

Proposal 5

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Decoding Polar Processes: Nailing it to the Ground – Man, Culture and Environment in Greenland

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In the last couple of decades large financial resources have been allocated to paleo-climatic research, whence generating extremely valuable highresolution data on past climatic developments.

One of the challenges for forthcoming decades is to understand how the observed climatic fluctuations from Ice Cap analyses relate to historic and

Two ring-shaped Minturn circles about

50 m. in diameter on a boulder field

in Inglefield land NW Greenland

prehistoric climatic changes observed on the ground level, dynamics of animal populations and eventually human life in the Arctic. Based on new and thorough analyses of historical sources, ethno-historic data and data from various natural science disciplines, covering the period from ca. 1700 AD to present time, we intend to develop a model facilitating an understanding

of the long-term (c. AD 700 to the present) human responses to climatic changes.

The emphasis of the project will be to combine the large body of archival sources with new fieldwork both on land and at sea. The applicants representing

three institutions holding great expertise in and a long tradition for international co-operation and interdisciplinary research intend to set up a wider network with researchers from other auxiliary disciplines.

The gained results are expected to provide an important contribution for the evaluation of the recent climatic changes and their effect on smallscale human societies and their cultural strategies. An emphasis on public outreach/dialogue on especially a local and national level will be a necessary

and natural aspect of the project, inasmuch that the human perception of climatic changes is crucial in the focus of the research.

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