

Category

SH Social Sciences and Humanities

Session Number

SH-5

Session Title

Current and future change, sustainability and resilience in the Polar Regions

Session Description

The Polar Regions are undergoing rapid environmental, socio-cultural and economic transformation. Monitoring current change and anticipating future developments are becoming more important than ever. Assessing the sustainability and resilience of integrated socio-ecological systems involves a better understanding of the complex interactions between social and ecological domains and facilitates the creation of resilient systems whilst increasing knowledge capacities of polar communities and their ability to shape change. A number of initiatives are currently underway to assess sustainability and resilience in the Polar Regions taking into consideration the impacts of biophysical and social drivers of change. This session aims at exploring how polar communities and stakeholders deal with the combined challenges from climate change, political, economic and resource pressures, changes to the global order and new socio-cultural realities and what the future might hold for the Polar Regions. We recognize the opportunities presented by integrated interdisciplinary approaches developed within the biophysical, social, humanities and arts scholarship and invite researchers with an interest in socio-ecological systems, the interaction of society and place, or in exploring the futures in a methodological or even speculative manner to contribute to this session. Papers surveying changing (inter-)disciplinary perspectives on one or both Polar Regions over time are also welcome.

Keywords: Polar Regions, Arctic, Antarctic, Futures, sustainability, monitoring, socio-ecological systems, resilience, climate change, resources

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