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Agenda Item:

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Person Responsible:

D Liggett

EXCOM 2015

Tromsø, Norway 27-28 August 2015

History Expert Group

2014-15

Executive Summary

Title: History Expert Group

Author: Cornelia Lüdecke

Introduction/ Background:

The Expert Group started as an Action Group in 2004 and held its first workshop in 2005. Since then the Group has flourished and membership of the Expert Group has steadily increased, as has the geographical and disciplinary diversity of the participants. The Group's meetings continue to serve as a valuable discussion space for students, junior and senior scholars alike. Meetings have been held in four continents (Africa, Europe, North America, South America), permitting the core group of academic historians to be joined by local researchers who would likely not otherwise have joined the Group. The SCAR Expert Group provides a unique and irreplaceable site for scholars to exchange ideas and develop historical research related to the Antarctic. Collaborative research projects undertaken by some of the group members demonstrate the group's dynamism.

Important Issues or Factors:

The core disciplinary identity of the Expert Group has steadily expanded from historians to include archeologists, anthropologists, cultural heritage specialists, and others, in addition to polar veterans from various disciplines. The Group now has significant expertise in cultural heritage issues, particularly as many members of the International Polar Heritage Committee, and is well placed to make a stronger and more formal contribution to SCAR within this domain. The Group's meetings have been characterized by a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, particularly with regard to involving PhD students, an environment that has directly contributed to the growth of its membership but also to the development of joint projects and publications. Two joint workshops and one joint session with the SCAR Social Science and Humanities Expert Group were organized during the last SCAR OSC. The connection to researchers from IASC is also very good as the new IASC President Susan Barr from the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage gave the keynote speech during the Panel session on "Connecting the past-present-future: studies and methods in history for Antarctic research and science" the SCAR OSC 2014. During the next SCAR OSC in Malaysia (2016) we hope to extend the membership to more Asian and especially Malaysian scholars.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification:

We wish to continue the SCAR History Expert Group in its current form. We plan to continue collaborating with the Social Sciences Expert Group.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes:

Workshops and publications serve as public outreach for SCAR. The current high level of publications by Group members will continue, both individually and through collective forums such as special journal issues and the edited volume "Antarctica and the Humanities", edited by three members of the History Expert Group (under contract with Palgrave Macmillan, expected publication early 2016). An expanded role related to identifying, charting and managing Antarctic heritage is envisaged.

Partners:

The SCAR Social Sciences Expert Group
 The International Polar Heritage Committee
 The International Arctic Social Science Association

Budget Implications:

US\$ 5.000 to subsidize the participation of graduate students and scholars from low-income countries to participate in the next SCAR OSC in Kuala Lumpur in 2016.

History Expert Group

1. Chief Officer

Cornelia Lüdecke, Munich, Germany.

2. Major Future Initiatives and Actions

- 1) During the SCAR OSC in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia, 2016) the SCAR History of Antarctic Research Expert Group plans a session on “Footprints in Antarctica, and Antarctica’s footprint: perspectives from history”. The Group will also convene a new meeting in 2017.
- 2) An edited volume titled “Antarctica and the Humanities” is under contract with Palgrave Macmillan and scheduled for publication in early 2016.
- 3) Strengthened collaboration with the International Polar Heritage Committee is planned for the coming year, with a view to determining how this area of expertise within the Group may be harnessed for the benefit of SCAR and the ATS.

3. Conference Reports

SCAR OSC, Auckland, New Zealand, 26 and 28 August 2014 Panel session “Connecting the past-present-future: studies and methods in history for Antarctic research and science”

A joint panel session and discussion forum on "Connecting the past-present-future: studies and methods in history for Antarctic research and science" was held at the SCAR Open Science Conference in Auckland, New Zealand on 26 August 2014. It was convened by SCAR History EG members Ursula Rack and Andrew Atkin (both from Gateway Antarctica, New Zealand). Susan Barr from the Fram Museum in Oslo (Norway) gave the keynote speech introducing a case study on the publication of diaries of Roald Amundsen and other members of his South Pole party.

A report of this session and discussion is available under:
<http://www.scar.org/humanities/humanities-publication>

Roundtable discussion “History and Science”

A very interesting roundtable discussion on “History and Science “ was organized by David Walton, Lize-Marie van der Watt, and Adrian Howkins on 26 Tuesday 2015. It showed the value of historical work in connection with current research in Antarctica.

Session “Presence of the past and methods and innovations in polar social sciences”

During the Open Science Conference at Auckland, New Zealand on 28 August 2014, a joint session on presence of the past and methods and innovations in polar social sciences was organized by Daniela Liggett (SCAR Humanities and Social Science EG, New Zealand) and Cornelia Lüdecke (SCAR History EG, Germany). Six talks were given, but far more abstracts of sufficient quality were submitted.

Anne-Marie Brady (New Zealand) focussed on the role of Antarctica in Chinese national narratives, particularly the role of history in the present. Cornelia Lüdecke (Germany) showed how the discovery of the extinct volcano Gaussberg – an island in the ice – served as representation of Antarctica for German scientists in 1902/03. Elizabeth Leane (Australia) gave the annual keynote Lewander Lecture and examined the prominent controversy concerning penguin-harvesting on Macquarie Island during the 1920s, involving science,

celebrity and media in a subantarctic wildlife campaign. Stuart Prior (New Zealand) explained the influence of Soviet Antarctic expeditions on the future of Russia's southern polar interests today, while Alessandro Antonello (Australia) analysed the records and sound recordings of Treaty diplomacy in listening in on “life” Antarctic history. Daniella McCahey (USA) presented extreme environment and the shaping of scientific knowledge on the example of the Royal Society expedition to Halley Bay in the period 1955-1959.

An abstract of this session can be found at:

http://www.scar.org/scar_media/documents/humanities/33SCAR_Humanities_Session_2014_Abstracts.pdf

**Joint conference of the History EG and Humanities and Social Sciences EG
"Antarctic Wilderness: Perspectives from History, the Humanities and the Social Sciences"
Colorado State University, Fort Collins (USA), 20 - 23 May 2015**

A joint conference of the History Expert Group and the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group on "Antarctic Wilderness: Perspectives from History, the Humanities and the Social Sciences" was held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins (USA) on 20-23 May 2015.

On Wednesday (20 May) we started with an excursion to the Rocky Mountain National Park close to Estes. A hike of two hours took us along a former golf course that had been remodelled as a natural plain, and served as a fitting site for a discussion with park staff on “comparative wilderness” given the different connotations of that term in isolated Antarctica and comparatively accessible Colorado.

After our return to Fort Collins we met a group of members of APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists), with whom we had a tour through the New Belgium Brewery. The evening concluded with a screening of the film “Nightfall on Gaia” by the anthropologist Juan Francisco Salazar (Australia), which provides an insight into current social interactions on King George Island and connections to the natural and political complexities of the sixth continent.

The conference itself was opened by on Thursday (21 May) by Diana Wall, head of the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at the Colorado State University (CSU). Andres Zarankin (Brazil) opened the first session on narratives and counter narratives from Antarctica with his talk on sealers, marginality, and official narratives in Antarctic history. Elizabeth Leane (Australia) looked at Antarctic spatiality and the conventions of the action thriller in Hammond Innes’s novel “The White South”. Hanne Nielsen (New Zealand) explored the role of advertising during the Heroic Era of Antarctic research. Victoria Nuviala (Argentine) discussed her ideas on “I, We, They and the Other,” to reconsider how human identities were produced in Antarctica during the 20th century.

During the second session on histories of Antarctic science Daniella McCahey (USA) presented research into Alexander Dalrymple, James Cook, and changing Ideas about the nature of the Antarctic Circle. Cornelia Lüdecke (Germany) addressed magnetism as a trigger of German polar research. Alessandro Antonello (Australia) explored the concept of the “Deep South” in terms of measures such as volumes and depths of the Antarctic in the 1970s. Ignacio Cardone (Brazil) referred to political shifts fostered by science when examining changes in Brazilian policy toward Antarctica before and after the Madrid Protocol.

The third session on methodologies and approaches in Antarctic studies was introduced by Ximena Senatore (Argentina), explaining why whaling in Antarctica in the mid-nineteenth century connected new people, new places and capitalism on a global scale. Poppie Gullett (USA) studied oral history as a methodology in Antarctic Studies, while Carol Devine (USA) used the concepts of appearance and disappearance to draw attention to the role of women in constructions of Antarctica as a known space or a wilderness. Ursula Rack (New Zealand) introduced a range of issues regarding how barriers to the accessibility of historic material in polar research might be overcome, leading to better information exchange.

During the fourth session on geopolitics and the environment Ryan Musto (USA) focussed on the United States and the creation of the Antarctic Nuclear-Free Zone.

Nelson Llanos (Chile) considered challenges to Antarctica’s international status in the 1970s and how they related to conceptions of wilderness, while Jørgen Alnæs (Norway) explored the intersections of

nationalism and cartography through a study of Antarctic maps in Norwegian newspapers. Juan Lucci (Argentina) concluded the session with a study of how populations at Antarctic bases have been considered in censuses.

In the evening Alan Hemmings (Australia) gave a keynote lecture on wilderness in a time of increasing Antarctic nationalism, which was open to public.

On Friday morning (22 May) we drove to Boulder to address members of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research in the fifth session on national perspectives on Antarctic science and the environment. Akiho Shibata (Japan) set the scene by discussing the Antarctic Horizon Scan and the Japanese Antarctic Research Expeditions (JARE) within the context of international law. Ria Olivier (South Africa) introduced the South African Antarctic Legacy Project and how to tame the wilderness of South Africa's Antarctic involvement with the aid of information. M. Consuelo León Wöppke (Chile) looked back on Chilean perceptions of the Antarctic Peninsula wilderness in the period of 1947-1958. Rohani Mohd Shah (Malaysia) wanted to add perspectives from the Malaysian community on Antarctic wilderness, unfortunately she could not travel to the conference

The "Wilderness Panel" after lunch was also open to the public. Daniela Liggett and Michael Hall (both New Zealand) defined and assessed wilderness in the Antarctic Treaty System as protected but not understood. Pablo Fontana (Argentina) gave a fascinating history of Argentinian attempts to introduce animals and even trees to Antarctica, as a means of domesticating a national space. Roald Berg (Norway) presented a comparative analysis of the Spitsbergen Treaty and the Antarctic Treaty in terms of wilderness and economic exploitation. Rupert Summerson (Australia) considered wilderness values in Antarctica within the context of the surprisingly high level of existing human infrastructure on the continent. Peder Roberts (Sweden) gave the annual Lewander Lecture in honor of Lisbeth Lewander (1956-2012), a much-missed founding member of the Group. Roberts explored the curious history of bipolar animal transfers, notably the attempts to settle penguins in Norway during the 1930s and the well-publicized settlement (and most recently eradication) of reindeer introduced to South Georgia.

The sixth session on Sunday morning (23 May) dealt with cultures of the Heroic Era. Carolyn Philpott and Elizabeth Leane (both from Australia) shared their ideas about the creation and performance of sledging songs during the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration. Anne Melgård (Norway) presented an analysis of remains of Roald Amundsen's South Pole tent "Polheim," and Andrew Atkin (New Zealand) discussed critically the crossing of Antarctic wilderness in the interests of science.

Pablo Wainschenker (Argentine) started the seventh session on Tourism, Governance, and Wilderness in Antarctica with an analysis of how participants in one of the first tourist cruises to Antarctica, in 1958, were selected as representatives of particular national values. Susan Lewis (USA) focused on eco-tourism in Antarctica and Antje Neumann (The Netherlands) examined how the concepts of science and wilderness have been used within the Antarctic Treaty System.

During the eighth and last session short presentations from non-attendees were read. Sira Engelbertz (New Zealand) evaluated conceptual frameworks to evaluate nature and Antarctic policy. Waldemar Fontes (Uruguay) presented a historical point of view from the Latin American perspective on Antarctic wilderness. Daniela Portella Sampaio (Brazil) examined Antarctic cooperative practices in respect to dynamics and effects on the institutionalization of the region's governance.

At the end of the conference concurrent History and Humanities and Social Science Expert Group meetings were followed by a joint meeting of both Expert groups to discuss future plans, including publication of the papers from this conference and the next SCAR OSC in Kuala Lumpur.

In summary the conference had 80 attendees, and 37 oral papers were presented by speakers from 15 countries: Argentine (5), Australia (3), Brazil (4), Chile (2), Germany (1), Japan (1), Malaysia (1), New Zealand (8), The Netherlands (1), Norway (3), South Africa (1), Sweden (1), Uruguay (1), USA (5). The conference contributed to a growing awareness that the concept of wilderness cannot be usefully deployed without simultaneously considering the material legacies of human presence in Antarctica. These issues are particularly important given the pressing importance of environmental management in the present moment, and the unique expectations that the Madrid Protocol has placed upon human actors. It was felt that the History EG has an important role to play

in terms of these issues, particularly given the overlap between its membership and that of the International Polar Heritage Committee.

Programme and abstracts are available under:

http://www.scar.org/scar_media/documents/humanities/Humanities_Workshop_2015_Abstracts.pdf

4. Business meeting at Fort Collins on 23 May 2015

During the Group's business meeting on 23 May 2015 we mainly discussed the publication of the papers of the workshop in Fort Collins (2015) and the outline of the next session of the SCAR OSC in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia 2016) on "*Footprints in Antarctica, and Antarctica's footprint: perspectives from history*". Suggested lead conveners are Cornelia Lüdecke (Germany), Victoria Nuviala (Argentina) and Peder Roberts (Sweden). There was also discussion concerning the potential evolution of the Group as its membership increases in diversity as well as size.

5. Planned book on "Antarctica and the Humanities"

The edited volume "*Antarctica and the Humanities*" will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in early 2016. It contains contributions from several SCAR History EG members and will demonstrate that historical research based on Antarctic material is increasingly relevant to broader historical narratives, and to issues of memory and heritage. The book is designed to introduce this field to a wider audience, including potential use as a text in the growing number of university courses on Antarctica and the humanities, but also to make the case that the humanities are an essential component of scholarly study of the Antarctic.

6. Budgetary Implications

An annual budget of US\$ 5,000 will be used to subsidize travel to the next SCAR OSC in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in 2016, thus enabling the broadest possible participation from junior scholars and those outside the United States and Western Europe.