-related Violent Death's'
- 15.30-15.40     **Closing remarks** Djuke Veldhuis & Pelle Tejsner
- 15.40-16.00     *Coffee* followed by informal drinks in Aarhus

# Abstracts: session A

**Signe Normand and Toke Høye**

## *Disequilibrium Dynamics in Arctic Ecosystems*

The importance anthropogenic and naturally caused disequilibrium dynamics in global ecosystems are increasingly recognized. Here we discuss the importance of human legacies in arctic vegetation patterns and dynamics by identifying the mechanisms whereby past traditional human activities may have affected and continue to affect vegetation in the region. We classify the temporal and spatial extent of such human activities, provide examples of their effects on arctic vegetation and discuss their significance. We suggest that historical human activities need to be brought into consideration with respect to arctic vegetation dynamics for three reasons: (i) to improve global vegetation models and estimates of future feedbacks to the global climate cycle, (ii) to better understand the consequences of ongoing climate change for biodiversity, and (iii) to assess the future viability of coupled socio-ecological systems in the Arctic.

**Anna Prentiss**

## *Evolution of Arctic Cultures: Exploring the Roles of Cultural Inheritance and Ecology*

Tremendous amounts of socio-economic variation exists in traditional societies of the circumpolar north spanning the residually mobile caribou and seal hunting Inuit of the central and lower Canadian Arctic to more sedentary whalers of northwest Alaska. This study explores the dual roles of cultural inheritance and ecology in the evolution of Paleoeskimo and Neoeskimo cultures in the North American Arctic. I apply a range of phylogenetic models to data sets derived from the archaeological record to define likely histories of arctic colonization. I then explore the effects of time, distance, and a number of local ecological factors on degree and nature of cultural variation.

# Abstracts: session A

## **Bjarne Grønnow**

### *Instability and Isolation: High Arctic Settlement Patterns in a Long Term Perspective*

Archaeological research on pre-historic and historic settlements in High Arctic Canada and Greenland has shown that the demography in these regions is remarkably dynamic through time. This is reflected in 'cycles of bust and boom' in settlement numbers, size, and densities as well as in abrupt shifts between focal settlement areas separated by large geographical distances. The paper presents some examples of such changes in demography as documented via archaeological sources from the High Arctic reaching back over four millennia. The multiple factors determining this permanent state of demographic instability are discussed, including human strategies for exploitation of biotic resources in rare High Arctic 'oases', cultural modes of expansion and contraction, risk management, and cultural encounters.

## **Igor Krupnik**

### *Arctic Crashes': Studying Polar Human-Animal Disequilibria at Times of Climate Change*

The paper introduces a new vision developed by the Smithsonian-based project, Arctic People and Animal Crashes: Human, Climate and Habitat Agency in the Anthropocene. We believe that the human-animal 'disequilibrium' concept may be more productively explored at regional and local scale rather than via earlier models of periodic warmer or cooler, or wetter or drier climate shifts that altered Arctic species' ranges and sent human populations moving, expanding, or starving (Vibe 1967; Krupnik 1993). The Arctic crashes chronicle is then a tapestry of individual stories of local human-animal disequilibria that forced changes at both community and subpopulation scales.



# Abstracts: session A

**Andrew Dugmore and Jette Arneborg**

*Disequilibrium, Adaptation and the Norse settlement of Greenland*

Norse settlement in Greenland persisted for over 400 years before it disappeared sometime in the mid to late 15<sup>th</sup> century AD. It represented a rare pre-modern incursion of a farming system into the low Arctic, and required an introduced package of domestic animals, economic strategy and social order, combined with an extensive utilisation of wild resources. Moving westwards to Greenland, Viking-Age Norse adapted again; settlement became more dispersed; animal husbandry was modified and the utilisation of wild resources changed with an emphasis on marine mammals. From the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD onwards the Greenland Norse were faced with rapid climate changes and the disequilibrium those created, but their choices left them with limited options for adaptation because their economic strategy remained essentially the same. There is no evidence that the Greenland Norse ever adopted Inuit lifestyles or technology.

**Peter D. Jordan**

*How does human social learning produce diversity and adaptation in circumpolar cultures?*

This talk focuses on indigenous hunter-gatherer communities in Northwest Siberia, and examines how local communities employ diverse technologies as part of their cultural adaptations to the sub Arctic ecosystems. The technology and material culture that they employ are best understood as an expression of social tradition. We will explore how crafting traditions are acquired, adjusted and maintained over human life spans, investigating how these generate enduring patterns of cultural and linguistic diversity. We consider how different kinds of material culture tradition are propagated through social learning, and the extent to which these cultural lineages exhibit congruence with one another.

# Abstracts: session B

## Tom Gilbert

### *Palaeogenomics as a tool for reconstructing human exploitation of animal resources*

Recent technological developments in genetics now enable researchers to obtain large amounts of genetic data from not only modern, but ancient samples. These successes have given rise to the field of 'Palaeogenomics' - the analysis of ancient genetic material at the genomic level. Such genomic sequences are an immensely rich resource of information, as they record many details about the past history of a species, including population dynamics through time, as well as documenting inter-species and population mixing. In this talk I discuss how such studies have improved our understanding of human exploitation of the animals of the far North, in both the context of hunting as well as dog domestication, and in doing so highlight what such studies may offer us in the future.

## Brian Wygal

### *Beyond typologies: new interpretations of artifact diversity and land use in post-glacial Alaska*

Consensus on meaningful archaeological units or "techno-complexes" increasingly eludes Alaskan archaeologists struggling to establish basic cultural chronologies and separate migrations throughout the region. Questions remain regarding the cultural continuity, if any, between the region's earliest foragers and later Athabascan societies that still inhabit much of Alaska and western Canada. This regional study explores how archaeologists validate typological units such as "complexes" or "cultures" in an attempt to explain the presence or absence of microblades and land use strategies. Results offer a counter hypothesis that considers functional properties such as specialized seasonal adaptations to explain artifact and site type variability.

# Abstracts: session B

## **Martin Appelt**

### *Beyond the historic past – other cultures*

When dealing with hunter-gatherer communities of the North, archaeologists are often blessed and cursed by the rich possibilities of using a “direct historical approach” to circumvent the black-box of relationship between the (static) strategraphies of residue that form the archaeological record and the dynamic past behaviours that created the residue. The richness of the historical and ethnographic records serve as a crucial interpretive framework, but may also constitute a dense fog that prevent us from identifying past worldviews, and types of social and economic behaviour that fall outside the ethnographic/historic observed patterns. This exploratory paper will focus on the relationship between humans and non-human-persons, in particular on humans mimicking other top predators’ social organisation and hunting behaviour, as well as human borrowing of skills and attributes.

## **Ulla Odgaard**

### *Differing concepts: hunting rights and ethics in Greenlandic caribou hunting.*

Based on archaeological and ethno-archaeological studies in Western Greenland, and with inspiration from anthropological and transcultural models, this paper discusses different concepts of hunting ethics. Greenlandic hunters have often been accused of their hunting not being sustainable. In “A Farewell to Greenland’s Wildlife” (2002), Kjeld Hansen describes how intensive hunting has decimated the numbers of animals and birds and how great quantities of meat (57%) are wasted. We, however, got a different experience in a camp of modern caribou hunters, where the ideal of “nothing is wasted” is cherished. A similar contradiction seemed to be found in the archaeological material.

# Abstracts: session B

## Robert Brightman

### *Technical vs. Ritual Managements and human-nonhuman socialities across the Bering Strait*

Distinct but often linked facets of environmental noble savage stereotypy have long been projected onto circumpolar hunter-gatherers of northern North America and Siberia. Accounts of conservationist and unregulated foraging practices in the same societies raise questions of synchronic and historical articulations. Similarly, images of resource appropriation as sharing co-exist dialectically with less romantic counterparts based on violence and subterfuge.

Gesturing at the Anthropocene, scholars explicitly represent "gemeinschaft animism" as Weberian precondition for sustainable ecologies, this in opposition to imputed effects of Western nature/culture dualism on eco-catastrophes. In a contrasting argument, animist doctrines emphasizing ritual rather than technical management of resource populations may obviate instead of motivate deliberated conservation practices.

The paper addresses likeness and difference across the Bering Strait with respect to (1) co-present positive and negative representations of human-resource relations, (2) distributions of uncontrolled and conservationist foraging practices, (3) relations of each of these pairs above to rituals of increase or regeneration, and (4) evidence for sustainable practices as historical response to anthropogenic scarcities.

# Abstracts: session C

## Gro Birgit Ween

### *The king of fish in the High North: comparative salmon experiences in two Arctic Rivers*

Based upon fieldwork in Sápmi and in Yupik Alaska, this paper tells stories of Arctic human-salmon relations and the loss of this - very central source of substance - the Atlantic and the King salmon. By way of comparative salmon stories, told by indigenous peoples along two Arctic rivers, Tana and the mighty Yukon, this paper brings out the varieties in current negotiations between existing Arctic salmon cosmologies. The salmon has attracted global worlds and political action to these rivers for more than a century, however the political game is changing. In this paper, multiple considerations of the salmon and its people, or of resources in natures, brings new insights into the new complexities of Arctic resource management.

## Olga Ulturgasheva

### *Distributions, Cycles and Returns: Exploring the Relationship Between Contemporary Sharing Practices and Transition to Adulthood among Alaskan Yup'ik and Siberian Eveny*

Indigenous youth in Russian and American Arctic experience significant disparities in terms of health, education and socio-economic status; with lifetime prevalence of suicide, substance abuse and victimization acute. At the same time, youth growing up as Eveny or Yup'ik, do so within settings that provide varied access to, and maintenance of, aboriginal ways of making a living through hunting and gathering. While there are important differences between Eveny youth and Yup'ik youth, they share the practice of giving away the first catch of a hunted game. I shall provide a comparative overview of how increasing limitations on hunting and gathering impact the cycle of returns among Yup'ik and Eveny. I will show how such social problems as bullying and self-harm can be understood within a cosmological framework of sharing and cycles of return and non-returns.

# Abstracts: session C

## **Susan Crate**

### *Investigating the Bottom-Up Complexities and Adaptive Challenges of Contemporary Climate Change*

Understanding the sociocultural, economic, and environmental issues of communities confronted by contemporary climate change is a first step in collaborating with communities to orient their lives and livelihoods for an uncertain future. To date most approaches to climate change have sought technical fixes with little if any attention and consideration of the adaptive challenges and responses needed. This paper takes a close look at the bottom up complexities, both ecosystem- and culturally-founded, of contemporary change, in all its forms including climate, in two distinct field sites in Siberia and Canada. It then explores community collaborative efforts to share knowledge, experience and innovation to bolster present and future prospects.

## **Stine Vestbo and Claus Hindberg**

### *Eiders as long distance connectors in Arctic networks.*

Seabirds such as the auk (*Alle alle*) and the northern common eider (*Somateriae mollissima borealis*) are and have been an important resource and food item for the indigenous people of the Arctic. Due to anthropogenic pressures such as hunting, populations of the auk, the common eider, and the king eider (*S. spectabilis*) have suffered major declines in Greenland and Canada. In 2001, the Greenland Home Rule Department of Hunting and Fishing issued a notice on the protection of birds in Greenland. Consequently, the annual catch numbers were reduced by more than two thirds. However, human activities are still threatening the survival of the common eider. Here we investigate the ecological role of the common eider in the Arctic by performing a network analysis of the common eider and its predators, prey, and parasites. We also examine the role of human activities in the network and predict how these activities will impact the ecological network.

# Abstracts: session C

## **Stuart McLean**

### *A Modern Film About Modern Thinking": Zacharias Kunuk's The Journals of Knud Rasmussen*

In 2006, Knud Rasmussen's published account of the conversion to Christianity of Avva served as the basis for the film "The Journals of Knud Rasmussen" by the Canadian Inuit filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk. Approaching events from an Inuit rather than a Euroamerican perspective, the film contests interpretations of the episode of conversion as a straightforward moment of cultural loss, seeking instead to emphasize both the destructive effects upon Inuit life of colonial settler society and the endurance and creativity of Inuit worlds. I argue that Kunuk's film obliges the spectator to confront Inuit shamanism and its attendant spirit worlds as twenty first century realities rather than beliefs belonging to the historical past.

## **Anne Lisbeth Schmidt and Peter Toft**

### *Comparisons of Circumpolar clothing: parka materials, designs and transculturations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

Clothing was one of the most important means to adapt to the local Arctic climate as well as a key cultural component for signaling gender, age and social affiliation. Our recent study of circumpolar parkas shows, that the key materials, the skins of different animal species, was uniform over huge distances in the vast circumpolar landscape. Dress details also show significant temporal variation, as the different Arctic communities' experienced European contact and colonisation resulting in the selective incorporation of foreign materials and designs. The paper will also demonstrate how a new virtual database Skinbase can be an important interdisciplinary research tool for studying circumpolar clothing in the future - regardless of the geographic and institutional location of collections.

# Abstracts: session D

## Frank Sejersen

### *System collapse and human agency: interpretive perspectives on the hunger catastrophe in east Greenland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

During a period in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Inuit in East Greenland experienced a devastating and severe hunger resulting in desperation, death, cannibalism, killings, out-migration and social decay. Paradoxically, it also resulted in what is often referred to as the most beautiful historical ethnographic art-pieces in Greenland. This paper addresses the system-understandings and the available agency that three different interpretative perspectives subscribe to. The different configurations of system-agency relations that emerge may potentially inform our understanding of contemporary societal dynamics in the Arctic.

## John Ziker

### *Inequality, Demographic Health, and Social Support in Northern Siberia*

Inequalities are likely to differentially impact health and livelihoods in the Arctic as climate change and industrial development intensify. We present the results of two recent analyses: a study of demographic processes occurring in the transitional post-Soviet economy and a study of interhousehold food sharing. The majority of families in an indigenous community on the Taimyr Peninsula rely upon subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping. Variation in hunting ability and interest in hunting affects economic livelihood, and this variation affects demographic processes. A series of material, embodied, and relational wealth indicators are examined as predictors of reproductive dynamics before and after the collapse of the planned economy. In the second study a network of post-procurement food distributions from the same community is explored to describe the system of social support. The interplay between traditional ecological knowledge about sharing and access to resources and the observed sharing behavior is discussed. 16



# Abstracts: session D

**Jeanette Lykkegård Nielsen**

*The Circle of Death: A Chukchi perspective on Alcohol and Alcohol-related Violent Death's*

Alcohol abuse and dependence are common among the Arctic populations and are associated with health problems and high rates of violence and violent deaths. Most epidemiological studies of those problems are factual, statistical and take a top-down perspective, whereas qualitative field studies focusing on the lived experience of the people involved are still underrepresented. Based on one year of fieldwork from 2011 to 2014 among the Chukchi in Northern Kamchatka, this paper explores a local understanding of vodka as a malevolent spirit, which feeds on its consumer and turns him into a somewhat powerless non-living version of himself. For the Chukchi - and possibly for many circumpolar peoples with similar cosmologies - an understanding of alcohol and its consequences call for a reframing of the self and agency. My aim is to use the local understanding of vodka as a prism through which we - in a new way - can explore how alcohol influences individuals, their relations and ultimately a whole society.

# Biographies: organisers



**Rane Willerslev**

*Professor of Anthropology, Aarhus University*

Holds a PhD from the University of MA in Visual Anthropology from the University of Manchester. His main field of research has been hunting, sacrifice and spiritual knowledge among Siberia's indigenous peoples, but he also publishes widely within comparative ethnography, methodology and anthropological theory, material culture, and visual anthropology. [rawi@cas.au.dk](mailto:rawi@cas.au.dk)



**Toke Thomas Høye**

*Senior researcher, Aarhus University*

Has a broad interest in human impacts on natural ecosystems with a focus on population-level consequences of global change. Most of his work has been related to the Arctic and the climatic changes currently happening there. I conduct fieldwork and perform climate-related experiments in Greenland. [tth@aias.au.dk](mailto:tth@aias.au.dk)



**Felix Riede**

*Associate professor, Aarhus University*

Felix is a prehistoric archaeologist using a range of dating tools in order to link climate, environment, and culture change. He focuses on the methodological utility and impact of rapid environmental changes/natural hazards on past communities, particularly on the eruption of the Laacher See volcano 13k y BP in present-day Germany. [f.riede@cas.au.dk](mailto:f.riede@cas.au.dk)

# Biographies: organisers

## **Pelle Tejsner**

*Assistant professor, Aarhus University*



Pelle's Phd research in the Disco Bay area in Northwest Greenland assessed local receptions of climate change as part of his interests in subsistence strategies, cultural transitions and socio-ecological continua among Kalaallit Inuit. He is currently looking at community impacts, negotiations and expectations of future plans for oil exploration and mining. The project assesses the status of Arctic indigenous people's rights through a focus on traditional systems of coastal/sea tenure and custodianship with a focus on renewable marine resources. [tejsner@cas.au.dk](mailto:tejsner@cas.au.dk)

## **Djuke Veldhuis**

*AIAS-COFUND fellow, Aarhus University*



Djuke's postdoc examines the costs and limits of adaptation, particularly the effects of rapid modernization. The aims are to 1) build up a physiological profile of stress, including cortisol measures; and 2) assess behavioural responses to and psychological indicators of stressors amongst urban and rural populations. Data will be 3) evaluated to consider the evolutionary context in which the human stress response evolved. [djukev@aias.au.dk](mailto:djukev@aias.au.dk)

## **Mai Korsbæk**

*Project Secretary at ARC & AURA – Aarhus University Research on the Anthropocene*

*Project Coordinator at TrustLand*

# Biographies: speakers



## **Martin Appelt**

*Senior researcher, curator. National Museum of Denmark*

He has conducted archaeological fieldwork in several regions of Greenland and in Arctic Canada during the past 20 years. He presently holds position as curator at the National Museum of Denmark and as senior researcher in the intra-disciplinary NOW-project. Keywords: prehistory, American perspectivism, arctic animism, resource spaces tipping-point. **Martin.Appelt@natmus.dk**



## **Jette Arneborg**

*Senior researcher, curator. National Museum of Denmark*

Her research focus is on the Viking Age/Early Medieval North Atlantic Islands, esp. the Norse Settlements in Greenland. Has participated in archaeological research in Greenland since 1982. Ongoing research project: *Comparative Island Ecodynamics in the North Atlantic* in collaboration with colleagues from Greenland, USA, UK and Iceland. **Jette.Arneborg@natmus.dk**



## **Robert Brightman**

*Professor of Native American Studies, Reed College*

Field research: Rock Cree 1977-present. Interests: hunter-gatherer societies, structuralism and semiotics, environmental anthropology, linguistic typology and functional syntax, ontologies and subjectivities, Forthcoming: book *Hunter-Gatherers in the Mirror*, Prickly Paradigm Press. **rbrightm@reed.edu**

# Biographies: speakers

## **Susan Crate**

*Assoc. Professor, George Mason University.*



She is an interdisciplinary applied anthropologist specializing in human-environment interactions who has worked in Siberia since 1988 and from 2007 in Labrador, Canada, the Chesapeake Bay, USA, Wales, Kiribati, Mongolia and Peru. She authors numerous articles, several monograph, and is senior editor of *Anthropology and Climate Change: From Encounters to Actions*, now in its second iteration. [scrate1@gmu.edu](mailto:scrate1@gmu.edu)

## **Andrew Dugmore**

*Professor of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh.*



Andy has research affiliations with Arizona State University, Washington State University and the City University of New York. His research is focused on understanding environmental change over timescales from decades to millennia, and their significance for human society. A key theme has been the development and application of tephrochronology. [andrew.dugmore@ed.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.dugmore@ed.ac.uk)

## **Tom Gilbert**

*Professor of Palaeogenomics, Natural History Museum of Denmark*



During his DPhil research at Oxford University he explored the potential of ancient DNA as a tool in evolutionary, ecological, anthropological and archaeological questions. Today his research combines such techniques with modern genomic approaches, enabling reconstruction of the genetic history of species in unprecedented detail. [tgilbert@snm.ku.dk](mailto:tgilbert@snm.ku.dk)

# Biographies: speakers

## **Bjarne Grønnow**

*Assoc. Professor, University of Copenhagen*



Director of the Historical-Archaeological Experimental Centre, Lejre (1995 – 1999). Head of SILA – the Arctic Research Centre at the National Museum of Denmark (1999 – 2008), research professor at the Modern History and World Cultures, The National Museum, since 2009.

**Bjarne.Gronnow@natmus.dk**

## **Claus Hindberg**

*Student Dept. of genetics, ecology and evolution.  
Aarhus University*

Claus currently on his 5th Semester of his bachelor degree working on a project involving Eider populations in Greenland and their impact on the arctic ecological network.

**claus\_hindberg@hotmail.com**

## **Peter Jordan**

*Director of the Arctic Centre , University of Groningen*



His research is focused on hunter-gatherers cultures in the Circumpolar North, and spans archaeological, historical and ethnoarchaeological approaches. Recent books include: *Technology as Human Social Tradition: Cultural Transmission among Hunter-Gatherers* (2015); *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers* (with Vicki Cummings & Marek Zvelebil, 2014); *Landscape and Culture in Northern Eurasia* (2011). **p.d.jordan@rug.nl**

# Biographies: speakers



## **Igor Krupnik**

*Curator of Arctic and Northern Ethnology. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institutions*

Trained as cultural anthropologist and ecologist, he has worked with indigenous communities in Alaska and Bering Strait region in documenting indigenous ecological knowledge, contact history, and the impacts of modern climate change.

**KRUPNIKI@si.edu**



## **Stuart McLean**

*Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Minnesota.*

He was educated at the University of Oxford and at Columbia University. He has carried out fieldwork throughout the North Atlantic region and is the author "The Event and its Terrors: Ireland, Famine, Modernity". He is currently completing a further book manuscript titled "Fictionalizing Anthropology: Encounters and Fabulations, Human and Other."

**mcleao70@umn.edu**



## **Jeanette Lykkegard Nielsen**

*PhD student, Department of Anthropology at Aarhus University*

Her current research is on contemporary Chukchi lifestyles in Northern Kamchatka, with a special interest in existential questions of religion, life and death. **etnojl@cas.au.dk**

# Biographies: speakers

## **Signe Normand**

*Assistant Professor, Aarhus University*



She is a macroecologist interested in understanding what determines species' range limits and why some areas harbor more species than others. By studying the geographic ranges of European plants I am currently working towards an integrated understanding of the relative importance and interplay of the three main range determinants (i.e., abiotic factors, especially climate, biotic factors, and migration), both across species' ranges and through time. [signe.normand@bios.au.dk](mailto:signe.normand@bios.au.dk)

## **Ulla Odgaard**

*Senior Researcher, Arctic Centre, National Museum of Denmark*



2001 PhD, Moesgaard, University of Aarhus. Archaeology and history of religion, Copenhagen University and University Leuven, Belgium. Research: Palaeo-eskimo and Inuit archaeology and ethnology. Caribou hunters, territories, ethics, landscape perception, hearths. [Ulla.Odgaard@natmus.dk](mailto:Ulla.Odgaard@natmus.dk)

## **Anna Prentiss**

*Professor of Archaeology, University of Montana*



She completed her Ph.D. in archaeology at Simon Fraser University in 1993 and has conducted field research in British Columbia, Patagonia, and Alaska. Her research interests emphasize hunter-gatherer technology, sociality, and ecology in an evolutionary framework. [anna.prentiss@mso.umt.edu](mailto:anna.prentiss@mso.umt.edu)



# Biographies: speakers

## **Frank Sejersen**

*Assoc. Professor, George Mason University.*



He has an anthropological focus on Greenland and the North American Arctic. Of special interest is the interface between livelihood dynamics and changes in political discourse. Questions of knowledge regimes, management, political self-determination and local economic strategies are addressed within different fields like hunting, mega-industrialisation, urbanization, and climate change. [sejersen@hum.ku.dk](mailto:sejersen@hum.ku.dk)

## **Anne Lisbeth Schmidt**

*Conservator, National Museum of Denmark*



She works on the conservation of archaeological and historic skin, fur and leather, and ethnographic objects of organic material. She is also coordinator of exhibitions and integrated pest management. Her research examines prehistoric and historic circumpolar skin clothing. [anne.lisbeth.schmidt@natmus.dk](mailto:anne.lisbeth.schmidt@natmus.dk)

## **Peter Toft**

*Postdoc at SILA – Arctic Centre at the Danish National Museum*



He holds a Ph.D. in Eskimology and Arctic Studies. His main research area is cultural encounters in the 18th- 19th century Eastern Arctic with a focus on social identity, transculturation of material culture and change in settlement structure and burial practices.

[Peter.a.Toft@natmus.dk](mailto:Peter.a.Toft@natmus.dk)

# Biographies: speakers

## **Olga Ulturgasheva**

*Lecturer Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester.*



Her publications include *Narrating the Future in Siberia: Childhood, Adolescence and Autobiography among the Eveny* (Berghahn 2012), a co-edited volume *Animism in Rainforest and Tundra: Personhood, Animals, Plants and Things in Contemporary Amazonia and Siberia* (Berghahn 2012) and a special journal issue *GULAG Legacy: Spaces of Continuity in Everyday Practices* (Laboratorium 2015).

**[olga.ulturgasheva@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:olga.ulturgasheva@manchester.ac.uk)**

## **Stine Vestbo**

*PhD student, Dept. of Genetics, Ecology and Evolution, Aarhus University.*

Her PhD is part of a large transdisciplinary project: Aarhus University Research on the Anthropocene (AURA). The AURA project is a collaboration between anthropologist, biologists, philosophers and artists. Stine's current research focuses on the effects of global connecting species on ecological network stability in relation to anthropogenic activities. **[vestbo@bios.au.dk](mailto:vestbo@bios.au.dk)**



## **Gro Birgit Ween**

*Associate Professor and Keeper of the Arctic collection, Cultural History Museum in Oslo*

She has done fieldwork in Sapmi, and in Alaska and Canada. Her work concerns human-animal relations, environmental politics, natural resource management, but also cultural heritage and world heritage. **[g.b.ween@khm.uio.no](mailto:g.b.ween@khm.uio.no)**

# Biographies: speakers



## **Brian T. Wygal**

*Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Adelphi University in New York.*

His research interests include the archaeology of the north with a particular focus on the technology and ecology of prehistoric cultures in Alaska.

**[bwygala@adelphi.edu](mailto:bwygala@adelphi.edu)**



## **John Ziker**

*Professor Dept. of Anthropology, Boise State University.*

He has conducted field research with indigenous peoples in Siberia since 1992. His work has been published in *Science*, *Human Nature*, *Human Ecology*, *Nomadic Peoples*, and *Sustainability Science*. He is author of *Peoples of the Tundra* (Waveland Press) and has conducted fieldwork in the Taimyr district, the north Baikal region, and the Tuva Republic. **[jziker@boisestate.edu](mailto:jziker@boisestate.edu)**

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