

Abstract Mai Britt Utsi – Sámi allaskuvla / Sámi university of Applied sciences

Yoik is the Language of Love....

Yoik is the language of love, a traditional Sámi Chant that are considered one of the oldest forms of music in Europe. Yoik is connected with the feelings of the Sámi as human beings who cross the boundaries between humans, nature and other creatures. Yoik is a symbol of Sáminess which represents and preserves Sáminess from ancient times until today. Yoik is a way of remembering. Yoik makes you happy, motivates you and touches the innermost tendons of your heart even when you have lost it, because in Yoik you can find your Sáminess again.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

This study focuses on the practical yoik, how yoikers themselves describe the yoik, and how I as a Sámi researcher approach the peculiarities of yoiking in communication with my local Sámi community of Varanger.

The aims of the research project are:

- to interpret the lyrics of Yoik as Sámi oral literature
- to achieve new knowledge about the everyday life, the culture and beliefs of the Coastal Sámi in Varanger (within a period 100 years) through the study of their Yoik tradition
- to document how the long Epic Yoiks of Varanger is a distinctive Coastal Sámi Yoik tradition

I will focus on The method in my presentation and will:

- focus on the use of physical Maps during the fieldwork. The Aim is to explain the physical map as an empowering tool for memorizing Yoiks of places, people and other creatures. The Map helped the Elders to remember the kind of Maps (Mental Maps) they had in their minds while orienting themselves in the landscape; the Coastal area and the shore, the outlying areas and their local habitations
- have a Sámi and an Indigenous approach in the study of the lyrics of Yoik

Keywords: Coastal Sámi Yoik tradition; Oral Literature; Map as an empowering tool in memorizing yoiks; the Lyrics of Yoik