

# **Politics at the Periphery: Governance in Indigenous and Remote Communities**

27 March-07 April 2017

Instructor: Adam Grydehøj

## **Course Summary**

### *Purpose:*

Although theories of governance and politics are often designed from centres of power, actual conditions are different at the periphery. Indigeneity and geographical remoteness are both characteristics that can place a community at the periphery. We will take an internationally comparative perspective by considering a wide range of specific examples from around the world to inform our discussions of issues that are relevant to Greenland. In particular, we will consider indigenous and ethnically distinct communities in China, Taiwan, Russia, Singapore, France, the USA, Indonesia, and Pacific islands as well as how they relate to national population policies, territorial disputes, natural resource exploitation and hazardous waste, environmental protection, and the maintenance of indigenous livelihoods, and concepts of development. These specific cases will help contextualise more general discussions concerning governance problems and potentials in Greenland. The course will emphasise strategies for policymaking and community development in indigenous and remote communities.

### *Contents:*

This course will introduce the key concepts of peripherality, indigeneity, and remoteness and how they relate to governance. We will begin by considering how these concepts impact governance in practice, both in terms of international relations and governance at the community level. We will problematise how discourses of remoteness and indigeneity have been used to disempower communities but will also see how these discourses can benefit communities.

We will then consider how governance at the periphery works in practice, exploring various political systems and the machinery of governance in the context of the economic, social, and political advantages and disadvantages held by peripheral communities.

We will use these initial explorations of our key concepts and of practical aspects of governance to better understand political, cultural, and economic development processes across a range of cases, with a focus on indigenous communities in China, Taiwan, and Russia but with attention paid to indigenous communities elsewhere in the world as well. How do state-led ethnic classification practices affect the ways in which groups identify themselves? How do indigenous communities interact with multinational corporations and seek to safeguard their lifestyles and livelihoods in the face of massive environmental and social change? How do indigenous communities engage in electoral politics? Who, ultimately, deserves to have a voice at the negotiating table when it comes to governing peripheral communities? How can a periphery transform into a centre?

Throughout the course, we will relate our international cases back to the situation in Greenland. Students will gain knowledge and skills that they can use in the future to guide policymaking and community development and to improve governance practice.

The course will include guest speakers: Experts on governance in remote and indigenous communities from around the world will discuss their experiences with students over Skype. Students will also undertake group activities that explore strategies for creative governance and how these can be used in practice.

*Competence Profile:*

Upon course completion, students should be able to demonstrate familiarity with key concepts regarding governance as well as a wider understanding of how peripherality, remoteness, and indigeneity affect governance. Students will have an understanding of how indigeneity and remoteness operate from an internationally comparative perspective. Students should be able to apply this knowledge to specific problems in the context of a particular community. These skills will be tested via a written exam.

## Syllabus/Reading List

- Androus, Z., & Greymorning, N. (2016). Prospects for decolonization: Critiquing the SNIJ hypothesis with Corsica and Hawai'i. *Island Studies Journal*, 11(2), 447-464.
- Baker, R. (1992). Scale and Administrative Performance: The Governance of Small States and Microstates. In Randall Baker (ed.), *Public Administration in Small and Island States*. West Hartford: Kumarian Press. 5-25.
- Baldacchino, G., & Hepburn, E. (2012). A Different Appetite for Sovereignty? Independence Movements in Subnational Island Jurisdictions. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 50(4), 555-568.
- Baldacchino, G., & Tsai, H.M. (2014). Contested Enclave Metageographies: The Offshore Islands of Taiwan. *Political Geography*, 40, 13-24.
- Barabantseva, V.E. (2009). Development as localization: Ethnic minorities in China's official discourse on the Western Development Project. *Critical Asian Studies*, 41(2), 225-254.
- Connell, J. (2016). Greenland and the Pacific Islands: An Improbable Conjunction of Development Trajectories. *Island Studies Journal*, 11(2), 465-485.
- Donahoe, B., Habeck, J.O., Halemba, A., & Sántha, I. (2008). Size and place in the construction of indigeneity in the Russian Federation. *Current Anthropology*, 49(6), 993-1020.
- Fan, M.F. (2008). Public Perceptions and the Nuclear Waste Repository on Orchid Island, Taiwan. *Public Understanding of Science*, 18(2), 167-176.
- Grydehøj, A. (2016). Toward Subnational Democracies of Scale: Tensions between Democratic Legitimacy, Legality, and Effective Governance. *Geopolitics*, 21(1), 22-42.
- Hathaway, M. (2010). The emergence of indigeneity: Public intellectuals and an indigenous space in Southwest China. *Cultural Anthropology*, 25(2), 301-333.
- Hau'ofa, E. (1994). Our Sea of Islands. *The Contemporary Pacific*, 6(1), 147.
- Kong, L., & Yeoh, B.S.A. (2003). *The Politics of Landscapes in Singapore: Constructions of 'Nation'*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press. pp. 29-50.
- Li, T.M. (2000). Articulating indigenous identity in Indonesia: Resource politics and the tribal slot. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 42(01), 149-179.
- Nadarajah, Y., & Grydehøj, A. (2016). Island studies as a decolonial project. *Island Studies Journal*, 11(2), 437-446.
- Ou, Z., & Grydehøj, A. (2017). Urban Renewal and Indigenous Ethnic Minority Communities: The Dan Fishing Community in Sanya City, Hainan Island, China.

Qian, J., & Zhu, H. (2016). Writing Tibet as Han Chinese sojourners: The discourses, practices and politics of place in an era of rapid development. *The Geographical Journal*.

Simon, S. (2010). Negotiating Power: Elections and the Constitution of Indigenous Taiwan. *American Ethnologist*, 37(4), 726-740.

Wettenhall, R. (2001). Machinery of Government in Small States: Issues, Challenges and Innovatory Capacity. *Public Organization Review*, 1(2), 167-192.

Wilson, E. (2003). Freedom and loss in a human landscape: Multinational oil exploitation and the survival of reindeer herding in north-eastern Sakhalin, the Russian Far East. *Sibirica*, 3(1), 21-48.

## Outline

Mondays at 9:15-12:00 and 13:00-15:30

Wednesdays at 9:15-12:00 and 13:00-15:30

Fridays at 9:15-12:00 and 13:00-15:30

<b>Date</b>	<b>Room nr.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
27/03-17 <b>Time: 9:15-12:00</b>		Introduction	Nadarajah & Grydehøj (2016), Hau'ofa (1994), Baldacchino & Hepburn (2012), Connell (2016)
27/03-17 <b>Time: 13:15:30</b>		Rethinking the periphery	
29/03-17 <b>Time: 9:15-12:00</b>		Disadvantages and benefits of peripherality	Baker (1992), Grydehøj (2016), Wettenhall (2001)
29/03-17 <b>Time: 13:00-15:30</b>		Political systems	
31/03-17 <b>Time: 9:15-12:00</b>		Who has a voice? 1	Androus & Greymorning (2016), Li (2000), Kong & Yeoh (2003)
31/03-17 <b>Time: 13:00-15:30</b>		Who has a voice? 2	
03/04-17 <b>Time: 9:15-12:00</b>		Governing Indigeneity in China 1	Hathaway (2010), Ou & Grydehøj (2017), Barabantseva (2009), Qian & Zhu (2016)
03/04-17 <b>Time: 13:00-15:30</b>		Governing Indigeneity in China 2	
05/04-17 <b>Time: 9:15-12:00</b>		Governing Indigeneity in Taiwan 1	Baldacchino & Tsai (2014), Fan (2008), Simon (2010)
05/04-17 <b>Time: 13:00-15:30</b>		Governing Indigeneity in Taiwan 2	
07/04-17 <b>Time: 09:15-12:00</b>		Governing Indigeneity in Russia	Donahoe et al. (2008), Wilson (2003)
07/04-17 <b>Time: 13:00-15:30</b>		Supervision	
<b>Examination:</b>		Homework assignment. Deadline: 28 April. 15 pages, excluding appendices. Internal censor.	