

## Russia and the "appropriation" of the Arctic

International conference

Chair of Russian-Asian Studies. Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich

Important: Please register by 2 March with the Chair of Russian-Asian Studies

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### Provisional program

#### Thursday, 12 March 2026

- 18:00–18:30 Welcome and introduction  
Russia and the Arctic. A Century of “Appropriation”? 1926-2026  
*Andreas Renner, Munich*
- 18:30–19:15 A Shift in Strategy? Russia's Arctic Policy Before and After 2022  
*Serafima Andreeva, Oslo*

#### Friday, 13 March 2026

##### Session 1 Legal appropriation of the Arctic

- 9:35–9:50 A Soviet Outpost in the Norwegian North: How the USSR built a colony on Svalbard – *Alina Bykova, Washington*
- 9:50–10:05 Russia's appropriation of the Arctic islands in the 20th century and its role in shaping the USSR's claim of jurisdiction over the NSR – *Guangmiao Xu, Shanghai*
- 10:05–10:20 The sector theory in Soviet/Russian Arctic claims and maritime delimitations  
*Marina Lomaeva, Sapporo*
- 10:20–10:45 Joint discussion of Session 1

##### Session 2 Scientific Appropriation of the Arctic

- 11:15–11:30 The Russian Geographical Society: Science, political role and instruments in shaping the Arctic into the Russian metanarrative – *Florian Vidal, Tromsø*
- 11:30–11:45 Knowing Ice: Human–Ice Relations in the Russian Arctic – *Alla Bolotova, Helsinki*
- 11:45–12:00 Back to Permafrost: Producing Knowledge of Thawing Ground from Far-Away Spitsbergen – *Anastasiya Halauniova, Durham*
- 12:00–12:25 Joint discussion of Session 2

### **Session 3 Economic Appropriation of the Arctic**

- 13:30–13:45 Co-operation, Geopolitics, and the Northern Sea Route: A. Baikalov's Vision for Siberia's Connection with the West – *Shohei Saito, Hiroshima*
- 13:45–14:00 The Ukraine War and Russian Arctic: Economic Changes and Implications – *Timo Mohr, Munich*
- 14:00–14:20 Joint discussion of Session 3

### **Session 4 Discursive Appropriation of the Arctic**

- 14:50–15:05 Framing the Frozen Frontier: Arctic Appropriation Narratives in Popular Soviet Literature – *Nelly Shulman, Jerusalem*
- 15:05–15:20 Narrative constitution of Russian Arctic identity: foreign policy and everyday perspectives – *Geir Hønneland, Oslo*
- 15:20–15:40 Joint discussion of Session 4

### **Session 5 Arctic Appropriation from a gender perspective**

- 16:10–16:25 The female side of the Arctic – contributions of unknown polar women to the exploration of the Russian High North – *Barbara Schennerlein, Dresden*
- 16:25–16:40 (Re)Claiming the Arctic through Gender attributions - Western travelers and the Soviet female Arctic pioneers of the 1930s, *Fiona Rachel Fischer, Munich*
- 16:40–17:00 Joint discussion of Session 5

## **Saturday, 14 March 2026**

### **Session 6 Arctic Appropriation from an indigenous perspective**

- 10:05–10:20 Identity-Making as Appropriation: Erasing Indigenous Identities and Constructing "Arctic Russia" from the Late Empire to the Present – *Ekaterina Zibrova, Johannesburg*
- 10:20–10:35 "Appropriation" of the Russian-based Pidgin Govorka by Indigenous People and the Soviet Functionaries on the Taimyr Peninsula: a View from the Postcolonial Studies Perspective – *Maria Momzikova, Tartu*
- 10:35–10:55 Joint discussion of Session 6

### **Session 7 Urbanisation as appropriation**

- 11:25–11:40 Ordinary life in extraordinary space: turn to normalcy in Soviet arctic urbanity in the 1950s – *Ekaterina Kalemeneva, independent scholar*
- 11:40–11:55 From Osvoenie to Dwelling: Local Re-Appropriations of Arctic External-Driven Infrastructures through Small-Scale Food Production – *Elena Davydova, Vienna*
- 11:55–12:15 Joint discussion of Session 7

**Session 8 Contemporary perspectives**

13:15–13:30 The first pillar of Russian Arctic Strategy to 2035 – the development of the Northern Sea Route as Russia’s Contemporary Geopolitical Instrument for Arctic Osvoenie – *Alma Karabeg, Tromsø*

13:30–13:45 China’s Role in Russia’s “Appropriation” of the Arctic, *Elizabeth Wishnick, New York*

13:45–14:05 Joint discussion of Session 8

14:35–15:45 **Roundtable and wrap-up discussion: Outcomes and future directions**

*Susanne Frank – Berlin*

*Julia Laius – Helsinki*

*Fujio Ohnishi – Sapporo*

*Jan Sälzer – tbc*

*Elena Vishlenkova – Munich*