



**Arctic communities in transition:  
resources and post-extractive futures**

PhD course within the framework of

REXSAC – Resource Extraction and Sustainable Arctic Communities

Alta, Norway, October 25-29, 2018

# Global comparisons and post-extractive futures: Natural resources, climate and communities in change

## 1. Introduction

This course focuses on Arctic communities that are undergoing transitions, in terms of economy, identity, culture and environment. It can be transitions from an existence based on extractive industries to a post-extraction future, from reindeer herding to hydro-power or fisheries to oil and gas. Transitions in extraction based regions / communities can also take the form of towns being pulled down because of mining operations (Malmberget) or moved (Kiruna). In this course we will explore a variety of transitions in the past and the present, and how stakeholders and local communities have dealt with and shaped these changes – through engagement and resistance as well as remediation and heritage processes – and discuss what lessons can be learned from such processes for the future.

The course will consist of lectures based both in lecture rooms and in different locations in the region where communities undergo or have undergone major changes – the Alta hydrodam, the Repparfjorden mine and the Snøhvit gas extraction field at Hammerfest – as well as seminar discussions and different group assignments. In this way we will make this region of northernmost Norway into a lens for studying processes of change influencing many communities across the Arctic, in the past and the present.

## 2. Objective and learning goals

The objective of the course is for PhD students to gain a thorough understanding of transition processes in the Arctic – of why they take place, what their social, cultural and environmental consequences are and how stakeholders in the Arctic have dealt with them. The course will explore transition processes from an international comparative and multidisciplinary perspective. When having completed this course, the students should have a firm knowledge about:

- Major transition processes in the Arctic, in the past and in the present
- Different explanations of why such transition processes have taken place
- The social, cultural and environmental consequences of transitions, and
- How local residents and different stakeholders have dealt with change and why.

The course content in terms of literature and learning activities will be focused on research topics related to the overarching goals of REXSAC, in particular the question of how communities in the Arctic can transition to post-extraction futures. The course is multidisciplinary, involving teachers from the social, human and natural sciences.

## 3. Scope and learning activities

The learning activities consists of lectures and seminar discussions (in the field and inside), field work assignments, reading of course literature (all in all about 1600 pages), and written assignments. The total work amounts to five weeks of full time work. The lectures, seminar discussions and field work assignments are concentrated to the five days in Alta and other locations in the region. These are followed by a REXSAC program wide workshop and Coordination Board meeting.

The main teachers and course organizers are:

- Britt Kramvig, cultural anthropology, tourist studies, material semiotics, Sámi studies
- Dag Avango, history of science, technology and environment, cultural heritage
- Arn Keeling, historical geography, environmental history, environmental remediation
- Berit Kristofferson, human geography, oil and gas exploitation

In addition there are several other teachers involved, named in the course schedule below.

The overarching course plan is the following:

Week 1 and 2: On September 28<sup>th</sup> students in the course will meet online for a short introduction to the course contents and schedule, led by Britt Kramvig, Berit Kristoffersen and Dag Avango. After this meeting students read and prepare assignments for the course week in Alta.

Week 3: October 25-29 (+ Oct 30 to Nov 1). Seminars and lectures at and in the region of Alta + participation in program wide workshop.

Week 4 and 5: Preparation of final written assignment, followed by an online seminar where these written assignments are discussed. This seminar should take place at a date in the beginning of December 2018.

The course gives 7,5 ECTS credits.

#### **4. Preliminary course schedule (readings to be added)**

##### **Thursday October 25 - Arrivals and opening lectures**

Arrivals around 1140

##### ***Lunch 1200***

13.00- 15.00 Overall framing and student presentations (TBD)

1600 – check in (15 pers. Studentsamskipnaden)

##### ***Evening***

Dinner Peppes Pizza

##### **Friday October 26 - Excursion / field education at Hammerfest**

09.00: Departure with bus from Alta Campus

11.00 -1400: Statoil's LNG facility on Melkøya

- Guided tour and meeting with stakeholders
- Lecture about impacts of extractive industries on avifauna, kittiwake, by Geir Systad (TBC)

### ***Lunch***

At Melkøya

### ***Afternoon***

14.00-17.00: The Museum of reconstruction Hammerfest – visit, lectures, field assignment

- Lecture on the history of Hammerfest, by the director of the museum Nina Molmann
- Lecture on the politics of energy, TBA
- Lecture on the changing city of Hammerfest, Reidar Nielsen TBA
- Lecture on the rise and fall of multiple economics whaling, fishing, tourism, energy and creative industries TBA

### ***Evening***

Stay overnight at local hotel

## **Saturday October 27 – Excursion / field education at Repparfjord**

### ***Before lunch***

09.00-10.00: Lecture Post-doc. Kari Skirbekk, from the projects EWMA - Environmental Waste Management, financed by NFR and Eni Norge AS.

10.00-10.30: Bus from Hammerfest to the Repparfjord mining site

11.00-12.00: Visit at the Nussir Arctic mining company

[http://www.nussir.no/en\\_projec\\_nussir.php](http://www.nussir.no/en_projec_nussir.php)

### ***Afternoon***

12.00-15.00: Continued visit at the Nussir Arctic mining company.

- Lecture by the CO of Nussir “how mining can go green” (TBA)
- Lecture by Mayor Terje Wikstrøm (TBA)
- Lecture by rådmann Gunnar Lillebo Kvalsund on the future of Kvalsund municipality (TBA)
- Kari Skirbekk rapping up on mining and environmental waste

15.20: Late lunch at Skáidi (local hero)

17.00: Return to Alta

### ***Evening***

Filmscreening: “La elva leve!” A Norwegian drama from 1980 on the Alta-riot.

## **Sunday October 28 – Lectures and excursion to the Alta hydro power dam**

### ***Daytime***

09.00-13:00: Excursion to the Alta Dam (bring lunch food)

- Prof. Ivar Bjørklund, UiT: The Arctic University of Norway “The Alta-Guovdageaidnu case as an ethno-political watershed.” on the bus trip to the site.
- Nillas Somby, writer, former participant in the Alta conflict: “Fighting for land – fighting for survival”.

13.30-14.30: Round table talk: “Never another Alta-Guovdageaidnu”, at UiT Campus Alta

- Nillas Somby, writer, former participant in the Alta conflict confirmed
- Prof. Ivar Bjørklund, UiT: The Arctic University of Norway
- Britt, Berit, Dag

14.30-15.00 coffee

15.00-16.00: lectures

- Silje Moutka, The Sámi Parliament “The Sami Parliament’s position in regard to mining in Finnmark”
- Assoc. Prof. Mikkel Nils Sara, Sámi University for Applied Science: “Reindeer herding and Sámi landscapes”

16.00-17.00: group work based on previous engagements at Hammerfest, Repparfjorden and Alta

### *Evening*

20.00 Evening program: film-screening “Dreamland”

## **Monday October 29 – Lectures and excursion to Alta rock art**

### *Before lunch*

09.00-10.00: Presentations of group work from the previous day

10.00-12.00: lectures and discussions on cultural heritage, memories, and politics

- Kjell Olsen, UiT: The Arctic University of Norway “Colonial heritage and language”
- Dag Avango, Mining memories, KTH
- Arn Keeling, Toxic legacies, University of New Foundland
- Stein Mathisen, UiT, Professor of Ethnology, “Musealized Values and Resources”

### *Afternoon*

Excursion to Alta Rock Art World Heritage site and Alta museum

12.30-14.00: Lectures:

- Bjørnar Olsen, UiT: the Arctic University of Norway (TBC) “Unruly heritage: an archaeology of the Anthropocene”
- Eva Dagny Johansen, Alta Museum, “Repatriation of Sámi cultural heritage – what happens locally? A Case Study from Alta”

- Jan Magne Gjerde, researcher UiT The Arctic University of Norway “«Rocks, Bears and Landscapes» - a journey in Stone Age rock art” at the Project Stone Age Demographics: multi-scale exploration of population variations and Dynamics (Stoned)

1400 Lunch Soup.

14.30-15.30 Guided tour and return to campus.

15.30-16.30 Student assignment: analyze the guided tour and museum exhibition using approaches from the lectures in the morning

16.30-17.30: presentation of group assignments

### *Evening*

Dinner at the student house (together with arriving REXSAC researchers)

### **Tuesday October 30 – Thursday November 1: REXSAC program wide meeting and coordination board meeting**

Program to be determined.