

Plenary II Reports

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I would like to emphasize some general ideas which concerned the reported session, but have been presented during the previous days of the Open Meeting.

First of all, I would like to go back to the first day in Oulu and the brilliant speech of President Grimsson. He mentioned five points on why the Northern cooperation is so important for the global world: the influence of climate change in the North for the whole planet; importance of the North as the biggest energy reservoir in the world; the possible contribution of the Northern Sea Route to the development of the global economy; North as a model for the protection and promotion of human rights including indigenous peoples's rights; relations between the United States and Russia, and the contribution of other actors of Northern cooperation to the dialog between these two powers. Let me add the sixth point there: the Northern (Nordic) cooperation is of great value *per se*, it is important because of its uniqueness in the world.

To illustrate the last sentence, let me now turn to yesterday's session. Yesterday we were situated in a very interesting place. Looking at this place from the bottom-up, one could find a structure of cross-border (or borderless) cooperation:

- The Haparanda/Tornio twin-town at the border
- The Bothnian Arc region
- The North Calotte cross-border region (which is the first institutionalized CBR in the NC)
- The Barents Euro-Arctic region, which also includes a part of Russia
- The Nordic Council
- The Arctic Council
- The European Union

Thus, we are witnessing a rather unique *multi-level*

network of cross-border cooperation. To make this picture more colorful, I would name this *cross-border (multi-level, networking) governance*. This conclusion comes from the different presentations of the plenary session and the facts that in this cross-border cooperation not only regional and local authorities are involved, but universities, SMEs, industries, indigenous peoples, NGOs etc.

I'm not totally sure that in order to have real cross-border cooperation it is essential to create as many bodies of cooperation as possible; I'm not sure that quantity will become quality. At the same time I'm sure that the development of cross-border cooperation is one of the important instruments in achieving the borderless, meaning more integrated, Northern Europe.

Audrey Giles, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
School of Human Kinetics,
University of Ottawa
Ontario, Canada

Ylva Jannock Nutti, Ph.D. Candidate, Lulea University of Technology, Sweden

Mathematical Thoughts within the Sami Culture

According to Nutti, it is of vital importance that Saami students have the ability to speak, read and write in Saami. Thus, her research focuses on describing and attempting to understand mathematical thoughts within the Saami culture. Her research into ethno-mathematics is based on the idea that math is a cultural knowledge. Research findings indicate that there are conceptions of counting (such as ways of naming reindeer herds),

measuring (that is linked to the body), locating (using Saami cardinal points that often refer to the landscape), and designing (which becomes visible in the design of shapes and patterns) that are uniquely linked to Saami culture. Nutti suggests that future research should focus on the possibilities and the problems for the development of a Sami approach to mathematics education in Sami schools.

Tarmo Pikner, M.Sc., Researcher, Geography Department, University of Oulu, Finland

Moving Imaginations in Development Networks: A Case Study about the Cross-Border Town Planning

Pikner's presentation addressed the process through which city planning imaginations and related practices bring various actors together into the cross-border collective arena, with a particular emphasis on spatial imagination as metaphors. Using actor-network theory, Pikner examined the Tornio and Haparanda cross border region and explained how framing imagination towards a "common town centre" was translated through mobile images and narrated stories into various concrete practices. He argued that storytelling is an important agent in city planning and development practices, and that imaginations are used to frame concepts, images, and metaphors. Pikner concluded that the cross-border city allows for both towns to be rearticulated and remobilized in wider interregional networks.

Pavel Prokhorov:

How do we divide the Barents Sea?

Prokhorov focused his discussion on Norway and Russia's ongoing dispute concerning the Barents Sea. He framed his discussion within foreign policy, and particularly the Paris agreement. Further, he elucidated the ways in which the disputed area acts as a grey zone for fishing and thus has an impact on foreign policy.

Elana T. Wilson, Ph.D., Researcher, Centre for Russian Studies, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo, Norway

Borders, barriers and bridges: Knowledge transfer in the Circumpolar North

Wilson's presentation focused on the opportunities for and challenges to the transfer of knowledge pertaining to governance across northern borders. Specifically, she examined the implications of promoting Canadian-style natural resource management and economic development models in the Russian North. Wilson noted that while emphasis on the shared notion of "the Arctic" can play an important role in development projects, careful attention needs to be paid to differences between different regions in Arctic region building, and particularly to the ways in which Indigenousness is understood. She concludes that the movement of knowledge cannot rely on real or imagined understandings of commensurability.

Elena Kotyrlo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Syktyvkar State University, Kmoi Republic, Russia

Human development and regional economic growth in the Russian North

Kotyrlo's presentation focuses on the question of how regional human capital can be saved and how priorities in social tasks can be prioritized within a framework of limited regional budgets.

She framed her paper by arguing that "greater freedom and capabilities improve economic performance...[and that] increased incomes will increase the range of choices and capabilities enjoyed by households and governments, [and thus] economic growth will enhance human development" (Ranis, 2004). Kotyrlo's research focused on the interrelations between human development and economic growth in 12 Northern Russian regions in comparison with 66 other regions in Russia (excluding Moscow) and 10 regions with mixed territories. She concluded that though the share of employees with secondary vocation training in the North was higher than in any other region, the portion of employees with secondary education was less. Thus, she argued for the importance of state protection in order to aid the Russian North in human development.