

Placing science at odds with profound personal revelation deeply unbalances *Living with Wildness* without delivering a coherent larger philosophy that necessitates such a contraposition. In fact, the essay that follows, “Going Solo Through Gates of the Arctic,” contains much of the best writing in the book—soaring descriptions of the Valley of the Precipices and Mount Doonerak accompanied by the kind of self-conscious but sincere responses that make Sherwonit himself as fascinating as the scenery—without any of the derision for science of the previous chapter. “The combined effect of mountains and gorge is one of extreme verticality. The landscape sweeps sharply upward, more than a mile into the sky. I can easily understand why Marshall estimated Doonerak’s height at more than ten thousand feet. It seems such a soaring mountain must be at least that tall.” Here is an elegant example of astonishment and awe frustrating, but nonetheless firing, the tools of objective reasoning. This frustration, this need to understand, to measure, to articulate, that follows so quickly on the heels of sublime experiences is most readily approached with *both* reason and wonderment. The rejection of either seems counterintuitive and in disharmony with Sherwonit’s best written passages.

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***Globalization and the Circumpolar North*. Edited by Lassi Heininen & Chris Southcott. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2010. 328 pages.**

*Globalization and the Circumpolar North* adds to a growing literature on the Arctic and Circumpolar North but this is the first to specifically focus on globalization and how it impacts the region. This edited volume is unique in that respect and is a welcome edition. It does not adopt a rigid definition of the Circumpolar North as there are varying definitions depending on context, discipline, and sources being used. For the purpose of this book, the region consists of Alaska, Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and the northern regions of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Canada.

There are nine chapters in the volume, the first by Heininen and Southcott serving as the introduction and setting the scene for subsequent chapters. There are as many definitions of globalization as there are people examining the subject and here economic (increasing integration of global economies), political (internationalization of political activity), and cultural (the homogeneity of western culture) definitions are used as frameworks. Following this is an excellent chapter on the history of globalization in the Circumpolar North by Southcott, which correctly points out that linkages

between the North and the rest of the globe are hardly new. Many of these were part of an exploitive colonization process in search of natural resources, for which the Indigenous peoples of the North saw little benefit. Huskey's chapter on the economies of the North states that the story can be told as one of contrasts, conflicts, and change. Contrasts are between the industrial, primarily resource extraction, and the local, traditional Indigenous economies, which exist almost separately from each other. Conflicts are over the best use of northern resources and who decides. Change is a constant in the economies of the North. As Huskey points out, remoteness is a factor that factors strongly in the economies of the North.

Governance in the North, by Jerry McBeath, is the focus of the next chapter. The chapter could be improved by a better understanding of developments in the Russian North, which are not murky as the author states, as there is a vast literature on regional economic change in Russia, and on Siberian and northern Indigenous peoples in the post-Soviet period, and on international oil and gas development in the Russian North. Liberal democracies govern most northern regions but to say that Russia is democratizing though has not yet consolidated its democracy misses the mark, as Russia can hardly be called democratic, in general or in the manner it governs its northern periphery. Missing is the fact that a number of northern and Siberian ethnic homelands have recently been abolished as administrative units further withering their ability to control their own local affairs. That said, the author does provide a nice analysis of the evolution of political governance developments across the Arctic and comparisons across the North. The focus of the chapter by Riabova examines community viability and well-being in the North. She draws a nice contrast among northern regions when she states that while two-thirds of the northern population of four million resides in large settlements, there are significant differences among the northern regions and also that community well-being differs significantly between northern periphery regions and their southern centers. Mark Nuttall's chapter examines epistemological conflicts and co-operation in the Circumpolar North and starts by examining globalization, culture, and Indigenous rights. The extent to which circumpolar Indigenous peoples can protect their cultures against the economic and cultural influences impacting them from outside seems doubtful though a number of organizations and legal institutions have been developed recently to try to preserve Indigenous cultures. This includes thorough acknowledgement of Indigenous knowledge and recognition of the importance of consuming traditional foods.

The next chapter examines how traditional livelihoods are impacted by globalization using case studies of two groups, Sea Sami in northern

Norway and Nenets reindeer herders in the Nenets Okrug in Russia. Positive elements of globalization and traditional northern lifestyles are the increased political and cultural spaces in which they operate while negative aspects include climate change, increased natural resource exploitation, and depopulation of small settlements. Chapter eight covers globalization and security in the Arctic in light of the reconfigured geopolitical space brought about by the end of the Cold War and breakup of the Soviet Union. While a narrow definition of security encompasses national or military security, broader definitions include human, energy, and other forms, all of which are important to circumpolar regions. As Heininen points out, understanding this more expansive definition is crucial to understanding security in the North as it shifts away from being a region across which the Cold War was battled to include other global threats. The final chapter (also by Heininen) covers circumpolar international relations. After giving some historical background on northern international relations, it moves on to discuss circumpolar cooperation by Indigenous peoples and some of the international northern political institutions that have been developed in recent decades. These can act as important buffers between the North and the rest of the world and as unifying forces among northern regions.

All of the chapters are mainly desk studies and there is little on-the-ground research of the impacts of globalization, though all of the contributors either live in or focus most of their research on the Circumpolar North and thus are eye witnesses to many of these changes. There is oddly no chapter on climate change and its impacts on the Circumpolar North though this is mentioned in a number of chapters and is an underlying current throughout. As the introductory chapter states and as almost all subsequent chapters discuss, globalization for the North can have both positive and negative influences. If we start with the premise that globalization in the North began centuries ago and is not the product of late twentieth-century technological and other developments, there is a significant track record available, most of which is decidedly negative concerning the impacts on northern peoples. However, it is only recently that structures have been created and possibilities have emerged where northern peoples can mitigate some of the adverse aspects of globalization and reap its benefits. How this struggle plays out for them remains to be seen.

As mentioned at the outset, this volume adds to the growing body of research on the region. Some of these works are written for specialists in regional or topical disciplines, while others are aimed at a more general audience. This book is written in a very accessible and readable style which makes it accessible to both audiences. While it does not explicitly

state as much, it could easily be adopted for use in courses on the Arctic or Circumpolar North.

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*Iceland Imagined: Nature, Culture, and Storytelling in the North Atlantic.*  
By Karen Oslund. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2011. Xvi + 260 pp. Illustrations, maps, index, bibliography.

The label on this book is a little misleading. The main title, *Iceland Imagined*, is too narrow, because large portions discuss Greenland and the Faroe and Shetland Islands. The subtitle, *Nature, Culture, and Storytelling in the North Atlantic*, is broad enough to imply something much grander than this trim little history, and may have contributed to the fact that this straightforward work of academic history is here being reviewed by an English professor. However, the author provides in her introduction a very useful summary that would have made a more accurate, if less catchy, subtitle: "This book is ... a cultural history of the North Atlantic as a European periphery" (7). Oslund links the disparate histories of these northern islands together by focusing on the ways in which various explorers, politicians, scientists, and artists have emphasized particular features of landscape, language, and history for their own purposes—all of them, in one way or another, attempts to lay European claim over northwestern borderlands.

The five chapters of this book each address a discrete topic. The first two are focused on Iceland, the next two on Greenland, and the last on the Faroe Islands, although every chapter makes connections across these islands and back to several European countries. Iceland receives pride of place in the book (including in the title) partly because it is currently so evocative for the Western imagination. As Oslund points out, we can hardly think of Iceland without conjuring up dramatic contrasts, including fire and ice, wilderness and the modern city, ancient sagas and modern rock stars. Iceland is the home of some of Northern Europe's foundational stories. But that literature was written about the first generations to settle on an otherwise uninhabited island, making the sagas both very old and very new. As an Alaskan I regularly encounter characterizations of the North as simultaneously old and new, "the last of the lands, and the first," as Robert Service put it; whatever cognitive dissonance might have been created by this paradox is obscured by sentimental nostalgia about "the last frontier" and booming cant about "north to the future." But there is still something sharp and distinct about the paradoxes embodied in our images of Iceland. Oslund's examination in