

# BARE NTS STUDI ES

Supplementary  
**ISSUE**

*Autumn  
2014*

**BARENTS STUDIES**



*Peoples, Economies and Politics*

# CONTENTS

- 4 Gallup
- 6 News
- 9 From idea to journal
- 10 Studying a region – why on earth?
- 19 Column: My Barents
- 20 Sámi fine arts
- 24 Arctic beats Barents?
- 26 Barents on a plate
- 28 Foreign berry pickers in northern Finland
- 30 The story behind a famous name
- 34 Community activist connects people and government
- 36 Wet drinking cultures – wet problems
- 40 Real and imagined bordering
- 41 From piqued to published
- 42 The Barents on holiday
- 44 The Case of Sweden
- 46 Projects
- 48 Publications
- 50 A ‘scientific’ cartoon

*“Researchers have no choice but to study whatever field is getting political attention.”*

*“You can’t change the world if you can’t change yourself.”*

*“The cooperation needs more visible ideological and propagandistic leaders.”*

## EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor-in-chief of the supplementary issue**  
Marjo Laukkanen, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

**Editors**  
Aileen A. Espiritu, Barents Institute, UiT The Arctic University of Norway  
Larissa Riabova, Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
Monica Tennberg, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

**Editorial assistants**  
Marjo Lindroth and Anne Raja-Hanhela, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

**Publisher**  
The Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland, in cooperation with The Barents Institute, UiT The Arctic University of Norway and The Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**Printed by**  
Erweko Oy, Rovaniemi 2014  
**ISSN 2324-0652**  
Electronic publication: <http://www.barentsinfo.org/barentsstudies>

**Copyright**  
Authors, editors and the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

**Design and layout**  
Mainostoimisto Puisto Oy

**Cover photograph**  
Dmitrii Vorontsov  
**Language checking**  
Richard Foley



Barents Studies: Peoples, Economies and Politics, Supplementary issue is published in both electronic and print form. The journal is free of charge.

[www.barentsinfo.org/barentsstudies](http://www.barentsinfo.org/barentsstudies)

*This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.*

*The journal is indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals and in the Russian Science Citation Index.*



eLIBRARY.RU

INDEXED IN  
DOAJ

# Testing the BARENTS IDENTITY

**LAST SUMMER** I lost a close friend. For me, Elena Larionova was a Barents person more so than anybody else. Living and working in Murmansk, she was the heart and soul of cooperation among journalists in the Barents Region. She once got a T-shirt with the text 'Barents Boss' on it. That was intended a joke but it also had some truth to it.

**IN THE EARLY** 1990s, the world was open in the North. After the end of the Cold War, dreams could be made to come true if only someone could seize the moment. The official Barents cooperation is a result of a brave political initiative of that era. But others had dreams as well. The Norwegian journalist Johs Kalvemo was one of them, Elena Larionova another. It was with them and some others that I was sitting in a restaurant meeting room in Ivalo brainstorming ideas for a journalists' network in the Barents. That was about 1993. In April 2014 I saw Elena for the last time, at the annual Barents Press International meeting in Kirkenes. She had still been able to gather a big delegation of Russian journalists to meet and talk with their colleagues from Finland, Norway and Sweden. There were a lot of people who knew each other from way back and could discuss in a good atmosphere the world that was changing around them. One could no longer use the word 'Barents' without often using the word 'Ukraine'.

*Markku Heikkilä*  
Head of Science Communications  
Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

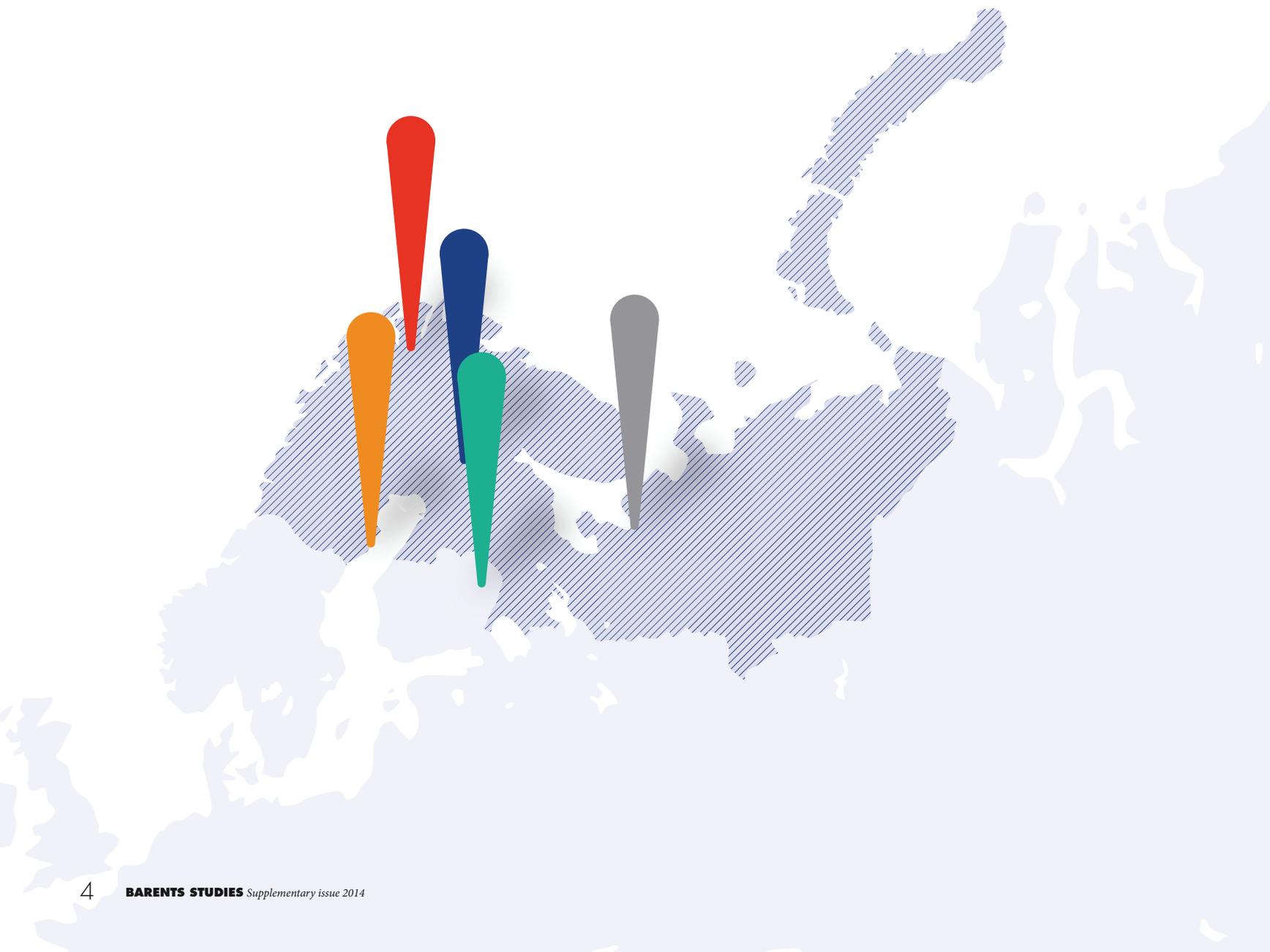
**THE HOPES**, wishes and theories of cooperation only come to life when there are individuals who want to be involved. Some, like my Barents Boss friend, can work wonders. For the rest of us, it is enough to know that we really have something in common. Very few individuals can identify with 'the Barents' and that's the way it will probably be. If there is something like a Barents identity, it is concentrated in the triangle Kirkenes–Murmansk–Rovaniemi, where the distances are manageable and there would most likely be some kind of contacts anyway. The Barents Region is an artificial structure, starting with the name. But there is more to it, as this issue of Barents Studies has set out to show. Real things are going on; real people are meeting.

**PERHAPS BARENTS COOPERATION** has not become what many people wanted it to be. Perhaps it would now be impossible to create. But still, here it is, now. If some true will for cross-border contacts has been built, the bonds will remain in these current turbulent times in international politics, and the region can serve as a model to the rest of Europe. If everything we have done has ultimately been only artificial, then Barents cooperation may slowly fade into history. Let us not have that happen.



# GALLUP

*What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word 'Barents'?*



---

## TRINE KVIDAL

*Associate Professor, Alta, Norway*

"It is an important aspect of regional identity processes in parts of Eastern Finnmark. Kirkenes is home to institutions like the Barents Secretariat and the Barents Institute, and there has been active use of the term in naming and symbolism. The Barents discourse has been important in expanding the cultural identity in the area, which arguably used to be more specifically linked to the mining industry."

---

---

## ULF WIBERG

*Professor, Umeå, Sweden*

"A region with rich natural resources representing significant potential for economic growth and prosperity. Complicated barriers for interaction and collaboration across the East-West divide limit possibilities for joint efforts to release that potential. The institutionalised Barents Region cooperation has an important long-term task in dealing with these opportunities and challenges."

---

---

## REGIS ROUGE-OIKARINEN

*Project manager, Kemijärvi, Finland*

"There are two things: four countries and cross-border cooperation. The Barents Region has a long history of cooperation among its local communities and, especially during the last 25 years, among its four nation-states. Nowadays the Barents is a territory where, more than ever before, contemporary challenges like climate change and sustainable development require close liaisons among its residents on both the formal and informal levels."

---

---

## NATALIA KUKARENKO

*Assistant Professor, Arkhangelsk, Russia*

"I learnt about the Barents Region through the cooperation projects between universities while studying at Pomor State University in Arkhangelsk in the 1990s. I had the opportunity to see different academic cultures and ways of living in Norway, Sweden and Finland. I got many good friends and colleagues, as well as the experience of travelling abroad and a strong wish to see the world. My first trip was to Tromsø in Norway and I fell in love with the city, which is so clever at bringing people together through lots of events, and, of course, Norwegian nature – mountains and fjords – something really special and very beautiful."

---

---

## MARIA LÄHTEENMÄKI

*Professor, Joensuu, Finland*

"As a historian, the first thing that comes to my mind is Willem Barentz, who was a Dutch explorer in the 16th century. He died in the Kara Sea, which is also known as the freezer of Europe. The word 'Barents' reminds me of the interests of individual navigators and nations in mapping the last unknown northern regions and sea routes to enhance their scientific reputation, national power or economy. Barentz was the beginning of a big wave to conquer the North."

---

# Ready – Network – ACTION!

**FRIENDS CAN BE** made by shooting news videos on an iPhone. This was proven by some 30 young journalists and media students from Barents countries who met in Kirkenes this year. Experts taught them how to tell stories with a camera and how to edit videos with smartphones.

Most importantly, the participants got to talk and to have fun. They also networked with senior colleagues in the Barents Press annual seminar.

“Young journalists are the future of cross-border communication. It’s important to give them a chance to meet and to learn together”, says Project Coordinator Virpi Komulainen.

The youth gathering was organised by Barents Mediasphere, a Kolarctic ENPI CBC project led by the Arctic Centre, with TV Murman and Barents Observer as partners. The aim of the project is to promote cooperation among journalists as well as the flow of information across borders.

*Maija Myllylä*



*Some faces of the future.*

Julia Kauppinen

## Mapping the BIG PICTURE

**WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON** in the Arctic now and what is going to happen in the future? How can we deal with the climatic, environmental and socio-economic changes?

The Arctic Council is leading a project that tries to answer these crucial questions. Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) covers three pilot areas, one being the Barents Region – a natural choice since it has more inhabitants, livelihoods and activities than any other region in the Arctic. The extensive common effort started with regional assessments, soon to be followed by a pan-Arctic assessment.

Integrating information from the natural and social sciences with indigenous and local knowledge is essential. In the Barents Region experts in different fields have shown interest in the project. When identifying who could participate in writing the assessment, about 140 people volunteered. The experts are currently organising their work under different themes and their work includes future scenarios for the years 2030 and 2080.

What does the Arctic Council hope to gain from all this?

“Developing a comprehensive knowledge base will provide decision makers with resources they need to respond to the challenges and to prudently take advantage of opportunities.”

[www.amap.no](http://www.amap.no)

# Enjoy some Arctic TAKE-AWAY

BARENTS SPEKTAKEL  
4-8.2.2015  
KIRKENES, NORWAY

**“CONTEMPORARY. BORDER-CROSSING. FUN.”** This is how Lene Ødegård Olsen, one of the organisers, describes Barents Spektakel with only three words. The festival is arranged by Pikene på Broen, a group of curators and producers based in Kirkenes. It is a mix of culture and politics that includes performances, films, seminars and concerts. Last winter Barents Spektakel took a break after its 10th anniversary.

“Internally we discussed how to continue developing new ideas and

producing high-quality projects. We got feedback that people missed the festival and wanted it to continue annually. We debated whether to convert Barents Spektakel into a biannual event, but settled for having an annual festival.”

This winter’s slogan is ‘Arctic Take Away’, with the focus of the festival being to reflect upon different ways of viewing the Arctic. Until the early 19th century, the Barents Region was a borderless zone.

“The people living here moved freely,

bringing their culture and traditions with them, taking out what was needed, giving back whatever they had. ‘Arctic Take Away’ will reflect upon these topics in a nomadic way, amplifying the slogan, raising questions and inviting people to join in the dialogue.”

What about the future of Barents Spektakel? What does it look like?

“The future is bright and shiny like the Arctic landscape, never-ending and with loads of potential.”

Bernt Nilsen



*Barents  
Spektakel  
is back!*

# Group work that WORKS

**MR ARI SIREN**, you have been working as head of the International Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes for three years and will soon leave your post. From your perspective, how does Barents cooperation look nowadays?

"In 20 years it has become established in the region. The Secretariat covers most spheres of human activity in its 15 working groups. On the whole, something is always going on: just look at the calendar of events on the website!

The four 'core' Barents member states have remained interested in this multilateral cooperation in spite of changes in the political situation in Europe. Fortunately, Barents cooperation has not been prone to fluctuations due to politics."

Is there something in particular that you have learned in this job or something that has surprised you?

"Despite the distinction between cooperation conducted at the government and regional levels, it seems that the best way to cooperate in practice is to have joint working groups representing central and regional authorities at the same time.

There are matters that concern mainly the northernmost regions of the member states even if the matters themselves are subject to government decision making because of international relations."

What themes should be given special attention in the future in Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation?

"Unless transport connections in the East-West direction develop significantly, one cannot reasonably expect cooperation to increase. Everything revolves around travel for business, culture and human contacts. What is, of course, the really big issue is when large economic projects can be launched that will tap the gas and oil deposits of the Barents Sea. Naturally, such things go beyond the scope of the land-based cooperation but undoubtedly this is exactly what people mostly think of when they hear the expression 'Barents cooperation'. At present the political situation in Europe is not conducive to high expectations."

*Jenni Lintula*

## ELIMINATING HOT SPOTS

**DO YOU KNOW** how many environmental 'hot spots' we have in the Barents Region? At least 42, according to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Working Group on Environment.

These hot spots are significant environmental polluters and health risks in the Russian part of the Barents region. The Subgroup on Hot Spots Exclusion is leading the work to eliminate the hot spots, in cooperation with regional authorities and other stakeholders.

The work is related to improving the water supply and sewage systems, treatment of non-radioactive hazardous waste, saving energy and reducing airborne emissions, among other concerns. A total of six hot spots have been excluded from the list thus far.

[www.beac.st/HS](http://www.beac.st/HS)

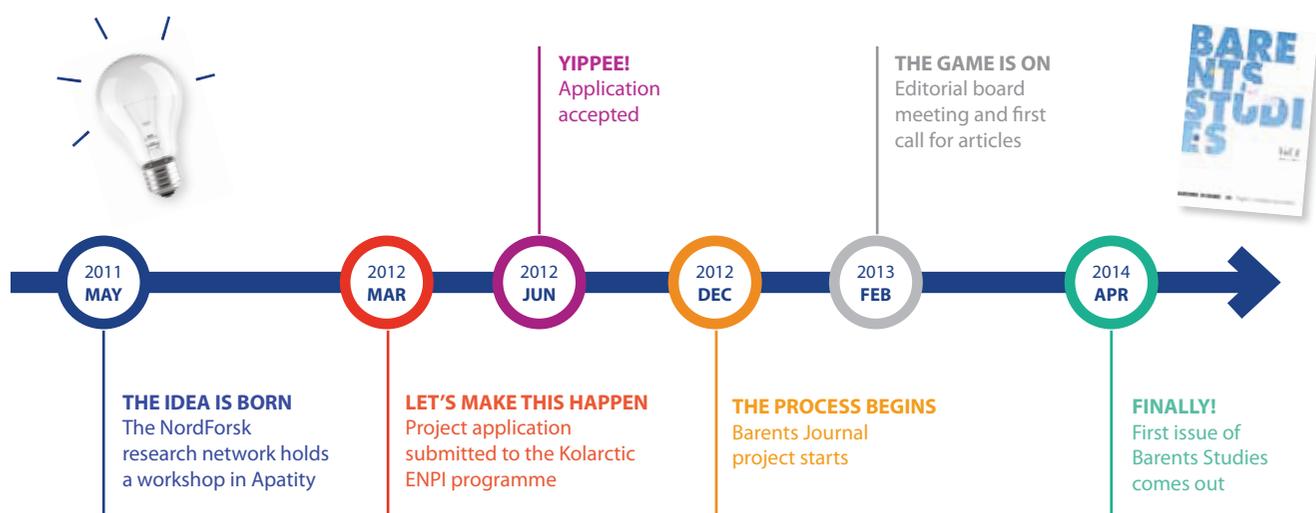
*Ari Sirén believes that joint working groups for central and regional authorities are the best way to cooperate.*



Veili Kouri

# FROM IDEA TO JOURNAL

*How does one launch a new academic journal?  
What's the recipe for success?*



**SHORT ANSWER:** take a great mix of professionals in different fields and give them enough time and freedom to do what they do best.

In the case of *Barents Studies* it all started from a network that had an idea. Or actually many ideas, but one was to start an academic journal. An idea is not enough though if you don't have a plan for how to make it happen.

"Without Kamil this wouldn't have succeeded", says Monica Tennberg, research professor and project manager.

Kamil Jagodziński is her colleague at the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland. He participated in the workshop of the *Barents International Political Economy* network in Apatity, Russia, and saw the true potential of a regional academic journal.

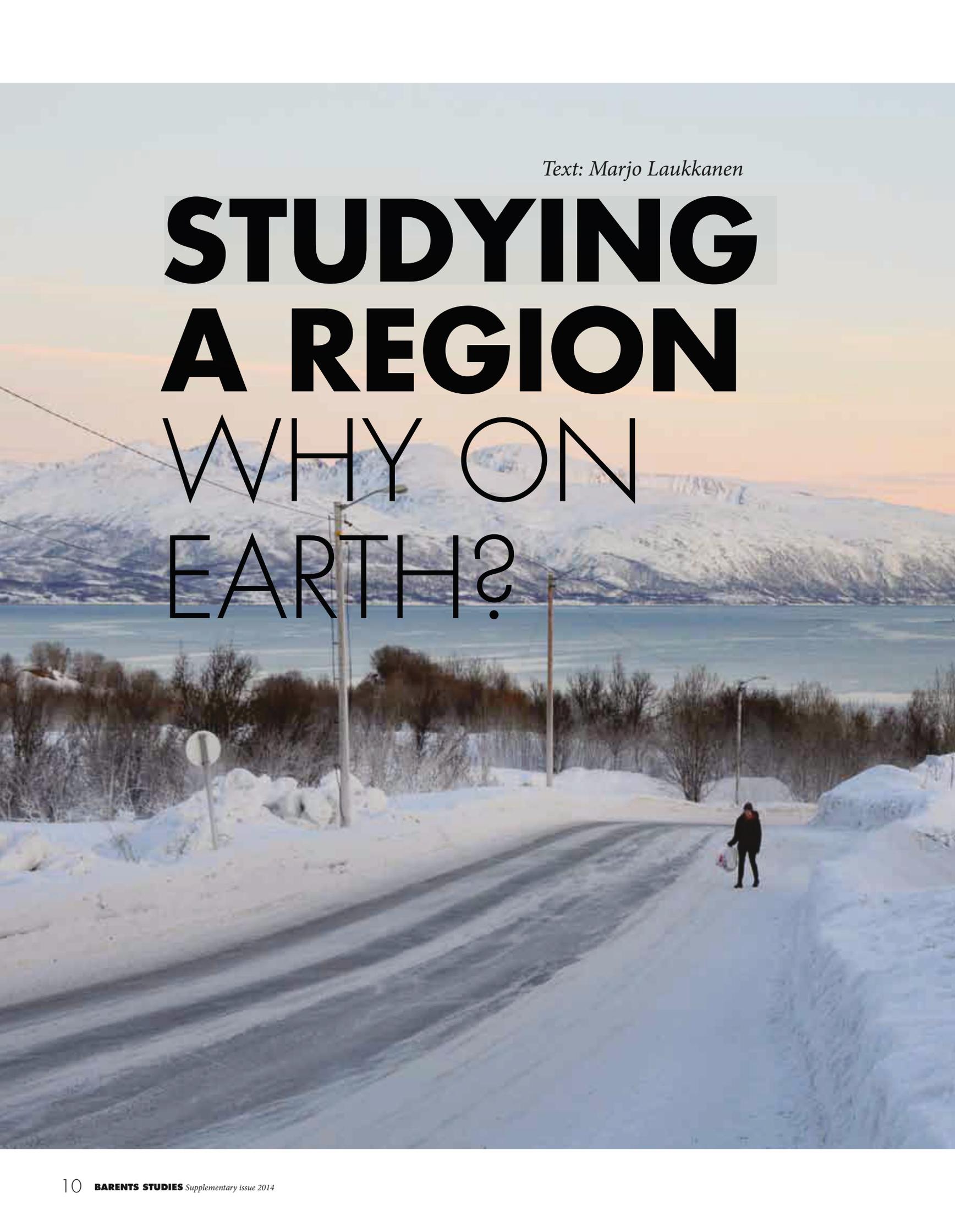
When Monica speaks about *Barents Studies*, she mentions a lot of people who have had a crucial role in launching it. For example, she was concerned about electronic publication, which seemed to be a really complex process, but thanks to information specialists Liisa Hallikainen

and Toni Raja-Hanhela everything went smoothly.

"The journal is a product of work done by many professionals. Anne Raja-Hanhela has been a great coordinator. I also want to thank the graphic designers, authors, peer-reviewers, language consultants, the editorial board, the editors-in-chief, editorial assistants and steering group members. We have had really flexible cooperation among all the partners, and it's been a learning process for us all."

*Text: Marjo Laukkanen*

# STUDYING A REGION WHY ON EARTH?





*Photos submitted to a photo contest about the Barents Region, organised by Barents Studies in 2013.*

Tromsø, Norway. Photo: Ilona Mettäinen

---

Who needs  
Barents  
studies?

---

What's the point  
in Barents  
cooperation  
anyway?

---

Let's try to  
find out,  
step by step.



# FIRST STEP

Talk with a regional researcher.  
Find out what the person is doing and why.

**PROFESSOR NILS AARSÆTHER** has a lot going on. Working at the University of Tromsø, he is leading a research project on municipal leaders in Norway that covers every one of the country's 429 municipalities from South to North.

"We try to find out what kind of leadership styles emerge, as mayors and administrative leaders face increasing demands both from the state and local citizens."

He is also involved in other studies. For instance, one deals with how the northern periphery has been modernised in the post-war period, in a process where the ideal of

industrialisation has played a pivotal role.

"It's a paradox at a time when a more flexible service and knowledge economy permeates northern cities and villages."

Professor Aarsæther is a well-known researcher in the field of regional studies. So he is just the right person to tell us what the point in all this is – why do we need to study regions?

In his view, knowledge about the interaction of different activities is essential for effective decisions on development in struggling regions – decisions made both for and by those regions. We need to know how to produce synergies among

different activities and what unintended consequences there are to be avoided.

Professor Aarsæther says that regional research currently has a very limited role in decision making in the North. Too much attention and hope have focused on single activities instead of the interplay between activities and how people respond to changes. These processes should be given more attention in the form of interdisciplinary research.

"If decision makers were told that public care for older people is the most rapidly expanding sector in the North, they would not believe you anyway."

## More attention should be devoted to the interplay between public-sector platforms and private-sector innovations in the North.

*Nils Aarsæther*

Professor at University of Tromsø, Norway

### Money follows political attention

The North, the Barents Region, the Arctic... How do you choose what to study?

“Researchers have no choice but to study whatever field is getting political attention at the moment, because this is where the money for research is. But researchers can sometimes influence decision-makers by getting media attention for matters that tend to evoke crisis responses.”

Research related to the Barents Region has expanded during recent decades. There is research on climate effects, mapping of natural resources, risk and security studies, health and culture studies - to mention just some topics. But, according to Aarsæther, there is still something missing.

“Research has followed the logic of scientific disciplines, while broad, regional and community-focused studies have received less institutional backing and over time these have experienced stagnation. Research entrepreneurship seems to be a

necessary component if the situation is to improve.”

According to Aarsæther, entrepreneurship-like leadership and commitment is needed to form and maintain long-term projects across Arctic-based institutions. Especially now that key institutions – like Stockholm-based NORDREGIO – have shifted their focus to the Baltic region and to European-level issues, universities are invited to compete southwards and globally. As career opportunities open up in those directions, we may see a brain drain of potential research leaders in the North.

What is the future of Barents research in the middle of all this?

“It is dependent on research entrepreneurship, which can link up a series of geographically scattered research departments, universities and colleges through long-term project work – like the *Arctic Human Development Report* – rather than declarations of collaboration with their delegations of top-ranking academic leaders.” →



Kåfjord, Norway. Photo: Tarja Lämsman

*The relation between regional and national politics is a topic that I would like to see studied more. What are the possibilities for regional actors in national politics? What kinds of positions are available for them in global crises?*

*Esko Lotvonen*

City Manager of Rovaniemi, Finland



Murmansk, Russia. Photo: Kamill Jagodzinski

# SECOND STEP

Talk with regional decision makers.  
How do they see Barents cooperation and  
the future of the region?

**“IT’S WORK THAT** requires persistence but we can already see concrete results”, says Esko Lotvonen, City Manager of Rovaniemi.

Lotvonen has been involved in Barents cooperation from the very beginning. For him, regional cooperation and development is a self-evident must.

“None of the Barents regions has a lot of resources or money, except perhaps Norway. We need to do and understand things together. It improves efficiency and reduces overlap.”

Nowadays there is one big question mark though: How does the crisis in Ukraine affect regional cooperation? It all depends on power politics.

“Currently Barents cooperation is dependent on support from the European Union. It would be a really big setback if current or forthcoming cross-border programmes were frozen. After that, we would go back to operating on our own budgets, which are tight.”

A boost from the ongoing Arctic

boom is important because the Barents is sometimes seen as too small a region on the national levels. Rovaniemi has had a strong role in both Barents and Arctic cooperation – and, according to Lotvonen, it will get even bigger. Rovaniemi will focus on its Arctic profile, and research is one important part of it. The city is working together with the University of Lapland to promote Arctic Design, and if the Arctic Centre becomes the leader of the EU Arctic Information Centre network, that will also be an honour for the whole city.

It might even be so that if regional cooperation fades for external reasons, the future of Barents cooperation as a whole will lie in international cooperation among cities and towns.

## **Slowly but surely**

So, what are those concrete results that Lotvonen mentioned earlier? For a start, logistics have improved but,

more importantly, people-to-people communication has grown a lot in twenty years. Lotvonen says that the strength of the region is still the same as it was in the beginning: a variety of natural resources within reachable distances. He believes that industries like mining can be developed such that environmental values and peoples’ rights are safeguarded.

The City Manager of Rovaniemi admits that sometimes development doesn’t seem to take place as quickly as one might hope. For example, a railway connection from the Arctic Ocean to the Baltic Sea is still just an idea.

“However, one has to remember the time perspective. When we are talking about developing the region, we are talking about decades, not about months or a few years. There will be uphill and downhill, that’s for sure.” →



# THIRD STEP

Talk with an expert on research and educational cooperation in the Barents Region. Choose someone who has first-hand knowledge about this 'Sleeping Beauty'.



**“LIKE MEMBERS OF** A big family, people living in the Barents Region, although rather different, have a lot in common based on their history, experience, communication, hopes and dreams”, says Marina Kalinina.

Marina Kalinina knows the region she is talking about. Her professional career has been connected with regional cooperation in the North for two decades already. Currently she is Vice-Rector of International Cooperation at Northern (Arctic) Federal University in Archangelsk (NArFU). The cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region is one of her and her university’s priorities.

It’s time to ask the essential question once again: What’s the point in studying a region?

“We need more knowledge about the changing Arctic, on how the changes will influence people living in this region and in the rest of the world. Intensive exploration of the mineral resources in the North in fragile ecosystems makes politics in the North more accountable and decision making more predictable and based on scientific research

results. We need more interdisciplinary and international research to be produced in and for the region.”

#### **Time to wake up!**

NArFU has been the national Arctic university of Russia for almost five years. It is situated in Archangelsk, which is the biggest city in the Barents Region. According to Marina Kalinina, the competition for federal university status was intense, and the achievement required a lot of effort from academic people, the regional government and the community. The international cooperation of higher educational institutions – predecessors of NArFU – also played a big role.

“We have had international cooperation in the Barents Region with universities in Norway, Finland and Sweden since the beginning of the ‘90s. It turned out to be a big advantage, and federal status has given us an opportunity to develop joint educational programmes, research networks and academic mobility further.”

Cooperation in education and research in the Barents has been described as a Sleeping Beauty, something that has a great potential to bloom. Is Sleeping Beauty still sleeping or has she finally woken up?

“Through collaboration tools the universities in the Barents Region have a chance to give students access to world-class teaching without having to go outside the region and to sustain education and research in the North. Today’s cooperation challenges force us to think whether we are able to make our national educational systems more transparent. Do we adequately realise the demands of the public and private sector? How can we tap the synergy in scientific research and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples? What can we do together to develop further research-based education? The universities of the region are already collaborating on this, and I assume Sleeping Beauty is about to be woken up; and I hope that no evil fairy will ever put her to sleep again.” ●

*We need young researchers who will develop cross-cutting northern research and Arctic research policy in the near future. This is a challenging task, where universities of the region should make joint efforts to contribute to the future of science in the North.*

*Marina Kalinina*

Vice-Rector at Northern (Arctic)

Federal University in Archangelsk, Russia

Kyappeselga, Russia. Photo: Irina Nazarova



# My BARENTS

**TO ME, CROSSING THE BORDER** into Nikel in the Soviet Union back in 1988 felt like a kind of moonwalk. Never have I entered a place more remote in terms of society, environment, geography and culture. The border I crossed, from Kirkenes in Norway, marked the beginning of a journey in space.

**IT WAS ALSO A JOURNEY** in history. Before 1826 no formal border existed at the top of Europe. The Sámi, Russians, Finns and Norwegians were all taxed by both the Czar in St. Petersburg and the King in Stockholm. Back between the First and Second World Wars – 1920 to 1944 – the land here was Finnish territory, part of the Petsamo Corridor. In Soviet times, the area became most infamous for its ecological disaster zones around the smelters and mining complexes.

The scariest part of recent history, however, was when I was growing up in northern Norway. As kids, we were told to look out for Soviet nukes and invasion forces, which we, living in a NATO member, believed could come at any time. In Murmansk, I met youngsters my age that believed the same about my country and our allies.

Working as I did for NGOs, and later as a reporter, the Russian North 25 years ago gave me a unique possibility to take part in a changing world, replacing distrust with cross-border contacts and wiping out propaganda with the exchange of common knowledge.

The post-Soviet establishment of Barents cooperation was a most welcome initiative. Moscow, Helsinki, Oslo and Stockholm formalised the initiatives taken by the people in the North. With national support for increased cross-border cooperation in the spheres of economics, culture, the environment and security, the goal was to support democracy in Russia and achieve more normalised relations across the borders.

Today, 22 years after the so-called Kirkenes Declaration was signed, there is no doubt that the Barents has proven to be one of the most successful areas of cross-border cooperation to be found anywhere along Russia's border with Europe. Political and people-to-people links have created a generation of friendship relations between citizens, organisations and institutions.

**I'M PROUD TO** have taken part. For me, who once upon a time felt that crossing the border was like a moonwalk, it is especially cool to see the thousands and thousands of people exploring the options in their neighbouring countries. It is shoppers from Murmansk I meet in the grocery store in Ivalo, researchers from Rovaniemi on the tundra in Nenetsia studying climate change, students from Arkhangelsk walking the corridors at the University of Tromsø or ice hockey players from the Kola Peninsula celebrating their crushing tournament victory in Kirkenes. And it is no less heartening to see the joint economic benefits normal relations across the formerly closed borders bring with increased tourism, trade and better infrastructure, like roads and harbours.

The wide range of people-to-people contacts is also what I believe builds the bridge over troubled political waters between Russia and its Nordic neighbours nowadays. It is understandable why three of the Barents countries have imposed sanctions on Putin's regime, but the best insurance against a new divided Europe like the old one we had during the Cold War is to keep the borders open for normal people and normal contacts. I'm afraid that will not be easy, but remember: it was not easy to break the ice and open the borders 25 years ago either.

I hope you will join me by continuing to travel across Russia's northern borders – also in times of a colder international climate.

*Thomas Nilsen*

Editor of Barents Observer, Kirkenes, Norway

# SÁMI *fine arts*

**Dálá SÁMI dáidda –  
SÁMI Contemporary**

14.11.2014–4.1.2015  
Sami Center for Contemporary Art,  
Karasjok, Norway

Please see Tuija Hautala-Hirvioja's article  
about early Sámi visual artists in  
Barents Studies 1/2014



Suohpanterror: Codename, 2013

*The Sámi people are well known for their traditional and colourful handicrafts. What is not so widely known is the role they play in fine arts. This might be about to change.*

Professor Tuija Hautala-Hirvioja from the University of Lapland is one of the curators of the Dálá SÁMI dáidda – SÁMI Contemporary exhibition that is currently travelling in the North. Here she describes some of the main themes that can be seen in the works of art on display. →



Nils-Aslak Valkeapää: Silloin aurinko oli aina luonamme ('Back then the Sun was always with us'), 1975



Looking at the past through the family history.

Continuation of the Sámi Duodji tradition. Outi Pieski has re-created her grandmother's medicinal pine tree. The twigs are made of strands of silk like those used in the fringe of women's traditional scarves.

Outi Pieski: Halo, 2012–2013, Photo: Arto Liiti

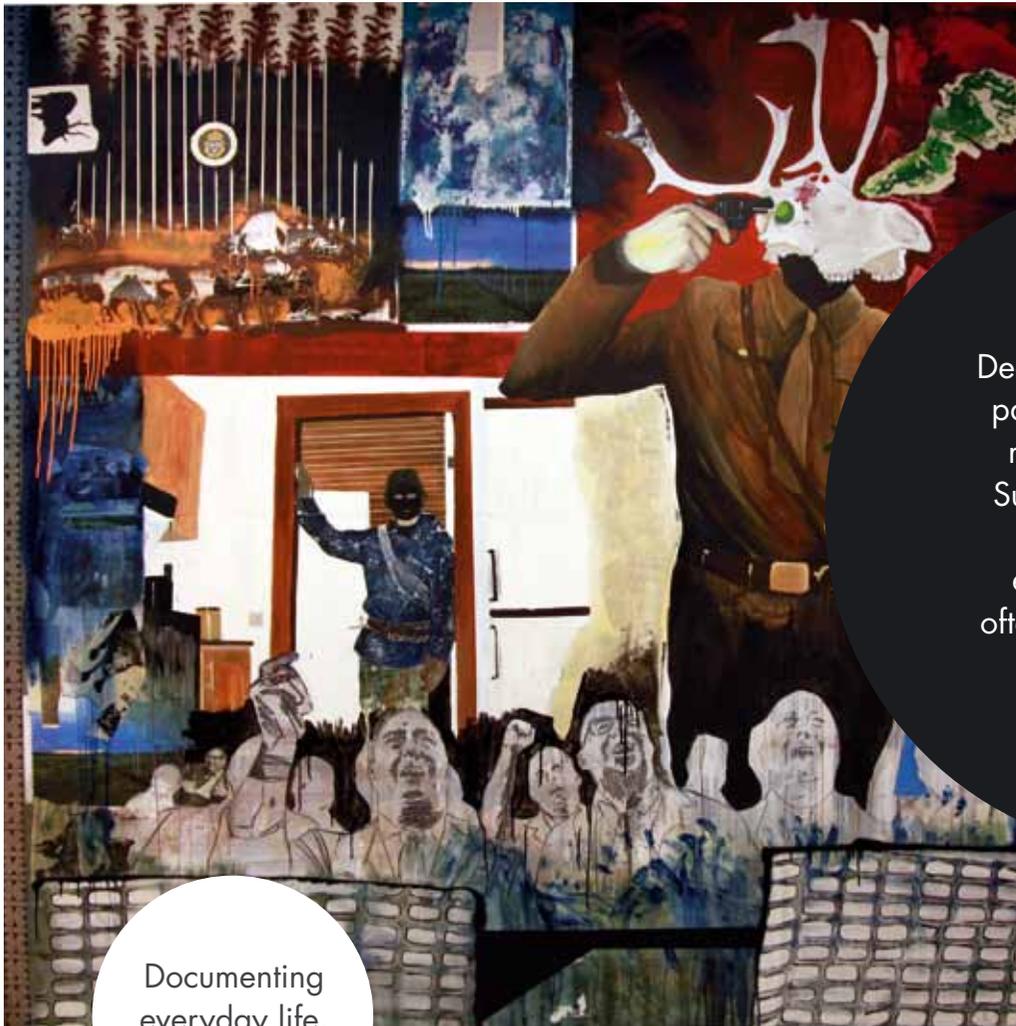
Handling personal life and emotions through art.

Reflecting on the Sámi identity. Marja Helander lives in two Finnish municipalities that are almost as far from each other as can be – Utsjoki and Helsinki. She often represents the tensions between Western and Sámi culture in her work.



Marja Helander: Trambo, 2014

Dealing with the colonialist past and threats from the modern world. Anders Sunna lives in Jokkmokk, Sweden. His art is explicitly political and often based on his roots in reindeer herding.



Documenting everyday life.

Anders Sunna: Paskarova, 2013

# Arctic beats Barents?

*Global Arctic hype speeds up in politics and economics.  
How does all this affect the Barents Region,  
and what concrete effects does it have?*

**“I’LL SHOW YOU HOW IT SHOWS.”** Timo Rautajoki smiles, takes a pile of international business cards and throws them onto the table. Rautajoki is president of the Lapland Chamber of Commerce in Rovaniemi, Finland. The pile of business cards is from his last visit to Helsinki, where he met a lot of influential people from countries like Japan and United States – once again.

“During the last two years there has been a growing interest in the Arctic. The number of international visitors, ambassadors and delegations visiting the region is huge. Lately the situation has become even more intense.”

A bit too much so, if you agree with Rautajoki. He believes that we should stay calm and analyse things carefully.

“Emotions and passions are a good thing, but we should leave them to relationships and put them aside here. We are not in hurry and we are not late for anything. What is well planned is already half done. Finland has a good Arctic strategy and now we should start to implement it on a realistic timetable.”

According to Rautajoki, cooperation in the Barents Region takes a back seat to global cooperation. However, the Barents is

one of the key regions in the Arctic, so the global hype on the Arctic benefits Barents cooperation as well.

## **From tires to rails**

In Finland there has been a lot of discussion about building a train connection between the Baltic Sea and the Arctic Ocean. It’s based on the hope that the North East Passage will become a busy sailing route between Europe and Asia.

“Building a train connection from Rovaniemi to Kirkenes is a bigger issue than we realise. Even Japan and China are interested in it. But even if the planning started right now, the rails wouldn’t likely be ready before the 2030s.”

Rautajoki says that we should first invest in the road network, because it’s cheaper and we already have the infrastructure. For him the most important thing in Barents cooperation so far has been the Joint Barents Transport Plan, because it recognises the importance of the Finnish road network for Norway.

“Let’s start on tires and when heavy traffic starts increasing, plans for a train connection will speed up.”



## Two ongoing crises

Even though the hype is strong, it seems that so far there have been more expectations of economic growth and investments than actual actions.

“On the contrary; a lot has happened already! Take Sweden, for example, where the investment boom in mining has continued for about eight years so far. In Lapland, we have had investments of over one billion euros in tourism since the start of the millennium.”

There are two big issues that are slowing economic growth at least for now: the global

financial crisis, which naturally has an impact on the Barents Region, and the crisis in Ukraine, which is affecting the exchange rate of the ruble.

“Relations have already been cooling down between Norway and Russia, between the European Union and Russia and between the United States and Russia.”

This is felt in the cooperation in the Barents Region. One concrete example is the Kolarctic ENPI programme, which has helped make this magazine possible. It is a financial instrument of the European Union designed to facilitate cooperation between Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The

programme period is ending, and a new one was supposed to start in couple of years. What happens now is unsure.

“We should keep in mind that Russia has been there a thousand years and will be there another thousand. Finland should stay neutral and maintain good personal relations with Russia. We have a good chance to succeed in this because we don’t have a coastline on the Arctic Ocean and we don’t have oil or gas. We just need to keep our cool.” ●

*Marjo Laukkanen*

Marko Junttila



**Timo Rautajoki is a humanist who has a clear vision about business in the Arctic: “Finland could be a neutral leader.”**



# Barents on a plate

*Everybody has to eat – or do they?  
What do lunch plates look like  
in different workplaces and for  
different people?*

## **“AT THE FRIDTJOF NANSEN**

Institute, the lunchtime get-together is a bit of an institution. We all – well, whoever happens to be here and is not in a complete panic due to some fast-approaching deadline – gather round a table either in the beautiful, old living room of Fridtjof Nansen’s former residence, or on the patio overlooking the lovely garden. There we eat, engage in light-hearted conversation and do the daily quiz ‘10 questions’ in a national newspaper, which, by the way, we usually manage to answer with some style if the critical mass of five employees is met! We all bring and eat our own

packed lunch, a typical Norwegian *matpakke* usually comprising sandwiches with different toppings.

At FNI we also enjoy the luxury of being able to work from home, which I am doing right now. I am actually the odd man out in the group when it comes to lunchtime eating. I’m a devotee of intermittent fasting – have been for years, and absolutely love it – and drink my lunch in the form of a nice cup of piping hot, black, strong coffee. Cheers!”

*Leif Christian Jensen*  
Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI)  
Lysaker, Norway



**“THIS IS MY ORDINARY** lunch at home with seasonal vegetables, traditional boiled potatoes and a meat cutlet. If I have the time, I prefer to cook and eat at home. Traditionally, Russian people like to eat soup at lunch time – made of chicken, mushrooms or fish, for example. Today I cooked salmon soup with cream, using a Finnish recipe.

I don't like fast food – my son likes McDonald's though – or fried products, only something grilled sometimes. The student canteens

use local products as well. We have student canteens on our NARFU campuses that are open from 10 am to 5 pm. The topic of food is really interesting. We are actually starting a new research project on traditional food and health.”

*Elena Golubeva*

Department of Social Work and Social Security, The Northern (Arctic) Federal University (NARFU) Arkhangelsk, Russia



**“AS A POLITICAL SCIENTIST,** lunch at Luleå University of Technology is a great opportunity to discuss current events and catch up with colleagues. We can also chat over *fika* (coffee) in the morning or in the afternoon. Typically, the lunch hour begins around eleven o'clock, somewhat earlier than the one o'clock lunches I'm accustomed to in Canada, but it makes sense given the limited hours of sun during the winter.

Having a *fikarum* lunch means bringing a lunch from home, which I do most of the time, or

buying it from Uni:k, the university restaurant. My picture provides a good example of the impressive fare available there. Most lunches consist of a salad and main dish, and have bread on the side; *knäckebröd* is the proper Sweden option. And to finish all lunches with, we enjoy a cup of coffee. A caffeine boost provides the energy necessary to work to the end of the day. Or at least until the afternoon *fika* break.”

*Gregory Poelzer*

Political Science, Luleå University of Technology, Luleå, Sweden

**“ALTHOUGH I HAVE SUSHI** for lunch quite often, this picture was not taken during an ordinary lunch break. I was lucky enough to miss a flight on my way to a conference in Prince George, Canada, and got the chance to enjoy a huge, late sushi lunch, incredibly warm weather and the beautiful views of Stanley Park in Vancouver.

At home my lunch breaks are not always that exciting but I try to eat different things in different

places every day. Most often I go out for lunch with colleagues or friends; sometimes I just take my lunch with me from home and snack on it by my desk. There are also days when I have better things to do and skip eating altogether.”

*Hanna Lempinen*

Arctic Centre, University of Lapland Rovaniemi, Finland





Stefán Erlingsson

Not as black and white as it seems

# Foreign berry pickers in northern Finland

*Seija Tuulentie, Ville Hallikainen  
& Rainer Peltola*

**WHEN THEY LOOK** at discussions in the media, people in northern Finland might get the impression that attitudes toward commercial berry pickers from Asia and other parts of the world are wholly negative and that local people feel that their rights have been violated. However, a survey carried out in Finland in 2009–2011 and feedback from Lapland in 2012–2013 show that attitudes are not so black and white.

The survey targeted nature-oriented Finns, mainly those living in the northern part of the country. The results indicated that a slight majority (55 % of respondents) felt that berry picking restrictions are either not needed or should be minor ones. About 45 per cent wanted to restrict picking by foreigners more than picking by Finnish citizens. Those who advocated restrictions most (approx. 9 %) wanted rather harsh ones – for foreign as well as non-local Finnish pickers.

Thus, the results of the survey suggest that there are some problems. Messages to a telephone and e-mail service set up in response to the issue show that although attitudes in general are mainly positive, problems exist on the local level. As Lapland is sparsely populated, people's personal space is rather extensive and foreign pickers are sometimes seen as trespassing if they pick berries close to dwellings. Local

residents may also feel that berry-picking in certain areas, especially close to villages, is a facet of their right of enjoyment.

**THE BROADER CONTEXT** of the discussion of foreign berry pickers and commercial picking is the role and future of everyman's right. Everyman's right is common to all Nordic countries and allows – generally speaking – free roaming, camping and picking of natural products for everyone regardless of land ownership. Several land uses sometimes considered to be disturbing (commercial tourism, for example) have raised the question whether everyman's right should be modified in some way. Berry picking by foreigners is one such case.

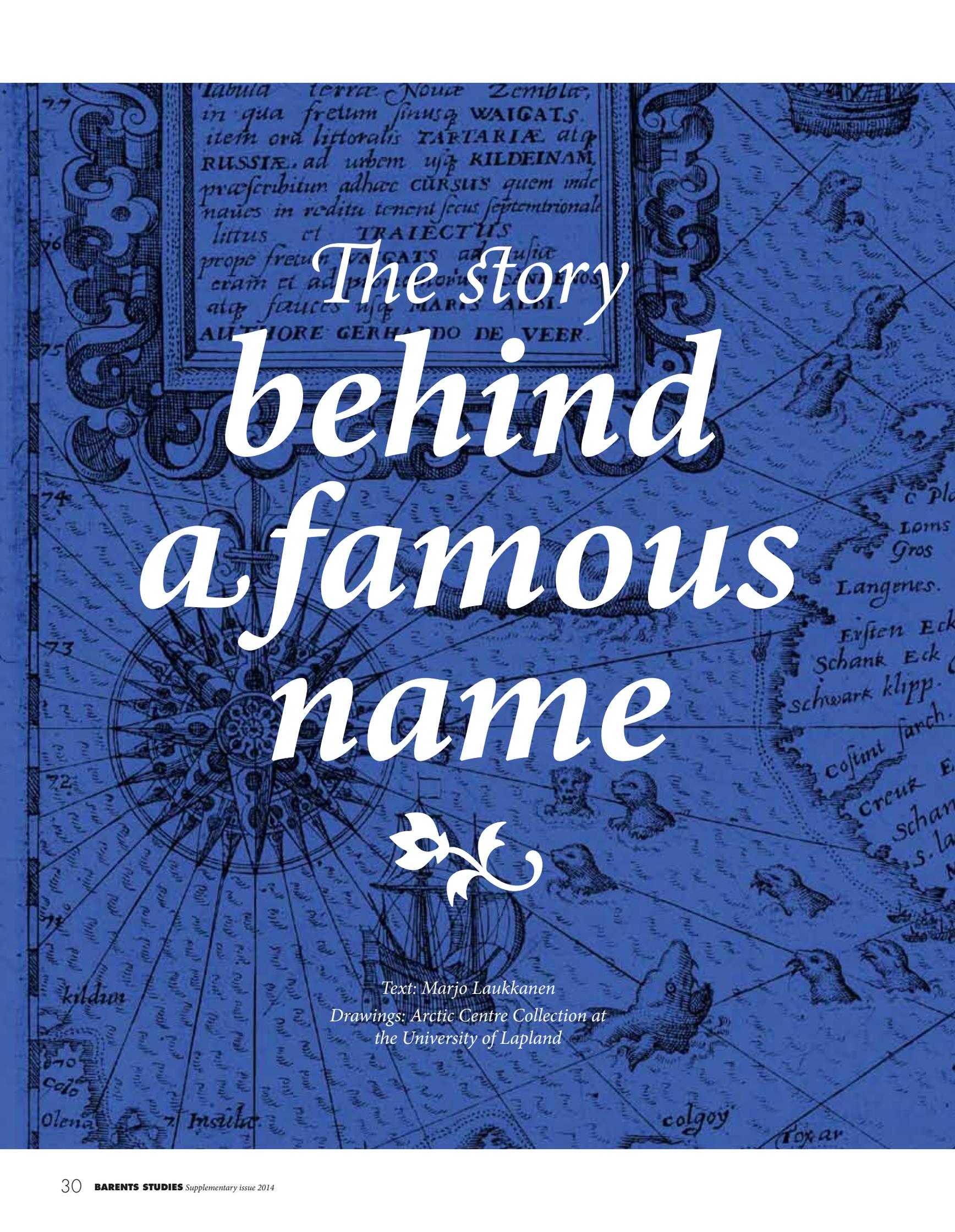
One conclusion to be drawn from the survey results is that it might be important to discuss the limits of everyman's right in Finland, and this is consistent with other surveys about the right. Some stricter rules for commercial picking may be needed. Because more than half of nature-oriented people even seem to accept commercial picking by foreign pickers, and about 90 per cent accept organised picking by Finns with slight or no restrictions, it can be expected that informing both Finnish people and berry pickers may change attitudes in a more positive direction.

**IN NORTHERN FINLAND**, there have been negotiations between different stakeholders to achieve an agreement on berry picking. Regional authorities, village representatives and berry companies have engaged actively in these negotiations and an agreement of sorts has been reached on acceptable picking practices. The results of the survey and the feedback show that, in general, organised berry picking by foreign labourers is accepted if some basic guidelines or rules are respected, with these perhaps being based on local customary laws or traditions.

Another factor which would improve local acceptance and promote social licence for organised berry picking by foreign and non-local labourers is the distribution of benefits. At present, organised berry-picking is seen as benefiting stakeholders outside the local community, whereas local communities have to bear the costs of increased picking activity in areas that locals have traditionally used.

*Seija Tuulentie and Ville Hallikainen are senior scientists at the Finnish Forest Research Institute. Rainer Peltola is research coordinator at Agrifood Research Finland.*

**Please read more about the topic  
in Barents Studies 2/2014**



*Tabula terrae Novae Zembla,*  
*in qua fretum sinusq; WAIGATS,*  
*item ora litoralis TARTARIAE atq;*  
*RUSSIAE, ad urbem usq; KILDEINAM,*  
*praescribitur adhuc CURSUS quem inde*  
*naues in reditu tenent secus septentrionale*  
*littus et TRAIECTUS*  
*prope fretum WAIGATS ad usque*  
*eram et ad promontorium DANIELIUS,*  
*atq; fauces usq; MARIS ALBI.*  
*AUTHORE GERHARDO DE VEER.*

# The story behind a famous name



*Text: Marjo Laukkanen*  
*Drawings: Arctic Centre Collection at*  
*the University of Lapland*





### May 1596

Two ships return to the Arctic Ocean in an expedition that is about to become very famous and pictured repeatedly in many books and maps in forthcoming centuries.



### 1594

Dutch traders organise an expedition to find the North East Passage. Four ships are led by an experienced navigator, Willem Barentsz. His ship reaches the northern tip of Novaya Zemlya but can't go forward because of ice. One of the ships manages to reach the Kara Sea through the southern strait.

### June 1596

The ships continue to sail north. The men see land, again. This time they name it Spitsbergen, because it consists 'only of mountains and pointed hills', as Barentsz himself described it. Nowadays this is the name of the main island, and the group of islands is known as Svalbard, a name that was given to it by the Vikings, who visited the land before the Dutch.

### c. 1550

Willem Barentsz is born in Habsburg, the Netherlands.

### 1595

Seven ships sail to the Arctic Ocean. This time Barentsz tries to sail through Yugorskiy Shar, the southernmost strait through Novaya Zemlya. The attempt to reach the Kara Sea has failed again, and the reason is the same: Arctic sea ice blocks the way.



### June 1596

The ships reach land. Explorers name the island Bear Island when they meet a huge polar bear swimming on their way to the shore. They kill the bear but it manages to put up a tough fight.

### July 1596

Two expeditions decide to sail different routes. Barentsz heads to Novaya Zemlya. When he reaches the island, he sails towards its northern tip and finally manages to reach the Kara Sea.



### June 1597

The ship is still ice-bound. The crew take two small boats and start the return trip. When Barentsz leaves the lodge for the last time, he writes a letter and hangs it in front of the fireplace. Twelve of the seventeen crew members make it back home. Barentsz himself dies on the return trip, probably of scurvy. The maps and the drawings are later published by Gerrit de Veer, one of the survivors.



### 1871

Barentsz' winter lodge is found by Norwegian seal hunter Elling Carlsen. He finds numerous untouched objects in the lodge, including drawings.

### August 1596

Barentsz's ship is trapped in the ice. The crew has no other choice but to spend the winter on the island. They build a wooden lodge and kill polar bears for food. Bear blubber is also used in lamps as a fuel.

### 1853

The Barents Sea appears under its modern name for the first time on a sea chart. The sea used to be known to the Vikings and medieval Russians as the Murmean Sea.

### 1879

Finnish Swede Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld is the first to navigate the North East Passage all the way to the Pacific Ocean.



### 1993

Cooperation in the Barents Region is officially launched in Kirkenes, Norway, at a meeting establishing the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and Barents Regional Council.

**Mapped Beauty**  
exhibition  
6.6.2014–12.4.2015

Arktikum  
Science Centre,  
Rovaniemi, Finland

# COMMUNITY ACTIVIST CONNECTS PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT

*Text and photo: Sari Pöyhönen*

---

*Stepa Mitaki is a 26-year old community activist from Murmansk, Russia. He believes in electronic democracy and wants to improve everyday life in cities.*

**“COMMUNITY ACTIVISM** is a huge movement in Russia nowadays. We activists are people who want to improve communities. We work for people's voices to be heard”, Mitaki explains.

Community activism started to rise in Russia in 2012 after the large demonstrations in Moscow and St. Petersburg. People were protesting against what they considered unfair elections. Community activism reaches out to touch those who don't want to vote with their feet and don't want to migrate from Russia, but who want to make a difference.

“You can't change the world if you can't change yourself. It sounds like a cliché. But I have to serve as an example. Something forces me to work.”

## **Migrating is a dream and a problem**

When Stepa Mitaki was young, he planned to migrate from his hometown, like many youngsters do in the North. This movement reduces the population of Murmansk and the North every year. According to the latest statistics, Murmansk has slightly over 299 000 inhabitants. In 2010, the number was about 310 000.

“I wanted to move to Moscow or abroad. And I did. I lived in Moscow for two years after my graduation. I worked for an advertising agency. After a while I stopped liking my work. It was just trying to convince people to buy things that they don't need.”

Mitaki says that he is actually not against people moving away from their hometown.

“It makes you look at the world in wider perspective. I still want to move abroad - for a while.”

## **Back to murmansk to do electronic democracy**

Stepa Mitaki moved back to Murmansk in 2012 and started projects with his friends. They established a company called My City, which nowadays has four people working in it.

“I'm good when it comes to technologies and I want to improve life in the city. I call it electronic democracy. We made an application for smartphones called Trolley Hunt. We launched it first in Murmansk, but it is now used globally in many cities.”

With the app you can check on your smartphone to see when the trolleybuses are coming and going. But it has problems.

“We suffer from a lack of information from the trolleybus company. Now they have electronic information screens providing the timetables at many bus stops in Murmansk.

So maybe our app is not needed so much anymore...?"

According to Mitaki, a better project is their MyMurmansk service. It is an online connection between people and government. On the website people can specify a location in Murmansk and submit ideas on how to improve the area. For example, if you see a good place for a children's playground, or a need for new benches or a new bus stop at a certain crossroads, you can send your idea to the website. Mitaki checks the ideas and publishes them online. He also lets the municipal government know about them.

Does the municipality government listen?

"I haven't seen much in the way of results, but these are long-term projects. One result we do have though. In summer 2013 they built a safer place to walk in front of one food store. It was an idea from our project."

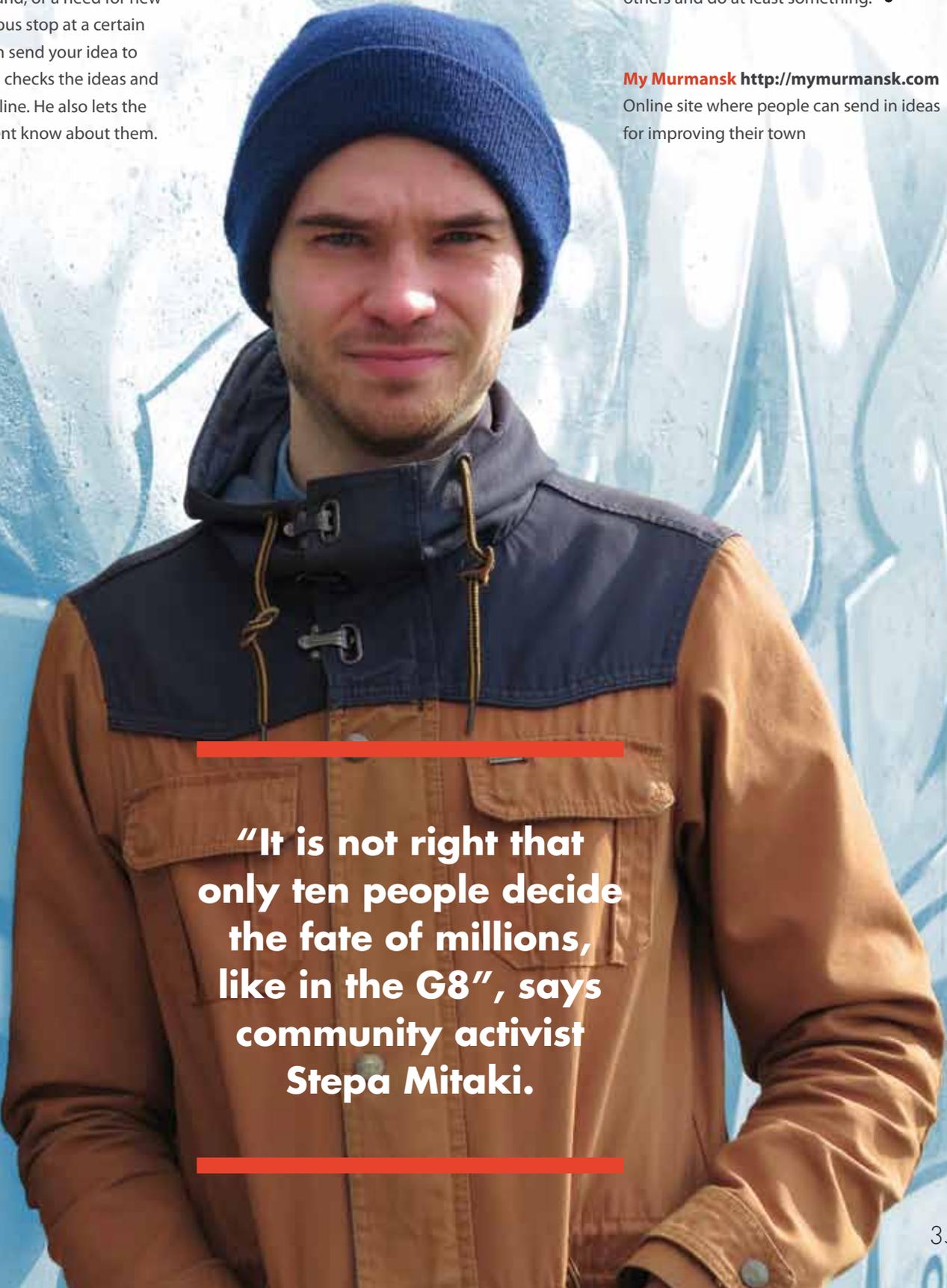
It sounds like he might be tempted to

participate in politics: he is active, talented and wants to improve the community. Political parties might love that kind of candidate.

"At least for now, I don't want to get into politics. But I would like to see more young talented people as politicians. That could give a lot to society. Community activism takes plenty of my time, but I want to inspire others and do at least something." ●

**My Murmansk** <http://mymurmansk.com>

Online site where people can send in ideas for improving their town



**"It is not right that only ten people decide the fate of millions, like in the G8", says community activist Stepa Mitaki.**



# WET DRINKING — WET





# CULTURES PROBLEMS

*Tarja Orjasniemi & Andrey Soloviev*



**THE DRINKING TRADITIONS** and trends are similar in Russia and in Finland. People used to drink large quantities of hard liquor but less frequently, whereas now they drink more frequently but the drinks are not as strong – but not everybody and not everywhere.

Changes in drinking habits are closely connected to changes in society and culture in general. The changes in alcohol consumption happen in the context of economic growth, increased prosperity and wider availability of alcohol. Despite economic growth, alcohol consumption has declined in many countries over the past few decades. It has decreased especially in the wine-producing countries in southern Europe.

In Finland, the use of alcohol has increased considerably over the last four decades. Apart from the economic recession in the early 1990s, alcohol consumption and related harm increased in Finland until the end of first decade of the 2000s. The consumption of alcohol has declined since 2009 and the detrimental effects of alcohol seem to be declining as well. According to a survey by the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finns still drink more alcohol per capita than any of the other Nordic nationalities. In 2013, the total consumption of alcoholic beverages equalled 11.6 litres of pure alcohol per person aged 15 years or older.

In Russia, an anti-alcohol campaign in 1985 brought about a sharp decline in alcohol consumption in the years 1985–1989, a decrease in mortality, a reduction in alcohol-related crime and an increase in life expectancy. However, after that the level of alcohol consumption began to rise again.

In 2010 Russia was ranked fourth in terms of alcohol consumption per capita, which was 15.1 litres/year. This very dire situation demanded that the government take not only the medical and social but also the economic and political measures needed to reduce alcohol consumption. At the beginning of the 2010s, Russia actively launched a campaign to reduce alcohol dependency among the population. By the end of 2013, the rate of use had decreased to 13.5 litres. For the first time in the history of the 'new' Russia, the proportion of vodka consumed decreased to less than 50 per

cent. At the same time, regional differences are considerable, ranging from 2 to 3 litres/year in the southern Muslim regions to as high as 16 to 18 litres or more, mainly in the northern European territories

In southern parts of the country, people mostly consume wine, but in northern regions it's spirits, mainly vodka. In northern Russia, the Arkhangelsk region is a prime example of an "alcohol" site. Despite a slight downward trend in recent years, reducing the official number of alcoholics, the population shows a strong preference for spirits in its alcohol consumption, with a tendency to drink large single doses and to drink with great frequency. This gives every indication that the nature of alcohol abuse among the locals is the 'northern' style. The situation is exacerbated by the extremely high frequency of consumption of alcohol surrogates, mainly technical ethyl alcohol.

## Russia



### "Part of being a guy"

Around the world men are more likely to drink alcohol than women. In some countries, like Finland and Russia, women's share of overall consumption has increased. Currently, about 90 per cent of women have consumed alcoholic beverages during the previous year.

The prevalence of heavy episodic drinking is more common among Russian men than in Finland. "It just seems to be part of being a guy in Russia that you are expected to drink heavily." In the southern Muslim areas, the consumption of alcohol by women is in practice excluded. In the other regions, the relation between men and women drinkers varies in different areas between 8 to 1 and 6 to 1. In the beginning of the twenty-first century, the differences between men and women have increasingly evened out.

# Finland



*Recorded alcohol consumption per capita (15 years+) in litres of pure alcohol by type of alcoholic beverage, 2010*

In Finland, there are heavy drinkers among both men and women. Over the past three decades the distribution of alcohol consumption has evened out only a little. Ten per cent of males drink about 45 per cent of all the alcohol consumed and ten per cent of women drink 50 per cent of the alcohol consumed by women. This means that one-tenth of the population drinks almost half of all the alcohol consumed. About a fifth of men and about 10 per cent of women drink alcohol at a harmful level.

## A top killer

Heavy drinking and the associated behaviour are more readily accepted in wet drinking cultures like Finland and Russia, while similar behaviour in dry cultures is more likely to be perceived as abnormal. Studies show that a growth in consumption increases the

detrimental effects of drinking. The link is very striking in both countries, and has been manifested particularly in a sharp rise in alcohol-related deaths, with alcohol-related diseases and accidental alcohol poisoning becoming very significant causes of death among working-age men and women.

Alcohol has long been a top killer in Russia and vodka is often the drink of choice, being available cheaply and often homemade in small villages. Previous studies have estimated that more than 40 per cent of working-age men in Russia die because they drink too much, including the use of alcohol that is not meant to be consumed, such as the alcohol in colognes and antiseptics.

In the European North of Russia the problem of excessive alcohol-related mortality is especially significant for the population of the Arkhangelsk oblast. The average loss of life expectancy due to

alcohol-related conditions is 17 years. The vast majority of deaths from alcohol occur at working age.

## Drinking to get drunk

Changes in alcohol consumption are mostly explained by changes in consumer incomes and alcohol policy measures. However, EU membership has relaxed the regulation of alcohol and given more room for the private alcohol industry to affect alcohol policy. Finnish drinking habits have not changed accordingly. At the core of the Finnish drinking culture is still the idea of drinking to get drunk

Despite some positive trends in Russia, too, the main alcohol-related problems in the European North of Russia remain consumption of cheap, uncertified 'shadow' alcohol, a high incidence of somatic diseases being exacerbated due to alcohol abuse in large single doses and detachment on the part of professionals in preventive work with young people.

The strategy to improve the health of the Russian population contains three major provisions which relate to the problem of preventing chemical dependency: reducing the number of deaths from alcohol abuse, reducing the amount of tobacco smoking and curbing the growth of consumption of narcotic drugs. The Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation plans to reduce the alcohol consumption per capita to 10 litres by 2020, although this goal is much higher than the highest possible level recommended by the WHO, which is 8 litres.

Thus, the forecast regarding changes in alcohol consumption in Finland and Russia in the coming years is not very favourable, a prospect which urges further transcultural research on the basic social issues associated with alcohol-related risks. ●

*Tarja Orjasniemi is Associate Professor in Comparative Social Work, University of Lapland, Finland.*

*Andrey Soloviev is Professor at the Northern State Medical University, Arkhangelsk, Russia*

*Real and imagined*

# BORDERING

Ilona Mettiäinen



**“FOR ME BORDERS MEAN**, first of all, the possibilities to explore what is behind them, to learn more, to understand ‘why?’ and to find ways for interesting ‘win-win’ cooperative work with my colleagues in the Barents Region. I also love to travel across the Barents borders with my family – for example to stay for a couple of quiet days in a cottage in Finnish Salla.

Thinking about borders as barriers, I have to admit that imaginary borders we construct in our heads are the highest ‘separating walls’. These walls are usually made of stereotypes, lack of knowledge and information, deficit of cultural sensitivity and things like that.”

*Larissa Riabova*

Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**“MUCH MORE WORK** needs to be done in order for the borders to be crossed more easily, and with less surveillance. This is particularly so with the Russian border region, which functions as a hard border that requires a visa and border control checks on both sides.

I agree with Larissa that, often, the borders that are hardest to cross are perceived borders reinforced by stereotypes and unfounded fears. Unfortunately, we are seeing an intense period of that kind of bordering now, both real and imagined. Events far away from the Barents geographical space are affecting our good relations with our Russian neighbours and they are having real economic consequences for Russia and the other Barents countries. We must confront these emerging issues by discussing them in order to promote understanding, further cooperation, and even find the points where we agree to disagree.”

*Aileen A. Espiritu*

Barents Institute, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

# From piqued to published

Marjo Lindroth, Researcher, University of Lapland, Finland

THE TITLE WAS  
ACTUALLY  
SUGGESTED BY  
RICHARD FOLEY,  
OUI LANGUAGE  
CONSULTANT.

It's often time-consuming and frustrating but eventually rewarding. And by 'it' I mean writing and publishing scientific articles, an important part of research work.

Getting an article published in a peer-reviewed journal involves many steps and a good deal of waiting. First, of course, one has to come up with the initial idea for the manuscript. In my own research on indigenous peoples in international politics, the starting-point has often been a certain irritation or disturbing feeling I have had about something in my research material, indicating that there is a need to take a closer look at the issue

The writing process itself involves countless drafts, seminars and conference presentations and, most importantly, colleagues reading and commenting on the text. Choosing the right journal to submit to is important, not only in terms of its scope, but also its specific requirements, which are useful to check beforehand. Since my doctoral dissertation is written in English and I have submitted articles to international journals, getting a language check done on the manuscript is part of the preparation process. Normally, the person doing the language check does two rounds of corrections and this also involves a lot of clarifications on the level of individual words and sentences – a tedious but necessary stage in getting the paper ready for submission.

In the best-case scenario, once the paper is submitted to the journal, the reviewers' comments and editors' decision arrive within a few months. The fastest decision that I have ever received was within a week – the editors rejected the paper because it did not fit the scope of the journal – and the slowest process has taken over two years so far, including my resubmitting a revised version that now awaits the editors' (hopefully) final decision.

I LIKE THIS  
DETAIL HERE.

I have received all kinds of decisions from editors. Usually, the best one can hope for is that they ask you to revise the paper according to the reviewers' suggestions and then resubmit it. This is the decision that I have received most often. At this point, there is still no guarantee that the paper will eventually be accepted for publication, and it will usually go for another round of reviews. Thus, there is still plenty of work ahead, but good reviewer comments are motivating in the revising work. My experience with reviewer feedback is mostly positive. I have received comments that have benefited my research and writing ever since. For example, it has become my guiding principle, following one reviewer's substantial yet very practical comments, to always clearly state what the paper that I am writing claims, what it builds on and what it offers. I have been impressed by the amount of time, thought and work that most of the reviewers have taken in reading and commenting on my papers. Like most authors, I have also had papers rejected. Even though a rejection is always disappointing, it has to be taken as part of the job. I have found rejections easier to deal with now that I have experience of the publication process and more confidence in my work.

THIS WAS  
IMPORTANT  
ADDITION TO  
THE FIRST  
DRAFT.

Usually a lot of time passes between the acceptance of an article and its actual publication. I have sometimes felt that the article is outdated in parts by the time it comes out because I have already moved on with my research. However, persevering with the process and having the published article in your hands is rewarding. It is also one of the rare occasions as a researcher when you can actually see the product of your work.

**"I WAS ON HOLIDAY** most of July, with some interludes reading theoretical literature. Most people in my workplace at Luleå University of Technology started their holidays already at *Midsommer* – a public holiday at the end of June – and stayed away all of July also. One thing I did was to visit Visby during Almedalen Week, the annual week of politics. It is an event filled with seminars, speeches and political activities for politicians but also journalists, activists and researchers.

The worst thing about holidays is the brutal confrontation between our common images and expectations and the suffocating lack of fulfilment. The best thing was that I was able to distract myself from this experience. This photo is from a barbeque, which is a very typical summer activity. It is also a very stupid and repulsive thing, intimately associated with masculine identity and the subjugation of animal bodies."

*Tore Andersson Hjulman*

Luleå, Sweden



## *The Barents on*

# HOLIDAY

During the summer some people work and some take weeks off.

**What was your summer like?**

**"THIS YEAR I HAD** my holiday in bits and pieces over the summer months with some work in the middle. The annual holiday period in Finland is between May and September. The University of Lapland, where I work, is mostly closed in July, so that is when most of the staff have their summer holidays.

I visited northern Norway with my relatives, attended a conference in Japan, built a deck for my apartment and got a puppy dog! I was happy to experience different things from travelling abroad to house-training the puppy. This photo is from my trip at Midsummer – a family tradition of sorts – to Komagfjord in Norway. We were freezing, but the scenery was breathtaking."

*Sandra Wallenius-Korkalo*

Rovaniemi, Finland

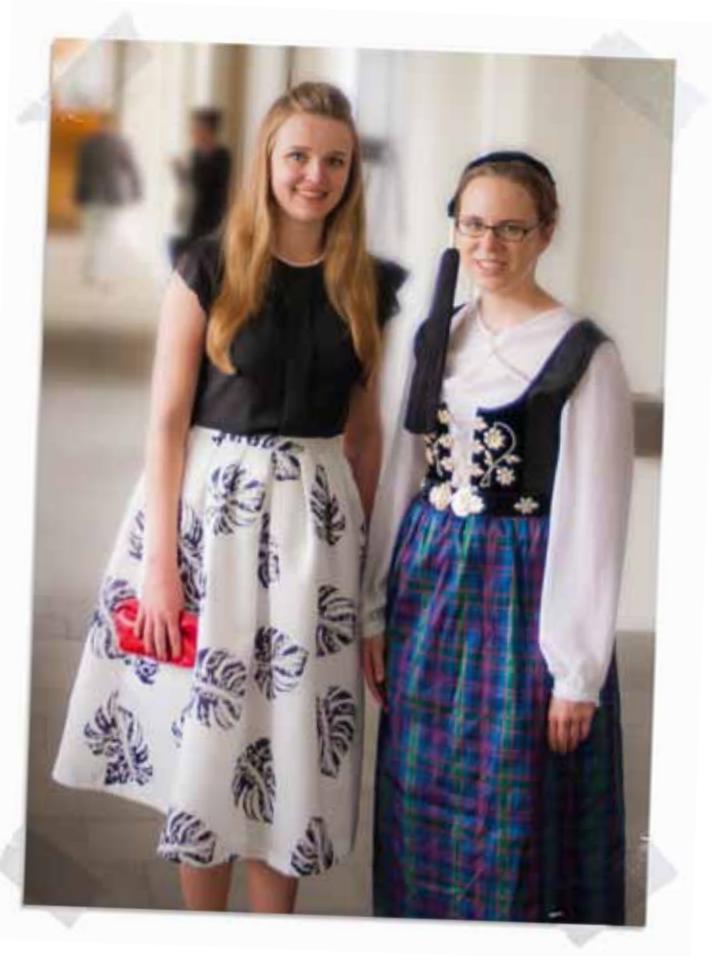
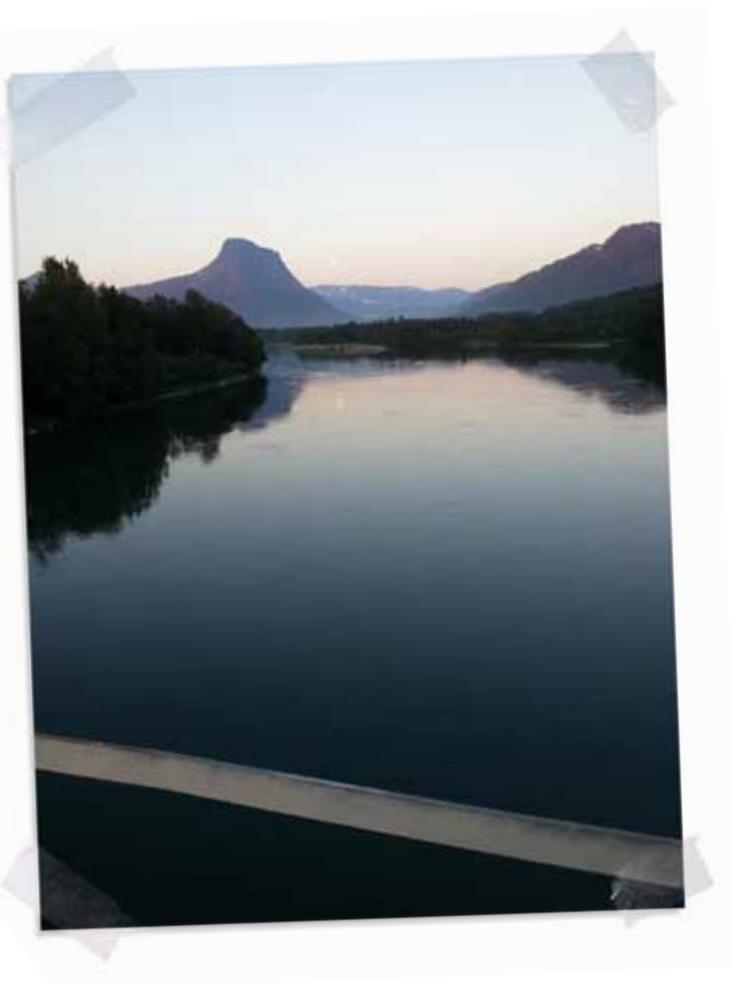


**“AS I AM TRYING** to finish up my thesis, I did not have much time for vacationing this summer. I ended up going to my hometown Storslett – between Tromsø and Alta – to meet family and relax for a few days. Although many people leave Storslett during the holidays, many also come to visit the area. As I have done my fieldwork among locals and tourists on the banks of the Reisa River, the river has a professional and personal interest for me. I always find myself drawn to it whenever I go back home.

This photo was taken in July on the old bridge, just 100 metres from where I grew up. It is a place that brings back many childhood memories. There is some truth to the statement that one cannot step into the same river twice. However, despite all the changes that all places and people go through, there is a strong feeling of continuity that this picture represents for me.”

*Gaute Svensson*

Tromsø, Norway



**“IN JUNE I WENT** to Iceland and got my diploma in Polar Law at the University of Akureyri. This photo of me and a fellow graduate was taken by my friend Ari Hólm Ketilsson on graduation day. Several girls wore traditional Icelandic costumes. I really value how Icelanders value and preserve their culture and traditions, even the young people.

Originally, I’m Russian, raised in Murmansk. In our region people are always trying to go south in the summertime, at least for a couple of weeks. All the Icelandic people look very surprised when I say that for me going to Iceland actually means going south. When I was a teenager, summer camps on the Black Sea were very popular. I went there three years in a row. Today, I think, people in Murmansk are more interested in going to the Mediterranean countries.”

*Irina Zhilina*

Rovaniemi, Finland

# The case of

**SWEDEN HAS BEEN** regarded as a relatively passive party in Barents cooperation compared to its Nordic neighbours. Several reasons can be found for this.

Sweden has no direct border with Russia, unlike Finland and Norway, and thus has fewer matters of common interest with the big power in the East. Foreign policy in Sweden is directed more to the south and to the southeast, that is, the EU community and the Baltic region. The Finnish and Norwegian capitals, as well as the countries' official political and administrative structures, have more of a focus on the Barents than is the case in Sweden. After a starting period, only very small financial and administrative resources have been allocated to Barents cooperation from the Swedish side. The politicians and the press are comparatively ignorant of Barents realities, and Barents issues are very rarely covered by the Swedish media, with the sole exception of Swedish radio in northern Sweden.

At the beginning of Barents cooperation, Swedish involvement was higher. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Sten Andersson was very much influenced by his Norwegian friend Thorvald Stoltenberg, "the father of Barents cooperation". During Andersson's time in the Foreign Office (1985-1991), we saw city twinning and county cooperation started between northern Sweden and North-West Russia. Sweden channelled quite a lot of its foreign aid budget across a wide range of sectors to projects for bilateral cooperation with Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the communist system.

After Vladimir Putin came into power and the Russian economy improved, the support programmes were largely dismantled. They have continued, albeit on a much more modest level, within the two programmes of the Northern Dimension of the European Union, namely, the Environmental and the Social and Health Care partnerships. Very little money has been left for bilateral cooperation between the two countries to promote democracy, human rights and empowerment of civil society.

**WHY HAS SWEDISH** involvement in Barents cooperation gradually declined? One reason on the Russian side is the improvement of the economy, which has made the country more self-sufficient. Another reason is the Putin regime's sharply reduced interest in cooperation with the West; this has even become a more hostile attitude, seen in, among other things, the introduction of new laws that restrict civic organisations' space to act and cooperate with partners abroad.

However, interest on the part of the Swedish government has also diminished. In two of his first speeches, Göran Persson, as new prime minister in 1996, specifically mentioned Barents cooperation. That never happens when Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt or Minister of Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt is speaking. In addition, Barents cooperation is no longer cited in the annual foreign policy statements which the government presents to Parliament.

# of Sweden

## LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Lindh – assassinated in September 2003 – was probably the last leading Swedish politician with a fairly deep interest in Barents cooperation. She played a key role when a lot of international money was collected and an agreement reached with Russia to combat nuclear waste and risks on the Kola Peninsula.

So what is left? Is there any light at the end of the tunnel?

There are still committed actors who want to develop Barents cooperation in their fields. Some of the promising examples that can provide us with new hopes are the Barents Press Network; the cooperation among indigenous peoples, young entrepreneurs, youth, schools and, to some extent, universities; the cooperation in the area of culture and sports; and the Barents Reunion Forums, which have been organised in Haparanda-Tornio for seven years now, sponsored by IKEA owner Ingvar Kamprad.

**WHAT WE ARE LACKING** in Sweden is a more comprehensive and programme-oriented approach that activates politicians, government, the media and a greater number of civil society actors and that encourages people-to-people contacts. The cooperation needs more visible ideological and propagandistic leaders!

I interviewed Thorvald Stoltenberg and Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Erkki Tuomioja in conjunction with the twentieth anniversary of Barents cooperation in January 2013. We have not achieved the economic and business objectives that were part of the dreams in the start-up years. Stoltenberg and Tuomioja regarded overcoming the dividing line with Russia as still the most burning challenge of our endeavours.

More can be done, even if realities such as the changed domestic and foreign policy of Russia create new problems and obstacles. Hopefully, the ongoing Arctic cooperation can provide new inspiration and attract new actors to join both Barents and Nordic cooperation.

*Gunnar Lassinantti*

Independent opinion-moulder

*Former head of the peace, security and disarmament programmes at the Olof Palme International Center, Stockholm*



Julia Kinnanen

*Children's Music Camp is filled with voices and sounds.*

## Sounds like **BARENTS**

**PLAYING THE KANTELE** – a traditional Finnish musical instrument – and making sounds from nature. These are some of the activities that took place last summer at the Children's Music Camp in Saariselkä, Finland.

The camp was arranged by The Sound of Barents project, which aims to strengthen the cultural cooperation between the churches in the Barents region.

"It's hard for me to pick the most memorable thing from the camp, but welcoming the children from the Orthodox Church for the first time and learning

more about their music was a privilege", says Aron Tideström, project manager at Sensus, Sweden.

The ecumenical project develops events for children, young people, choirs and professional musicians. It has also created Barents Boys Choir in cooperation with Arts Promotion Centre Oulu.

"We build networks and exchange knowledge and practices."

The Sound of Barents is financed by the European Union Kolarctic programme and is part of an umbrella project, New Horizons.

# Challenges of & LAND USE & INDUSTRY

**WHAT ARE WE** really talking about when we talk about the Arctic region? The northern areas are not one, and different regions are definitely not the same.

The programme Arctic Sustainable Development (2014–2018) places a focus on what can be seen as the European Arctic mainland, defined as the northernmost parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland and thus covering the North Calotte as well as much of the Barents Region.

“We want to study land use and industry in this region in the past and in the present as well as elucidate the framework for future governance of the region”, says Professor Carina Keskitalo, scientific coordinator of the programme at Umeå University.

The research focuses on seven different sectors and the interaction between them. These sectors are mining, forestry, oil and gas exploration, fishing, reindeer husbandry, tourism and municipal planning.

The programme aims to provide a nuanced picture of governance challenges at local, subnational and broader levels in northernmost Europe. This way researchers hope to support governance to make informed decisions related to sustainable development in the area. The programme is financed by Mistra, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, which has provided 30 million Swedish crowns, with co-financing from the participating organisations.

## How safe is LOCAL FOOD?

**MANY PEOPLE** in the North eat a lot of local food, like berries, meat and fish, which are often considered pure and healthy choices. But how pure are they?

The Norwegian Institute for Air Research is leading a project which assesses the impact of industrial pollution on food safety and human health. The study is being carried out in the populated Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian border region. Through interviews and questionnaires the project will also get insights into

Alexey Dudarev



people's perception of the risk from pollution of their local environment.

The study will provide a good basis for local and cross-border strategies to reduce potential risks. Data on contaminant levels in locally harvested food and in humans can be integrated with monitoring of key human health endpoints in the future. The project is funded by the European Union Kolarctic programme.



*Sverker Sörlin, editor*

## Science, Geopolitics and Culture in the Polar Regions: Norden Beyond Borders

London: Ashgate

2013

The Nordic countries have a strong presence and geopolitical significance in the Arctic. Their roles go far beyond their weight in terms of population, geographical size or even economic activity, claims Sverker Sörlin. He has edited a book that addresses critical issues related to both polar regions, but especially those pertaining to the Arctic.

The book is a result of a multi-year research project which studied the formation of 'Arctic Norden' as a composite of science, diplomacy and policy. The empirical focus is on Danish, Norwegian and Swedish influence in the polar regions during the twentieth century, in particular during the Cold War. The book is a first attempt to provide a comprehensive Nordic perspective on the Arctic. "There both is and is not an Arctic Nordic region; this book is about that reality and the history of the common existence of binaries", writes Sverker Sörlin in the introduction.

"The value of this contribution [book] lies elsewhere than stated in the title: the detailed descriptions of the diverse case studies highlight the close and changing interplay of science and politics and the ways in which research agendas and priorities reflect political situations and concerns, and vice versa."

*Hanna Lempinen, Researcher*

*Vladimir V. Didyk and Larissa A. Riabova*

## Trends of economic and social development of the Murmansk region: Results of the monitoring during the two decades of the market reforms

Apatity: Kola Science Centre

2012

"Didyk and Riabova have presented an interesting period of Russian history, an era of chaos and restructuring. The detailed analysis of the transformational socio-economic processes and trends in the Murmansk region is impressive. Even though the book's text has previously been published in the form of separate articles and reports, the monograph gives readers an overall picture of the development and thus holds a well-deserved place among Russian-language publications."

*Kari Synberg, Ph.D. in Geography*

Monica Tennberg, editor

## Politics of Development in the Barents Region

Rovaniemi: Lapland University Press 2012

To stimulate and support further debate on sustainable development in the Barents Region – this is the ambitious goal of the book according to its editorial team. The book is based on a multidisciplinary research network between Nordic and Russian researchers.

The authors analyse various regional rationalities, governance practices and their multiple effects on local and regional subjectivities. They are specialised in regional studies but represent international law, political science and sociology. The aim is to offer “diverse viewpoints on decision making to resolve the social, economic, political and cultural challenges salient in the process of creating a region based on political will”.

“On the whole, the book is an important and topical contribution to the issues of governance and sustainable development in the far north. It successfully highlights both the structures of governance in various contexts and the challenges of finding a balance between economic growth, human development and environmental considerations. [...] Although the multidisciplinary approach is to be praised, it entails some thematic vagueness.”

*Kaj Zimmerbauer, Postdoctoral researcher*

Satu Himanen, Jouko Inkeröinen, Kirsi Latola, Tero Väisänen and Erkki Alasaarela

## Analysis of Regional Climate Strategies in the Barents Region

Helsinki: Ministry of the Environment 2012

“The report serves well to open up discussion and provides a convincing reference for policy-makers on the importance of climate change work at the sub-national level. [...] Above all, the recommended practices can further promote and facilitate regional climate strategy work in the Barents region.”

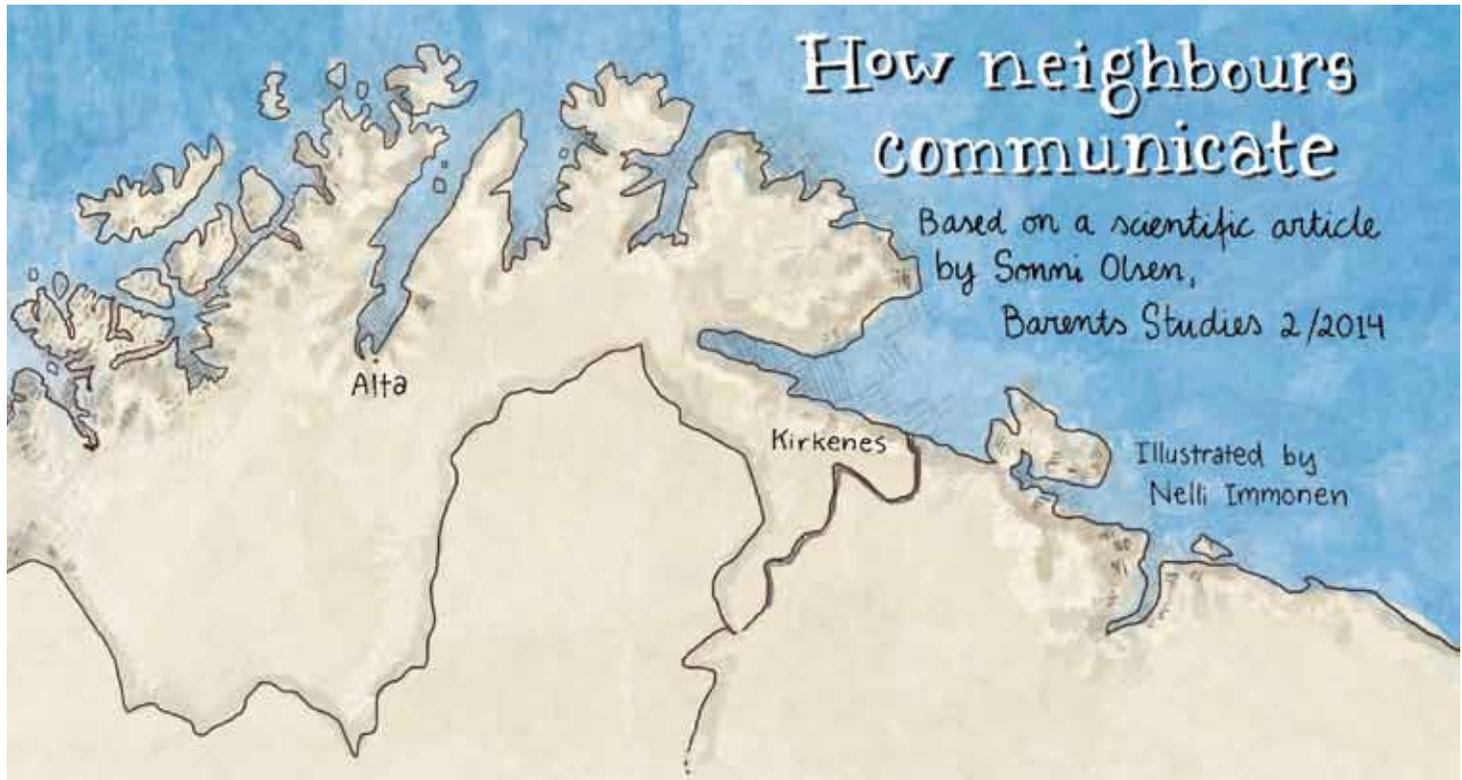
*Ilona Mettiäinen, Researcher*

The quotes from critiques are from book reviews that were originally published in Barents Studies issues 1/2014 and 2/2014.



# How neighbours communicate

Based on a scientific article  
by Sonmi Olsen,  
*Barents Studies* 2/2014



Illustrated by  
Nelli Immonen

After being closed for most of the 20th century, the border between Russia and Norway was opened in the 90s. The interaction between these countries has been increasing ever since.



*"I can change my national identity, I can change my passport. I can change my religious identity, from Christian to Jew, for instance. But I can never change my mother tongue. For this reason I will always be a Russian, never anything else."*

Many Russians living near the border are encouraged to learn Norwegian as children. The language is seen as a door to the West.

Learning a new language and moving to a new country doesn't however erase your roots.

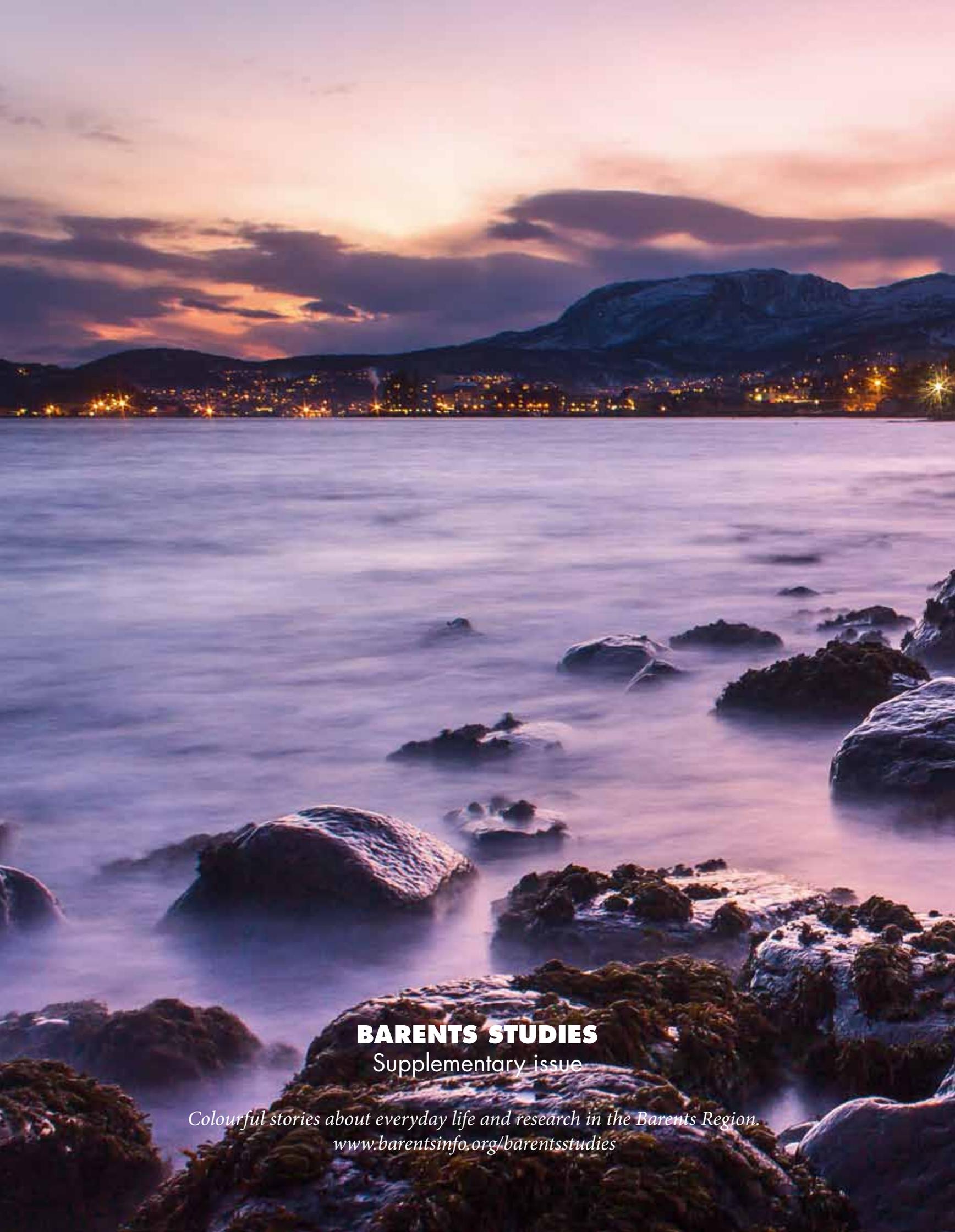
The Russian immigrants in Norway still remember how speaking Russian in Norway was frowned upon, making it essential to learn Norwegian.

Now, especially near the border, speaking Russian can be seen as an asset on the job market. The old attitudes are quickly vanishing.



The interaction of the two cultures is increasing by the day. Will this mixture give us a wholly new type of an identity - something that is unique to the Barents' region?





**BARENTS STUDIES**  
Supplementary issue

*Colourful stories about everyday life and research in the Barents Region.*  
[www.barentsinfo.org/barentsstudies](http://www.barentsinfo.org/barentsstudies)