



Lead Author e-mail: jnl@unak.is

Title: *Arctic Social Indicators (ASI): applications, relevance, and a proposed system for monitoring*

Joan Nymand Larsen^{1,2}, Peter Schweitzer³

¹*University of Akureyri, Akureyri, Iceland*

²*Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland*

³*University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA*

In this presentation we discuss pressures affecting Arctic communities, its peoples and societies. Results from the Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project will be introduced, and highlights on social and economic indicators with applications to select regions in the Arctic will be presented. A key objective of the ASI project is to devise Arctic specific indicators to help track changes in human development in the Arctic. ASI is based on a number of key criteria for selection of indicators of human development. ASI indicators are selected based on data availability, including the periodicity with which regularly collected data are gathered in the Arctic; the ongoing costs of data collection and monitoring; and the ease of measurement, taking into account how simple and straightforward data is measured in a broadly accepted manner; as well as considerations of the temporal stability of an indicator over time. Domains representing prominent aspects of human development in the Arctic are used for indicator selection, and they include: Fate control; Cultural wellbeing; Contact with nature; Education; Material wellbeing; Health and Demographics. Questions of how ASI indicators must be adjusted to different time and space are considered. The presentation provides highlights from applications to the case of the Alaska Inuit and North West Territories in Canada. Key findings, a proposed ASI monitoring system, and policy relevant conclusion emerging from the study will be presented. The importance of ASI for the work on the Arctic Human Development Report Vol. 2 (AHDR-II) will be briefly discussed.