

Leader

The significance of Indigenous issues

Arctic Review on Law and Politics has experienced increased demand from scholars wanting to publish their articles in the journal during the last year. This shows not only that there is a growing interests in the matters of law and social sciences concerning the Arctic, but that there is a need for an academic journal focusing on such matters and that the *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* is responding to that need in a way acceptable to the academic society. The increased influx of manuscripts translates to a greater volume and variety of articles from which to choose and thus a rise in the quality of publications. Despite the growing demands resulting from this increase, the editors will continue to strive for a fast and efficient editorial handling of manuscripts appearing on their desks.

The first issue of *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* back in 2010 was dedicated to the indigenous peoples' right to fisheries in coastal waters. Indigenous issues, both of social and legal character, have through the journal's existence constituted a substantial part of its peer-reviewed articles. This is not surprising as most of the circumpolar areas are homelands for Indigenous peoples and Indigenous Issues have a prominent place when political questions related to the Arctic and sub-Arctic areas are put on the agenda. This is one of the reasons for the indigenous *Permanent Participants* in the Arctic Council, where important issues for the future of Arctic development cannot be discussed without consulting and considering the interests of the indigenous peoples.

However, questions remain as to what extent the commitments to indigenous people are upheld among the Arctic states, the control granted to indigenous non-governmental organizations, and the recognition of indigenous property rights where disputes arise concerning the access of extractive oil, gas, and mineral industries to resources on indigenous peoples' traditional lands .

The significance of Indigenous issues is reflected in the articles we are pleased to present in this issue of *Arctic Review on Law and Politics*.

Professor *Vladimir A. Kryazhkov*, arguably the scholar who has been working deepest with indigenous people's rights in the Russian High North, is analyzing the development of the Russian legislation on the rights of the Northern Indigenous people, where he identifies the phases of development of the legislation and formulates proposals for improvements.

Professor *Ghislain Otis*, who holds the Canadian Research Chair on Indigenous Peoples and Legal Diversity, presents together with PhD Candidate *Aurélie Laurent*, an article on Indigenous land claims in Europe, where the authors are analyzing The European Court of Human Rights practice, and arguing that the new decolonized approach to property should be adopted by the Court in its interpretation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 of the European Convention.

Grace Li Xiu Woo, Lawyers Rights Watch Canada, presents an analysis of Decolonization and Canada's Idle No More Movement, where she is arguing that the goal of correcting endemic injustices and reinvigorating democracy will require a full re-evaluation of Canada's colonial past.

Research fellow *Leena Heinämäki* and Professor *Thora Martina Herrmann* analyze the issue of the sacred natural sites of arctic Indigenous Peoples as a part of their right to enjoy their cultures, where they discuss the role of international law as well as sui generis processes inside the sub-Arctic and Arctic regions in relation to protection and conservation of such sites.

Finally, Senior Research Fellow *Svein Vigeland Rottem* presents an article not connected with indigenous issues, but no less interesting. He analyzes the architecture of security in the Arctic related to Norway, predicting a future civilized Arctic relations with softer national security challenges. However, international security, regional security, and defense interests will continue to be important.

Good reading!

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