

Leader

Into the Open Access World

Number 2 of volume 5 of *Arctic Review on Law and Politics*, which you now hold in your hands, marks an end of a period of the journal. The first five volumes of the journal were traditionally published according to the demands of subscriptions. Publishing has been done in an excellent manner by *Gyldendal*, which has consolidated the review as an international academic journal. From 2015 the Faculty of Law at *University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway* will take over the economic responsibility for publishing the journal. This necessitates a new tender process for the publishing of this journal which will be clarified soon. Included in the change of publishing responsibility lies an agreement saying that the journal will progress from being subscription based to an Open Access journal.

With these changes *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* will get a solid economic foundation. And more important, the journal will be much easier to access worldwide. With a few keystrokes on a computer, pad or smartphone the articles, the news and academic debates will be available for researchers, policy makers and the civic-minded people. In such a manner, the journal will be better fulfilling the goal to provide new insight and deeper understanding of topics related to the Arctic and the High North as a forum for academic debate on law, social sciences and sustainable development.

Energy policy, petroleum activities and safety are central to the debate on the development of the Arctic and the north and raise a number of questions in the frames of law and social sciences. In this issue we are pleased to offer readers several interesting articles on such topics. Initially, we present an article on geopolitics and international governance in the Arctic by the two well-established scholars *Øyvind Østerud* and *Geir Hønneland*. They are examining the changed view on the Arctic in international research literature, from a zone for military conflicts to an area for

international collaboration and again back to a source for conflicts - this time for natural resources such as oil and gas.

Maria Madalena das Neves analyses electricity interconnection and trade between Norway and Russia where she provides an outline of the existing system and examines the potential for reinforcing those arrangements, as well as the concomitant social, political and legal challenges; A topic which has become even more relevant as a result of international developments during the past year.

Berit Kristoffersen and *Brigt Dale* examine post Petroleum Security in Lofoten in relation to identity matters, where they discuss how Lofoten has been put on the petroleum map as one of the last petroleum frontiers, and conclude that an analysis including identity as a variable can inform international debates concerning the 'opening' of the circumpolar Arctic for extractive industries.

Kristian Cedervall Lauta investigates the Arctic Council's new Agreement on the response to marine oil pollution in the Arctic Region, concluding that the Agreement, rather than being considered an innovative new legal tool, properly is best understood as a symbolic token of the Arctic Council's willingness to discuss the problems associated with the present plans on resource exploitation in the Arctic.

Arctic Review on Law and Politics would not have been what it is if it were not for quality discussions on indigenous peoples rights. We are therefore glad to present an article on the dynamics of multilevel governance in Nunavut by *Thierry Rodon*, where he analyses the authority and legitimacy of these levels of governance and the impacts of this system on Nunavut public policies and access to resource development revenues.

In addition, we are pleased to provide an interesting book review by Grace Li Xiu Woo. Pleasant reading!

Øyvind Ravna