Connecting science and local communities in Rangifer research (3 ECTS)

Connecting science and indigenous peoples' practice and knowledge in an increasingly interconnected world – identifying and responding to challenges to natural resource based livelihoods/Rangifer (reindeer & caribou) systems

Are you in the field of reindeer or caribou research? Have you reflected upon how you interact with local communities and indigenous knowledge keepers in your research? For what reason and for whom is the research important and in what different ways can it be conducted? Are there specific ethical requirements for interacting with indigenous communities – and if so, how are these addressed? This course provides you with theoretical as well as practical tools and examples aiming to encourage you to pose critical questions and reflect upon methodologies and methods for collaboration and interaction with local stakeholders and indigenous communities.

NOVA PhD course of 3 ECTS, organised by Birgitta Åhman, Professor in Reindeer Husbandry at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

Organized in collaboration with IRSAE (International Research School in Applied Ecology)

Dates and location: **10-15 August 2015,** Enafors (close to Åre/Duved), Sweden

Course description: The aim of this cross-disciplinary course is to foster transdisciplinary and critical thinking, collaborative skills and capability to interact over disciplinary and epistemological borders. A particular focus will be given to participatory and collaborative research methods, where researchers and non-academic knowledge keepers engage in co-creating processes, knowledge production and knowledge exchange concerning e.g. problems related to natural resource management and use.

Course topics:

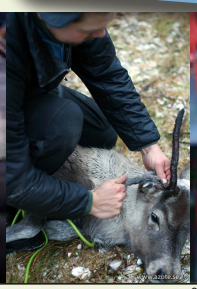
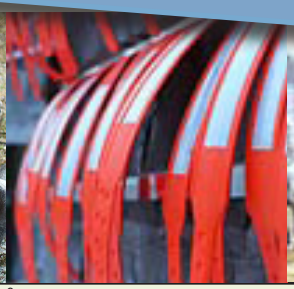
- The role and significance of reindeer and caribou for indigenous peoples in the North – e.g. the complex interplay between people, animals and the environment, aspects of identity, culture and values and the possible implications of conflicts and competing land use for ecosystem management
- The role and significance of reindeer and caribou from an ecosystem service perspective – e.g. the mitigation of climate effects on tundra vegetation.
- Research ethics in indigenous research with particular emphasis on Sápmi – e.g. what are the particular requirements for doing research in indigenous communities, who has a say and when formal ethical guidelines and procedures are lacking what are the alternatives for assuring ethically sound research?
- Participatory research approaches – e.g. how can collaborative and participatory research projects be designed throughout different stages in the research process and be implemented in practice, what are some major challenges and how can these be addressed?
- Research communication – e.g. testing different modes, tools and arenas for communication, how can results be made applicable and what responsibilities lies with the researcher?

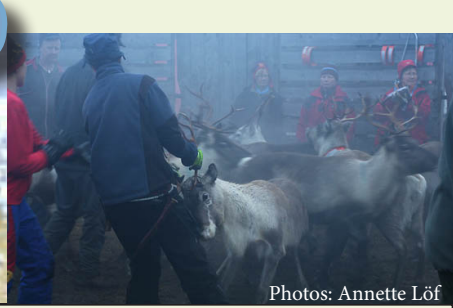
Expected learning outcomes:

After the course the student should:

- have a good understanding of the present and historical role of reindeer/caribou in indigenous livelihoods, culture, society and natural resource management
- understand and be able to analyse different contextual challenges for Rangifer based livelihood systems in different parts of the world
- have a good understanding of the reasoning behind research ethics in relation to research linked to indigenous people
- be able to employ different perspectives and theories to analyse transdisciplinary challenges in relation to natural resource based livelihoods
- be able to listen to and understand goals of stakeholders and take these into consideration to formulate relevant research questions
- be able to communicate own research with scientists from other disciplines as well as with stakeholders and related institutions.
- be able to problematize issues of research design and stakeholder participation

Last day for application May 21



Photos: Annette Löf

For more information, contact Prof. Birgitta Åhman, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, birgitta.ahman(at)slu.se.



Practical information:

Programme: The course will consist of lectures, group work, seminars and field visits. One day is scheduled for a field/study visit to Njarke sameby, a nearby reindeer herding community with previous experience of collaborative research projects. The course starts on Monday morning and ends Friday night. The course is given in connection to the International Arctic Ungulate Conference in Røros, Norway, August 17-21 (http://gyroconference.event123.no/NINA/AUC/). Participants at the course will have a unique opportunity to participate in and give presentations based on course work at the conference.

Examination/Evaluation: In addition to seminar assignments and active involvement in the practical elements of the course, the final examination is preparing and delivering a presentation (oral or poster) at the end of the course. Students will also have the opportunity to give their presentations at the International Arctic Ungulate conference held in Røros, Norway, the week after the course (participation is optional).

Estimated workload:
15 hours seminars
15 hours lectures
10 hours study visit
15 hours independent work
40 hours preparatory reading and preparation for presentation

Admission requirements: Open for PhD students from all universities. Priority is given to students from universities that are partners of NOVA or IRSAE. The course is funded by NKJ, NOVA and IRSAE and is free of charge. Accommodation is included but not travels to and from course location.

Prerequisite knowledge: Bachelor degree in Biological or Social science, including courses related to natural resource management or pastoralism

Last day for application is Thursday May 21. Note of acceptance will be given within a week from this date.

Additional information: The course will be held at Enaforsholm (find information at http://enaforsholm.se/). Enaforsholm is walking distance from Enafors railway station along the railroad between Östersund (Sweden) and Trondheim (Norway). Östersund and Trondheim can be reached by flight or train. It is possible to travel by train and bus from Enafors to the conference in Røros.

The course team consists of experienced teachers and lecturers from different fields; Prof. Birgitta Åhman (SLU), Dr Lars Hallgren (SLU), Prof Øystein Holand (Norwegian University of Life Sciences), and Dr Annette Löf (Centre for Sami Research, Umeå University). Guest lecturer TBA.

IRSAE International Research School in Applied Ecology

NKJ Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research

NOVA UNIVERSITY NETWORK

SLU

For more information, contact Prof. Birgitta Åhman, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, birgitta.ahman(at)slu.se.