

A new Empire of the North: Arctic coloniality and the legacy of Ada Blackjack

This paper investigates the cultural-historical processes that connect early twentieth century Arctic colonial histories with experiences of coloniality. Ada Blackjack was the only survivor of an expedition that travelled to Wrangel Island in September 1921. An Inupiat from Nome, Blackjack had joined four Anglo-European men recruited by the Canadian anthropologist and explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson to reclaim the island for the British Crown. Although the only member of the group remotely 'at home' in the Arctic environment she was consequently accused of neglecting or even murdering a male colleague, after the rest of the men had disappeared to seek help across the ice in January 1923. As she defended herself in the press, Blackjack was framed either as a heroic 'female Robinson Crusoe' or a questionable anti-wife who had failed to assist the endeavor of building "A new Empire of the North". Linking this micro-historical episode of Arctic colonial history to the macro-historical matrix of imperial power and expansion, the paper exposes the contested nature of Arctic historiography. While illustrating the entangled nature of cultural and social memory it also explores the transformative potential of historical research that both implicates and unsettles established global narratives.

This paper was presented as part of the panel "Varieties of colonial history" at the 12th Annual Conference of the International Society for Cultural History at Tallinn University. It will be submitted for peer-review/publication in 2020.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Conference abstract | Konference abstrakt **Emner:** Arctic; History; Imperialism **Navn på konference:** Global Cultural History 12th Annual Conference of the International Society for Cultural History **Konferenceby:** Tallinn **Konferenceland:** Estonia

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Gendering memory: understanding the legacy of Josephine Diebitsch-Peary

Colonisation is a gendered enterprise, with archives both expressing and constructing the colony as masculine domain, populated by explorers, hunters and (male dominated) resource extraction. This paper explores gendered memory cultures in British/North American Arctic exploration during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Using archival material, the paper investigates the intersections of gender, race and class as they shape both tangible and intangible memorization narratives of Josephine Diebitsch-Peary. As the wife of the Arctic explorer Robert Peary she accompanied her husband on expeditions to Greenland, giving birth to a daughter in Northern Greenland in 1893. Using papers and objects donated to the Women's Archive in Portland, Maine, the paper traces how women are framed alternately as the 'ideal' wife and citizen and 'that woman', forming part of the many hidden histories of Arctic exploration narratives. Her archives thus allow us not only access to a woman's perspective on an Arctic expedition, but also illustrate the gendered aspects of memory and colonialism that reach into the archive itself. The paper will demonstrate how an analysis within the context of memory studies enhances our understanding of Arctic histories and cultures by embracing the entangled nature of history and memory.

This paper was presented as part of the panel 'Gendering memories: all the way from heroism to dispossession' at the Memory Studies Association Conference, Complutense Universidad, Madrid and will be submitted for peer-review/publication in 'Memory Studies' (Sage Journals).

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Conference abstract | Konference abstrakt **Emner:** Arctic; History; Memory; Gender; Travel **Navn på konference:** 3rd Annual Memory Studies Association Conference **Konferenceby:** Madrid **Konferenceland:** Spain

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Women in the Arctic: Gendering Coloniality in Travel Narratives from the Far North, 1907-1930

This paper focuses on historical travel writing by women in order to investigate the construction of gendered geographies in the Far North. Using an interdisciplinary approach that combines history, territorial discourses and gender studies, the paper examines travel literature as part of the construction and performance of gendered coloniality in Greenland and Northern Sweden.

The conference paper was presented as part of a special panel "Investigating the Politics of Gender History, Coloniality, Decoloniality and Indigeneity in the Greenlandic Archive (Pre-proposed Panel)" at NORA 2019, Border Regimes, Territorial Discourses and Feminist Politics at the University of Iceland (Programme attached).

It is now available as part of a special issue "Nordic Colonialisms and Scandinavian Studies", see Höglund, J., & Burnett, L. (2019). Introduction: Nordic Colonialisms and Scandinavian Studies. *Scandinavian Studies*, 91(1-2), 1-12. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/scanstud.91.1-2.0001>.

Direct link> Reeploeg, S. (2019). Women in the Arctic: Gendering Coloniality in Travel Narratives from the Far North, 1907-1930. *Scandinavian Studies*, 91(1-2), 182-204. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/scanstud.91.1-2.0182>.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Conference abstract | Konference abstrakt **Emner:** Arctic; History; Human geography; Gender; Travel **Navn på konference:** NORA (Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research) 2019, Border Regimes, Territorial Discourses and Feminist Politics **Konferenceby:** Reykjavik
Konferenceland: Iceland

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Women in the Arctic: Gendering Coloniality in Travel Narratives from the Far North, 1907-1930

Recognising the diverse roles that women have played in the history of the Arctic, both as colonisers and colonised, this article uses travel writing or Arctic biographies by women writers to explore female colonisation strategies within the context of Scandinavian colonialism. Inspired by Maria Lugone's use of the concept of "coloniality of gender" (2008) the article investigates how gendered coloniality is produced and mediated through travel writing by women in the Arctic. While Lugone's critique primarily addresses the racism and violence inherent in modern/colonial gender systems, the analysis uses her understanding of coloniality as a lived experience of Eurocentric domination in order to illuminate the gendered nature of complicity by white, elite women. Using the work of Emilie Demantt (1873-1958), later Demantt-Hatt, and Isobel Wylie Hutchison (1889-1982) the article analyses both 'Nordic' and 'transnational' female strategies of colonisation as they are performed and articulated through biographical writing. Both in form and content, these texts demonstrate the many ways in which global and imperial power intersected with local hierarchies and systems of knowledge as part of multiple and concurring representations of reality over time.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Johan Höglund ; Linda Andersson Burnett **Type:** Article | Artikel
Årstal: 2019 **Emner:** Arctic; History; Colonialism; Gender; Travel **Titel på tidsskrift:** *Scandinavian Studies*
Volume på tidsskrift: 91 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 1-2 **Udgiver:** University of Illinois Press on behalf of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study **Udgivelsessted:** Illinois **Udgivelsesland:** United States of America **ISSN nummer:** 00365637 **DOI nummer:** 10.5406/scanstud.91.1-2.0182

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The Far Islands and other Cold Places: Women Travelers in the Arctic, 1850–1935

This article uses historical travel writing by Anglo-European Women to investigate the construction of gendered geographies in the Far North. Applying an interdisciplinary approach that combines history, literary analysis and gender studies, the paper examines the gendered aspects of travel, and the intersectionality of gender, class and race. Using examples from two published travel accounts and personal archives, the paper will demonstrate the historical processes of gender differences and representations, as well as capture the intersectionality of literature and the construction of place in real, imaginary and symbolic terms.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Article | Artikel **Årstal:** 2018 **Emner:** History; Travel; Literature; Gender **Titel på tidsskrift:** International Journal of Arts and Sciences **Volume på tidsskrift:** 10
Nummer på tidsskrift: 2 **Udgiver:** Conference of the International Journal of Arts and Sciences, Universitypublications.net **Udgivelsessted:** Connecticut **Udgivelsesland:** USA **ISSN nummer:** 1943-6114

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Article | Artikel

Peripheral Visions: Engaging Nordic Literary Traditions on Orkney and Shetland

This article examines the reception of Old Norse literature and culture in the literatures of the Scottish islands of Orkney and Shetland. It compares in particular the work of Shetland author James John Haldane Burgess (1862-1927) and the Orcadian author George Mackay Brown (1921-1996) and it evaluates the ways in which these two figures use their geographically peripheral positions as unique vantage points from which to reframe Nordic identity in their writing. By re-orientating the Scottish Islands from the periphery of Britain to the centre of important scenes in Nordic history, Haldane Burgess and Mackay Brown each construct a distinctive sense of geographical and cultural place. This approach allows the boundaries of the Nordic cultural sphere to be extended, and for a new and complex third space to emerge, in which the islands connect the Nordic and Anglo-Celtic realms and situate them within world literature.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Timothy Saunders **Type:** Article | Artikel **Årstal:** 2017 **Emner:** Peripheries; Literatures; Nordic; Orkney; Shetland **Titel på tidsskrift:** Scandinavica - International Journal of Scandinavian Studies **Volume på tidsskrift:** 56 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 1 **Udgiver:** Norvik Press
Udgivelsessted: London **Udgivelsesland:** United Kingdom **ISSN nummer:** ISSN 0036-5653

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Anthology | Antologi

Northern Atlantic Islands and the Sea: Seascapes and Dreamscapes

Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Orkney, Shetland and, to some extent, the Hebrides, share both a Nordic cultural and linguistic heritage, and the experience of being surrounded by the ever-present North Atlantic Ocean. This has been a constant in the islanders' history, forging their unique way of life, influencing their customs and traditions, and has been instrumental in moulding their identities.

This volume is an exploration of a rich, intimate and, at times, terrifying relationship. It is the result of an international conference held in April 2014, when scholars from across the North Atlantic rim congregated in Lerwick, Shetland, to discuss maritime traditions, islands in Old Norse literature, insular archaeology, folklore, and traditional belief. The chapters reflect the varied origins of the contributors. Icelanders are well represented, as are scholars based in Orkney and Shetland, indicating the strength of scholarship in these seemingly isolated archipelagos. Peripheral they may be to the UK, but they lie at the heart of the North Atlantic, at the intersection of British and Nordic cultures.

This book will be of interest to scholars of a wide range of disciplines, such as those involved in island studies,

cultural studies, Old Norse literature, Icelandic studies, maritime heritage, oceanography, linguistics, folklore, British studies, ethnology, and archaeology. Similarly, it will also appeal to researchers from a wide geographical area, particularly the UK, and Scandinavia, and indeed anywhere where there is an interest in the study of islands or the North Atlantic.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Andrew Jennings ; Silke Reeploeg; Angela Watt **Type:** Anthology | Antologi **Årstal:** 2017 **Emner:** Area studies; Cultural history; Scotland; North Atlantic; Geography
Udgivelsessted: Newcastle upon Tyne **Udgivelsesland:** United Kingdom **Volume:** 1 **Udgave:** 1
Forlag: Cambridge Scholars Publishing **ISBN nummer:** 978-1-4438-5512-9 (print)

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Research | Forskning > Web publication | Netpublikation

Civilising the North: British Identities and the European ideal

This week's blog comes from Silke Reeploeg, a lecturer with the University of the Highlands and Islands based in the Shetland Islands. She has taught history and literature on a s200_silke.reeploegvariety of programmes including Orkney and Shetland Studies, Island Studies and Highlands and Islands Culture, and has recently completed a PhD thesis on the historical and cultural links between Scotland and Norway in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Jim MacPherson ; Kristin Lindfield-Ott **Type:** Web publication | Netpublikation **Emner:** History; Literature **Dato:** 17.11.2016 **Web-publikationstype:** Blog
Udgivelsessted på nettet: Blog of the Journal of British Identities (Hub for the Study of British Identities)

[Åben publikation](#)

Research | Forskning - peer review > Contribution to book/anthology | Bidrag til bog/antologi

Coastal Cultures in Scotland and Norway: Narratives, Affinity, Contact

This book chapter investigates transnational cultural encounters that cross the established research areas of Northern European, Nordic, and Scandinavian Studies. Using approaches from Scandinavian research on coastal communities and cultural spaces, the article examines cultural transfer between Norway and Scotland through trade and exchange during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The interdisciplinary and transnational approach adopted throughout the paper suggests new perspectives in researching coastal communities in Britain, as part of a wider understanding of cultural encounters between the communities of the North.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Ian Giles, Laura Chapot, Christian Cooijmans, Ryan Foster, Barbara Tesio
Type: Contribution to book/anthology | Bidrag til bog/antologi **Årstal:** 2016 **Emner:** History; Human geography; Cultural studies **Udgivelsessted:** London **Udgivelsesland:** United Kingdom
Værtpublikationens hoved- & undertitel: Beyond Borealism: New Perspectives on the North **Volume:** 1
Forlag: Norvik Press **ISBN nummer:** 978-1-909408-33-3

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Des bateaux et des hommes: Objets interculturels et identite regionale en Norvege Occidentale et dans les Illes Shetland

Cet article porte sur le rôle du bateau en tant que médiateur des cultures tangible et intangible dans la région de l'Atlantique nord, en comparant la représentation des bateaux et les collections maritimes conservées dans les musées dédiés aux folklores écossais et norvégien. Il explore les similarités et les différences des définitions

de la côte comme « lieu maritime » par le biais d'objets, et s'intéresse plus particulièrement aux récits et aux aspects d'une mémoire commune influençant la formation de traditions culturelles régionales et nationales. En liant la théorie du transfert culturel aux études sur la culture matérielle, et à l'aide de l'approche microhistorique de l'Alltagsgeschichte, nous comparerons la façon dont les habitants des Shetland et les Norvégiens occidentaux ont participé à la construction et à leur identification à la culture côtière [kystkultur] par l'entremise d'objets maritimes et narratifs.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Andringa, Kim, Harry, Frederique, Mareuge, Agathe, Terrisse, Benedicte
Type: Contribution to book/anthology | Bidrag til bog/antologi **Årstal:** 2016 **Emner:** History; Cultural studies; Material culture **Udgivelsessted:** Paris **Udgivelsesland:** France **Værtpublikationens hoved- & undertitel:** Ding, ding, ting: Objets médiateurs de culture **Volume:** 1 **Udgave:** 1 **Forlag:** L'Harmattan **ISBN nummer:** 978-2-343-07788-8

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Article | Artikel

Nordic Border Crossings: Coastal Communities and Connected Cultures in Eighteenth-Century Norway, Scotland, and Canada

Coastal cultures form a complex area of research, offering new opportunities to investigate and understand the history of cultural encounters and transnational "regions of culture" across the Northern peripheries. This article investigates the connected cultures of coastal communities of Norway, Scotland, and Canada after 1700. A shared, diverse, but similarly sea-focused cultural landscape exists across the North that informs the way in which regional cultural identities are formed and maintained. Using new methodologies of cultural transfer such as entangled histories or *histoire croisée*, this article pays particular attention to the creation of transient cross-cultural networks and regions stimulated by trade and related contacts across the North Sea and the North Atlantic.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Helga Thorson **Type:** Article | Artikel **Årstal:** 2016 **Emner:** History ; Human geography **Titel på tidsskrift:** Scandinavian Canadian Studies / Études Scandinaves au Canada **Volume på tidsskrift:** 1 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 23 **Udgiver:** Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada **Udgivelsesland:** Canada **ISSN nummer:** 0823-1796

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Northern Maps: Re-negotiating space and place in the Northern Isles and Norway in the eighteenth century

This article argues that cartography and topographical description played a significant role in the way in which areas of the Scottish Northern Isles were represented and visualised, as a regional space, after the political union of England and Scotland in 1707, and, alongside that, the development of the concept of a British state and nation. Not only did topographical literature become more professionalised and commercially-oriented during the eighteenth century, but the visual representations of territories created in maps and charts became part of a network of cultural practices that both linked and divided historical regions across the British Isles. On the one hand, map-making re-negotiated national spaces in order to contribute to the formation the United Kingdom or Great Britain (itself a complex national entity) and, on the other hand, it provided an opportunity to re-create a sense of place or Northern regional identity, continuing to be part of an intercultural Northern European maritime region linked by the North Sea. As can be seen in the following case studies from the Shetland Islands and Western Norway, at 'image level', the change in perceptions about a region's identity (or one's own, within that region), often follows a long process, 'since shifts in the attitudes of mental mapping tend to slowly follow changes in political and social conditions, mixing with philosophical and aesthetic conventions of the time'.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Article | Artikel **Årstal:** 2015 **Emner:** History; Cartography; Cultural transfer; Scotland; Norway; Orkney; Shetland; Maritime travel **Titel på tidsskrift:** Northern Scotland
Volume på tidsskrift: 6 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 1 **Udgiver:** Edinburgh University Press
Udgivelsessted: Edinburgh **Udgivelsesland:** Scotland **ISSN nummer:** 0306-5278 **DOI nummer:** 10.3366

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Research | Forskning > Review | Anmeldelse

Book Review: John H. Ballantyne (ed). Naught but Trouble: The Hays in Yell 1755-1824. Lerwick: Shetland Times Ltd., 2014

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Review | Anmeldelse **Årstal:** 2014 **Emner:** Local history; Shetland; Scotland **Titel på tidsskrift:** Northern Studies **Volume på tidsskrift:** 46 **Udgiver:** The Journal of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies **Udgivelsessted:** Edinburgh **Udgivelsesland:** Scotland **ISSN nummer:** 0305-506X

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Article | Artikel

Reading Material Culture in the North Atlantic: Traditional wooden boxes as intercultural objects

This article explores intercultural links between the coastal communities of the North Atlantic region by discussing the cultural and social history of Norwegian objects displayed in regional heritage collections in Orkney and Shetland. The relationship between Norway and the Northern Isles of Scotland during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, especially trading links, is considered using the bentwood box as a way of accessing both tangible and intangible knowledge. Different types of traditional wooden boxes from Shetland, Orkney, Norway, and Iceland are compared using a microhistorical approach, which enables us to consider Norway and Scotland both as individual "ethno-territories" and as part of continuously changing networks of social and cultural contact across the North Atlantic.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Alexandra Sanmark ; Andrew Jennings **Type:** Article | Artikel **Årstal:** 2013 **Emner:** History; Archaeology; Cultural studies **Titel på tidsskrift:** Journal of the North Atlantic **Volume på tidsskrift:** 4 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 1 **Udgiver:** Eagle Hill Institute **Udgivelsessted:** Maine **Udgivelsesland:** USA **ISSN nummer:** E-ISSN 1935-1933 **DOI nummer:** 10.3721/037.004.sp417

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Research | Forskning > Review | Anmeldelse

Phasing out the Colonial Status of Greenland, 1945-1954: A Historical Study. Erik Beukel, Frede P. Jensen and Jens Elo Rytter, translated by Nancy E. Ake Aen

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Review | Anmeldelse **Årstal:** 2012 **Emner:** Greenland; History **Titel på tidsskrift:** Northern Studies **Volume på tidsskrift:** 44 **Udgiver:** The Journal of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies **Udgivelsessted:** Edinburgh **Udgivelsesland:** Scotland **ISSN nummer:** 0305-506X

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Research | Forskning > Review | Anmeldelse

Stefanie Stockhorst (ed.) (2010) Cultural Transfer Through Translation: The Circulation of

Enlightened Thought in Europe by Means of Translation

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Review | Anmeldelse **Årstal:** 2012 **Emner:** Cultural history **Titel på tidsskrift:** Cultural History **Volume på tidsskrift:** 1 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 2 **Udgiver:** Edinburgh University Press **Udgivelsessted:** Edinburgh **Udgivelsesland:** Scotland **ISSN nummer:** E-ISSN 2045-2918 **DOI nummer:** 10.3366/cult.2012.0027

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Contribution to book/anthology | Bidrag til bog/antologi

The Uttermost Part of the Earth: Islands on the edge ... and in the centre of the North Atlantic

The Shetland Islands are a good example of what island cultures and societies can tell us about the construction and maintenance of national identities, as well as the way in which historical perspectives and internalised ideas influence how we locate parts of Britain. How do these - other islands become part of the national mental map? And how do islanders themselves incorporate - Britishness into their cultural identity?

For the —Northern Isles|| of Orkney and Shetland, their geographical position has historically meant being an outpost of the British Isles, at its Northern —edge,|| as noted by Sandy Cluness, Convenor of the Shetland Islands Council, in an interview with The Journal: —We are on the periphery and have all the higher costs that come with that and not many of the advantages. This chapter demonstrates that the cultural heritage of the Scottish Northern Islands actually insists on being —other, often resisting, and sometimes opposing, the dominant, national historical and political narratives. The Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland are therefore of real interest in terms of exploring the complex and adaptable nature of representing —otherness|| within British identity, and the way islanders actively utilise their economic, political and cultural-historical environment to create a multiplicity of localised island identities within the national narrative.

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Editor:** Matthews, Jodie, Travers, Daniel **Type:** Contribution to book/anthology | Bidrag til bog/antologi **Årstal:** 2012 **Emner:** Islands studies; Britishness; Shetland; Identity; Borders; Historiography **Udgivelsessted:** Newcastle upon Tyne **Udgivelsesland:** United Kingdom **Værtpublikationens hoved- & undertitel:** Islands and Britishness: A Global Perspective **Volume:** 1 **Udgave:** 1 **Forlag:** Cambridge Scholars Publishing **ISBN nummer:** 978-1-4438-3516-9 (print)

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Article | Artikel

Intercultural Opportunities and Regional Identity: Nordic Voices in Scottish Literature

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Article | Artikel **Årstal:** 2010 **Emner:** History; Literature **Titel på tidsskrift:** eSharp International Online Journal for Postgraduate Research **Volume på tidsskrift:** 15 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 1 **Udgiver:** Glasgow University **Udgivelsessted:** Glasgow **Udgivelsesland:** Scotland **DOI nummer:** E-ISSN 1742-4542

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Research | Forskning - peer review > Article | Artikel

Nordic Regions of Culture: Intercultural links between Norway and Shetland after 1770

Forfatter: Silke Reeploeg **Type:** Article | Artikel **Årstal:** 2010 **Emner:** History; Area studies **Titel på tidsskrift:** Scandinavica - International Journal of Scandinavian Studies **Volume på tidsskrift:** 49 **Nummer på tidsskrift:** 2 **Udgiver:** Norvik Press **Udgivelsessted:** London **Udgivelsesland:** United Kingdom **ISSN nummer:** 0036-5653

