ARCTIC CULTURES and Social Sciences
Dr. Richard Powell

Wednesday 19 June 2019
UKRI ‘The Changing Canadian Arctic Workshop’
ESRC has good history of funding Arctic research

Recently, much ‘polar SSH’ research in UK not funded by UKRI, but by other funders

Now is key moment, with lots of possibilities for interaction

Research Overview

- Ethnographies of Arctic Science
- Polar Geopolitics and Arctic Resource Geographies
- ARCTIC CULT: Arctic Cultures
Ethnography of Arctic science

- **Studying Arctic Fields: Cultures, Practices and Environmental Sciences** by McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2017
- Draws on fieldwork at Polar Continental Shelf Program base at Resolute, Nunavut
‘Polar Geopolitics’

- Polar Geopolitics? Knowledges, Resources and Legal Regimes (Powell and Dodds eds., 2014)
- Develops critical and multi-disciplinary approaches
- Examines sites, texts, objects...
- Understands role of indigenous territories, states, supra-national institutions, MNCs...
- Comparative -- Arctic-as-Global
Arctic Resource Futures...

- ESRC/RCUK Interdisciplinary Early Career RF, 2007-10, ‘The Arctic and UK Energy security’
- Focused on Greenland-Denmark
- Forthcoming BOOK - *Arctic Futures: A New Geopolitics?* (IB Tauris)

Photographs from research in Copenhagen and Greenland, 2007-13
Research Networks and Impact activities

  - Built interdisciplinary, international network in ‘polar social sciences and humanities’

- **RCUK Global Uncertainties Impact Support Grant**, 'Impacts of Polar Geopolitics for UK Policy in the Arctic and Antarctic', 2013-14

- **ESRC 1+3 DTP Studentship**, ‘The changing visions of Canadian Arctic sovereignty and security under the Trudeau Administration’, 2019-23
Towards an historical geography of Arctic exceptionality: Franz Boas, Knud Rasmussen and geographical practice

Leverhulme Research Fellowship, 2015
- Holistic Greenland: Science, Politics and a Geographical Imagination

AHRC CDA Studentship with Royal Geographical Society, 2015-18
- Geographical Societies and Greenland, c.1880-1939
ERC ‘Arctic Cultures: Sites of Collection in the Formation of the European and American Northlands’

- ERC Consolidator Grant (€2M)
- Five year, multi-researcher investigation of idea of Arctic cultures in C17th-C21st
- 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2022.
ARCTIC CULT

- Trans-national and comparative research
- Links archives/texts/objects across Europe–North America
- Trains new generation of scholars of ‘Arctic Cultures’
- Team expertise in European and indigenous languages

Above: SILA, Copenhagen, 2014
Below: Iqaluit, Canada, 2010
ERC ARCTIC CULT – Team Members

- PI – Dr. Richard Powell
- ERC Project Coordinator – Jenny Dunstall
- Dr. John Woitkowitz – PhD in History, University of Calgary
- Dr. Nanna Kaalund – PhD in History of Science and STS – York University, Toronto
- Dr. Johanne Bruun – PhD Geography, University of Durham
- Dr. Peter Martin – DPhil in Geography, University of Oxford
- [Dr. Mari Kleist – PhD in Archaeology, University of Copenhagen (previous training in Greenland and Canada)]
1. The search for the ‘Origins of the Inuit’ and ‘Ultima Thule’
2. The Open Polar Sea?
3. Narratives of Smith Sound – Inuit Voices and scientific competition
4. Nordaustlandet and the ‘invention’ of Ecology
Conclusions

- New moment in Arctic Studies
- Opportunities to connect work on (e.g.) health and social welfare with cultural heritage and indigenous politics, as well as environmental and infrastructural research
- To find out more: https://www.arcticcultures.org
- Follow us on Twitter @ArcticCult