

The Arctic Scramble Revisited

The Greenland Consortium and the Imagined Future of Fisheries in 1905

ABSTRACT Among the numerous phrases that depict imagined futures in the North, the belligerent rhetoric of an *Arctic scramble* stands out. The notion of seizing opportunities continues to surface in current debates on resource exploration in the Arctic. This article places the present scramble in Greenland in a longer historical context. It analyses the arguments of a stakeholder group that applied in 1905 to the Danish Home Office for private access to Greenland's natural resources, and that hoped to introduce trade with the colony's products on a for-profit basis. The arguments of this initiative offer an insight into how the urgency to act was constructed through the authority of science. This paper suggests that the *scramble for the Arctic* lent a common framework to otherwise inconsistent narratives. Although the consortium's attempt to privatize Greenlandic fisheries and other resource industries was halted in 1906, their narratives highlighted perceived mismanagement by the colonial administration and anticipated and helped shape long-term changes in policy.

KEYWORDS Greenland, Arctic, narrative, natural resource management, fisheries

RAFICO RUIZ

Media Environments

Icebergs/Screens/History

ABSTRACT Icebergs, at present, are living a second life on screens. While they are one of the natural world's most photogenic objects, icebergs are also subject to modes of representation through parametric modeling applications. The purpose of this digital life on screens is largely confined to determining how, and under what conditions, icebergs can be made a source of potable water for the planet. Yet icebergs have a story to tell about the epistemological and economic production of northern natural resources. Distinct institutional actors, from oceanographers and military engineers to Saudi royalty and software design companies, have sought to control and come to know icebergs through specific practices of modeling. I argue that the representation of icebergs is a contingent practice that has often been bound up with processes of commodification. To come to know icebergs we have to come to know how these quintessentially polar phenomena have been represented and commodified, across the twentieth century and at a significant remove from the highest latitudes of the planet. The increasing pace of northern development, with natural resources at the vanguard of corporate and governmental incursions, signals the emergence of "media environments" that are extending the representation of (and control over) natural phenomena through a series of media technologies, from 3D modeling applications and collections of satellite data to virtual reality environments and predictive algorithms.

KEYWORDS icebergs, natural resources, water, modeling, media environments

Re-Conceptualizing the North

A Historiographic Discussion

ABSTRACT The past few years have brought a surge in re-conceptualizations of the North in the humanities and social sciences. Bringing together history, environment, geography, politics and culture, these re-conceptualizations offer frameworks, terminology and perspectives designed to situate the North in its complex modern context. They are linked by the authors' shared interest in what the North has looked like and what it will look like in the future. This paper engages with a few of these re-conceptualizations in order to understand what agendas they put forward, explicitly and implicitly, and how they are situated within historical contexts. In this context, I ask what the North *encompasses*: which narratives, identities and connections merge with latitude, climate and physical environment to create new (and not-so-new) ways of thinking about northern spaces? Ultimately, I argue that these re-conceptualizations of the North are in fact themselves articulations of the future: developed and presented to tell particular stories, they are part of a larger story, one that reaches into the past and one which will continue to evolve and change.

KEYWORDS North, Arctic, historiography, indigenous voices, climate change, transnational, polar geopolitics

DAGOMAR DEGROOT

Exploring the North in a Changing Climate

The Little Ice Age and the Journals of Henry Hudson, 1607–1611

ABSTRACT During its nadir between approximately 1565 and 1720, the Little Ice Age cooled the Arctic by 0.5° C relative to early twentieth-century averages. Historians of past climates often craft declensionist and even determinist narratives of the Little Ice Age in the far north. Conversely, social or cultural historians usually depict the early modern Arctic environment as unchanging. The journals kept by Henry Hudson and his crew during their voyages of Arctic exploration provide detailed information on environmental conditions and human responses that bridge these different historical perspectives and concerns. The journals reflect the influence of the Little Ice Age in the Arctic, but also demonstrate that voyages of northern exploration were affected by complex and even counterintuitive relationships between global climate change and its local environmental manifestations. These relationships can only be examined with a rigorous methodology that confronts issues of scale and causation that are still rarely considered by climate historians. Ultimately, the journals reveal that a shifting climate was a dynamic, but hardly determinist, agent in the early modern exploration and exploitation of the Arctic.

KEYWORDS Climate history, historical climatology, environmental history, early modern history, Henry Hudson, Northern Passage, methodology, spatial scale, temporal scale