



Project acronym: ArIsCo

Project title: Arctic Island communities: shifting lifestyles and traditional economies facing climate change & globalization

Project leader: Lidia Rakhmanova, State Hermitage Museum, Russian Federation

Discipline: Social Sciences: Other - Social Sciences

Station(s): Faroe Islands Nature Investigation (FINI) (Faroe Islands)

Our project will be conducted at Faroe Islands Nature Investigation, operating in conjunction with local settlements. We aim to explore what are the social, intellectual, economic, logistic ties that exist between research stations and local residents. A comparative study of Arctic island communities is justified, first, by uniqueness of island ecosystems, second, islands as a special phenomenon in an international Arctic space and, thirdly, by stability of island communities to the changes caused by transformation of life support systems, transport logistics and consumption culture. However, globalization shifts the emphasis, making northern islands, that used to be the land of survival and exploration, - the land for research, monitoring, and even tourism. Due to external influences, boundaries of natural zones, significant landscape objects are shifting, geography of fisheries, routes of migration, boundaries of settlements are changing. These spatial changes can be recorded by mapping using GIS. Thanks to the archives of observations made at INTERACT stations, we can track the dynamics of changes, depending on the length of observation series and age of station. However, to reveal social change one has to study biographical interviews of the residents, who assess the changes from non-academic position. An innovative approach aims to bring together in one database, scientific observations of ecosystem and climate and observations and opinions of locals, using methods of mapping, visualization, creating photo catalogues of objects and using the method of included observation, questionnaire survey and interviewing in island communities.