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Title: *EU and Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Their Roles: Partnership or Asymmetric Interdependency ?*

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Among many issues shaping challenges and opportunities for sustainable socio-economic development in a rapidly changing Arctic there is also a question of the relations between different types of the regional stakeholders. Supranational organizations like the European Union and sub and trans-national Arctic indigenous communities share the asymmetric interactions with Arctic states still prevailing in the emerging post-Westphalian international environment. The relationship between EU and Arctic indigenous peoples also are far from any kind of symmetry what makes their dialogue both a big challenge and necessity. How this asymmetric interdependency is reflected and managed by the EU institutions can be examined through the scrutiny of the development of the EU Arctic policy.

The aim of this presentation is to offer for the debate some conclusions from the analysis of the EU approach towards the Arctic and its discourse about the region, especially with regard to the demonstrated understandings of the position, potential and roles of the Arctic indigenous peoples, also in terms natural resource exploitation and politics involving the interests of Arctic peoples and their land use. In order to make this research more operational the concept of roles theory will be adopted. This concept with its conceptual rigor, methodological openness and rich empirical applications potentially seems to be an effective and stimulating approach enabling comprehensive understanding of the relationship between EU and Arctic indigenous peoples.