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UNBC-Nord University Symposium on International Northern Development



During the last week of September, a delegation of faculty members and graduate students from Nord University in Bodø, Norway visited UNBC to take part in a two-day symposium on international northern development. The symposium provided an opportunity for researchers and the representatives from research institutes at both institutions to discuss their northern and Arctic research. For the past three years, UNBC and Nord University have collaborated on a graduate student exchange program and are now looking to expand their partnership into other areas such as research. The delegation also included representatives from the Bodø Kommune (municipal government), who connected with their colleagues at the City of Prince George and gave presentations about important development projects and initiatives taking place in both communities. During their stay, the delegation visited the Chun T'oh Whudujut - Ancient Forest Provincial Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park. Nord faculty members also gave presentations in the Global Friday and NRESi colloquiums. The symposium was organized by Dr. Gary Wilson (Political Science) and Dr. Gail Fondahl (Geography), and was funded by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU).



Profile: Just Herman Kornfeldt, Nord University



My name is Just Herman Kornfeldt and I am currently an exchange student at UNBC from Nord University in Bodø, Norway where I am pursuing a Master's of Social Science degree in International Northern Development. My interest in the north started during my undergraduate degree where I majored in international politics and wrote about the geopolitical power dimensions between Russia, the United States and China in the Arctic.

This led me to apply to International Northern Development graduate degree program at Nord University as I recognized the increased interest the north has received in recent years, especially in terms of Norway's position as an Arctic state. I would say I am very much going against the stream, as I am from the southern part of Norway and have moved further north as I develop more interest in the region. It's no coincidence that my Master's thesis will be about the northernmost region of Norway, Svalbard, and I am planning to live there when I am writing my thesis.

My stay at UNBC has given me a broader understanding of what northern development encompasses. Learning about Canada's perspectives on development and being able to come here and experience the country first hand is important. I look forward to using the empirical knowledge I have obtained here, both in class and also from interactions with other students and their work.

UNBC Student attends Model Arctic Council in Rovaniemi, Finland



From October 29 to November 2, 2018, Sean O'Rourke, a graduate student at the University of Northern British Columbia (Master of Arts - Interdisciplinary Studies - Psychology & Geography) attended the 2018 Model Arctic Council in Rovaniemi, Finland. The Model Arctic Council is a simulation of the Arctic Council—a high level intergovernmental forum for Arctic states and Permanent Participants (groups that represent Indigenous peoples in the Arctic), as well as observer non-Arctic states and

organizations, to discuss issues pertaining to the Arctic. Sean represented Aleut International Association (AIA), the Permanent Participant group that represents Unangan/s (Aleuts) from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands in Alaska, USA, as well as the Commander Islands in Russia. Outside of the Model Arctic Council, Sean has collaborated on research with Unangax colleagues, and this was his third time representing their organization in an Arctic Council simulation.

Alongside 51 university students interested in the Arctic (from 13 different countries and 32 universities), Sean explored this year's theme: oil and gas drilling in the Arctic versus environmental protection. As a representative of AIA, Sean went to the Model Arctic Council with two objectives: first to argue for the creation of a report detailing the physical and mental health effects of hydrocarbon development and climate change on northern populations; and second, that the Arctic Council should guide the creation of a comprehensive report outlining regions in the Arctic at risk of negative impacts due to oil and gas development (for example, particularly sensitive ecosystems and locales with insufficient spill response capacities). He is very pleased to say that both objectives made it into the Model Arctic Council's 2018 ministerial agreement which, at the end of the week, was presented to the real Arctic Council. Two other unique aspects of this Model Arctic Council were the creation of the WAVES (Working towards Arctic Visionary Energy Solutions) working group, which was intended to provide a platform for Arctic states to share technological innovations pertaining to both green energy and hydrocarbon development, and the Permanent Participants' Declaration, which was a document all of the Permanent Participants drafted to guide the future work of the Arctic Council, outlining, for example, how Indigenous knowledge ought to be emphasized.

Sean left the Model Arctic Council feeling more knowledgeable about the Arctic, its Indigenous peoples, and how the Arctic Council functions, as well as more confident in his abilities to share ideas and collaborate with a large group of people. He reports it was an incredibly positive experience, and he was proud to represent UNBC at this event.

Institute for Social Research Presentation: “Métis of Northeast Siberia: Past & Present”



On Wednesday, November 8, Dr. Mikhail Bashkirov, a Russian historian who teaches in the Department of Political Science at North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU) in Yakutsk, gave a talk at UNBC's Institute for Social Research (ISR), entitled: “Métis of Northeast Siberia: Past & Present”. Part of his post-doctoral work at the Université de Saint-Boniface in Winnipeg has been the comparison of processes of métissage (the mixing of ethnicities and their emerging identities) in Canadian and Siberian contexts. The following day, Dr. Bashkirov spoke to a group of French immersion high school students from

Duchess Park Secondary School at Le Cercle des Canadiens Français de Prince George (CCFPG). He also gave a joint lecture on language repression in Eurasia in one of the Anthropology Department's classes at UNBC. As a Russian French speaker, Dr. Bashkirov was able to address some of the more unique language and identity challenges that have emerged historically where settler and Indigenous populations have undergone extensive intermarriage.

Dr. Bashkirov is a collaborator on a multidisciplinary research project recently submitted to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council by Dr. Alex Oehler. The project will investigate human-animal relations in hybrid ethnic community contexts of North Asia. Dr. Bashkirov's visit to Prince George was generously funded by UNBC's seed grant program, as well as by the Department of Anthropology and the Dean's Office.

ACUNS Student Conference

On November 1-3, the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) held its triennial student conference at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. The conference was organized by students at the University of Alberta and featured over 60 research presentations by graduate and undergraduate students from nine different countries, as well as several keynote addresses and workshops. Three UNBC graduate students presented their research at the conference: Tsatia Adzich (MA, Interdisciplinary Studies) presented on “Urban Women’s Indigeneity in North Eastern Siberia”; Nicholas Parlato (MA, Interdisciplinary Studies) presented on “Siberian Sanctuaries: How Territories of Traditional Nature-Use Protect Indigenous Ways of Life in Eastern Russia”; and Cassidy Shuvera (MA, Interdisciplinary Studies) “Issues of Accessibility in the North: An Analysis of Transportation and the Highway of Tears.”



UNBC students Nicholas Parlato and Tsatia Adzich, and Nord University student Just Kornfeldt



Association of
Canadian Universities
for Northern Studies

Association
universitaire canadienne
d'études nordiques

Northern Studies/UArctic Courses – Winter Semester 2019



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

NORS 101	Introduction to the Circumpolar North
NORS 312	Lands and Environments of the Circumpolar North 2
NORS 322	Peoples and Cultures of the Circumpolar World 2
NORS 332	Contemporary Issues of the Circumpolar North 2

Courses begin at the start of February. Registration deadline is January 18, 2019. For more information, please contact Katherine Yakemchuk at katherine.yakemchik@unbc.ca