

# **INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC CONFERENCE**

## **GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES AND EQUATIONS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Lyon, 22-23 November 2010

### **Presentation**

In the Arctic, climatic warming is twice as marked as in the rest of the world and the arctic territories are being transformed. The shrinking of the permanent sea ice cover is opening up navigation through the North-West and the North-East passages and massive possibilities are opening up for exploiting the resources of the ocean floor and of its surrounding coastline: oil, gas, uranium, coal, gas hydrates.... 20% of the world's energy reserves are now thought to be found in the Arctic.

The five States bordering on the Arctic (Canada, the United-States, Russia, Denmark/Greenland, Norway) are trying to maintain their national sovereignty over portions of the Arctic Ocean or to increase it through extending it onto the continental shelf. The Russian Federation is claiming a sector, which stretches as far as the North Pole. The ecological impact of climatic warming, already clearly evident, would be further aggravated by any industrialisation of the Arctic. The impact is also a human and social one for the Arctic Native populations.

Faced with this situation, are existing juridical arrangements adequate? What role can be played in the protection of the Arctic by international organisations and institutions (the Arctic Council, the European Union...), or even more so by existing organisations for regional cooperation? To what extent are the Native populations listened to and in a position to participate in decisions concerning the administering and management of the Arctic?

By bringing together geophysicists, political scientists, jurists, geographers and historians, this international conference intends to discuss and analyse what is at stake in these present controversies, to clarify modes of governance, to explore the possibility of international regulation, in brief to throw scientific light on this urgent and increasingly controversial topic of major geopolitical interest.

The Conference objectives are threefold:

- To bring together a variety of scientific expertise to stimulate debate and promote further research in the academic world (researchers and students)
- To disseminate the state of knowledge on the transformation of the Arctic and its governance to a larger public
- To influence official policy

The Conference is organised around four themes, arranged in the following sessions:

- The Arctic: a geographic space in transformation
- The Native peoples, political actors
- Frontiers and international law
- Regional and international regulations

## Programme

### Introductory Conferences:

22 November

**M. Michel Rocard**, former Prime Minister of France and French Ambassador for questions concerning the Arctic and the Antarctic

23 November

**Mme Mary Simon**, former Canadian Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Canadian Inuit Organisation

## Scientific Committee

Dr **Alain FAURE**, UMR 5194, PACTE, CNRS/Grenoble Institute of Political Science, University of Grenoble 2, Director of the Grenoble Centre for Canadian Studies, Grenoble, France  
Professor **Louis FORTIER**, biologist, Scientific Director of ArcticNet, Laval University, Canada  
Professor **Frédéric LASSERRE**, Department of Geography, Institut Québécois des Hautes Etudes Internationales (IQHEI), Laval University, Director of the Observatory of International Research on Water (ORIE), Canada

Dr **Cécile PELAUDEIX**, Consultant researcher, Consultant to the « Cercle Polaire », Paris, France

Mr **Joël PLOUFFE**, Observatoire sur les Etats-Unis, Chaire Raoul-Dandurand in strategic and diplomatic Studies, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Dr **Nicolas RIENDEAU**, Unité Chaire Raoul-Dandurand in strategic and diplomatic Studies, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Dr **Jérôme WEISS**, UMR 5183, Geophysician, Glaciology and Environment Geophysics Laboratory, CNRS /University of Grenoble 1, France

## Organisation

### Centre d'Etudes Canadiennes de Grenoble

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### Centre Jacques Cartier

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# Practical Information

## Dates

22 and 23 November 2010

## Place

Lyon, France

## Registration

### Fees:

Public Academic: 300 € (or 150 €/ day)

General public: 60 € (ou 30 €/ day), lunch not included

Students: free (without lunch)

The registration fee gives admission to the conference sessions. The languages of the Conference are French and English.

### How to Register:

The application form will be available to download in June on the website of the Centre d'Etudes canadiennes de Grenoble. <http://www.pacte.cnrs.fr/spip.php?rubrique123>

To be sent to the Centre Jacques Cartier.

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# Programme

## Sunday 21 November

Opening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> « Entretiens du Centre Jacques Cartier », Lyon  
Cocktail Reception

## Monday 22 November

8h30 Welcome and registration

*9h00 Opening of the Conference and introductory conference*

**Alain Faure** (CNRS/IEP, Grenoble), **Cécile Pelaudeix**, (Consultant researcher)

Introductory Conference: **Michel Rocard**, French Ambassador for questions concerning the Arctic and the Antarctic

10h00: COFFEE BREAK

### 10h15 *A geographic space in transformation*

**Jérôme Weiss** (CNRS/University of Grenoble 1), *Towards an ice-free Arctic Ocean?*

**Louis Fortier** (Laval University), *The Impact on the Ecosystemic Services of the Arctic Ocean*

**Alain Royer** (University of Sherbrooke), *Towards new Arctic Landscapes and Ecosystems?*

*Moderator: Jean-Claude Gascard (University of Paris 6)*

13h00: LUNCH BREAK

### 14h30 *The Indigenous peoples as political actors*

**Patricia Cochran** (Alaska Native Science Commission), *Impacts of Climate Change on Indigenous Communities*

**Heather Nicol** (Trent University), *Canadian Arctic Security and Climate Change: Where Traditional Security "Fits"*

**Cécile Pelaudeix** (Consultant Researcher), *Inuit Governance: a Political or a Scientific Project?*

COFFEE BREAK

**Pavel Sulyandziga** (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North), *Indigenous People of the North and the Process of Development: Modern Russian Experience*

**Jessica Shadian** (Bodø Graduate School for Business, Norway), *Towards a Framework for Collaborative Arctic Sustainable Resource Management: Learning from Indigenous Governance Models*

*Moderator: Dr. Eric Canobbio, University of Paris 8*

18h00: End of day's proceedings

Cultural Evening, Lyon Theatre

## Tuesday 23 November

8h30 Welcome and Registration

### 9h00 *Opening of the day's proceedings and Introductory Conference*

**Frédéric Lasserre**, Laval University

Introductory Conference: **Mary Simon**, Former Canadian Ambassador for Circum-Polar Affairs, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Canadian National Inuit Organisation

COFFEE BREAK

### 10h15 *Frontiers and international law*

**Wolfrum Rüdiger** (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg), *The Arctic seen from an International Law Perspective*

**Paule Halley** (Laval University), *Sustainable Development and Sovereignty in the Arctic*

**Frédéric Lasserre** (Laval University), *The Frontiers of the Arctic Continental Shelves: the Primacy of Law or a Frantic Free-for-all?*

COFFEE BREAK

**Joël Plouffe** (UQÀM), *The Obama Administration and the North-West Passage: Rethinking the American Pragmatism in Arctic?*

**Anne Choquet** (University of Western Brittany, Brest), *Towards a Polar Code for Maritime Navigation in the Polar Seas: when the Arctic and the Antarctic Get Closer*

Moderator: **Michael Bravo** (University of Cambridge)

13h00 LUNCH BREAK

### 14h30 Regional and International Regulations

**Paul Arthur Berkman** (University of Cambridge), *Balancing National Interests and Common Interests in the Arctic Ocean*

**Alexander N. Vylegzhanin** (Moscow State Institute of International Relations), *Economic Activities in the Arctic Ocean: International, Regional, and National Regulation*

**Michael Bravo** (University of Cambridge), *Science, Expertise, and Democratizing Futures in the Arctic*

COFFEE BREAK

**Lassi Heininen** (University of Lapland), Rovaniemi, *Northern Geopolitics: from a Frontier to a Region (of Peace)*

**Clive Archer** (Manchester Metropolitan University), *The European Union and Regional and International Regulations for the Arctic: Beggar at the Feast?*

Moderator: **Frédéric Lasserre**, Laval University

### 17h30 Conclusion by a prominent witness

# The Participants

**Clive Archer**

Emeritus Professor in European Security, Département of Politics and Philosophy, Manchester Metropolitan University, and Research Associate Geopolitics in the High North

**Paul Arthur Berkman**

Head, Arctic Ocean Geopolitics Programme, Scott Polar Research Institute, Judge Business school, University of Cambridge, Fulbright Distinguished Scholar and Research Professor, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

**Michael Bravo**

Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge

**Eric Canobbio**

Lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Paris 8

**Patricia A.L. Cochran**

Executive Director Alaska Native Science Commission, Chair, Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change

**Anne Choquet**

Doctor of law, Legal expert and Lecturer at the University of Western Brittany, Brest

**Alain Faure**

CNRS Researcher in Political science (UMR 5194), Director of the Grenoble Centre for Canadian Studies, Member of the PACTE Laboratory, Institute of Political Science, Grenoble

**Louis Fortier**

Professor, Department of Biology and Scientific Director of ArcticNet, Laval University, Quebec

**Jean-Claude Gascard**

Emeritus Research Director, CNRS (UMR 7159)

**Paule Halley**

Professor, Canadian Research Chair in Environmental Law, Laval University, Director of research group on international and transnational legal aspects of economic integration (AJIT)

**Lassi Heininen**

Professor, Department of political science, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi

**Frédéric Lasserre**

Professor, Department of Geography, Laval University, Project Manager, ArcticNet, Researcher, Institut Hydro-Québec en Environnement, Développement et société (IEDS).

**Heather Nicol**

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Trent University

**Cécile Pelaudeix**

PhD, Consultant researcher, Consultant to the Cercle Polaire, Paris

**Joël Plouffe**

PhD Candidate, Observatory on the United-States, Raoul-Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic studies, University of Quebec at Montreal

**Michel Rocard**

French Ambassador for questions concerning the Arctic and Antarctic, former Prime Minister of France

**Alain Royer**

Professor, Director of the Centre for Application and Research in Teledetection (CARTEL), University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

**Jessica Shadian**

Political Science and International Relations Senior Researcher, High North Center for Business and Governance, Bodø Graduate School for Business, Norway

**Mary Simon**

Former Canadian Ambassador for circumpolar affairs, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, a Canadian national Inuit organisation

**Pavel Sulyandziga**

First vice-President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Member of the Permanent Forum of the United Nations on Indigenous questions

**Alexander N. Vylegzhanin**

Professor, Doctor of Law, Head of the Chair of International Law, Moscow State Institute Of International Relations (MGIMO-University)

**Jérôme Weiss**

Research Director, CNRS, Laboratory of Glaciology and Geophysics of the environment, Grenoble

**Rüdiger Wolfrum**

Professor, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg