



## ***Climate change, Polar exploitation and geopolitical consequences***



### ***Looking back on the Farewell Symposium of Louwrens Hacquebord***

#### **Quotes from participants:**

##### **Dr Miles Oglethorpe - Head of Industrial Heritage Historic Scotland:**

*'This was a wonderful one-day symposium packed full of excellent presentations delivered by a variety of speakers who ranged from established international experts to post-graduates close to completing their studies. All were compelling, delivering stunningly illustrated papers that represented an extraordinary and exciting range of research. Set in the beautiful environs of the University of Groningen, there was never a dull moment, with the audience playing its part too. Truly an event to remember.'*

##### **Frigga Kruse - PhD Arctic Centre:**

*'It was truly one of the greatest science gatherings I've attended to date.'*

##### **Leon Tops - SHELL:**

*'The realistic, down-to-earth view of the Arctic was special: on one hand the scientific approach with in-depth information from the past, on the other hand a more business-like take on the Arctic from a historical point of view: all business initiatives in the Arctic past in combination with future possibilities. Combined with a positive critical view of the scientists from the Arctic Centre made it a very good symposium.'*

##### **Robert Corell - Senior Faculty Fellow, Florida International University and Professor at the University of the Arctic Principal, Global Environment and Technology Foundation:**

*'It was a delight and pleasure for me to be asked and the honor to participate in Louwrens Hacquebord's retirement celebration and seminar'*



**This symposium was supported by the Canadian Embassy in the Hague**

## **Bretons, Basques and Inuit in Labrador and Northern Newfoundland: the Control of Maritime Resources in the 16th and 17th Centuries**

*Prof. Dr. Peter Pope, Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada*

The paper addressed a complex issue in the ethnohistory of resource exploitation on the coasts of Labrador and northern Newfoundland. Europeans developed a seasonal salt-cod fishery on the coasts of northern Newfoundland and southern Labrador, in almost exactly the same period that the Inuit



*Peter Pope (Photo: Frits Steenhuisen)*

were moving southwards along the Labrador coast, from the north. While we have evidence for French and Basque exploitation of Labrador in the 16th century (by both fishers and, later, whalers), Europeans seem to have been absent from that coast through most of the 17th century, until the turn of the 18th century when Canadian merchants based in Quebec began to exploit the Labrador Straits for salmon and seals. This absence coincides with a long-running guerrilla war, waged by the Inuit against the Breton and Norman fishers exploiting Newfoundland's Petit Nord. This context of conflict suggests that the movement of Inuit into southern Labrador by the end of the 16th century motivated European fishers to avoid the Labrador coast through most of the 17th

century. These conflicts did not really end until the establishment of a Moravian mission in northern Labrador, following the fall of New France in 1763.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/pdfs/PeterPope.pdf>

## **Industrial archaeology and heritage of South Georgia**

*Prof. Dr. Bjørn L. Basberg, Norwegian School of Economics, Norway*

The presentation reviewed briefly the history of 20th century Antarctic shore station whaling, and then focusses on the industrial archaeology of the former whaling sites at South Georgia that have been surveyed during several fieldtrips since 1990. Methods and approaches were discussed, and how they have changed both due to improved technology and views on these sites in the wider political and historical context.

The presentation finally discussed some recent heritage projects at South Georgia.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/pdfs/basberg.pdf>



*Bjørn Basberg, Peter Pope & Peter Jordan<sup>1</sup>*

## Mining pioneer Ernest Mansfield and his material legacy in Svalbard

Dr. Susan Barr, Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Oslo, Norway

Ernest Mansfield (1862-1924) was one of the intriguing personalities from the Klondike period of the exploitation of mineral resources in Svalbard. His reputation has always been rather mysterious: was he an enthusiastic dreamer always hoping for the big gold find, or was he a cynical materialist who sold inflated stories of valuable finds to tempt investors to pay for worthless stock? The presentation shows how his activities and his reputation unfolded and will conclude on the matter of his personality. It will in addition be shown how the extensive material legacy he left in Svalbard is managed today.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/artisch-centrum/pdfs/susanbarr.pdf>



Susan Barr<sup>2</sup>

## Could have, should have, would have. If British mining on Spitsbergen had not been how it was.

Frigga Kruse, PhD student, Arctic Centre, RUG

A large area of gold-bearing quartz. Coal-belts extending for miles on a splendid harbour. Any amount of ironstone. Remarkable marble in value only second to that of rich goldfields. Unlimited mineral



Frigga Kruse talking with Susan Barr and Hidde de Haas (Photo: Ronald J.W. Visser)

wealth. These were only some of the phrases used by British prospectors and adventurers to promote the economic potential of Spitsbergen, unpopulated and ungoverned, at the turn of the twentieth century. It could have been true. In which case the archipelago would look very different today. Archaeological research, however, revealed how it was. The four companies involved should have been less optimistic, should have been financially conservative and methodologically sound. They would perhaps have made some revenue. As it was, their descent into bankruptcy led to the abandonment of their claims, never to be worked again. The companies' loss was Spitsbergen's gain as the islands never suffered from the environmental degradation that might

otherwise have followed. Their spectacular failure is no exception in the long history of mining manias around the world. The question is if we have finally learned our lessons for the (Arctic) future.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/artisch-centrum/pdfs/kruse28may2013.pdf>

## **Our Common Future: The Arctic in Global Perspectives**

*Dr. Robert W. Corell Senior Faculty Fellow, Florida International University and Professor at the University of the Arctic Principal, Global Environment and Technology Foundation*

The Arctic region is changing and the changes are accelerating at rates and levels of change that has not been experienced by modern humankind or humankind's ancestors for at least 800,000 years and quite possible for millions of years. The peoples of the Arctic are facing accelerating challenges first because these changes are not only outside of historical levels of experience, and second at levels beyond human experience. For many years, the Arctic has been a wilderness detached from mainstream societies. However, over the most recent decades, that image has taken on new dimensions. While the wilderness remains a prominent part of it, the Arctic and its peoples are experiencing tangible realities from climate change, melting ice, increased industrial activities and the possible development of the region's rich natural resources.

The Arctic is warming 2-3 times as rapidly as the Earth as a whole. This amplification is a result of both



*Robert Corell<sup>2</sup>*

natural feedback processes (e.g., snow- and ice-albedo feedback) and human activities contributing directly to warming in the region, all underpinned by the on-going changes in the climate system that are being primarily caused by emissions of carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases. The amplified warming of the Arctic is already having significant impacts on the environment and indigenous peoples of the region, as well as amplifying the changes and impacts outside the region, including affecting weather in the mid-latitudes and contributing to sea level rise around the planet. These developments have significantly changed how the Arctic is viewed, for example, the Arctic Ocean is fast becoming an open sea, likely to be open with a few decades every summer for a few months every

year to shipping and other maritime operations. Cruise ships are now entering Arctic waters. New commercial shipping routes are being actively tested. As the Arctic waters warm up, the current fishing stocks are changing their migration patterns, while southern fish populations are starting to venture northward. The fishing industry is moving further north than ever before. The rich natural resources of the Arctic are becoming accessible. Mines are opening up; the potential for rare earth metals is being scrutinized and assessed. Oil and gas deposits are being explored and developed. The melting of the sea ice and of the Greenland ice cap will have global impacts, and will influence the planetary climate system in several ways, among these being rising sea levels and the decreasing reflection of solar radiation, hence accelerating the warming of the Arctic region and entire planet. Climate change is influencing the livelihood of northern peoples in both positive and negative ways. These changes, and the new development opportunities they have created, have turned the Arctic into an increasingly important region in political terms. In summary, the consequences of interactions and feedbacks between regions of the Northern hemisphere and the Arctic on climate change, ecosystems, human health, economic and resource development and societies have the potential to substantively effect the eight Arctic countries, as well as much of Europe, North America and the rest of the plane.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/pdfs/robertcorell.pdf>

## The New Dynamic Arctic: A Canadian Perspective

Prof. Dr. Peter Harrison, Stauffer-Dunning Chair and Director School of Policy Studies, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada



Peter Harrison<sup>1</sup>

Over 40% of Canada lies in the Arctic or sub-Arctic, but the national interest in the region has ebbed and flowed over the last few decades. In the last few years, however, interest has peaked like never before, and the Arctic has taken on new dimensions in national (and international) importance and prominence. This presentation will focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the emerging Canadian Arctic. It will outline the importance

of new governance structures, including devolution of federal powers to the three Territories, and underline the major steps forward taken in the land claims agreements (modern Treaties) with aboriginal peoples in the region. It will also address the resource development potential and the need for continued effective environmental and socio-economic stewardship.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/pdfs/harrison.pdf>

## In search of the origin of Alaska's Mesa projectile points

Marjolein Admiraal, Master student, Arctic Centre, RUG

Approximately 10.500 14C years ago there lived a people in Arctic Alaska that made a typical kind of projectile points. These points were hafted on spears and used to hunt migratory animals such as bison. We refer to these points a Mesa points. These stone tools are the only remains of these people for nowadays archaeologists to find. The main question I ask in my thesis is 'where did these people come from?'. In order to find an answer to this question I study the technology these people used to manufacture the projectile points.

Further to the south projectile point complexes have been discovered that closely resemble the Mesa projectile points. Could these complexes be connected to the Mesa complex? And if so, can you reconstruct a migration pattern by looking at the dates from the various complexes? Four projectile point complexes are discussed: the Mesa complex as the starting point, the Agate Basin complex of the northern Great Plains, the Haskett Complex of the northern Great Basin region and



Marjolein Admiraal<sup>2</sup>

the El Jobo complex from Venezuela. These complexes were selected because all these projectile points have important characteristics in common. The points are lanceolate in form, relatively thick and have many similar technological traits.

When examining the radiocarbon dates of the various complexes something strange stands out. It seems that the points are oldest in the south and youngest in the north. Could it be that this reflects a northward migration? For decades it has been generally believed that people entered the American continent via the Arctic and migrated south from there. However, if people were making projectile points in Venezuela at 12.500 14C years ago with no ancestral technology to be found in the Americas, where did they come from?

Perhaps this is a story that confirms the idea of independent invention of stone tool technology. Perhaps there is more to it. This is the search for the origin of the Mesa projectile point. Others have looked to Siberia for answers but up to this day have found none. I am exploring the possibility of a northward migration and origin in the south.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/pdfs/marjoleinadmiraal.pdf>

## **A vision for future research at the Arctic Centre**

*Prof. Dr. Peter Jordan, director Arctic Centre, RUG*

This presentation examined the activities currently conducted by the Arctic Centre, University of Groningen, and sets out some long-term research goals to be developed over the coming years. It



*Louwrens Hacquebord and his successor Peter Jordan<sup>2</sup>*

starts by looking briefly back at the history of the Arctic Centre, and examines how its research and teaching have evolved and changed over the last three decades. It then outlines the new 'mission statement', and outlines how the current range of research, teaching, outreach and consultancy activities feed into these goals. Looking further ahead, it is clear that one of the major strengths of the Arctic Centre is its strong

commitment to conducting inter-disciplinary research. Also distinctive is its focus on examining human-environment relations in the Polar Regions from a long-term perspective, drawing on archaeology, history and ecology to understand human responses to environmental change over deeper time periods. At a time of rapid modern climate change in the Polar Regions, understanding these longer-term cultural dynamics is now of greater importance than ever before.

Presentation: <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/pdfs/jordan.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup>*Photos Frits Steenhuisen*

<sup>2</sup>*Photos Ronald J.W. Visser*