

Year 1 Progress Report – Interdisciplinary Understanding for a Changing Arctic (1 October 2018 – 30 September 2019)

During its first year, the Interdisciplinary Understanding for a Changing Arctic Doctoral Scholarship Programme began with a cohort of four students instead of the usual five, due to recruitment difficulties stemming from the late receipt of the award. (The Programme subsequently recruited six students to begin in the second year, putting it on track for bringing in a total of 15 students). The students in Cohort 1 are:

Giuseppe Amatulli

Provisional thesis title: *The multiple aspects of the cumulative effects of industrial development on Canadian First Nations: The case of Doig River First Nation of North-eastern British Columbia*

Primary supervisor and discipline: Professor Simone Abram (Anthropology)

Secondary supervisor and discipline: Dr Henry Jones (Law)

Ilona Kater

Provisional thesis title: *Communicating the ecology of a multiple-use landscape: Reindeer herding and industry in northern Sweden*

Primary supervisor and discipline: Dr Robert Baxter (Biosciences)

Secondary supervisor and discipline: Professor Simone Abram (Anthropology)

Jan Mikael Lundmark

Provisional thesis title: *Legal principles and Sámi property protection in the context of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*

Primary supervisor and discipline: Professor Tom Allen (Law)

Secondary supervisors and disciplines: Dr Benedict Douglas (Law); Dr Lauren Martin (Geography)

Laura Seddon

Provisional thesis title: *Measurement, knowledge, and representation of Arctic sea ice*

Primary supervisor and discipline: Professor Philip Steinberg (Geography)

Secondary supervisor and discipline: Professor Chris Stokes (Geography)

All four students have successfully passed through the first-year progression reviews managed by their respective primary departments. The precise process varies from department to department, but typically this involves production of a review paper, an oral defence of it with staff external to the student's supervisory committee, and a public presentation.

In addition, all four students have successfully proceeded through the separate progression review process managed by the Durham Arctic Research Centre for Training and Interdisciplinary Collaboration (DurhamARCTIC, the doctoral training centre established to administer the doctoral training programme established by the Leverhulme award). This review process included initial individual meetings with DurhamARCTIC Progressions Director Prof Gavin Bridge and DurhamARCTIC Director Prof Philip Steinberg, as well as a second individual meeting with Prof Bridge focussed on alignment between students' progress in their individual doctoral programmes and the interdisciplinary Arctic community enhancements organised by DurhamARCTIC.

A key event organised for the first cohort of Leverhulme-funded students was the first annual DurhamARCTIC Summer School (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/arctic/conference/delegates/>), where the four students were joined by 20 Arctic early career researchers from around the world (including three of the students who were to join in the second Leverhulme-funded cohort). This Summer School included poster presentations, attendance at the parallel final conference of the Leverhulme-funded ICE LAW Project (<https://icelawproject.weebly.com/april-2019-ice-law-final-conference-durham.html>), and a two-day workshop on science communication and outreach. All four students in the first Leverhulme cohort participated in all Summer School activities, and each presented their poster to the combined audience of Summer School delegates and ICE LAW conference attendees.

In addition to presenting posters at the DurhamARCTIC Summer School, presenting at departmental first-year conferences, and attending department-sponsored research seminars and training sessions, the four students in the first Leverhulme cohort achieved a number of other milestones during their first year. Highlights for each student are listed below:

Giuseppe Amatulli gave a lesson (through Skype) at the University of Lapland (Finland), in the context of the ASPB1105 course on sustainable development, resources and economy in the Arctic (November 2018). In his lesson, titled *'The EU and the Arctic: from regional cooperation to an EU Arctic policy?'* he addressed the role of the EU in the Arctic, by explaining the historical background and how the EU has developed its Arctic Policy since 1995 when Finland and Sweden joined the Union.

In December 2018, Giuseppe attended a conference at the Copenhagen Business School, where he gave a presentation on his current PhD research, titled *"The North Montney Mainline Project (NMML) and its impact on the BlueBerry River First Nation (BRFN)"*. He attended this conference thanks to a scholarship received from the UArctic North2North mobility funding scheme, as a member of the UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Sustainable Resources and Social Responsibility. His report on the conference can be seen via this link: <https://www.uarctic.org/news/2018/12/creating-connections-on-north2north-mobility-funding/>

From January to March 2019, Giuseppe tutored on the module of Public International Law in the Department of Law (2nd-year students in law). In his tutorials, he addressed specific issues related to State jurisdiction, responsibilities and immunities of state actors, with special attention for human rights violation and infringement of human rights Conventions in the international arena.

From January 2019 to June 2019, Giuseppe has been among the organizers of the PGR Friday Student Seminar Series (SSS) in the Department of Anthropology and of the PGR Final Conference of the Anthropology Department, which took place on May 7th, 2019. In the context of the SSS, in February 2019, he gave a presentation titled *'The North Montney Gas Pipeline project in Northern British Columbia: development impacts and cumulative effects on the BlueBerry River First Nation'*.

In June 2019, Giuseppe moved to Canada (Fort St. John, British Columbia), to begin his field work with the BlueBerry River and Doig River First Nations. From July 2nd to July 5th, he attended the BlueBerry River First Nation annual camp, at Pink Mountain (a traditional gathering place for First Nations of the area). Between July and September 2019, in the context of his fieldwork, he attended and helped with the organization of several events organised by the Doig River First Nation. During this period, he was involved with the trail cutting programme at Doig Reserve. This was a BC Province funded pilot project that sought to reconnect people to their land by allowing them to work in the forest in order to rediscover old trails used by the ancestors for travelling, trapping and hunting. The cultural value of the experience and the enjoyment of being and working in the bush was one of the most important goals of the trail cutting programme.

Additionally, In July and August, Giuseppe took part and helped with the organization of the KEMA experience. KEMA means a pure place in nature in Dane-zaa language (the indigenous language spoken by Doig River members), and Doig is trying to develop new summer camps to practice the language, promote the Dane-zaa culture and reconnect people to their land. At the end of July (28th-29th), he was invited to attend a traditional Indian funeral. He is currently working on a paper (with a counsellor and previous Chief of Doig River First Nation) on the cultural value of keeping traditional practices alive in a funerary celebration (by addressing the concept of syncretism).

Finally, on August 6th -7th, he attended the First Northern Dene Gathering organized by DRFN at Doig Reserve. The main aim of the meeting was to reconnect different Dane-zaa speaking communities living in Northeast BC and Alberta while addressing paths to follow in the future in order to have healthy and happy communities.

Giuseppe's fieldwork is currently ongoing in his second year and it is integrated with a placement with the Doig River First Nation, in British Columbia, Canada.

Ilona Kater gave a talk to at Dunvegan primary school on Arctic ecology (December 2018). She also presented a poster titled *"Communicating the ecology of a multiple-use landscape: Reindeer herding and industry in northern Sweden"* at the UK Arctic Science conference (Loughborough, September 2019), and accompanied the Durham University 3rd-year Arctic Geography module on its field trip to northern Norway (September 2019), where she delivered a field lecture on Sámi understandings of the Arctic landscape and its relation to changing reindeer herding practices.

Ilona also published an article, "Mass Starvation of Reindeer Linked to Climate Change and Habitat Loss," published in *The Conversation* (August, 2019, <https://theconversation.com/mass-starvation-of-reindeer-linked-to-climate-change-and-habitat-loss-121452>). She also began publishing a podcast/blog, Notebook from the North

(<http://notebookfromthenorth.com>), with weekly postings about nature, science, and the Arctic.

In February 2019 Ilona attended the Jokkmokk Winter Market in Sweden to scout out field locations and speak to reindeer herders in the area in relation to her research. This was followed by fieldwork sampling vegetation in the area from May-June 2019.

Throughout the academic year Ilona attended various seminars and workshops ranging from attending the University's "Effective Poster Presentation" skills development workshop, to sitting in on the "Fieldwork and Interpretation" module in Durham University's Department of Anthropology, to taking weekly Swedish language classes to develop skills relevant to her research.

Jan Mikael Lundmark presented a paper titled "18th Century Legal Principles' Contemporary Value for Human Rights Protection – The Case of the Nordic Sami Peoples' Protection of Traditional Livelihood" at the Durham Postgraduate Law Conference on 'Human Rights in a Changing Context' (May 2019).

Throughout her first year, **Laura Seddon** has attended a number of training programmes and workshops to develop her skills and experience with different methods that can be used for the collection, analysis, and reporting of social science research. In June 2019, Laura attended the 2-day NINE DTP doctoral training workshop titled, "Visually Mediated Research: Using Visual Methods in the Social Sciences", held at Newcastle University. Similarly, Laura also attended a number of training programmes run by Durham University, including "Using Interviews in Research," "Effective Poster Presentation," and a science-policy workshop run by Newton's Apple.

Laura also tutored on various modules in the Department of Geography, including the 1st-year Physical Geography core module, and the 3rd-year Natural Hazards, Risk, and Resilience module. She also accompanied the department's 3rd-year Arctic Geography module on its field trip to northern Norway (September 2019), where she delivered a field lecture on the implications of various methods for calculating and communicating sea ice extent. In addition, she supported the Sutton Trust summer school in August 2019, through the delivery of an overview lecture of the various research activities and interests of the department, as well as supporting the students with a short fieldwork project.

Laura also presented a poster titled "Measurement, Knowledge, and Representation in the Arctic Marginal Sea-Ice Zone: The Social Nature of Sea-Ice Science", at the UK Arctic Science conference (Loughborough, September 2019).

In late September 2019, Laura visited the Norwegian Meteorological Institute in Tromsø and Oslo. The purpose of these visits was to discuss the possibility of a short-term research placement in early 2020, where she would work alongside sea-ice scientists engaged in the monitoring and reporting of Arctic sea-ice conditions. During the placement, she would also carry out her fieldwork through the method of participant observation. Following positive discussions, a 2-month placement commencing in February 2020, was confirmed at the headquarters in Oslo. Discussions are also underway for a second placement of a similar nature, at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, Colorado, for the summer of 2020.