

**Session Proposal for ICASS IX, Umea, Sweden (June 8 - 12, 2017)**

<http://iassa.org/icass-ix>

**Session Title:**

Exploring the user-producer interface of weather and sea ice information in support of Arctic marine mobilities: Defining social and interdisciplinary science contributions to the Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP)

**Session Organizers:**

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## Session Description:

The Polar Prediction Project (PPP) is a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) initiative to support coordinated international research efforts to improve weather and environmental prediction services for the polar regions. The Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP) is one of the flagship activities of the PPP, with a core phase from mid-2017 to mid-2019. This session is organized by members of the Societal and Economic Research and Applications (SERA) sub-committee of the PPP, in an effort to ensure that considerations around translating scientific success into societal value are incorporated within YOPP to inform and guide scientific and technological improvements.

In this session we seek to better understand the complexities of actors, information needs, information systems and infrastructures, funding structures, data management approaches, and applications of weather and sea ice prediction services in the polar regions. This session aims to discuss priority themes emerging from recent SERA meetings, including but not limited to:

- i) The framing of scientific outcomes and measures of success (e.g., better models, accurate forecasts) relative to the concerns, ways of knowing, and variation of information use by northern residents, social institutions, enterprises, visitors, and other actors. The scale and resolution of data and modelling outputs need to be considered along with accessibility and saliency of information provided;
- ii) The disconnect that seems to be increasing between data providers (modellers) and end-users (e.g. hunters, tour operators, ship captains, fishing boat captains, researchers, among others), as each are creating information tailored to their own needs. We need to explore the underlying reasons for this, and ways to reconnect for mutual benefit;
- iii) The seemingly dualistic emphasis on providers and end-users of weather and climate information, while increasingly diverse actors are being identified that both provide and use environmental information. We need to better understand this user-producer interface and the cycles, scales, and flows of information exchanged for different purposes;
- iv) The trend away from nation states (i.e. national weather, hydrometeorological, and sea ice services) being the primary holders/providers of environmental information, as the evolution of the information age enables private actors to create and share their own information through community-based monitoring and social media. We need to better understand the implications of these new sources and flows of information.

We encourage contributions from a diversity of social science and humanities disciplines, from a range of career stages, and from Indigenous Peoples, northern residents, decision-makers and politicians, as well as academics, working on issues related to this user-producer interface of weather and sea ice information. We are particularly interested in those related to Arctic marine mobilities, although we are open to diverse experiences and applications.

We hope that this session will start to bring together a broad network of researchers interested in these issues, and that presentations and discussions in this session can help to guide SERA activities and encourage more involvement of social science and humanities research in the YOPP.