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Dr. Gary N. Wilson
Co-ordinator
Northern Studies Program
University of Northern BC
3333 University Way
Prince George, BC
V2L 4Z9
(250) 960-5514
gary.wilson@unbc.ca

7th Annual UNBC Polar Week: January 30-February 3

The Northern Studies Program will host the 7th Annual UNBC Polar Week from January 30th to February 3rd. This year's Polar Week will feature two keynote events. On Tuesday January 31st, there will be a showing of the film *The Guardians of Eternity: Confronting Giant Mine's Toxic Legacy*, with **Dr. Arn Keeling from the Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland** (in Room 7-238 – Weldwood Theatre at 7:30 pm)



On Thursday February 2nd, at 7 pm in the Canfor Theatre, a public lecture by **Dr. Laurence Smith (Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles)** entitled **“The New North: Four Forces Shaping Our World in 2050”** will examine the global impacts of population demographics, resource demand, economic globalization and climate change, with a particular focus on the Circumpolar North .

Dr. Smith will also give a lecture on his research on meltwater runoff from the Greenland ice sheet, as part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) colloquium series on Friday February 3rd.

Dr. Smith's visit to UNBC is kindly sponsored by Prince George Motors, the UNBC Office of Research, the Northern Studies Program and the *Global Fridays* colloquium series.



Dr. Laurence Smith, Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles

Norwegian Exchange Students Come to UNBC to Study Northern Development



In the Fall semester of 2016, UNBC welcomed seven graduate students from Nord University in Bodø, Norway. The students are doing their Master's degrees in Social Sciences with a specialization in International Northern Development and were here as part of an exchange partnership between UNBC and Nord University. This January, UNBC student Cassidy Shuvera (pictured far right), who is doing her Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a specialization in International Northern Development, headed to Bodø and will spend the next five months studying at Nord University.

For more information on how you could get involved in this exciting exchange opportunity, please contact Gary Wilson, Coordinator, Northern Studies Program at gary.wilson@unbc.ca



Conference: International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS IX) – *People and Place*

Umeå, Sweden. June 8-12, 2017



The Arctic is home to approximately four million people, counting numerous ethnicities among its inhabitants. More than ten percent of the total population living in the Arctic is Indigenous. In modern times, rapid and extensive changes has brought opportunities but also challenges to *peoples* and *places* in the north, including climate change, industrial extraction, pollution, globalization, migration, food- and water insecurity and widening socio-economic gaps.

Social sciences and humanities have a great responsibility to address these challenges. Through focusing on people and place we highlight the many variances across the Arctic region in terms of sustainabilities, political systems, demography, infrastructures, histories, languages, legal systems, land and water resources, public health and so on.

Arcum (Arctic Research Centre), Sámi dutkan (Language studies) and Vaartoe (Centre for Sami Research) at Umeå University are pleased to host “**People & Place**” - the ninth International Congress of Arctic Social Science (ICASS IX) organized by the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA). We encourage Indigenous peoples, northern residents, decision-makers, politicians as well as academics to participate.

Extended deadline – The deadline for submitting paper and poster abstracts is January 16, 2017. Registration will open in late January. Early bird registration fee is set to 350 Euro (late registration 400 Euros). For more information see: <http://iassa.org/>

Field School Opportunity: Birch Bark Canoe Field School 2017



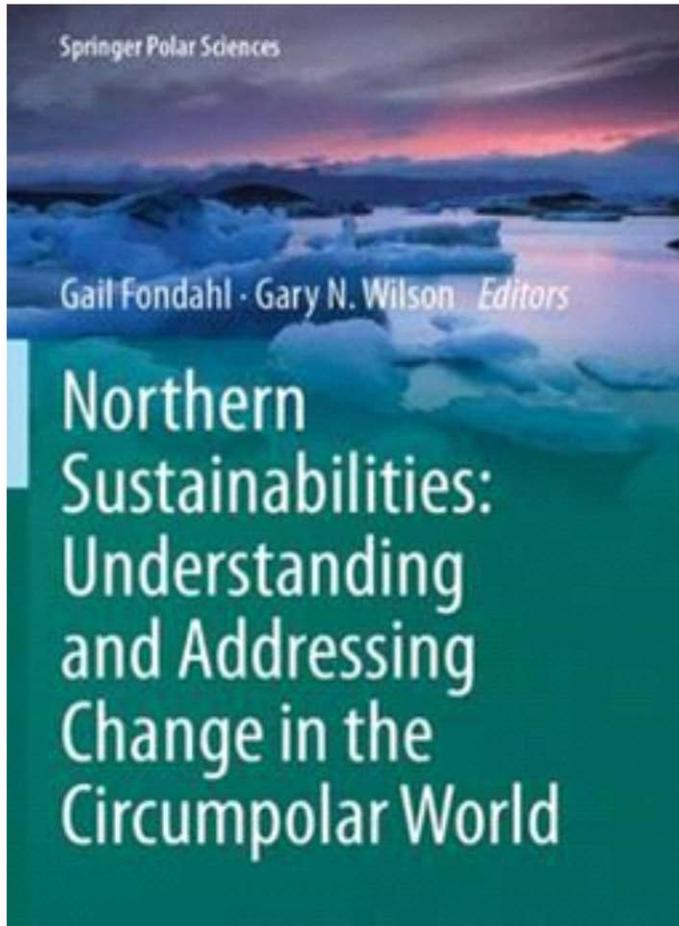
This field school will provide a hands-on experience whereby students will participate in the building of a full-sized birch bark canoe while learning of the buried history of the region, the province and the country. On July 1st, 2017, the canoe will be launched on the Fraser River after an intensive month and a half study of the trade networks that spanned a continent and the role of the fur trade in the emergence of a Métis identity. Students participating in the field school will be taking two in-class courses. The first

course examines the history of the continental Canadian and Métis community. This course looks at Iroquois and Métis from the Saint Lawrence across the plains and mountains to the Pacific. In this course, the 19th century history of Prince George and northern British Columbia will be presented and analyzed to understand how the history of this region ties into a larger regional and continental history. The second course will examine the culture and traditions of the contemporary Métis community. Under the direction of a Métis elder, this course will examine the foundations of Métis culture and environmental knowledge, tying it to the experience of the Métis in building canoes during the fur trade and their contemporary challenges. The third course will be a hands-on exercise in the building of a birch bark canoe under the guidance of a Métis elder. Students will be required to keep a detailed journal of the experience and write up a report on their experience. For more information see: <http://www.unbc.ca/anthropology/birch-bark-canoe-field-school>

New Book: *Northern Sustainabilities: Understanding and Addressing Change in the Circumpolar World*

Edited by Gail Fondahl and Gary N. Wilson

(Springer Press, 2017)



This edited volume examines the multiple dimensions of sustainability in the Circumpolar North, a territory facing unprecedented environmental and social challenges at the start of the 21st century. The chapters are based on research papers that were presented at the 8th Triennial International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, which was held at the UNBC in June 2014. They explore the cultural, economic, political and environmental aspects of sustainability, as well as examples of successful research collaboration with northern and indigenous communities. By examining a wide range of issues and places, the contributions highlight the diversity of the Circumpolar North, the challenges and opportunities it faces, and the ways in which people and communities are adapting to and influencing the changing circumstances of this dynamic region. Contributors include both Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers from eleven different countries and from across the career spectrum. This book will appeal to an academic audience interested in the manifold facets of sustainability in the Arctic and sub-arctic regions of the world.

For more information see:

<http://www.springer.com/la/book/9783319461489>