

The Technoscience Research Group at the Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University, extended annual report for 2014

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The Technoscience research group assembles scholars, professionals, artists and reindeer herders, political decision makers, associations and activists in supradisciplinary collaborations. Collaboration with UPPSAM, the association/network for Sámi related research in Uppsala, forms an important part of the ongoing work as well as with members of the Sámi Parliament, national Sámi associations and local Sámi association such as the Stockholm Sámi association and Silbonah Sámi sijdda. The research group works through symposiums, seminars, road trips, visits, exhibitions, social media exchange and workshops in different locations. Our work has developed from two major research projects “Dammed: Security, risk and resilience around the dams of sub-Arctica” (Swedish Research Council, 2010-2012) and “Rivers, Resistance, Resilience: Sustainable futures in Sápmi and in other Indigenous Peoples’ Territories”, (FORMAS, 2012-2015) led by Dr. May-Britt Öhman, who herself is Forest/Lule Sámi of the Lule river valley. We draw on epistemologies, methodologies and approaches from gender research, feminist technoscience, Sámi traditional knowledges, indigenous methodologies, indigenous standpoint theory and theories of and methods for decolonization.

The researchers both analyze and challenge values, power relations and control in relation to technoscience, i.e. society, environment, waterscapes, landscapes and human and non-human bodies. A particular focus is on the Sámi, and Sámi peoples’ own specific contexts and memories. Collaboration with Indigenous scholars, Indigenous allies, communities and minorities around the world forms an integral part of our work.

We address issues regarding environment, health, human security, risk, safety, human-animal relationships, waterscapes, memories, history, decolonization, healing from trauma, functionalities, bodies, technological infrastructures, ecological innovation.

The majority of the members of the research group are located outside the Centre for Gender Research. From September 2014, Dr. Gunilla Larsson joined the Technoscience research group funded by the Rivers, Resistance, Resilience funding combined with a one month grant from the Centre for Gender Research.

In 2014 the research group has engaged in and organized several of activities:

Workshop

February 3-9, the workshop “Beyond the mining depletion: Sustainable futures in Jokkmokk through collaboration between research, culture, business, Sámi traditions and knowledge” - Bortom gruvTäringen: Hållbara framtider i Jokkmokk genom samverkan mellan forskning, kultur, näringsliv, samiska traditioner och kunskap- was organised in Jokkmokk. The participants were Dr. Gunilla Larsson, Dr. Eva-Lotta Thunqvist, Prof. Hiroshi Maruyama, and Dr. May-Britt Öhman. Photographer Tor Lundberg Tuorda guided the group to Gállok – Kallak. On February 5th a one day workshop with presentations by Jörgen Jonsson, president of the Swedish National Saami association, photographer Tor Lundberg Tuorda, Prof. Hiroshi Maruyama, Sara H Lahtinen, Johanna Lindberg, Jolimont, Eva-Lotta Thunqvist and Sonja Kuoljok, speaking about the issues for reindeer herding in Jokkmokk. Around 30 persons attended this workshop day. The research group also attended the Jokkmokk Wintermarket cultural program with amongst other a yoik concert with Jörgen Stenberg. Finally, some of the participants of the research

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group attended the manifestation against mining in Jokkmokk and held short speeches.

The workshop was supported by the UU Innovation, which is Uppsala University's organization for collaboration with the business community regarding both research and direct commercialization of results and ideas.

Exhibition

The exhibition "Gállok: Om gruvan kommer. En fråga om framtiden i Lule älvdal" (Gállok: If the mine comes. A question regarding the future in the Lule river valley" was a collaboration between the Technoscience research group, Centre for Gender research, UU; KTH, the Centre for Health and Buildings (Eva-Lotta Thunqvist Techn.Dr.); the network "Gruvfritt Jokkmokk" (Mining free Jokkmokk), the association "Urberggruppen Jokkmokk", with posters, poems, and rolling slideshows with daily life images from reindeer herding and the Gállok protests of 2013. Images for the slideshows were provided by Slakka forest Sámi reindeer community (sameby), Jonas Vannar, Sirges sameby and Gällivare forest sameby, Henrik Andersson in collaboration with the filmmaker Petri Storlöpare.

The exhibition was on display at the public library in Luleå (Luleå Stadsbibliotek) from April 28 to May 25, and a smaller part of it was brought to Umeå, the Umeå Sámi association, Tráhppie from Sept. 4 to 27. An online version with parts of the exhibition was produced, "Gállok Magazine".

Symposium

The UPPSAM spring symposium with the title "Current issues in Sámi related research, thoughts and teaching" (Aktuellt i samiskrelaterad forskning, fundering och undervisning) was held April 28-29, in

the University main building.

Main organisers were Dr. May-Britt Öhman, for the Technoscience research group and Dr. Håkan Tunón, Centre for Biodiversity, SLU/UU. There were around 30 participants, scholars and also from the Swedish National Sámi association, the president Jörgen Jonsson, and also participants from the Swedish Sámi Parliament, and Henrik Andersson, reindeer herder from Gällivare Forest Sámi community. The UPPSAM annual meeting was held on April 28th, and May-Britt Öhman was then elected president of UPPSAM for one year ahead and Gunilla Larsson was elected member of the UPPSAM board.

After the symposium a satellite event with film was organized by the Technoscience research group; "HUKSO!" which means "care" in Lule Sámi. Two films were screened "Den Sista Generationen?" (2014) – "The Last Generation?" by Petri Storlöpare, a documentary with reindeer herder Henrik Andersson, about the realities of reindeer herding within an aggressive colonial Swedish state and the struggle to be able to continue.

The second film was Jorinda's journey (Jorindas resa, 2014) by filmmaker Liselotte Wajstedt. It is a fiction, a feminist film, in Sámi territory about a young girl and her experiences of abuse and struggle to go on, to heal.

Both screenings were followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, Liselotte Wajstedt, and Petri Storlöpare and Henrik Andersson.

Road trips, field studies and participation in specific events

In March May-Britt Öhman along with Agneta Silversparf, Silbonah Samesijdda attended the Sámi week in Umeå. We visited the exhibition "Nammaláhpán", by Katarina Pirak Sikku, showing Sámi perspectives on racial biology, we attended the Umeå international literature festival, Littfest where on Sámi activism was a

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particular theme and the seminar with Suohpanterror, the Sámi artistic activist group represented by Jenny Laiti and Anders Sunna. We also attended the defence by Åsa Össbo, Umeå University of her PhD thesis “New Waters, Reflections of Obscurity. Industrial Colonialism through the Swedish Hydropower Development in the Reindeer Herding Areas 1910-1968”, on March 14.

Two road trips were made. The first started on July 7th, with Dr. Eva-Lotta Thunqvist, Agneta Silversparf and May-Britt Öhman, starting from Luleå- Luleju meeting with Stefan Mikaelsson, president of the Sámi Parliament, near his home, in Harads-Hárált then passing by forest Sámi reindeer herding lands and Pálkem and then arriving at Gällivare- Jiellevárre or Váhtjer in Lule Sámi. We visited the LKAB mining exhibition and then was kindly offered tour to Aitik copper mine and tailing dams. We also visited Malmberget – Málmavárre and area where the huge hole that has appeared from iron mining. Our tour then continued to Jukkasjärvi, where we stayed at the Nutti Sámi Sida. From there we visited Kiruna – Giron, to see the city in transition. We also met with artist Liselotte Wajstedt. On the way back to Luleju we stopped at the mine at Mertainen.

The second tour, from July 29 to August 4, was made by May-Britt Öhman along with Stefan Mikaelsson, President of the Sámi Parliament. Starting from Luleå – Luleju we travelled to Adak, Laggräsket and visited Li Lindström, studying impacts from windpower and hydropower on the way. We then continued following the inland roads to Tärnaby – Dearn, where Professor Hiroshi Maruyama, Muroran Institute of Technology, Hokkaido, Japan, joined us. We attended the Sámi cultural festival Björkvattsfestivalen organized by the Sámi association Vaapsten Sijte. We met with the Sámi parliamentarian and environmental activist Marie Persson who

showed us the area of planned nickel mining site. We also met with Inger Baer Omma who guided us to see the impacts of hydropower on reindeer herding for the Vapsten Sámi community (sameby). Hiroshi Maruyama also visited the Sámi language centre, guided by Anders Östergren, språkkonsulent/language consultant.



[From roadtrip to Dearn – Tärnaby. Wind power and hydropower in Västerbotten. Photo: M-B Öhman]

September 16 to 21, Gunilla Larsson and May-Britt Öhman made an archeological investigation on Forest Sámi territory in Jokkmokk. Amongst other we located and visited the abandoned Forest Sámi remains at Koivovallen, and also identified 4000 year old remains along with Forest Sámi milking places. A discussion and knowledge exchange seminar was held with local reindeer herders with immense knowledge of the territory and consultations were made with other local inhabitants.

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We had a hard time finding Koivo forest Sámi residence. But at last we did.

Finally, November 13, the research group attended the concert by the upcoming Sámi artist Jon-Henrik Fjällgren, at Södra teatern, Stockholm: Gunilla Larsson, Agneta Silversparf, May-Britt Öhman, Markus Nyström, Åsa Viridi Kroik and Ande Somy, University of Tromsø, attended.

Key note panel at the National Gender Conference, G14

The Technoscience research group was invited to organize a Sámi key note panel at the National gender conference, G14 in Umeå, November 26-28. The panel was named “Inför lif eller död?": 1010 år av samisk feministisk kamp (Facing life or death? 1010 years of Sámi feminist struggle). The participants were May-Britt Öhman, who talked about the erasure of Sámi history in Swedish academic and gender studies context, Gunilla Larsson presenting on archeological findings and interpretation of Sámi remains, Ellacarin Blind, cultural secretary of the National Saami Association, SSR, presenting on the Swedish legislation on reindeer herding which is highly gender unequal. The artist Katarina Pirak Sikku spoke about her work on racial biology from a Sámi perspective. Two yoikers and reindeer herding women from the region participated, Sara-Helén Persson and Sara Ajnnak. They opened the panel with yoik and also talked about issues in regard to reindeer herding and equal rights. The session was moderated by Professor Hillevi Ganetz, Institution for Gender Research at Stockholm University.

Book release

June 18th, a “RE:Release” was organized of the supradisciplinary anthology RE: Mindings: co-constituting indigenous / academic / artistic knowledges, eds Gärdebo, J. Öhman, M-B & Maruyama, H. Uppsala: Hugo Valentin Centre (HVC), 2014 along with the UPPSAM summer gathering, at the Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University, Villavägen 6, between 14.00-16.00. RE-Mindings is based on papers presented at the Supradisciplinary feminist technoscience symposium organized in October 2012.

Seminar organization:

The research group organized the seminar with the title:

From my experience of having lost two mothers: On dying after living with dementia from a second-person perspective of a Japanese philosophical researcher with Professor Shinji Hamauzu., Ethics and Clinical Philosophy, Osaka University, Japan, October 10th, 13-15 at the Centre for Gender Research, Villavägen 6, Uppsala.

Invited presentations and conference participation:

Thunqvist, E-L. (2014). Dammsäkerhet vid gruvor (Dam safety at mines), invited presentation at Gruvor i fokus (Focus on Mining), February 28-March 1, organised by Gränna ARV (Aktion Rädde Vättern), ABF, Gränna skogsgrupp, Naturskyddsföreningen, Studieförbundet, SV, Visingsö Näringslivsförening, Visingsö-rådet, WWF, Upplev Omberg, Gränna Kulturgård, Gränna, Sweden.

Öhman, M-B. (2014). “Inför lif eller död?": 1010 år av samisk feministisk kamp, (Facing life or death? 1010 years of Sámi feminist struggle). Key Note at National gender conference, G14, November 26-28, Umeå, Sweden.

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Öhman, M-B. (2014). Colonization and racism traumas: Strategies for re-claiming and healing my Sámi body and our Sámi history, culture, traditions and rights to live. Conference presentation at Gender, Body, Health – in the Anthropocene, the 8th Annual Conference of the Nordic Network Gender, Body, Health. November 18-19, at the Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Öhman, M-B. (2014). Writing and teaching to re-claim and heal my own Sámi body and our Sámi history, culture, traditions and rights to live. Invited presentation at Feminist Postcolonial Science and Technology Studies: Instigations, Interrogations and New Developments Institute for Research on Women & Gender. October 2-5. Institute for Research on Women & Gender, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, US.

Öhman, M-B. (2014). Designing for Dam safety or for Disasters: Mining Exploitations and Hydropower Regulated Systems in Sábmme, Sweden. Invited presentation at Technology and Social Change seminar, October 29, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden.

Öhman, M-B, with Palo, M and Thunqvist, E-L. (2014): Public participation, Human Security and Public Safety around Dams in Sweden: A case study of the regulated Ume and Lule Rivers. Peer reviewed paper at International symposium on Dams in a global environmental challenge, International Commission of Large Dams, ICOLD. June 1-6. Bali, Indonesia.

Öhman, M-B. (2014). Kautokeino - Alta - Gállok: Civil disobedience and Indigenous peoples struggle for 'human security' and the right to a sustainable future. Invited presentation at Cultural resilience and human rights, March 3-4, Arctic Centre,

University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland.

Öhman, M-B. (2014). Samernas rätt till överlevnad: Om kampen i Gállok (Kallak), kolonisation, gruvor, vatten, urfolk och det pågående arbetet för avkolonisation (The Sámi people's right to survival: About the struggle in Gállok (Kallak), colonization, mining, water, Indigenous peoples and ongoing work for decolonization) an invited presentation at Framtidsakademin, Uppsala stadsbibliotek, organised by CEMUS. February 26. Uppsala, Sweden.

Öhman, M-B. (2014) "Historical Perspectives on Electricity Generation in Africa – Swedish Hydropower Constructions in Tanzania in the Era of Development Assistance, 1960s – 1990s. Invited lecture at the Lecture series Energy in Development, January 21. Technical University of Berlin, Center for Technology and Society (CTS), Berlin, Germany.