

## Three suggested student sub-projects for the PhD studentship in Human-Animal Relations in the Circumpolar North

Although we will welcome any student project that fits within the description of the project, or indeed in any region of the North, these three examples give an idea of the empirical settings and theoretical range of projects that would help the work underway at the present time.

Invisible Partners The ethnographic literature traditionally divides northern societies into the categories of hunters or herders. However in every ethnographic setting much more complex relationships are enacted. In Northwestern Eurasia reindeer herding would be impossible without the work of dogs who are mostly invisible in the existing literature. In the North American Arctic wildlife management discourse builds up the agriculturalist idea of the 'predator' who decimates 'stocks' while local hunters often respect the skills of animal 'tidiers' who hunt the same populations as humans. The documentation of these invisible partners is based on a thorough review of the literature and ethnographic fieldwork.

Designer Species Arctic animal populations are often characterised as being 'non-quite domestic' or 'semi-wild', and today the forefront of a laboratory onslaught to create properly domestic types. Among the newly designed domesticated are salmon, the focus of one of the most profitable industries. However one can also find pedigree species of reindeer or sled dogs often designed along ethnic prototypes. This project will work closely with laboratory workers to try to understand the criteria used when designing a new northern species but also will put this type of domestication in a critical context.

Disenchantment The literature on human-animal relationships in anthropology revolves around the idea of animal 'personhood' and commensal giving relationships between hunters and prey animals. While there has always been a romantic quality to this literature, recent ethnographic reports from around the Arctic report hunters losing patience with their prey or omitting rituals under the pressure of time, industrial impacts, and money. This PhD project would investigate this quality of 'disenchantment' in the ethnography both through interviews in northern communities and with professional anthropologists who have crafted these models in the past.