



**Sámi allaskuvla**  
Sámi University College

First invitation 19.8.2009

Invitation to offer a speech

## Tradition and modernity in an indigenous context November 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2009, Diehtosiida, Kautokeino, Norway

Sámi University College arranges the conference *Tradition and modernity in an indigenous context* in Kautokeino on November 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2009. The purpose of the conference is to gather researchers of social sciences that in their research touch on the traditions of the indigenous societies and especially the traditions' encounter with new times.

The conference has four key note speakers:

**JAN HENRY KESKITALO, Sámi University College and WINHEC**

**ANNI-SIIRI LÄNSMAN, Giellagas-institute (Univ. of Uleåborg)**

**VIGDIS STORDAHL, SÁNAG (National resource center of Sápmi – psychiatric health care)**

**The name of the fourth key note speaker will announced soon**

During the conference we will also arrange four workshops:

- 1) Adaption to future – traditional knowledge for future generations
- 2) Traditions – riches or obstacle?
- 3) Innovation and tradition
- 4) Individualism and unity

Speeches can be on all subjects that are of importance for the research on indigenous societies and their traditions. Time limit to offer a speech is October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. The speeches are 20 min + 10 minutes discussion. Languages of the conference are North Sámi, Norwegian and English. Participants cover their own traveling and lodging expenses, as well as dinner expenses. The conference fee is NOK 800 and covers coffee breaks and lunches both days. Those who give speeches will not pay the fee.

If you want to participate and give a speech, send the title and a short summary to the Sámi University College's research administration (research consultant John A. Sikku, [ja.sikku@nsi.no](mailto:ja.sikku@nsi.no), phone +4778448475). You find information about the conference at our homepage – [www.samiskhs.no](http://www.samiskhs.no) > International > Research & Science – and soon will there be also a registration form.

The conference is arranged in the new house of science *Diehtosiida*, which opens up for students this autumn and holds it's official opening ceremony the days before the conference (November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009).

Wellcome to Kautokeino!

Bures boahthin Guovdageidnui!

Prof. Nils Oskal

Prof. Vuokko Hirvonen

Research director Jelena Porsanger

Goahti-leader Johan Lemet Kalstad

## Tradition and modernity in an indigenous context: Main subjects

The superior theme of the conference is tradition and modernity in the indigenous societies. As the indigenous society becomes modern it also faces questions about recognized knowledge, the durability of the knowledge and the acceptance of traditions. The traditions come forth as traditions, and are therefore acknowledged and more exposed to reflections and evaluation. The traditions are also criticized, retold and recreated. Traditions and traditional knowledge are used as a means of commerce, as a legal source, for educational purposes and human progression. Traditions and traditional knowledge should fill specific requirements regarding authenticity, reliability and historical continuity. In this context there is also a political will to maintain traditional knowledge and use it in public administration.

### 1) Adaption to future – traditional knowledge for future generations

How do we adapt and how should we adapt to surrounding societies? What traditional knowledges have a role in the future? How can we preserve the knowledge? Is it possible to formalize all traditional knowledge? What function do children and youth have when the traditions are transferred, renewed and accepted?

### 2) Traditions – riches or obstacle?

In Sápmi we tend to describe the positive parts – togetherness, transfer of historical knowledge etc. – but the traditions have of course also bad and negative aspects. How do traditions affect individuals' choices, lifestyles and lives? How can traditions be both riches and obstacle in people's lives and the development of the society?

### 3) Innovation and tradition

Innovation is important in every society that wants to progress. How do traditions interact with innovations? How do traditions change? How are traditions used in developing new products and inventions? What conditions are set when the innovation and the innovator live in a society where traditions are the the most important base for unity and self understanding, and how can you build cooperation and common identity on a changeable ground?

### 4) Individualism and unity

Cultural modernity also changes the relations of the individual and the group, where the individual's reins are loosened and the self-understanding of the group is more agreed upon than given. Cultural expressions are subject of debate, and their ownership relation to the individual or the group is an open question. What role has the individual and the group in the retaining, transferring and renewing of the traditions?

Wellcome to Kautokeino, Sámi University College and Diehtosiida!