

WORLD ROUTES 3: Arctic workshop of the University of Tartu

1-2 June 2012, Tartu, Estonia

In 2010, the Department of Ethnology/Anthropology of the University of Tartu launched its annual Arctic workshop series. The first workshop was called “World Routes” and was dedicated to movement patterns in the Arctic. Due to the fact that the workshop was very successful, we plan to continue with the topic also in 2012.

After two successful workshops the Arctic Workshop series is continuing with the third and the last workshop with the subtitle “World Routes”. “World Routes 3” is also focusing on movement patterns in the Arctic. We wish to bring together presentations that discuss the movement of people, physical object, ideas or the idea of movement in the context of the Arctic in a way that opens new horizons or initiates exciting discussions.

The Arctic is often seen as an isolated empty area covered with snow. However, the Arctic has been inhabited not only for centuries but for thousands of years. These inhabitants have been in constant movement. The Arctic is a region with huge distances and with the constant requirement for importing more or less everything. This all means that movement is more central in the Arctic than in many other regions. The movement of people in different regions of the Arctic is linked with various environmental factors, changes in the economy, political processes, state policy, and movement of ideas, to name but a few. Besides that, physical movement is often accompanied with identity shifts, the creating of new identities, consolidation of existing ones or adapting to a new identity (e.g. sibriaki in Siberia). These multiple factors and different modes of movement and identity change have – contrary to population movement in other continents of the world – received little continuous attention by scholars. Moreover, the movement of people in the Arctic is often studied as the movement of two separate groups – the native and the incomer population, but we have to see it as interconnected on different levels.

The workshop wishes to explore these and other aspects of movement. The main theoretical framework of the workshop is that the movement of people in the Arctic, both past and present is multilayered, has a complex background and content, and several initiators. We would like to discuss different levels and aspects of movement in the Arctic. Herewith we do not want to be limited to one discipline, region, ethnic group or economic form (mode). Beside anthropologists we also encourage contributions from specialists in history, biology, sociology, management studies and so forth. Colleagues who are working on their PhD thesis are also welcome to come and discuss their works.

Keynote speech at the third “World Routes” workshop is delivered by Peter Schweitzer, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Please send your abstract (as a Word document) of maximum 300 words to Aimar Ventsel Aimar.Ventsel@ut.ee at latest on 15th of December 2011.