

Workshop on Extractive Industries & Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic: Past, Present & Future

The Extractive Industries and Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic: Past, Present and Future workshop was a 2-day opportunity for indigenous experts, students, and scientists from around the world to discuss the benefits and burdens of extractive industries for Arctic indigenous peoples. 40 researchers from ten countries participated, representing four faculty areas (social sciences, humanities, natural science, and medicine).

The workshop clearly showed that there are striking parallels as well as significant differences concerning indigenous peoples and extractive industries in different parts of the Arctic. Cases in Canada, Sweden, Norway, Greenland and Russia were discussed during the workshop. An ambition was to bring together senior researchers, younger scholars and indigenous experts – the result was impressive. Many themes were addressed; land owning, community-based research, health outcomes, demographic aspects, legal issues and policy making to mention only a few.

The workshop was also a wonderful opportunity for scientists and indigenous peoples to share intellectual resources and provided a platform from which to work collaboratively in confronting future deleterious influences from extractive industries.