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I was born above the Arctic Circle, in the Russian town of Apatity, and have lived here all my life. I did my Specialist Degree in Management in the Faculty of Economics at the Kola branch of Petrozavodsk State University. After graduation in 2002, I went on to take a postgraduate course at the Luzin Institute for Economic Studies, Kola Science Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences, with a focus on economics and management of the national and regional economy.

From the very beginning of my academic career I have examined questions related to the development of the electric power industry and energy security in the northern regions. Russian energy security research used to be dominated by issues of technology, meeting the needs of the administrative-command economy, but this changed a quarter of a century ago. “Energy security” expanded beyond technology, also encompassing socio-economic aspects of the bigger picture.

Today, energy security is understood as the protection of a country/region (individuals, society, and economy) against threats to the reliable supply of fuel and energy. Possible threats are determined by external (political, economic, or market-related) factors and by the condition and operation of the energy sector. Energy security is a vital component of socio-economic security at the national, regional,



and local levels: energy supply is crucial for any sector of the economy and people's everyday lives. Reliable energy supply is especially important for northern regions. Here, under the severe, cold climate conditions, disruptions in the energy supply can cause a crisis. It is a matter not only of economic damage; the lack of electric and heat energy can also harm the health of the people living in the North.

My doctoral dissertation, completed in 2008, dealt with the "Perspective estimations of energy security of a northern region's socio-economic system (case study of the Murmansk region)". The methodological approach that I proposed allowed the rating of development scenarios of a northern region's fuel and energy sector by energy security criteria. The approach was based on the integrated use of different research methods, most notably the analytic hierarchy process and the scenario method. This approach broke down the problem of energy security estimation into smaller pieces and made it possible to analyse the influence of different elements on achieving energy security in the long term. The methodology was tested by the case study of the Murmansk region.

After defending my dissertation I continued studying problems of energy security as well as questions of the development of the electric and heat and power industry, perspectives of non-traditional renewable energy, and energy policy in the Russian North. These problems are especially pertinent in Russia, as some of the Russian fuel and energy sectors were thoroughly reformed at the turn of the century. The changes in the fuel and energy industries, most of all in the electric power industry, inevitably affected the energy consumers. It is important to pursue an efficient state energy policy, to ensure that the energy companies work efficiently, and to guarantee the consumers' energy security. I believe energy security should be an overriding priority of the state energy policy.

I now work as a senior researcher at the Department of Economic Policy and Business Activities in the Arctic and the Regions of High North at the Luzin Institute for Economic Studies of the KSC, RAS. The Department currently conducts research on "Theoretical and applied problems in the regions of the North and the Arctic under the conditions of transforming global and national priorities of the economy". In the context of this work I study such problems as strategic concerns and possibilities of providing energy security in the Russian North, working out ways to improve energy security of these territories.

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I also have experience of teaching, having taught economics and management disciplines at the Kola branch of Petrozavodsk State University and at the Apatity branch of Saint-Petersburg State University of Engineering and Economics.

I regularly present my research results at academic conferences and other forums, mostly in Russia but also abroad. In 2008, I took part in the scientific excursion “Encountering the Changing Barents”, organized by the Barents Arctic Network of Graduate Schools for PhD students from different countries. During the excursion we visited several places in Finland, Norway, and Russia, learned more about scientific organizations in the Barents region, and gave presentations of our research. I have also participated in the annual international travelling symposium “Calotte Academy” on several occasions. Events such as these provide great opportunities for meeting people from other countries, learning other cultures, and understanding the world better. Listening to different arguments and viewpoints and explaining one’s own vantage point is good for any researcher. International contacts enable us to understand better not only the others, but also ourselves. This is why international cooperation opportunities between young researchers in the Barents region should be maintained and further developed