

DAVID G. ANDERSON

# Cultures of Reciprocity and Cultures of Control in the Circumpolar North

**ABSTRACT** This article surveys different cultures of engagement between people, animals, and the landscape across the circumpolar Arctic. Through ethnographic examples the article describes offering rituals and placings in several Arctic contexts in the light of the emphasis they place on affirming personhood. Similarly, rituals of management and regulation are described in the terms of how they strive to create predictability and control. The article tries to mediate this contrast by examining “architectural” examples of co-operation and co-domestication between humans, animals and landscapes. The article concludes with a reflection on how the themes of “origins” and “animal rights” further reconstruct these dichotomies.

ELENA BALZAMO

# The Geopolitical Laplander

From Olaus Magnus to Johannes Schefferus

**ABSTRACT** After being either completely ignored or mixed up with monsters and devils, which in the medieval imagination dwelled in the Extreme North, the Sami were suddenly brought into the limelight by Olaus Magnus (1492–1557), Swedish catholic bishop in exile. His *Carta marina* (1539) and *Historia de gentibus septentrionalibus* (1555) contain most valuable information, depicting the Sami’s natural virtues, practical skills and mysterious magic powers. The image provided by these works became widely spread in Europe thanks both to the reprints of the Latin originals and to the numerous translations. In the seventeenth century the theme was re-actualized by a new publication, entirely devoted to Lapland and its inhabitants: *Lapponia* (1673) by Johannes Schefferus (1621–1679). Translated into a number of languages it replaced the image created by Olaus Magnus with a new one, at the same time similar and different. The present paper examines some crucial points of this evolution in order to show that both “portraits” reflect motivations that go beyond purely scholarly interest: each of them is part of the ideological struggle of its time—the Reformation in one case, the conflicts brought to life by the Thirty Years’ War in the other.

THOMAS A. DUBOIS

# Borg Mesch

The Role of a Culture Broker in Picturing the North

**ABSTRACT** This paper examines the role of Borg Mesch (1869–1956) in the development of a nascent tourist industry in the North of Sweden. The concept of culture broker is used to clarify Mesch’s varying activities as a photographer, outfitter, and guide in relation to two different clienteles: Swedes from the south of the country and international tourists from England and elsewhere. The history of Svenska Turistföreningen (the Swedish Tourist Association) in facilitating tourist activities in northern regions is described. ANNEGRET

HEITMANN

# Zwischen zwei Welten

Aspekte der Mobilität in J.A. Friis' and G. Schnéevoigts *Lajla*

ABSTRACT Einer der bekanntesten Texte über das Leben der Samen ist Jens Andreas Friis' norwegischer Roman *Lajla* aus dem Jahr 1881. Sein Status als Klassiker wurde durch zwei Verfilmungen von Georg Schnéevoigt (Stummfilm von 1929 und Tonfilm von 1937) untermauert. Während es die Intention des Autors war, in unterhaltsamer Form ethnographische Informationen über das Leben der Samen zu vermitteln, wurde der Roman vor allem als eine romantische Liebesgeschichte über das einfache Leben in der Finnmark rezipiert. Der folgende Aufsatz beleuchtet den Handlungsgang um das „vertauschte Kind“ neu, indem er verschiedene Aspekte der Mobilität ins Zentrum stellt: des Textes selbst, des Mediums Film und vor allem der Konzeption der Ethnizität, die durch Betonung von Mobilität ihre dichotomische Starrheit verliert.

SHEILA HICKS

# Who Is Responsible for Today's Northern Landscapes, Climate or Human Beings?

ABSTRACT The present-day landscapes of northern Fennoscandia are the end result of a process of evolution. Mountains and valleys have scarcely altered during the last 10,000 years, whereas coastal areas have slowly but constantly changed. The nature of the vegetation that covers the landscape and is driven primarily by climate, has changed at a faster rate, but fastest of all have been the changes resulting from human activities. Steps towards the present-day situation are briefly reviewed on different temporal and spatial scales and on each the impacts of climate and people are weighed one against the other. Environmental reconstructions are made on the basis of pollen analysis and historical/archaeological records, while a quantified basis for their interpretation is provided by present day reference situations. Examples from palaeo-ecological research projects provide illustrations. On the coarsest spatial and temporal scales the bigger driving force is climate, but if the focus is on a small area and the time considered the last 100 years, then it is people who have played the bigger role in producing what we see. Two important questions for the north are: which impact will have the bigger effect in the future, the climate or human beings, and will future changes be reversible or not?

KENNETH J. KNOESPEL

# Sweden and the Transformation of Northern Historiography

**ABSTRACT** Viewed from the Mediterranean South, the North was associated from the earliest ages with a darkness linked with strange languages, distance, alien cultural behavior, and just plain bad weather. This darkness—or the fog and mist if we use the early description of Marco Polo—was not ignored but itself became a screen upon which the South could project an ever-growing list of fantasies. While Swedish figures such as Olof Rudbeck made elaborate national projections about the role of the North in civilization, Carl von Linné and others succeeded in translating fantasies of political empire into kingdoms of knowledge. Drawing on Swedish historiography and the history of technology, this essay poses questions about the ways Sweden's often invisible presence continues to shape the formulation of knowledge.

ANKA RYALL

# In Love with a Cold Climate

## Representations of the North in Nineteenth-Century Travel Writing from Scandinavia

**ABSTRACT** This essay discusses representations of the North in late eighteenth and nineteenth century travel narratives from Scandinavia. It takes as its starting point the traditional conflation of the North with cold that has permeated travellers' views of Scandinavia, and shows how this stereotype persists even when it is contradicted by the actual experience or observations related in northern travelogues. From some examples of the tension between a real and imaginary North in a selection of travelogues, the essay moves on to look at the aesthetics of the northern landscape in terms of the concepts of the sublime and picturesque. It then shows how an idealising aesthetic emphasis is modified in many northern travel narratives by a foregrounding of realistic details that function as markers of an "anti-aesthetics" of the everyday or commonplace, and give readers a sense of the locally specific and specifically northern in descriptions of places, landscapes and human encounters. It concludes with an example that indicates how an acknowledgment of the aesthetic qualities of everyday human activities such as the dried fish trade helps to undermine the stereotype of the cold, barren, desolate and distant north.