

**INUIT CULTURES, GOVERNANCE AND COSMOPOLITICS**

**9th Seminar of the International PhD School for Studies of Arctic Societies (IPSSAS)**

**Canada 2013**

**Preliminary dates: May 16-27, 2013.**

Hosted by Université Laval, Québec, Canada

**Theme Description**

In Greenland, Labrador, Nunavut and Alaska, and also in more southern urban areas, Inuit have been continually stressing the importance of mutual respect of values, languages and traditions. Now with the growing geopolitical importance of the North, Arctic peoples must maintain a continuous dialogue with non-northerners to ensure their own well-being. In Canada, such an issue was brought to the forefront by a recent report entitled *Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq* and published in October 2010, by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association of Nunavut (QIA). In its report, QIA recommends that, due to the dramatic changes in their way of life over the last half-century (cf. settling process, forced relocations, dog’s killing, etc.), Inuit and non-Inuit (Qallunaat) should now begin a new relationship of saimaqatigiingniq, in which the two sides meet in the middle and are reconciled. But how can such a goal be achieved?

Requests have been tabled, relating to: the awareness and acknowledgment of past wrongs, a commitment collaboration, and a reconciliation of Inuit and Qallunaat views with the goal of strengthening of Inuit cultures, languages and governance. In Alaska, Yup’ik and Inupiaq peoples have been empowered for many years (see the revitalization of the whale hunts) to decide about their own future, especially in terms of economic resources. In Greenland such a debate is raised with respect to education and the future of the Self Government. In Nunavut, Inuit bring forward the notion of Inuit *qaujimajatuqangit* in order to incorporate their language, practises and values into the new government institutions. In Nunavik and Nunatsiavut, and amongst the Inuvialuit, governance and political issues are now clearly a new challenge for the future. They are essential to the implementation of the famous Plan Nord by both the Canadian and Quebec governments.
Everywhere in the Arctic resilience is at work at different levels: from language initiatives to political autonomy, from preserving local traditions and heritage to the design of new regulations, from the diffusion of a new imagery of the North to economic development and education, etc. Everywhere, Arctic peoples claim that they should have the modern supports and services to achieve their political and socioeconomic development, hoping to build healthy and strong communities able to benefit from the better of the two systems.

But how can such a project be realized? Who are the leading voices? Where are the converging points and the cultural obstacles? To what extent is this orientation really defended by postcolonial and regional governments? Is it original or just the continuity of a historical longstanding process of resistance and adaptation in the circumpolar north? Is it feasible or is it a utopian dream?

The next IPSSAS seminar will discuss all these issues in detail and welcome contributions from all the Arctic regions from Greenland to Siberia and in very different fields such as history, anthropology, language but also politics, economy, religion, geography, etc.

Results will be considered for a double issue of Études Inuit Studies to be published in 2014. We invite interested contributors to take the circumpolar Arctic as a field of experiences and discuss various case studies connecting their discussion to the theoretical work of Isabelle Stengers, Ulrich Beck, Philippe Descola, Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, Bruno Latour and many others who use notions such as cosmopolitics, “cultural diplomacy”, “compromising” or “compositioning”.

**Application:**
Information about application is available at the IPSSAS website: <http://webarkiv.hum.ku.dk/ipssas/applicationquebec2013.htm>

**Eligibility:**
We invite graduate students working on arctic issues, based in university institutions worldwide, to participate in this session. PhD students will be given priority.

**Course Credit Equivalent:**
3 North American credits or equivalent in European institutions.

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