

Category

SH Social Sciences and Humanities

Session Number

SH-7

Session Title

Science, Policy, and Politics at the Poles

Session Description

While both Polar Regions are important fields for the development of the scientific knowledge, they also serve as unique platforms for the various interactions between science, policy, and politics. This session takes the polar regions as a distinct "area", using an area studies approach to explore core governance issues and engage in deep policy analysis. Area studies is a multidisciplinary methodology common in the social sciences and humanities which is used to answer complex and inter-connected questions related to a particular geographic region or society. Our session proposal invites papers from Arctic and Antarctic social scientists and humanities specialists aimed at addressing key policy issues at the poles such as: how polar science moves to policy; polar science diplomacy; the role of advisory bodies and regional organizations (i.e. AFoPs, SCAR, IASC, IACS); comparative Arctic and Antarctic foreign policies; polar legal matters; polar development and under-development; indigeneity and the poles; how politicized narratives of history and culture inform present day geopolitics; and the geoeconomics of the poles.

Keywords: Arctic, Antarctic, area studies, science diplomacy, geopolitics, public policy

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