

***Perspectives of Arctic cruise tourism development in the time of rapid environmental change***

***Abstract***

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The aim of the presentation is to summarize the so-far outcomes of the research regarding development of cruise tourism activities in the Arctic. The phd project explores the factors driving dynamics and spatial distribution of cruising activities between Svalbard, Greenland, Russian and Canadian Arctic. The hypothesis that is explored assumes that it is not climate change and melting sea ice that influence cruising the most, but regulatory frameworks play more important role in organization of cruise tourism. Initial outcomes based on qualitative analysis confirms this so far, which will be presented in the talk. Additionally information on further in depth analysis will be presented, that is mainly focus on exploring the relation between the sea ice change and cruise traffic on the example of Svalbard (with comparison to Canada) and on exploring the role of regulatory frameworks by social network analysis of the cruise tourism management system in Arctic Canada.