

## C11-O06

### INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SITES IN THE ARCTIC AS SOURCES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

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Current debates about the future of the Arctic as a region for resource extraction are seldom informed by experiences from previous periods of natural resource exploitation there. In a series of research projects -- from the LASHIPA project (IPY 2007-2008) to ongoing projects such as the Mistra Arctic Sustainable Development program -- archaeologists and historians have worked together to better understand present developments by exploring the history of Arctic resource exploitation. Industrial heritage sites in the Arctic have played a crucial role in these research efforts, as a source of knowledge about the past but also about the present. In this paper we will present results and conclusions from these research projects.

In the paper we will show how these research projects have addressed four important research problems pertaining to Arctic resource extraction: why Arctic resource exploitation commence, how companies interact with Arctic environments through technology and settlement planning and why, the geo-political consequences of arctic resource extraction and finally the environmental impacts of Arctic industry. We will show that industrial heritage sites in the Arctic, as sources of information, have a unique potential for dealing with these research problems.