



Snapshots from the Arctic 'Field'

Experiences and Reflections from Postgraduate and
Early-Career Research in and on the Arctic
Saturday 14 May 2016

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Fieldwork is an important part of data collection as well as encountering and engaging the environments one studies. It is at once an analytical, reflexive and interpretive enterprise as well as a social, political and emotional one. Conducting fieldwork in or on the Arctic presents researchers with a series of challenges and experiences shaped by the region's unique political, social and physical geographies. Reflection on matters such as researcher positionalities and responsibilities specific to one's field is always crucial. Arctic research is no exception, particularly when considering matters such as how Arctic past and modern history is marked by (post)colonial encounters, the impacts of rapidly changing physical and social environments, and the prominent links between knowledge production and the exercise of political power. Beyond the politics of the fieldwork, the lived experience of 'being in the field' constitutes a significant aspect of the process through which knowledge is produced. The relationship between field site and researcher is shaped by a long line of aspects relating not just to the practical work, but to matters affecting the mental and physical well-being of the field researcher a well.

This workshop aims to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary and inter-institutional networking by creating a forum for joint reflection on moments of encountering the Arctic through research. Through the sharing of different field experiences, we hope to facilitate critical discussions relating to questions such as the constitution of Arctic 'fields', how they are produced, how postgraduate and early-career scholars come to know, understand, affect, and not least are affected by them.

Practical information

Workshop Location

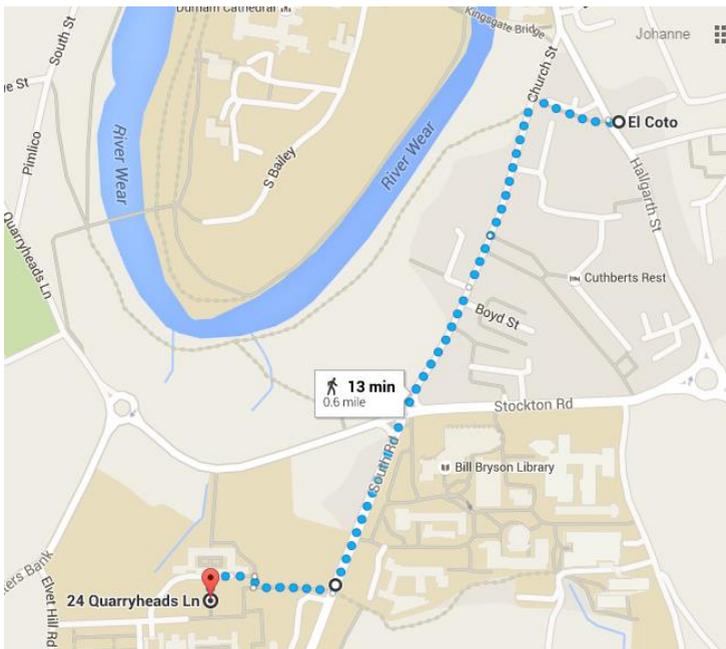
Kenworthy Hall
St. Mary's College
Elvet Hill Road
Durham, DH1 3LR

Informal workshop dinner

El Coto
17 Hallgart Street
Durham, DH1 3AT

Getting to El Coto

The restaurant is located approximately 15 minutes' walk from St. Mary's College. For those who wish to join, we will be departing from the college at approximately 19:10 (after the wine reception). For those who wish to get there on their own accord, the restaurant is marked on the map below:



Programme

11:30-12:00: Tea, coffee and registration

12:00-12:15: Opening remarks and introduction

12:15-12:45: Opening 'snapshot'

Philip Steinberg: A longer exposure: Seeing beyond the snapshot

12:45-13:30: Lunch

13:30-15:00: SESSION 1 (10 minute presentations followed by collective discussion)

Brice Perombelon: Decoloniality and existence in nature: Conducting research in the Indigenous North

Anthony Speca: Reflections for researchers from an Arctic civil servant

Michael J. Dangerfield: The West Greenland ulu or 'women's knife': Fieldwork reflections on the symbolic embodiment of contemporary Inuit gender relations

Gyorgy Henyei Neto: Sámi handicraft in Northern Norway: When art makes people

Johanne M. Bruun: 'Being British': Science, politics and the UK presence at the Arctic Circle Conference

Eleonora Milazzo: Communicating Climate Change: The Arctic Climate Change Emerging Leaders (ACCEL) Fellowship

15:00-15:30: Tea & coffee

15:30-17:00: SESSION 2 (10 minute presentations followed by collective discussion)

Ingrid A. Medby Relating latitudinally: Co-creation of meaning in interviews

Natalie Wahnsiedler: The experience of travelling in the Russian North

Rosanna White: Memory and commemoration in Canadian museum exhibitions

Heather Bell: Poles apart: fieldwork experiences from the Polish Polar Station on Svalbard

Saied Satei: Petroleum operations and environmental issues in the Arctic: Studies of rights and responsibilities in international law

Julia Feuer-Cotter: Witnessing geographies of violence in the North

17:00-17:10: Short break

17:10-18:00: Summative remarks and discussion

18:00-19:00: Poster session and wine reception

19:30- late: Dinner at restaurant *El Coto* (17 Hallgart Street)

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Sponsorship

**The Centre for Academic, Researcher and Organisation Development (CAROD),
Durham University**

The International Office (UARctic Network), Durham University

Presenter biographies

Philip Steinberg is currently a Professor in the Department of Geography at Durham University and Director of the IBRU, Durham University's Centre for Borders Research where he directs the ICE LAW Project. His research focuses on the historical, ongoing, and, at times, imaginary projection of social power onto spaces whose geophysical and geographic characteristics make them resistant to state territorialisation. These spaces include the world-ocean, the Arctic, and the universe of electronic communications. Within these spaces, he studies everything from artistic depictions to governance institutions to the lifeways of individuals who inhabit (or cross) their expanses. Phil's Arctic research has been funded by the US National Science Foundation, the International Council for Canadian Studies, the European Commission, and the Leverhulme Trust. He has authored six books and over fifty journal publications and book chapters, including most recently, journal publications on Arctic topics in *Polar Record*, *Ocean Development & International Law*, and *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie*, book chapters in *Polar Geopolitics? Knowledge, Resources, and Legal Regimes* and *International Relations and the Arctic: Understanding Policy and Governance*, and the book *Contesting the Arctic: Politics and Imaginaries in the Circumpolar North*. Phil holds a PhD in Geography from Clark University, has previously held positions at e.g. Florida State University and Royal Holloway, University of London, and is presently Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Political Geography*.

Session 1:

Anthony Specca is the founder and Managing Principal of *Polar Aspect*, a consultancy focused on public policy and strategy in the Arctic. Since 2012, he has advised government on Arctic issues, particularly Arctic governance, fiscal policy and economic policy. Anthony also writes and speaks on Arctic politics and economics. His work has appeared in *The Arctic Journal*, *Arctic Yearbook*, *Northern Public Affairs*, *Nunatsiaq News*, *Policy Options*, and *Winnipeg Free Press*, and he has been cited in Parliament of Canada debates on northern issues. Anthony obtained a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Toronto in 1999. From 2008 to 2011, Anthony was a senior policy official with the Government of Nunavut, Canada's Arctic territory. He oversaw Nunavut's fiscal and economic policy and annual economic outlook, and he advised the Minister of Finance on fiscal relations with Canada. He was also a core member of Nunavut's team negotiating the devolution of lands and resources, and he represented Nunavut on regulatory panels dealing with the mining industry. Anthony's career has also ranged over business and finance, and he has trained professionally in negotiation and mediation.

Brice Perombelon is a Doctoral researcher at the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford. His research focuses on the geopolitical impacts of climate change on a Dene community of the Canadian High North. His emphasis is on the critical study of the way these transformations (particularly land and natural resources governance) affect everyday lives and contribute to the shaping of an indigenized geopolitics based on aboriginal ways of knowing. Brice holds an MSc degree in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, a BA in Political Science and a double MA in International Relations and Geopolitics and Geostrategy from the Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies, France. He has also worked for the French Development Agency and the United Nations World Food Program, in Sub-Saharan Africa and for the French Foreign Affairs Ministry in the Balkans and in North-East Asia. More recently, Brice has been an accredited observer for the University of Oxford at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris. Lastly, over the last year, Brice has taught at an undergraduate level on International Relations (1st years, at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University

College London) and on Postcolonial Geopolitics (3rd years, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford).

Michael Dangerfield is a final year DPhil candidate at the School of Geography and the Environment (SoGE) at the University of Oxford, a postgraduate fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS), an associate of the Royal College of Science (RCS). As a political and economic geographer his research focuses on the impact of resource extraction and infrastructure development on labour market regulation, functionality and governance. His doctoral thesis examines Arctic development in the context of Greenland's re-emergence as a resource frontier and the impact FDI has on the island's evolving political ecology and labour market. During his PhD Michael has helped to formulate and articulate British Arctic policy by presenting his research in his capacity as a member of the British delegation to the 2014 Arctic Circle Assembly headed by James Grey MP and by submitting evidence to the 2015 House of Lords Arctic Committee Report chaired by Lord Teverson.

Michael is also a contributor to the global analysis and advisory firm Oxford Analytica (OA) on matters relating to Arctic politics and policy. In addition to his role as Director of the Oxford University International Infrastructure Consortium (OXIIC), Michael is also a steering committee and founding member of the Oxford University Polar Forum (OUPF). Prior to embarking on his doctorate Michael was formally an external collaborator with the Employment Trends (EMP/TRENDS) Team at the United Nation's International Labour Organization (ILO). Over a period of seven years' he worked on the development of the Global Employment Trends (GETs), the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) and more broadly the measurement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) employment indicator targets. Michael holds an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London, a BA in Land Economy from the University of Cambridge and a postgraduate certificate in Nanotechnology and quantum theory from the University of Oxford.

Gyorgy Henyei Neto is a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology, at the University of Aberdeen. He has received a BA in Social Sciences, by the Federal University of Sao Carlos, Brazil, in 2009, an MPhil in Religious Studies, by the Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2013, and an MRes in Anthropology, by the

University of Aberdeen, UK, in 2014. He has recently completed a one-year fieldwork experience in Kautokeino, Norway, where his project, related to Sámi traditional and modern handicraft, takes place.

Johanne M. Bruun is a PhD student at Durham University, Department of Geography, with an interest in the historical and political geographies of polar science. Focusing in Danish and US scientific expeditions carried out in Greenland during the 1950s, her PhD research interrogates the micro-politics of geoscientific enactments of the material earth and its internal architecture, specifically its role in territory formation. Her field research has taken place in archives across Denmark, Greenland and the United States. Johanne holds an MSc in Geopolitics & Security from Royal Holloway, University of London, and a BSc in Geography from Aalborg University, Denmark.

Eleonora Milazzo is a postgraduate student currently pursuing an MSc in Global Politics at Durham University. She is also an intern at the Global Policy Journal. She holds a Double Master's in International Relations from LUISS Guido Carli (Rome) and MGIMO (Moscow). Before joining Global Policy, she held research intern positions at Carnegie Europe (Brussels) and the Russian International Affairs Council (Moscow). She also served as Summer Fellow at Ecologic Institute (Berlin) in the framework of the Arctic Climate Change Emerging Leaders (ACCEL) Programme, organised jointly with Atlantic Council (Washington D.C.). Her research interests include international ethics, migration, environmental governance, and EU and Russian foreign policy. In her Master's thesis she conducted a scenario analysis of Arctic governance. Most recently, she has been working on a PhD proposal on the ethics of migration in the context of the European migration crisis. Specifically, she is interested in investigating how traditional justifications of the right to exclude claimed by sovereign states are affected by membership in a regional association. In her spare time, Eleonora trains to become a marathon runner and collects cookbooks from around the world.

Session 2:

Ingrid A. Medby is a final-year PhD student in Human Geography at Durham University, interested in the intersections of identity and politics, territory and belonging, the state and nation. In her doctoral project she explores how state officials in three Arctic states – Norway, Iceland, and Canada – articulate discourses of Arctic identities; and how this, in turn, may condition political practice. Prior to starting her PhD in Durham, Ingrid worked for the North Norway European Office in Brussels. She holds a M.Sc. (International Relations) from the University of Edinburgh, and a B.A. (International Studies) from RMIT University, Australia.

Natalie Wahnsiedler is a Ph.D. student of anthropology at the University of Aberdeen. She graduated in social and cultural anthropology from the University of Marburg (Germany) and continued her education in Russian and Eurasian Studies at the European University at Saint Petersburg (Russia). Her current research deals with questions of identity, indigeneity and the history of ethnography in Northwest Russia.

Heather Bell is a part-time MSc by Research student in the Department of Geography at Durham University investigating calving glacier dynamics. For her undergraduate degree she spent a semester at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), which involved fieldwork on board a research vessel in the Barents Sea and also hydrological studies on the local water resources supplying the main settlement on the archipelago. Last summer she stayed at the Polish Polar Station on Svalbard and undertook her MSc fieldwork on a local tidewater glacier, and this summer she hopes to test a method using Terrestrial Laser Scanning on a lake terminating glacier in Iceland.

Rosanna White is a PhD Candidate interested in critical geopolitics, sovereignty acts and explorations of the Polar Regions. Her PhD research, supervised by Klaus Dodds, is in collaboration with the Eccles Centre, British Library where she is jointly supervised by Phil Hatfield. Her PhD research concerns how historically material bodies – both human and non-human – become embodied and enrolled in territorial practices by different actors and at different registers within the Canadian Arctic: a practice she refers to as 'ceremonies of possession'. By consulting a wealth of

primary archival documents held at the British Library on early Arctic exploration and the settlement of the 'New World', as well as archival research carried out throughout Canada, including their National Archives, her PhD research reveals that 'modern-day' ceremonies of possession that are utilised to construct the identity of the state are rooted in historical colonial practices.

Saied Satei is a final-year PhD student in law at Robert Gordon University, interested in energy law and its association with territorial sovereignty of states. In his research project he explores how the existence of natural resources could impact boundary disputes between Arctic states and what legal methods may be employed to resolve them balancing rights and responsibilities. He has worked with solicitors in England before starting his PhD. He holds Masters of Law in international legal studies from Newcastle University, and a B.Sc. in Law from Azad University, Tehran.

Julia Feuer-Cotter is a PhD student in geography at the University of Nottingham with an interest in smellscapes and the realities and imagination of Arctic infrastructure. Her work explores alternative ways to approach human–environment interactions through smells. She employs an open, creative and practice-based approach in the form of community-based workshops, smell walking, story-telling, and interacting with recreated smellscapes. Her work aspires to promote embodied ways to connect with the local everyday experience of different people in the Arctic. Julia's work aims to encourage a reframing of the understanding of the Arctic, in which the experiences of a region's inhabitants play the foremost role, and thus by extension a rethinking of relationships to the region and its people.

Workshop participants

Name	Contact	Affiliation
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