



ENERGY GEOGRAPHIES RESEARCH GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Postgraduate and early career researcher workshop
7th - 8th December 2015

Michael J Laiho, 2nd Year PhD student – Department of Geography, Durham University :

FOUCAULT'S ARCHAEOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE AS A FRAMEWORK TO EXPLORE THE EU'S ARCTIC POLICY: "GEOGRAPHIES OF CARBON" AS A CONSTRUCTION OF ARCTIC SPACE?

A black and white photograph of a person walking on a curved, metallic structure, possibly a bridge or a large architectural element. The structure is illuminated from above, creating a bright path along its curve. The background is a dark, clear sky. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.

hmm... I have an idea :)

WHAT I WANT TO DO...

ABSTRACT – PART 1

SEVERAL SCHOLARS STUDYING GLOBAL POLITICS, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE CANON OF EU STUDIES, HAVE CRITIQUED THE EU'S POTENTIAL FOR ACTION WITHIN THE REALM OF ARCTIC GEOPOLITICS. AT THE SAME TIME AS THE EU PREPARES FOR INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENTS AT THE COP21 IN PARIS THE EU IS ALSO REVISING IT'S 2008 COMMUNICATION ON THE ARCTIC REGION, WHICH IS SPLIT INTO THREE PRIORITY CATEGORIES: TO SAFEGUARD THE HUMAN AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT; TO DEVELOP RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY; AND TO COOPERATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

ABSTRACT — PART 2

TODAY'S CONSENSUS APPEARS TO FOLLOW A REALIST PERSPECTIVE, WHICH MIGHT BE SUMMARISED AS THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF POLICY MAKING: AN INDISPUTABLE MECHANISM OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENTS THAT ARE TYPICALLY ALIGNED WITH RESPECTIVE MEMBER STATES OR IDEOLOGICAL FACTIONS IN ORDER TO SOLVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, THIS PAPER ADVOCATES A POST-STRUCTURAL APPROACH TO DECONSTRUCT THE EU'S POLICY MAKING MECHANISM, WITH THE AIM TO EXPLORE THE EU'S RELATION TO ARCTIC SPACE FROM ANOTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK, NAMELY MICHEL FOUCAULT'S ARCHAEOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE.

WHAT DOES MY DATA LOOK LIKE?

25 INTERVIEWS...

POLITICAL DISCOURSE

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE

INDUSTRY DISCOURSE

+ 1 ARCHIVE OF EU POLICY DOCUMENTS AS A CONSTANT VARIABLE...

+ GROUNDED THEORY =

CARBON EMISSIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE SECURITY

CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATOR



RELATION TO ENERGY?

HYDROCARBONS
ENERGY SECURITY
RESOURCE FRONTIER

ABSTRACT — PART 3

IN DOING SO, THIS PAPER SHEDS LIGHT ON TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY IN RELATION TO KNOWING THE MATERIAL WORLD IN VARIOUS FORMS OF 'CARBON,' WHICH HAS TYPICALLY LED TO THE DISCOVERY AND EXTRACTION OF HYDROCARBON RESOURCES AND, MORE RECENTLY, THE REDUCTION OF CARBON EMISSIONS AS A RESULT OF FOSSIL FUEL CONSUMPTION. DISCOURSE IS THEREFORE CRITIQUED MORE WIDELY, NOT AS A INDISPUTABLE 'TRUTH,' BUT AS COMPETING PERSPECTIVES EMERGING ACROSS TIME AND SPACE. EU ARCTIC POLICY IS ARGUED TO HAVE EMERGED FROM 'GRAND-NARRATIVES' OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, WHICH FRAME THE VERY UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARCTIC REGION IN RELATION TO EUROPEAN SECURITY.