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HUMAN SECURITY AS ARCTIC GEOGRAPHIES OF PROVISIONING

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Policy discussion surrounding Arctic settlement and mobility – the geographies of home, work, subsistence, transportation, and the various natural environments surrounding them—increasingly falls under the rubric of human security. Human security in the Arctic is now synonymous with the various forms through which life is actually lived and thus, a domain that Matt Huber refers to as a geography of life. In this paper, I present human security in the Arctic as a key topic of discussion among social scientists involved in Arctic policy events. I describe its discursive treatment and location next to people and politics. My objective is to take discussion surrounding Arctic human security as an ethnographic object in its own right. I want to know how social scientific interest in the provisioning of life contributes to the rational expectation of policy planning, with its emphasis on progress, development and sustainability. I argue that Arctic human security holds the possibility for assessing emerging scenarios of humanness and therefore, is of strategic value in a policy domain where knowledge of future events in the Arctic is increasingly characterized by uncertainty.