

Cultural resilience of social-ecological systems in the Nenets and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrugs, Russia

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Panel 81 panel 81 - Indigenous Resilience - Panel Chair: Gary Kofinas

Empirical data on resilience in social-ecological systems (SESs) are presented from regional-scale case studies in the Nenets and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrugs, Russia. These neighbouring SESs share key common characteristics. These include the presence of large semi-domestic reindeer herds managed by indigenous Nenets nomads and ongoing large-scale hydrocarbon development and climate warming. Ecological drivers are certainly important, and there is evidence for extensive terrestrial and freshwater degradation across these regions. However, in this paper we elucidate critical cultural factors contributing to SES resilience. In particular we detail an integrated view of people situated in specific tundra landscapes that face significantly different prospects for adaptation depending on existing or planned infrastructure associated with oil & gas development. Factors contributing to general resilience, such as human demography, are compared to those that are adapted to certain spatial and temporal contexts, such as herd demography and energetics.