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THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES

# ICASS IX

June 8-12, 2017 | Umeå Sweden



**IASSA**  
INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL  
SCIENCES ASSOCIATION



I attended the International Congress on Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) in Umeå, Sweden from June 8 – 12, 2017. My primary reason for attending the conference was to present my paper “Effective Indigenous Terminology in Canadian Legal Research for the Arctic” as part of a double session entitled *Facilitating Social Sciences and Humanities Scholarship of the Arctic through Library, Archival, and Information Services*. My presentation can be viewed through the University of Calgary’s institutional repository at <http://hdl.handle.net/1880/52147>. Other presenters in this session spoke of their digitization projects, metadata, community engagement, research data, and programs:

- Methodological considerations in developing digital libraries for the Arctic communities: The case of Canada’s North by Ali Shiri, University of Alberta
- Hopedale: A case study in resource description for historical texts about the Inuit of Labrador by Stacey Penney, Memorial University
- Selection criteria for the development of a special collection in Arctic studies by Joë Bouchard, Université Laval
- Creating and curating Iñupiaq language resources at Tuzzy Consortium Library by Erin Hollingsworth, Ilasagvik College, Alaska
- Géoindex+: A geospatial platform for historical and research data of the North by Stéfano Biondo, Université Laval

Please let me know if you are interested in details from these presentations. It is intended they will form the basis of a forthcoming book, *Arctic Social Sciences and Humanities: The Role of Library, Archival, and Information Sciences in the Circumpolar North*.

The ICASS conference was interesting to attend. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> such conference in the twenty-seven year history of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA). The next one will be at the Northern (Arctic) Federal University (NARFU) in Arkhangelsk, Russia in 2020. This year’s conference theme “People and Place” had an interdisciplinary Indigenous focus as it relates to Arctic research. I attended sessions on sovereignty, self-government, natural resource development, education, environment, climate change, and Indigenous perspectives. Other presentations included legal, business, environmental, history, political science, international relations, anthropology, and many more subject areas discussing interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research projects. Unfortunately, like happens at most conferences, I was unable to attend any of the sessions most relevant to legal research because they were scheduled at the same time as my session.

I met some interesting people who could be future collaborators and people who fit into the “small world” category where three people asked me to pass along greetings to law and history professors at The University of Calgary and I sat next to a Swedish researcher who is currently writing the history of the Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) with plans to visit the University of Calgary in the Fall! If she is doing a public presentation, I will make sure to let CLLGers know the details.

The social event of note was the welcoming reception, held at Gammlia where I met a young reindeer. Gammlia is an historical village in Umeå, similar to Heritage Park in Calgary. I met several archeologists at that event from geographical and geological societies from around the world.

All in all, a great professional experience made easier by receiving the 2017 CLLG Education Grant. Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to serving on this Committee next year and seeing interesting applications from fellow CLLG members. I’m happy to share my notes or any information with colleagues. Please contact me directly if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Hoffman, July 2017