THOMAS B. LARSSON, GUNHILD ROSQVIST, GÖRAN ERICSSON & JANS HEINERUD

Climate Change, Moose and Humans in Northern Sweden 4000 cal. yr BP

ABSTRACT Major cultural and environmental changes took place in the interior of Northern Sweden, beginning about c. 4200 cal. yr BP (or 2200 cal. BC). We present a causal, plausible, relationship linking climate change, a key resource and human culture. Moose (*Alces alces*) disappeared relatively fast from the human culture evidenced by a rapid decrease in usage and symbolism. Given the climatic data reconstructed at hand, a drastic change towards colder and wetter conditions seems to have happened 4200–3600 BP, which affected moose population numbers and composition significantly. After analyzing multiple data sources we suggest that moose had become very rare due to climate change and that many of the northern Fennoscandian hunting cultures had no choice but to change their subsistence pattern and, perhaps, change their general way of life, as a response to the altered situation. Linking the past to the present we speculate whether climate change as the primary driver, together with human harvest as the secondary, can result in fast extinction of a key species.

ELINA APSITE, EMMA LUNDHOLM & OLOF STJERNSTRÖM

Baltic State Migration System

The Case of Latvian Immigrants in Sweden

ABSTRACT The article focuses on the migration from the Baltic States to Sweden, with a particular focus on Latvia. Two historical turns in the Baltic States' recent history have contributed to an out-migration from the region—the restoration of independence in the early 1990s and accession to the European Union (EU) in 2004. Although these events were considered positive as they meant "open" borders for Baltic State citizens, lately the out-migration from Latvia has increased. Likewise, the global economic crisis that started in 2008 and the consequential unemployment draw attention to emerging patterns and the composition of emigrants to several destinations, but in this case particularly to Sweden. After the EU expansion Sweden did not receive as many Eastern European migrants as was expected at the time, but recent trends reveal that there has been a steady increase in the migration flow since then. The Nordic countries as a potential destination initially lacked pioneer migrants to establish social support networks that would attract newcomers, but this is now changing; statistics for 2010 show that the number of Baltic State immigrants in Sweden has grown significantly since 2008. With the economic recession and unemployment in Latvia in 2009, 2010 had even higher emigration activity than in 2004 just after the country's accession to the EU. Nordic countries emerge as welcoming destinations to recent migrants, who state that the proximity to their home country and the labour market opportunities are the main attraction but also that a positive view of Sweden and the Swedes plays a part. Contemporary trends of migration from the Baltic States and especially Latvia under conditions of economic downturn lead to emerging pattern of migration systems between Latvia and Sweden, combining a mixture of motives and diversity of the people involved in migration chains.

AANT ELZINGA

Roald Amundsen and his Ambiguous Relationship to Science

A Look at Outcomes of his Six Expeditions

ABSTRACT Roald Amundsen's active life as an explorer coincided with a period of important changes in the earth sciences. The purpose of the present paper is to situate some of his endeavours in relation to those trends. On the one hand there was a continuation of empirical traditions in field sciences driven by the same inductivist approach that motivated the First International Polar Year 1882–1883. On the other hand there were major advances in instrumentation, plus a strong professionalization of research. The latter involved new mathematical methods used by hypothesis-minded geophysicists who probed the dynamics of physical processes. In this context Amundsen was what Fridtjof Nansen called a "scientific explorer." The paper traces some of the tensions engendered in this role midway between two scientific trends while at the same time the explorer's public image followed the tradition of popular geography steeped in nationalism and prestige that drove the steeplechase of being first to set one's foot on and attach names to hitherto undiscovered places. It is shown how several of Amundsen's expeditions resonated strongly with contemporary trends and interests in scientific societies, especially in Norway. At the same time he was pulled between loyalty to Fridtjof Nansen and science and an unending quest for recognition and media visibility as a dashing explorer. Since much has been written about Amundsen's sportive and adventurous side, not least in connection with the dramatic race to the South Pole, the focus in the present paper is chiefly on his relationship to science, an aspect often glossed over. First Amundsen's position as a reflective practitioner is characterized and highlighted. Secondly, the Norwegian and international scientific contexts of his expeditions are sketched, and, third, an assessment is made of the scientific outcomes of the projects he initiated and their uneven reception over time in a number of disciplines, since he left it to others to translate data into science while he himself restlessly moved on to the next challenge. It is found that although never a scientist himself, Amundsen's initiatives generated considerable amounts of empirical data that was of value once it was reduced, analysed and interpreted by professional scientists. Perhaps even more importantly, his expeditions or projects helped further the scientific careers of a number of brilliantly resourceful persons.