

# Adaptation research for the Polar Regions

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# Structure

- Characterising my research agenda
- Relevant running research projects for adaptation
  - Research projects
  - Why relevant?
- Input for the social science polar adaptation agenda

# Characterising my research agenda

- Institutional arrangements for tourism, conservation and development
- Tourism and global environmental change: vulnerability and adaptive governance
- The role of information in natural resource governance
- Deploying practice theory for sustainable tourism

# Institutional arrangements for tourism, conservation and development

- Self-regulation for sustainable polar tourism
  - Own PhD project, current small projects
- Private-community partnerships in Kenya
  - Own Postdoc project + book project
- Marine conservation tourism in Raja Ampat, Indonesia: Co-management
  - PhD project Ery Atmodjo
- Changing arrangements for conservation finance
  - PhD project Nowella Anyongo

# Institutional arrangements for tourism, conservation and development continued...

- Other projects: certification schemes
- Relevance for social science adaptation agenda
  - Institutional innovations
  - Dynamic character of arrangements
  - Political nature
  - Need for regular adapting/revision
  - Role of non-state brokers (NGOs)

# Tourism and global environmental change: vulnerability and adaptive governance

## ■ Towards dynamic vulnerability

- PhD student Jillian Student: Caribbean tourism
- Vulnerability as emergent property: Agent-based modelling/Companion modelling
- Allows for experimenting, testing out scenarios and measures
- Participatory gaming approach: crucial for learning

## ■ Relevant results for rapidly changing regions: Arctic?



# The role of information in natural resource governance



- Informational governance in Russian Barents Sea
  - PhD project Alexey Pristupa
  - Development of ecosystem-based marine governance, *First Nations* knowledge, deploying observation systems, ICT, social media
  - Governance implications: legitimacy, trust, participation
  - BUT also: controversy, conflict, privacy issues
- Benefit sharing standards in Arctic oil/gas sector
  - Postdoc project Maria Tysiachniouk
  - Compare models across Arctic: Russia and Alaska



# The role of information in natural resource governance continued...

## ■ Other projects

- Tourism and AOS – joint IPTRN paper
- Science-policy interface of Polar Regions; joint knowledge production

## ■ Relevance for social science adaptation agenda

- Informational turn is overwhelming and driving change
- Role knowledge and information crucial for adaptation
- Role of non-state actors in informational governance
- Information is power/empowerment



# Applying and developing practice theory to/for sustainable tourism

- Understanding social change and societal transitions
  - Book project with colleagues Spaargaren en Weenink
  - Bridging the agency – structure divide, practice as analysis unit, flat ontology
  - Zooming in: practice configuration
  - Zooming out: practice bundles, complexes
- Other projects
  - Arkhangelsk cruise tourism with Albina Pashkevich
  - SEES expedition to East Svalbard, August 2015

# Applying and developing practice theory to/for sustainable tourism continued...

- Relevance for social science adaptation agenda
  - Practice perspective provides more dynamic insight
  - Existing applications located in Arctic: own research, Rantala
  - Polar regions flat/horizontal environments, networks, beyond state sovereignty, socially simple

# So....?

- How can we explore new ways of analysing the dynamic character of vulnerability of Polar communities and actor groups?
- To what extent are information flows changing governance processes and outcomes?
- (How) Are local actor groups benefiting from resource use in the Arctic?