Adaptation, Industrial Development and Arctic Communities

Summary

Project Leader(s)
Keeling, Arn

This project is engaging in community-based, historical and comparative research into industrial development as a driver of social, cultural and environmental change in the Arctic. In particular, researchers are exploring the cultural, economic and environmental impacts of mineral exploration and development on three Arctic communities, Kugluktuk (Coppermine) in the Kitikmeot region, Qamani' tuaq (Baker Lake) and Kangiqiniq (Rankin Inlet) in the Kivalliq region. A fourth community, Arctic Bay, site of the Nanisiviq mine, has recently been added to the project. Working with community researchers, this project intends to identify issues of importance in relation to mining development and community change, and to explore community adaptations to the changes brought by industry. Researchers have collected extensive archival records relating to the history of industrial development in the Arctic, and will relate this history to changing government social and economic policies in the region, such as Inuit resettlement. This research seeks to understand how current debates and controversies over mining development reflect Inuit experiences and traditional knowledge of previous developments. This project will also contribute to the building of both northern and southern research capacity, by providing research experiences for graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and community members. In addition, through conferences, workshops and and joint publications with European researchers and other Canadian research networks, this project is developing an international network of scholars interested in environmental, economic and cultural change in the circumpolar Arctic. The result will be a locally relevant, community record of this knowledge and history, as well as information useful for communities and policy makers in assessing the potential benefits and impacts of current development proposals.

People

Network Investigators
Cameron, Emilie - Carleton University
Keeling, Arn - Memorial University of Newfoundland
Sandlos, John - Memorial University of Newfoundland
Tester, Frank - University of British Columbia

Collaborators & Research Associates
Avango, Dag - University of Groningen
Blangy, Sylvie - Université du Québec à Montréal
Cameron, Emilie - Carleton University
Hacquebord, Louwrens

Masters Students
Boulter, Patricia - Memorial University of Newfoundland
Lim, Tee - University of British Columbia
Midgley, Scott - Memorial University of Newfoundland

Publications

Non-Refereed Contributions

Boulter, P., Midgley, S., Keeling, A., Sandlos, J., 2010, The Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine: Cultural, socio-economic and environmental legacies of an Arctic development project, Poster presentation at ArcticNet Scientific Meeting, n/a, Published

Cameron, E., 2011, Geographies of Mineral Exploration and Extraction in the Central Arctic, Presentation at Political Economy of Mining Conference, Ottawa, ON January 28, 2011, n/a, Published

Sandlos, J., 2011, Keynote Address, Thompson Rivers University Politics, History and Philosophy Conference, Conference Presentation, n/a, Published

Tester, F.J., Flannelly, C., 2010, The Rankin File: Public responsibility and private provision of health care at the edge of the Canadian liberal welfare state, Presentation to ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting, n/a, Published