



## Columns Article



## Polar policies in focus

Published on Saturday, 3rd December, 2016 at 09:23 under the columns category, by Ilan Kelman.

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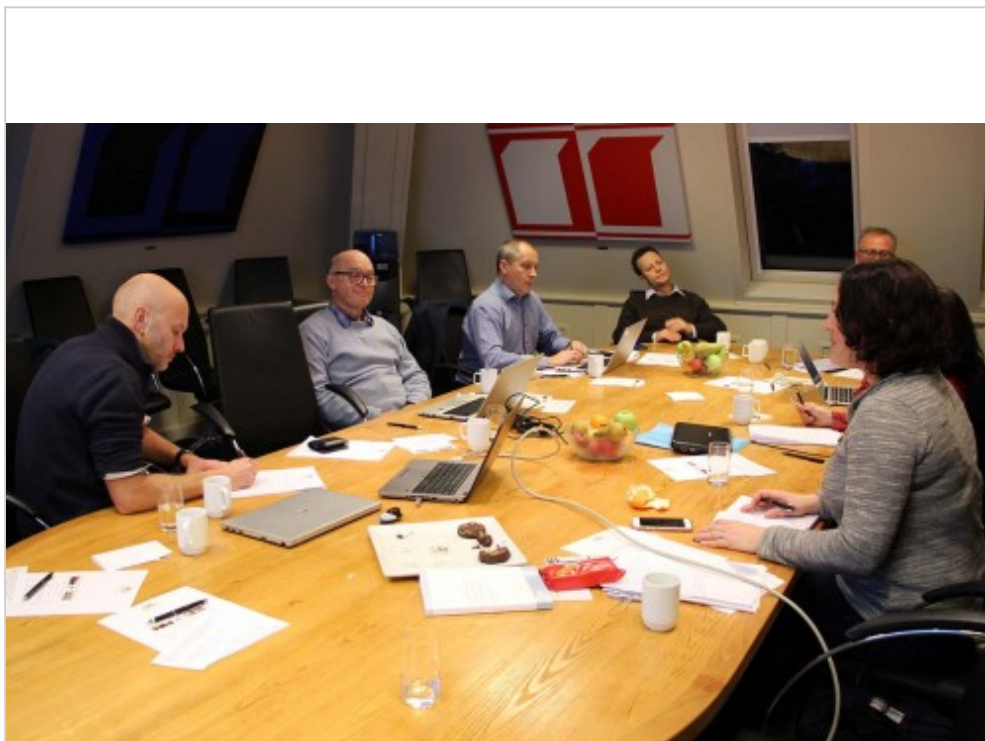
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Science and business: What are their Arctic roles? How do they influence or promote Norway's Arctic aims?

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The project team starting the research in Moss.

The team's project launch meeting  
Photo: Ilan Kelman

Both science and business can and do influence environmental law and politics in the north. This subject is being investigated in a new project funded by the Research Council of Norway until 2019 entitled "Science and Business in Arctic Environmental Governance".

Led by Dr Elana Wilson Rowe at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), and in close cooperation with the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, the project sets out to provide new insights about how science and business shape Arctic environmental governance.

Two main policy fields are covered: biodiversity and oil spill preparedness and response. Comparisons are planned between Norwegian involvement in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Methods include interviews to understand people's perceptions, document analysis to trace decision-making and policy processes, and mapping networks of science and business players and interests.

One exciting activity is a pilot to build an 'Arctic Corporate Responsibility Index'. Ranking company performance on key environmental indicators could encourage high environmental performance, rather than relying on government regulation.

Polar environmental futures are ours to create. This research will contribute science to Norway's polar policies and practices.

Ilan Kelman is a Reader in Risk, Resilience and Global Health at University College London.

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