Contributors

Birgitta Fossum

Doctoral degree (dr.philos.) in archaeology from the University of Umeå (Sweden).

She was born in 1969 in Bærum near Oslo, grew up in Northern Norway and lived in Umeå for two decades. At present she is the head of Saemien Sijte (South Sami Museum and Cultural Centre) in Snåsa, Norway. She has worked at the University of Umeå, Västerbotten Museum and carried out projects on behalf of the Silver Museum in Arjeplog and the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten (Länsstyrelsen i Norrbotten) among others. She has been working with archaeological documentation, investigations and excavations in Northern Fennoscandia. She has also conducted research and analyses of empirical archaeological material.

Birgitta participated in the project as the head of the partner institution, Saemien Sijte, but until February 2010 she was the Project Manager for ”Saemieh Saepmesne – I det samiska rummet/In the Sami space”.

Research issues: Sami culture and history, especially archaeology, Sami rituals, archaeological findings from the Iron Age in Northern Fennoscandia such as ritual remains, graves, sacrificial sites, silver hoards, dwellings and labyrinths, rituals as tools for the establishment and preservation of social and ethnic identities, oppositions to and bonds with other cultures or communities.

Special areas of interest: connection of archaeological findings and ritual remains to Sami identities, linkage between cultural landscape, cultural heritage and South Sami identity.
Bjørg Elsa Pettersen

MSc degree in Human Geography and Geographic Information Systems from the University of Leicester, UK.

She was born in 1958 and grew up in Tjeldsund and Harstad in Northern Norway. She is working as a senior advisor specialising in human geography and geographic information systems (GIS) at the Research and Development Section of Statsbygg (Norway).

Bjørg’s role in the project was as an advisor on knowledge and information technologies and methods, through her own private company BeArctic. Her special fields of interest in the project were to find ways of using information systems to record, store and convey knowledge and to promote the use and transfer of traditional Sami knowledge.

Research issues: information design, information systems, databases, development, contact zone, partial perspectives, strong objectivity, metadata, ontology, knowledge keepers, cognitive and digital justice, traditional knowledge, indigenous knowledge, situated knowledge.

Special areas of interest: the use of geographic information systems (GIS) as a tool for communication and digital democracy in decision making processes; the usability of interactive 3D geo-visualisation for public participation in spatial planning.
Erik Norberg

PhD degree in archaeology from the University of Umeå (Sweden).

He was born in 1968 and grew up in Lunde, Ångermanland (Sweden). He is currently working in Snåsa (Norway) as the Project Manager of the inter-regional project “Saemieh Saepmesne – I det samiska rummet/In the Sami Space” on the documentation of South Sami cultural heritage and landscape. The project is a cooperative effort between Saemien Sijte in Snåsa, Gaaltije South Sami Cultural Centre in Östersund (Sweden) and Västerbotten Museum (Sweden). Erik has been working in the fields of history, archaeology and museology. He has participated in many archaeological research projects in Northern Sweden and North West Russia, and has published a number of archaeological and historical research papers and articles.

In the project he participated as the Project Manager of ”Saemieh Saepmesne”, representing the partner institution, Saemien Sijte.

Research areas: archaeology of Northern Fennoscandia, especially hunter and gatherer societies, and archaeology of the South Sami area. Areas of special interest: social organisation and social space within societies.
Gunvor Guttorm

Doctoral degree (dr.art.) in the history of arts from the University of Tromsø (Norway).

She is a Sami, born in 1958 in Kárásjohka/Karasjok, where she also grew up, and has lived in Johkamohkki (Jokkmokk, Sweden) since 1993. She has been working professionally in producing duodji, Sami arts and crafts. Her duodji products have been displayed in exhibitions both across Sápmi and internationally. She has been employed at Sámi allaskuvla/Sámi University College since the College was established in 1989, and is now a professor in duodji there. She has published textbooks on duodji for further education and college courses, and for professional education in duodji. She has also published research and popular science articles about Sami handicrafts.

Research issues: tradition as an ongoing process, production of duodji, tradition and innovations, aesthetics and practical use of duodji. Special areas of interest: contemporary production of traditional Sami duodji.

Gunvor’s role in the project was as advisor and supervisor in the development of methods for documentation and dissemination of traditional knowledge. She was also a member of a research team at Sámi allaskuvla supporting the project.
Jan Åge Riseth

Doctoral degree (dr.scient.) in Natural Resource Economics from the Agricultural University of Norway.

He was born in 1953 and raised in Snåsa (Nord-Trøndelag). He has lived for one decade in Alta (Finnmark) and two decades in Narvik (Nordland) in Norway. He is presently working as a senior research scientist at the Northern Research Institute (NORUT, Tromsø, Norway). He has published numerous research reports and popular articles, and a number of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He is responsible for five books, and has delivered many conference papers. Most of his research publications are interdisciplinary and cover the fields of reindeer herd management, nature resource management and protected areas, traditional ecological knowledge, and climate change.

Jan Åge was involved in the project as an expert in natural management and institutional relations.

Research issues: reindeer management, economics, nature management and protection, sustainable resource use, modernisation, climate change, traditional knowledge.

Special areas of interest: adaptation possibilities for reindeer management and traditional land use, climate change issues, indigenous peoples and use of protected areas.
Jelena Porsanger

Doctoral degree (dr.art.) in the history of religion and Sami research from the University of Tromsø (Norway), Licentiate in philosophy degree from the University of Helsinki (Finland).

She is a Skolt Sami, born in 1967 and grew up in the Murmansk region of Russia. At present she is an Associate Professor at Sámi allaskuval/Sámi University College. She has also studied and worked at the universities of Tartu (Estonia), Helsinki (Finland) and Tromsø (Norway). She was director of the Nordic Sami Institute (Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino, Norway) and research director for Sámi allaskuval until 2009. She has published many popular articles, research papers and peer-reviewed articles about Eastern Sami traditions, religion and history, indigenous methodologies and religious history. She has delivered many papers at international conferences, also in the capacity of an expert in knowledge and capacity building for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. For many years she has been the chief editor of ”Sámi diedalaš áigetála”, a research periodical in the Sami language published in collaboration between Sámi allaskuval and the Centre for Sami studies at the University of Tromsø.

Jelena was the Project Manager. As the director of research for the Nordic Sami Institute and Sámi allaskuval she initiated this pilot project and actively participated in its implementation.

Research issues: indigenous methodologies, indigenous religion, Sami oral tradition and terminology, sources for the study of religion of the Eastern Sami, source criticism.

Special areas of interest: decolonisation of research methodologies, traditional knowledge, research ethics, empowerment of Sami communities, development and application of indigenous approaches to research.
John Bernhard Henriksen

Law degree (cand.jur.) from the University of Tromso (Norway), and M Sc degree in international political processes from the University of Bristol (UK).

He is a Sami from Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino, born in 1962, who now works as an independent consultant in the field of human rights and policy processes through the private enterprise JBH Consultants Ltd in Hong Kong. He also works as special advisor for Gálido, a Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Guovdageaidnu, Norway). He is a member of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

In the project, he participated through the project’s partner institution Gálido, as an expert in international human rights law. Special areas of interest: indigenous peoples’ rights, indigenous political collaboration, Sami parliamentary cooperation, international and common law.
Åsa Nordin Jonsson

Doctoral degree (dr.philos.) from the University of Umeå (Sweden).

She is a Sami from Jiellévárre/Gällivarre (Sweden), born in 1974 in Uppsala and grew up in Tärnaby (Sweden). She is currently working as research advisor at Árran Lule Sami Centre in Divtasvuodna/Tysfjord (Norway). Her doctoral dissertation from 2002 was in Sami Studies. She has subsequently worked in research and teaching related to Sami society, both at the University of Umeå and Sámi allaskuvla. She has worked at Vaartoe, the Centre for Sami Research at the University of Umeå as a researcher and lecturer in Sami society and culture.

Åsa’s contribution to the project was as an advisor and supervisor in theoretical aspects of traditional knowledge, especially ethics.

Research issues: Sami history especially in Sweden, historical relations between the Sami and the majority population, reindeer husbandry as a means of livelihood, economy of reindeer herding, research ethics, traditional Sami concepts.

Special areas of interest: to demystify stereotypes and generalisations about Sami culture and history.