



Speakers, 21st Saami Conference, Tråante 2017

Part 1:

Sámi Self determination



Asta Mitkijá Balto

Asta Balto has been engaged in Sámi and indigenous education for decades doing research on Sámi traditional knowledge, values and beliefs and how these can apply to the construction of new knowledge and understandings. She has conducted research for revitalization of the Sámi content in kindergartens/schools and on Sámi self-determination in the field of education. She encourages discussions on how Sámi teachings can play a key role in promoting the self-determination process and shaping the future of the Sámi Nation.



Mattias Åhrén

Mattias Åhrén is a Professor (PhD) at the legal faculty at the Arctic University of Norway. Åhrén has the Master of Law degree from Stockholm University and Chicago. He has written extensively about Sámi and indigenous rights and has been giving lectures on the rights of indigenous peoples around the world. Åhrén also has extensive experience in practical work with indigenous peoples and Sámi rights, particularly within the UN where he among other things was involved in negotiating the UN Indigenous Declaration and the final document of the United Nations called the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Åhrén was also a member of the expert group that developed the draft Nordic Sámi Convention.



Tuomas Aslak Juuso

Is the second vice president of the Saami parliament of Finland. He was young when he started working with indigenous issues, became the youngest member of the Saami parliament of Finland in 2008 and has worked much with indigenous issues in the FN system.



Lavvudialog 1:



Laila Susanne Vars

Laila Susanne Vars is a Sámi lawyer with a PhD in international law and human rights. She is the former vice president of the Sámi Parliament in Norway and former Director of Gáldu - Resource centre on rights of indigenous peoples. She is now the technical director at the Norwegian National Institution for Human Rights in Norway. She is also the vice chairman of the board at the Faculty of Law, University of Tromsø.



Matti Berg

Matti Berg is the Chairman of Girjas Sámi Village in Northern Sweden. Girjas Sámi Village has for many years actively been fighting exploitation of their reindeer herding grazing areas. Girjas Sámi Village has also recently won a court case against the Swedish state over Sámi fishing and hunting rights on their own territory. Swedish authorities have appealed against the ruling. Berg is also a member of the Sámi Parliament in Sweden.



Veli-Pekka Lehtola

Veli-Pekka Lehtola is a Professor of Sámi Culture in the Giellagas Institute at the University of Oulu, Finland. Lehtola is a Sámi from Aanaar in Northern Finland. As a researcher, Lehtola is specialised in the history of the Sámi and Lapland, in modern Sámi art, as well as in the development of the Sámi representations. Lehtola has published thirteen books and almost a hundred scientific articles in Finnish, Sámi and English, also translated to Swedish, French, German or Hungarian.



Elle Merete Omma

Elle Merete Omma was raised in a reindeer herding family in Norway and Sweden. She studied International Communication at UNITEC in New Zealand and holds a Bachelor of Political Science from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology as well as a Master of Laws from the University of Oslo. She has been working as a Senior Adviser in the Department of Sámi and Minority Affairs in the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernization. She now holds the position as Executive Secretary at the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secretariat.



Part 2:

Saami institutions



Johan Ailo Kalstad

Johan Ailo Kalstad started his position as Director of Sámi allaskuvla in January 2017. He is from Guovdageaidnu, Norway, and speaks northern saami as mothertounge but he has also julev saami and south saami background. His profession is both economist and journalist, and he has been working in both saami institutions and in international corporations. Ha has now moved back to the saami society because of a desire to develop the saami institutions, societies, languages and culure.



Pirita Näkkäläjärvi

Pirita Näkkäläjärvi is a Media and Communications graduate at the London School of Economics. She is working on a master thesis on the topic of Sámi freedom of speech. Pirita is currently on study leave from the position as Head of Yle Sápmi. She is the founder of Yle Ođđasat as well as the youth radio show Sohkaršohkka. In addition to Yle, Pirita has extensive global strategy and finance experience at Merrill Lynch, Nokia, Booz and Company and Metso Corporation. She holds a MSc in Economics from Helsinki School of Economics, Finland.

Photo: Vesa Toppari / Yle



Gunn Heatta

Gunn Heatta comes from a reindeer herding family. She has been the leader of SANKS, *Sámi Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Mental Health and Substance Use*, since 2005. SANKS has a national responsibility for overseeing that the Sámi population in Norway have access to equal healthcare when it comes to mental health and substance use. Gunn has a Master in Business Administration and a Cand. Mag. in psychology.



Lavvudialog 2:



Ellen Ravna

Ellen Ravna is a saami woman from Bonjåkas, Deatnu, Norway. She was born into a traditional way of life with small scale agriculture, hunting, fishing and gathering. She got married to a saami man from the Finnish side of the Deatnu river, where she now lives. They have three children who all are trilingual. She works as a teacher at a saami school in Sirbmá on the Norwegian side of the border. As she travels across the border on an everyday basis, crossborder cooperation is very familiar to her.



Christina Storm Mienna

Christina Storm Mienna is a Med. Dr. researcher at the Umeå University. She was born and raised in Kiruna, Sweden. She lives now in Umeå, where she works as a researcher at the Umeå University. She has been working with epidemiological research that includes Saami theme for nearly 20 years.

Storm Mienna is one of the initiators of a survey of the health of the Saami people in Sweden.



Kent Valio

Kent Valio is from Guovdageaidnu, Norway. He is the Chief Municipal Executive of Guovdageaidnu municipality since 2015. He has previously been working as a journalist at NRK Sápmi for twenty years, and has got many awards for his work as a journalist. Valio holds a master degree in management from BI and a cand.mag. degree in political science, journalism and Sami language and history from the University of Nordland.



Olga Egorova

Olga Egorova is a young saami woman from Murmansk, Russia. She is the previous chair of Sámi Nurash, the saami youth organisation in Russia. She is now a student at the Sámi University College in Guovdageaidnu, Norway. This summer she will graduate as a Saami teacher.



Moderator: Anna Sunna

Anna Sunna is a radio producer and journalist at Sameradion & SVT Sápmi in Luleå. She has been covering the Sámi society, culture, politics and international indigenous issues for more than ten years.



Part 3:

Political organization



Eva Josefesen

Eva Josefesen, PhD, is a Sámi political scientist from Alta. Her doctorate was a study of the Norwegian Sámi Parliament's position in political processes in Norway. She has researched a number of Sámi political topics, including gender and equality, public planning, management of natural resources and Sámi Parliamentary elections.



Isak Utsi

Isak Utsi is the chair of Sáminuorra, the Sámi youth organization of Sweden. He has studied political science and societal development at Luleå Technical University. He was elected chair of the student organization and he was a member of the first youth council of WWF.



Mikkel Nils Sara

Mikkel Nils Sara is an associate professor at the Sámi University of Applied Science. Sara is from Guovdageaidnu, Norway and has a background from reindeer husbandry. In his research and publications he has been most concerned with Sámi organization linked to reindeer husbandry.



Lavvudialog 3:



Aili Keskitalo

Aili Keskitalo is from Guovdageaidnu, Norway. She has been involved in Sámi politics for 15 years representing the Norwegian Sámi Association (NSR). She was the first ever female president of the Sami Parliament in Norway from 2005-2007 and 2013-2016. Keskitalo has a Master in Public Administration from Copenhagen Business School.



Håkan Jonsson

Håkan Jonsson is the President of the Sámi Parliament in Sweden. He lives in Sorsele, Sweden. When the Sámi Parliament was established in Sweden, Håkan founded his political party, The Hunting- and Fishing Sámi (Jakt- och Fiskesamerna). Håkan has since the establishment of the Sámi Parliament in Sweden in 1993 been a member of the Parliament as well as the political leader of his party.



Tiina Sanila Aikio

Tiina Sanila Aikio was born and raised in a reindeer herding family in Sevettijärvi, Finland. Sanila-Aikio has been a member of the Sámi Parliament in Finland from 2012, and was elected as president in 2015. Sanila-Aikio has previously worked as a teacher in skolt sámi language and culture at the Sámi Education Institute in Inari.



Valentina Sovkina

Valentina Sovkina was elected chair of the united council of the Sámi of the Murmansk region in 2008, which changed its name in 2010 to Kuelnegk Njoark Sam Sobbar – the Saami Parliament of the Kola Peninsula



Moderator: Liv Inger Somby

Liv Inger Somby was born and raised in the small sámi village Guohppenjavvi, Finland. But lives now in Guovdageaidnu, Norway. She has been working as a sámi journalist since 1984, and has been working both in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. She has been producing both news and documentaries, and is an expert on indigenous journalism, with a masters degree in that field.



Part 4:

Language and Culture



Ole Henrik Magga

Ole Henrik Magga was the chair of the Sámi Language Committee from 1973 to 1978. He was elected as the first president of the Saami Parliament in Norway from 1989 to 1997. Magga was also elected as the first chair of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues in 2002.



Anna Afanasyeva

Anna Afanasyeva is a Saami from the Kola Peninsula. She is currently working as a PhD fellow funded by The Research Council of Norway at UIT - The Arctic University of Norway. Afanasyeva holds a Master of Philosophy in Indigenous Studies from The Arctic University of Norway. She has previously been working as Indigenous Peoples Adviser at the office of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) at the International Barents Secretariat, and has been involved in numerous projects on indigenous cooperation across borders in the north.



Sofia Jannok

Sofia Jannok is a famous Sámi artist. Several times, she has publicly taken a stance against the establishment of mines on land used by Sámi reindeer herders. She has also been engaged in the protest against the North Dakota Access pipeline.



Lavvudialog 4:



John Trygve Solbakk

John Trygve Solbakk is a publisher at Čálliidlagádus, and he holds a cand.philol. degree. He is from the Sámi village Fanasgieddi, Norway. Solbakk is also head of the Centre for Sámi Literature. Solbakk was, together with his brothers and sister, awarded with the Saami Council's Honorary Award in 2013 for his lifelong work on Sámi culture.



Christina Henriksen

Christina Henriksen is from Girkonjárga/Kirkenes. She is a member of the Sámi Parliament in Norway since 2013. She is chair of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, which is a cooperation body for the Sámi, Nenets and Veps in the Barents Region. She is also the chair of Riddu Riđđu festivála and works as a teacher in Kirkenes Secondary School.



Ailu Valle

Ailu Valle is a Sámi rap artist from Gamasmohki, Finland. He is known for his political lyrics about how the western way of life is destroying nature and the Sámi existence. He has also been working as a journalist at Yle Sápmi.



Johan Sandberg McGuinne

Johan is a south Sámi and Scottish Gaelic man with his roots in Vilhelmina, Sweden and on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland. Johan is a teacher in Sámi and English in Lycksele and is also freelancing as translator, cultural worker, lecturer and joiker.



Moderator: Harald Gaski

Is a Sámi literature and culture researcher at the University of Tromsø - Norway's Arctic University. Gaski has been influential in the construction of Sámi literature research and university subjects and is central in international discussions on indigenous research. Gaski has published a number of books in Sámi, Norwegian and English on Sámi literature and culture, and has served for ten years as an international consultant for the only Centre of Excellence in Indigenous research available today; namely Nga Pae o te Maramatanga New Zealand. Gaski received both Gollegiella - Nordic Sámi speech prize and the Nordic Sámi Literature prize, and awards both from the Umeå University and the University of Tromsø.



Summary



Helena Omma

Helena Omma is from Jiellevárre, Sweden. She has devoted herself to study the Sámi language and after completion of master's education in the Sámi language and literature, she has worked as a language consultant at the Sámi Parliament in Sweden. She is now a doctoral student at the Sámi allaskuvla in Guovdageaidnu. She has for many years been actively involved in Sámi organizational work, both as previous chair of the youth organization Sáminuorra, vice chair of the Association of World Reindeer Herders, representative of the Laponia management and as substitute member to the Saami Council.



Rune Fjellheim

Rune Fjellheim is the director of the Sámi Parliament in Norway since 2008. Fjellheim has great experience of indigenous related matters both nationally and internationally. He has worked on environmental and indigenous issues in the Sámi Parliament, as an independent international consultant and as advisor to the Saami Council. Fjellheim holds a cand.oecon. degree from the University of Oslo.