

**Abstract on**  
**INDIGENOUS JOURNALISM AND MEDIA**  
**for the**  
**World Indigenous Research and Education Conference**  
**August 2018, Guovdageaidnu, SÁPMI**

**“INDIGENOUS MEDIA AND JOURNALISM – THE LIFELINE OF INDIGENOUS SOCIETIES”**

**Chair: Torkel Rasmussen**

**Part 1: Introduction**

**Presentation: MASTER’S PROGRAMME OF SÁMI JOURNALISM FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE  
(30 min)**

1. The background to the development of the Master’s program and its aspirations. (Lia)
  - An extant bachelor’s degree, and vibrant professional employment context, and developing international sensibility (WITBN).
  - A desire to quite self-consciously bring a social science based critical perspective to the practice of journalism and to an understanding of indigeneity in contemporary world and national contexts.
  - A desire to bring together students and practitioners from a range of national contexts to share the experience and perspective.
2. The experience of developing and delivering it. (Charlie)
  - The importance of partners and consultations.
  - Building a curriculum is not enough: a pedagogic ethos and working relationships between staff and students are vital to the successful delivery
  - A process of constant learning.
3. Issues that require conscious consideration. (Torkel)
  - Managing a wide diversity of student experience and expectation.
  - The role of non-indigenous members of staff.
4. Learning outcomes. (Liv Inger)
  - Students’ feedback and results.
  - Lessons learned.

- The role of Indigenous methodologies and perspectives in developing a programme in Indigenous journalism and media.

## Part 2: Staff papers

### Paper 1: HOW TO DO REPORTING FROM INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES (30 min)

By Assistant Professor **Liv Inger Somby**, Sámi University of Applied Sciences

Indigenous Peoples around the world are used to a lot of «others» - i.e. foreigners coming in to Indigenous Societies and doing either research or interviewing us. When the foreigners have left the people seldom get to know how the interviews, stories or their answers are used or misused. A key question therefore is: **why** do we need to have control over own stories?

From an Indigenous Perspective the most important part of the interviews is to have more control over the *final* decisions. It is important to ask **why** the whole process from doing research to publishing stories is usually not part of the agreements between the journalists/researchers and interviewees. And, importantly: How will **our own media** guideline help or protect the Indigenous Peoples? Is it possible to have a guideline without taking control over censorship or the freedom of speech? My paper is about doing **interviews** in Indigenous Societies and **how** to report back to us, before the rushed deadlines. And, if something goes wrong or there is a misunderstanding, who has the responsibility to correct the story?

As part of my paper I will tell how I conducted stories from elder women in Sápmi for more than 20 years ago and why I had to wait for 22 years before I could publish these life stories. I travelled around in Sápmi and conducted stories from 27 women who were then between 67 and 101 years old. I had to use special methods to get access and one of them was *oadjudit* – to build trust. This meant that I spent days with them before they started to talk. Among the Indigenous Peoples there are few who are writing their own life stories and even less that are writing diaries, so to conduct elders and document their lives will help future generations to understand how people lived their lives many decades ago. In my project, I was asking women who were 100 years old, about how was your life as a child, youth, young adult, adult and as elder. This project I will use as an example of how to conduct interviews without losing sight of the indigenous interviewee and his/her perspective on the story.

### Paper 2: INDIGENOUS JOURNALISM, MEDIA INNOVATIONS AND SOCIAL CHANGE (30 min)

By **Niamh Ní Bhroin**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo, Norway; **Stine Sand**, associate professor, Department of Tourism and Northern Studies, The Arctic University of Norway; and, **Torkel Rasmussen**, Associate Professor, Sámi University of Applied Sciences, Norway

Research relating to Indigenous journalism highlights the importance of including Indigenous voices in the public sphere. Technological innovations, in particular as they relate to the Internet and digitalization, bring about new opportunities for access to communication platforms. However, the

extent to which these developments can be understood to support meaningful participation in the public sphere is debated. In this paper, we review more than 130 research articles dealing with the topic of Indigenous journalism. We find that the perspective of social change, as it relates to the changing role and participation of Indigenous communities in the public sphere is central to this research. At the same time, the approaches taken to exploring how social, economic and technological change interrelate vary. We propose that theories developed within the field of media innovations research could provide a useful lens to synthesize and develop our understanding of innovations and change in the field of Indigenous journalism.

### **Part 3: Students' presentations**

- Introduction to cohort 1 and the theses they wrote: A visual overhead presentation of the dissertation titles and a linking of them to a sketch of the student's biographies (15 min) (Charlie & Lia)
- 2 x 5 minute videos of individual students experience and views on their learning from the experience: Camila Emboava Lopes & Jenni Leukumaavaara (10 min)
- Presentation by: Aslak Paltto (20 min)
  
- Introduction to cohort 2 and their theses (15 min)
- Student presentation 1: Nils Johan (10 min + 10 min discussion)
- Student presentation 2: Imani (10 min + 10 min discussion)
- Student presentation 3: Johan Ánte (10 min + 10 min discussion)

### **Part 4: Discussion**