

## **The Far Islands and Other Cold Places: Women in the Arctic, 1818-2018**

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This paper examines how women are represented in the heritage narratives of the circumpolar societies of North America and Scandinavia. Placing representations of women in migratory literature within the existing 'Northern' cultural landscapes and histories, it explores new methodologies that enable us to understand historical position of women as actors within the context of global diversity.

Migration often leads to the emergence of geographically diffuse socio-cultural fields that cross political and geographical borders. Although these always impose some sort of structural constraint, this does not necessarily change the nature or continuity of the relationship, feelings of affinity or images of difference and/or transgression. The paper will therefore focus on:

- (1) understanding the diverse roles that women have played in the history of the Arctic, both as colonisers and colonised, and
- (2) demonstrating the contemporary issues affecting women in the Arctic.

The paper brings together a variety of approaches to the study of gender, using the circumpolar North to investigate both transnational, national and regional identity construction and representation. Using examples from travel literature, heritage collections and archives, the paper demonstrates both the historical and contemporary processes of gender differences and representations, as they are developed in relation to trans-Atlantic encounters, and the construction of place and identity in real, imaginary and symbolic terms.