

REFLECTIONS ON THE DIRECTIONS OF ARCTIC ADAPTATION RESEARCH

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WHAT ARE WE ADAPTING TO?

- Moderate and reasonably predictable changes in climate?
 - Possible to prepare and plan for adaptation
 - Better scenarios of future climate changes and their potential impacts
- Overshoot scenarios where emission trajectories do not bend in time to avoid major changes in the climate?
 - New EU project starting September 2021: Paris Agreement Overshooting – Reversibility, Climate Impacts and Adaptation Needs (PROVIDE)

WHAT ARE WE ADAPTING TO?

- Unavoidable uncertainties about extent of future climate change and its impacts?
 - Need for adaptive capacity and general resilience:
 - *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic* (2017)
 - *Arctic Resilience Report* (2016)
 - Societal factors increasingly in focus:
 - Capacity for learning
 - Decision challenges across governance levels
 - Conflict resolution

WHAT ARE WE ADAPTING TO?

- Climate policies and a shift away from fossil energy?
 - Less demands for hydrocarbon but growing need for wind power, hydro(?) and metals
 - Competition for land
 - Shifting job markets
 - Conflicting discourses on sustainable development
- Interacting drivers of change with impacts across scales?
 - Migration, power shifts, changes in life styles and norms ...
 - Multiple pressures

WHO IS ADAPTING?

- Rural livelihoods?
 - Changing ecosystems
 - Resource management
 - Adaptive co-management
 - Urban areas?
 - Heat waves
 - Drainage
 - Socio-economic vulnerabilities
 - Specific sectors?
- FACE-IT about Arctic biodiversity and livelihoods in fjord system: with social-science driven case studies in Greenland, Svalbard and northern Norway
 - PROVIDE, with one case study in Bodø, Norway
 - FACE-IT: fisheries and tourism

IMPLICATIONS FOR ARCTIC ADAPTATION RESEARCH

- Less Arctic?
- Long term change and system shifts: How today's adaptation affect for future capacities to adapt. When do we need to completely rethink current solutions?
- More complex and potentially more political
- Need for broader social science and humanities initiatives

- Combine with demands for stakeholder engagement and co-production of knowledge
- Combine with Arctic politics/science diplomacy

