Some remarks about political relevance of (doing) Arctic research in non-Arctic nations

Michał Łuszczuk
Political relevance of Arctic research in non-Arctic nations

13 non-Arctic states as “Arctic Council Observers”

1. **France** - Barrow Ministerial meeting, 2000
2. **Germany** - Iqaluit Ministerial meeting, 1998*
3. **Italian Republic** - Kiruna Ministerial meeting, 2013
4. **Japan** - Kiruna Ministerial meeting, 2013*
5. **The Netherlands** - Iqaluit Ministerial meeting, 1998*
7. **Poland** - Iqaluit Ministerial meeting, 1998*
8. **Republic of India** - Kiruna Ministerial meeting, 2013
11. **Spain** - Salekhard Ministerial meeting, 2006
12. **Switzerland** - Fairbanks Ministerial meeting, 2017
13. **United Kingdom** - Iqaluit Ministerial meeting, 1998*
Political relevance of Arctic research in non-Arctic nations

15 non-Arctic states as IASC members (23)

1. Austria  
2. China  
3. Czech Republic  
4. France  
5. Germany  
6. India  
7. Italy  
8. Japan  
9. The Netherlands  
10. Poland  
11. Portugal  
12. Republic of Korea  
13. Spain  
14. Switzerland  
15. United Kingdom
19 non-Arctic states at Arctic Science Ministerials

1. Australia*
2. Austria
3. Belgium
4. China
5. Czech Republic*
6. France
7. Germany
8. India*
9. Italy
10. Japan,
11. Republic of Korea,
12. The Netherlands,
13. New Zealand*
14. Poland,
15. Portugal,
16. Singapore,
17. Spain,
18. Switzerland
19. UK

* - not signed Joint Statement in 2018
Political relevance of Arctic research in non-Arctic nations

GLOBAL ARCTIC ➔ all non-Arctic actors as “Arctic stakeholders”?

http://www.arcticcircle.org/
IASC is a non-governmental scientific organization established to encourage and facilitate international consultation and cooperation for scientific research concerned with the Arctic.

http://www.arcticcircle.org/
Science and politics are/should be disconnected

Sciency policy, R&D policy & science diplomacy

Science is Politics by Other Means. B. Latour

Political relevance of Arctic research in non-Arctic nations
Non-Arctic Arctic research
Non-Arctic Arctic research
What interests, what engagement of non-Arctic nations in the Arctic?
Oran R. Young in: Kraska, 2011

• (...) non-Arctic players are expressing a growing interest in Arctic affairs through initiatives ranging from high-profile research programs to the development of explicit Arctic policies.

• Naturally, these initiatives are couched in diplomatic language emphasizing the importance of sustainable development, the welfare of the Arctic’s indigenous peoples, and, more generally, the pursuit of good governance in the Arctic.

• However, this cannot conceal the fact that the non-Arctic states are motivated to a considerable degree by the attractions of exploiting the Arctic’s natural resources and of taking advantage of opportunities for commercial shipping in the region.
Arctic Strategies of the EU and Non-Arctic States: Identifying Some Common Elements

Henning Jessen

Generally, a basic literature review confirms that non-Arctic States’ interests are predominantly sectoral and/or resource-based. At the outset, national Arctic strategies or political statements of both Arctic States and non-Arctic States are often centred on the management of global challenges, in particular relating to climate change but also to Arctic shipping (The Gordon Foundation 2011). All non-Arctic States mentioned above agree—for obvious reasons—that the freedom of navigation in Arctic waters must be maintained without any undue restrictions by coastal States.

In this context, several non-Arctic States explicitly endorse the entry into force and implementation of the IMO’s Polar Code as an instrument to be adhered to while exercising the right to freedom of navigation. Consequently, there are common policy interests of non-Arctic States, relating above all to freedom of navigation as well as the necessity of Polar research, but also to peace and security in the region and the fight against global warming.
The politics of Arctic international cooperation: Introducing a dataset on stakeholder participation in Arctic Council meetings, 1998–2015

Sebastian Knecht

Figure 3. Stakeholder participation in Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials’ meetings, 1998–2015.

Figure 4. Stakeholder participation in Arctic Council Working Group meetings (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, Sustainable Development Working Group), 1998–2015.
Conclusions

1. Political international value of doing Arctic research is recognized by all non-Arctic nations, mainly by AC observers.

2. Their scientific input is growing, however, it is not fully transfered into AC WG works.

3. Arctic research in political terms are treated instrumentally - as a foreign policy tool to achieve non-scientific aims: economic & security interests, and strong international position.