

Session III - Adaptation to socio - economic changes in the Arctic

Rapporteur: Sigmar Arnarsson

Elín Ebba Ásmundsdóttir - „Enabling social capital in the Arctic

There has been success in enabling social capital in mental health in Iceland and empowerment in mental health came from the grassroots. Those that were involved or the patients wanted to be acknowledged and heard. They talked about human rights in that manner. For those patients, getting work and using their resources changed their lives, this helped them greatly, to get them involved in what they are good in and that is positive for mental health. Of course more work need to be done and the academic system has to be changed in order to value more grassroots / patient work in academia.

NRF Young Researcher Noor Johnson: „Grant writing and other translational skills in adaptation practice“

Adaptation to climate change has become an adaptation to the bureaucratic system. Adaptation procedures are often decided by people that are far away from the problem and the people facing the problem have to learn to speak the institutional language in order to be able to deal with adaptation. NGOs have lost funding and they have to spend time looking for proposals and grant writing and is therefore an important factor in the work of NGOs. But it is hard to understand the system. Local actors have to learn the language in being able to address climate change in their communities. The communication problem goes both ways and the governmental institutions have also problem in understanding the communal side. Climate adaptation is not only local activity; it is also dealt with in a bureaucratic system that is underdeveloped components of climate change

Andréa Finger: „ Agency as redefined by climate change: the case of the Arctic“

The presentation was an introduction to a project “Agency as redefined by climate change: the case of the Arctic”. The project aim is to make an effort to simulate the behavior of the actors and to find a methodology to do so. The question is to identify who can do what to adapt to climate change and their objective is to develop a framework to conceptualize the arctic as an integrated system. Their aim is to identify stakeholders and their interactions and to model various actors. They have identified four periods and made an extensive stakeholder analysis. In that manner, they have identified the different roles, power, legitimacy etc. of the stakeholders. There was also a mention of the Arctic as a socio-ecological system (SES). The Socio Ecological System framework has some weaknesses and strengths.

Robin Bronen: „Climate - Induced Community Relocations: „Resilience and Adaptation of Alaska Native communities“

People have been experiencing rapid climate change in Alaska, +3,5 Celsius during the recent years. Sea ice has also been declining and thawing of permafrost. This has caused a growing problem in Alaska where communities are being exposed to erosion. Now there are 12 communities that are threatened and need to be relocated, many others face possible threat in the future. A lot of work has been done in order to face the problem but little support is available. Some communities want to relocate but do not get the proper support from the government to do so and are therefore still facing the threat of erosion and flooding and are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. Those communities are kind of refugees for they need to relocate due to natural reasons. There is a need to develop adaptive governance response based in human rights and establish relocation policy framework and dynamic adaptive governance response.