

## The third issue of *Arctic Review on Law and Politics*

The third issue of *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* marks one year since the journal was launched on 14 April 2010 at Akademisk kvarter in Tromsø. Over the year the journal has passed two key milestones. First, on 2 June the same year, shortly after the first issue became available to our readers, the journal was nominated as a scientific journal by the *Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)*, receiving that accreditation from the *Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR)* on 24 August 2010. This event was not entirely unexpected, but was gratefully received as confirmation of the status of the journal and its thorough review procedure. And second, late in the autumn of 2010, the journal was evaluated by the *Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and the Social Sciences (NOPHS)*, in connection with an application for funding. *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* was subjected to peer-assessment and given an excellent evaluation, which also assured that our eminent publisher, *Gyldendal Academic*, received funding for their production costs.

This third issue of *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* is the first comprised entirely of individually-submitted articles rather than contributions from thematic conferences. High-caliber articles on law and social sciences have been offered by prominent scholars from different parts of the northern hemisphere on their own initiative, indicating that the aim of the journal – to provide new knowledge, and a deeper understanding of issues in legal and social sciences related to the Arctic, and thus become a forum for academic discussion on sustainable development in the North – is well on the way to being achieved.

It also confirms that the rather daring idea to launch a new journal of law and social sciences amongst the large number of such periodicals already in publication has been a success. Without association otherwise, I compare this issue with the third album by a new rock band. After launching the two first albums they then face the difficulty of creating more unique and expressive lyrics and music.

Only when the third album has been well received is the band truly established in its own identity.

This issue of *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* is far from lacking «expressive lyrics.» It is composed as every good issue of the journal should be, with four solid peer-reviewed articles from different countries, evenly divided between the social and legal sciences, where all have a Northern focus. That there are four rather than six peer-reviewed articles in this issue is not a result of too few contributions, but rather because we strive to limit ourselves to the agreed scope of 120 pages per issue.

*Claudia Cinelli* from the University of Seville, Spain, provides expert discussion of the law of the sea in relation to the Arctic Ocean. She points out that the five Arctic coastal states have strengthened their presence in the Arctic in order to protect their particular interests, and outlines norms that uphold their peaceful coexistence and cooperation. In particular, she cites the maritime delimitation treaty between Norway and Russia as a good example.

*Alastair Campbell, Terry Fenge* and *Udloriak Hanson* have all been either full- or part-time employees of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, in Canada. In their in-depth article they examine the implementation of the 1993 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in the Canadian High North, finding that although much has been accomplished through the Agreement, huge challenges remain: the success of the Agreement requires a firm and enduring partnership between the Inuit of Nunavut and the governments of both Canada and Nunavut. This excellent article has broad implications for other indigenous peoples.

*Mikkel Berg-Nordlie* from the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Norway, analyzes the situation of the Sámi people on the Kola Peninsula in Northern Russia. He describes activism in Russia aimed at reforming indigenous policy through the adoption of a foreign model – a Nordic-type elected Sámi Parliament.

*Eivind Torp* from Mid Sweden University in Östersund, discusses the status of Sámi customs and traditions in Swedish law, evaluating three court cases involving customary law and traditions dating «from time immemorial.» He points out the shifting importance of Sámi customs and traditions with regard to reindeer herding rights and Swedish law.

This issue also includes two book reviews written by *Leiv Bjarte Mjøs* and *Gunnar Nerdrum*. The latter review is a thorough examination of the first complete monograph on indigenous small-numbered peoples in Russian law. Under the rubric *Debate on Arctic Law and Politics*, the issue offers two short, non-peer reviewed articles. The first one is a particularly interesting article written by *Veli-Pekka Lehtola* and *Leif Rantala* about a proposal dating from the late 1940s to form a

common Sámi republic covering all Sámi areas in Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Soviet Union. The second one, written by the editor-in-chief, highlights some issues concerning Norway in the recently published UN report on the situation of the Sámi people in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

A peer-reviewed academic journal cannot exist without the support of qualified individuals to provide critical assessment. *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* is ranked and already well-established as an academic journal, an important recognition of the wide selection of outstanding scholars who have donated their own time to review articles for our journal – we are most grateful, and our thanks to each and every one of you.

Finally, contributions from our Russian colleagues represent an area of priority for *Arctic Review on Law and Politics*. Therefore, we have expanded our editorial staff and now welcome *Elena Shinkareva* as an additional national editor from Russia.

And we would like to thank all our readers for their continued support.

Now it is time to wish you exciting, inspiring reading!

*Øyvind Ravna*