

UiT

**NORGES
ARKTISKE
UNIVERSITET**

The Multicultural Barents Region

Karolina Banul

Barents Institute

UiT The Arctic University of Norway





The Barents Region

Functional region

- Enhancing interaction and integration across borders of different homogenous regions
- Socio-economic development
- Cultural cooperation
- Environmental issues

Identity region

- Historical bonds: Sapmi; Pomor trade; economical relations until 1917; symbolic connections in culture and sport in the period 1950-1980
- Other regional initiatives: North Calotte; Northern Norway
- Similarities in living conditions and experiences of periphery, remoteness, climate

KART over FINMARKEN

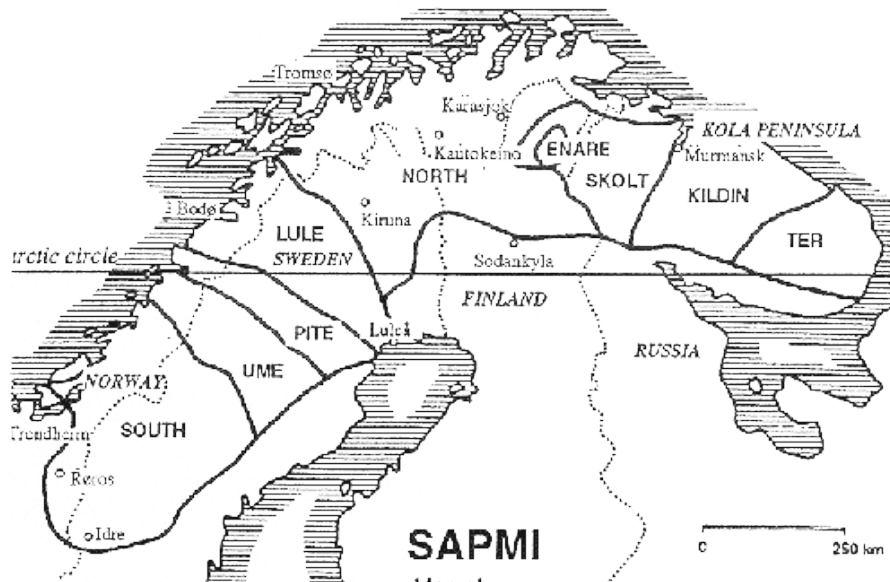
vest tilhørende dele af SVERIGE, FINLAND og RUSLAND visende de svenske grænsestrækninger for tidsrummet af 1751 — og den nord-russiske tilhørende for 1810.
 Grænserne er indteget med henblik på de økonomiske landbrugsforhold, navnlig efter et ved Rigsarkivet bevarede kart, udarbejdet af T. KNOFF og P. C. KNOFF som offentlig forsendelse i aarene 1747 og 1748.
 Kartet er skrevet af Olof NISSENS kart over det nordlige Norge 1890.



Udgivet af Forlaget og trykt af H. H. H. H.
 Forlaget af H. H. H. H.

Udgivet og trykt i H. H. H. H.

Kartverket (Norges Geografiske Oppmåling): Rektangelmåling 1:1000000, Finnmarkens amt nr 52: Kart over Finnmark, 1905.

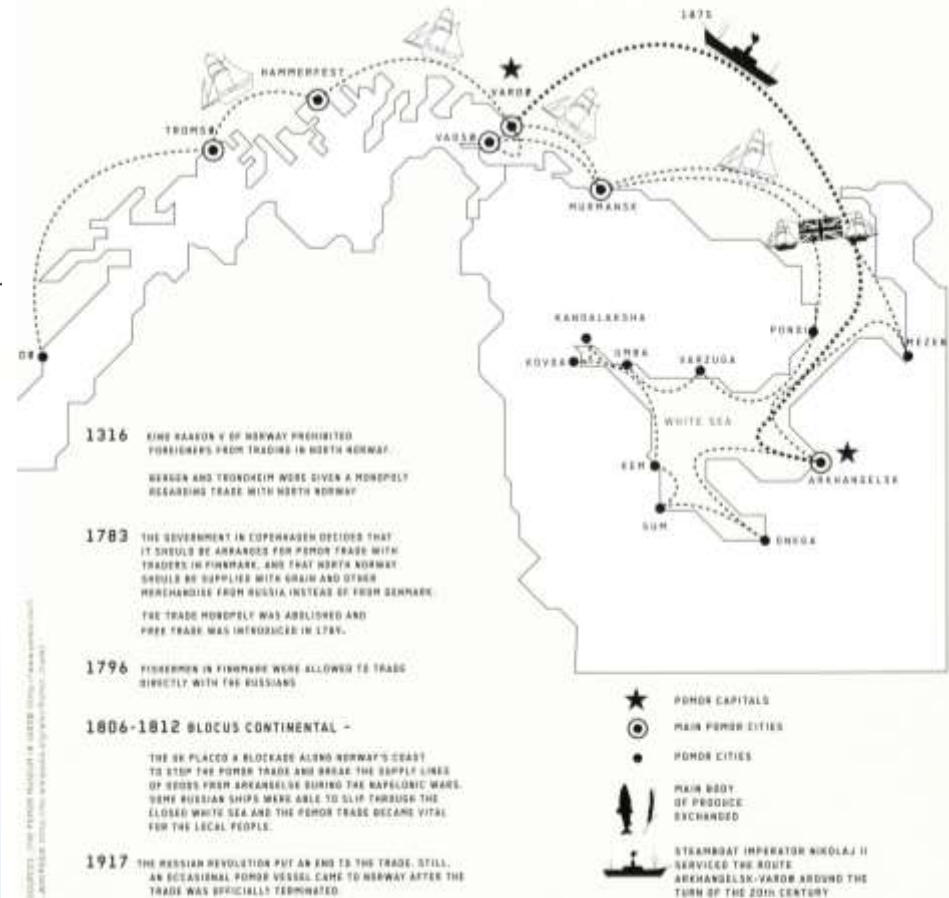


SAPMI
Map shows
Sami cultural regions and the
borders of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

Map source: *the North American Sami Journal* 2001

FLASHBACK

THE POMOR TRADE WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN THE POMORS OF NORTHWEST RUSSIA AND THE PEOPLE ALONG THE COAST OF NORTHERN NORWAY. THE TRADE HAD ITS PEAK BETWEEN 1740 AND UNTIL THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN 1917, TRADE BETWEEN RUSSIANS AND NORWEGIANS IS KNOWN FROM THE VIKING AGE.



Source: *Northern experiments: Barents Urban survey* 2009

Multiculturalism?

- Cultural diversity
 - Shown by demography
 - Characterizes multicultural society
 - Co-existence of diverse cultures, that includes ethnic, religious, or cultural groups
 - minority groups: national minorities, immigrants, persons seeking asylum
- Policy response to cultural diversity
 - different structures within which immigrants are integrated to the society.
 - acceptance for co-existence of ethnic minorities and their rights to retain their distinctive cultures

Human diversity in the Barents Region

Total Population – more than 5.2 million (2010):

- 4 main nationalities
- National minorities
- Indigenous peoples: Sami, Nenets, Veps,
- Immigrants

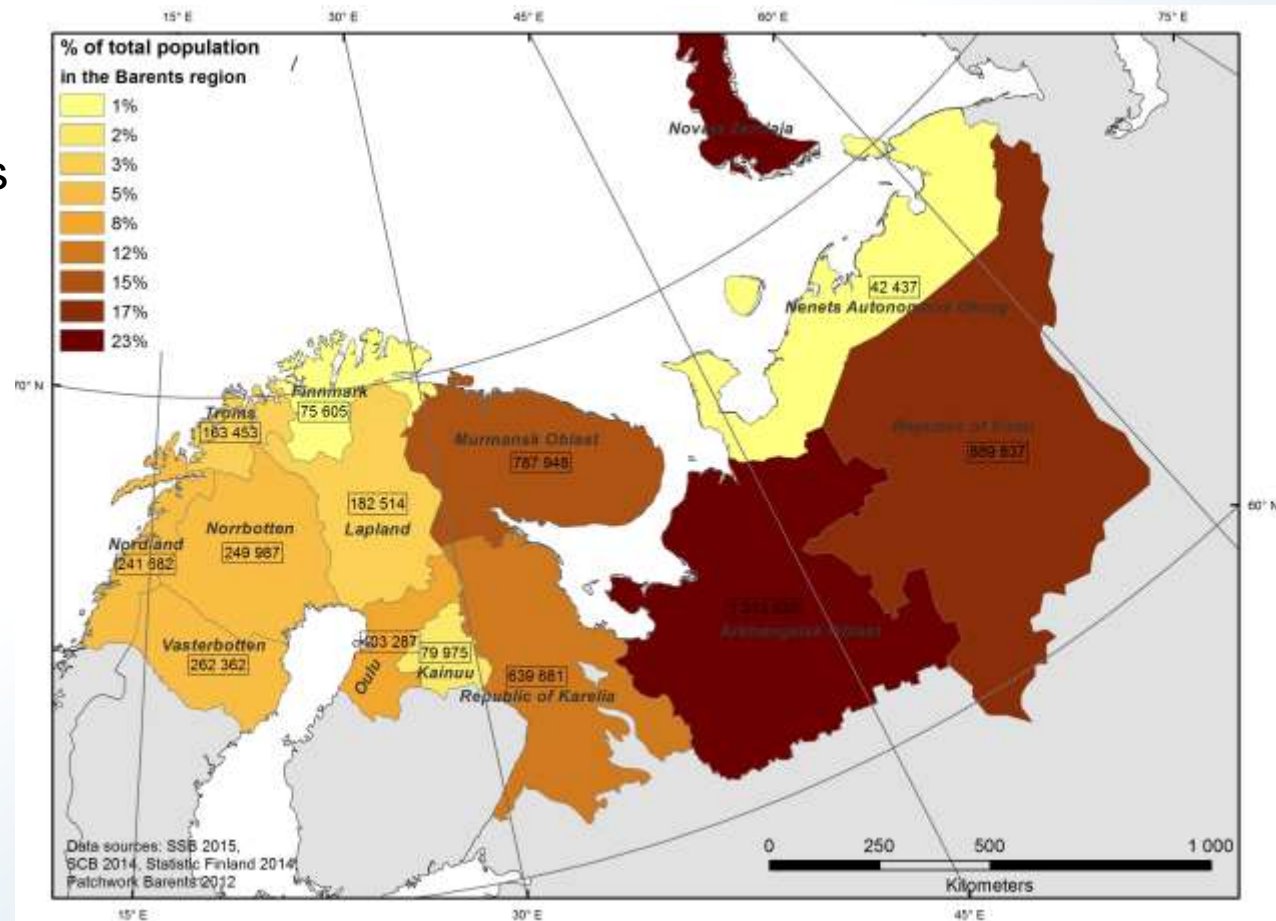


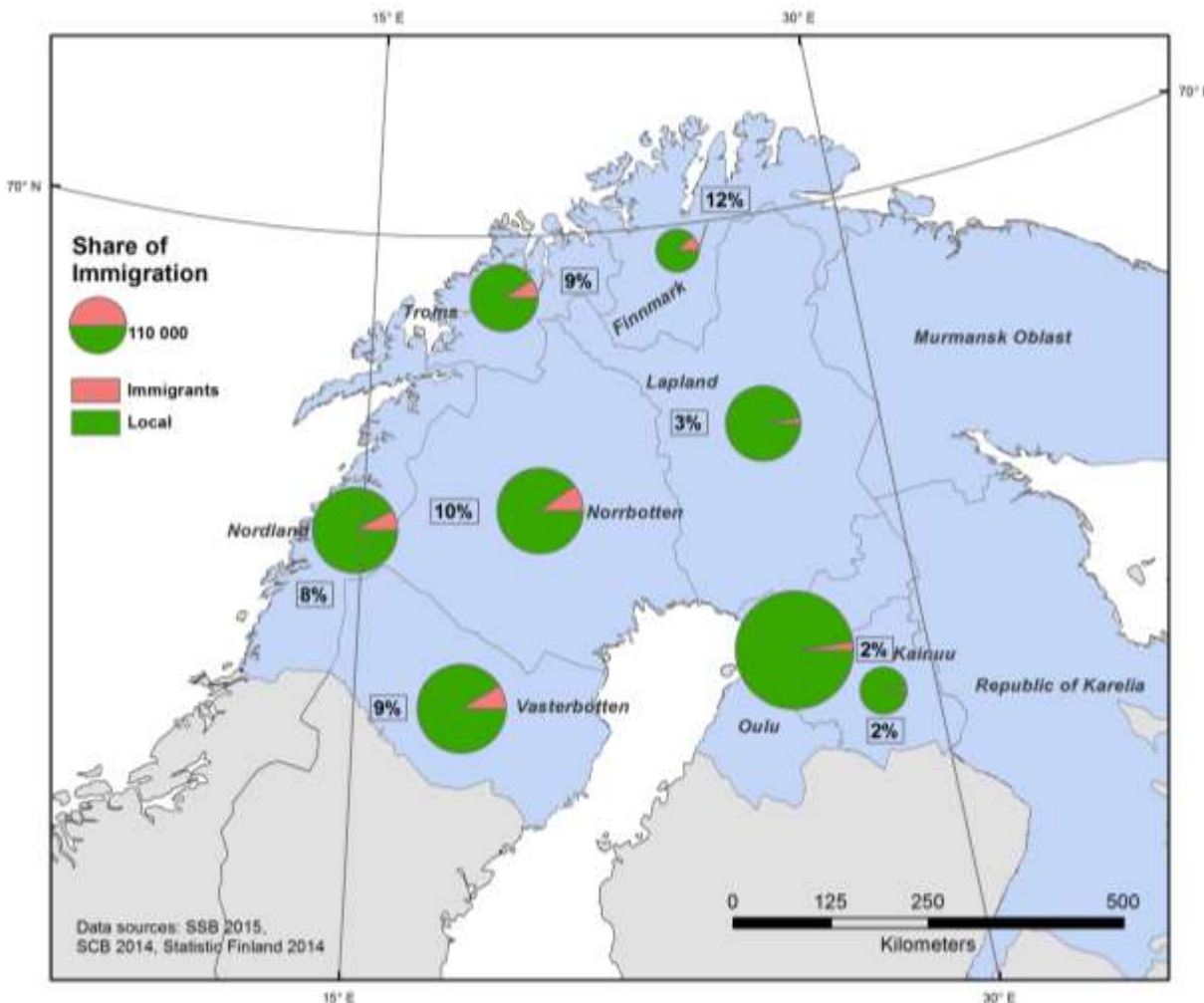


Photo by: Jimmy Nelson Pictures BV



Source: GRID-Arendal 2012, *Demography of indigenous peoples of the Arctic based on linguistic groups*; GRID-Arendal 2006, *Distribution of Saami dialects*

Immigration in the Barents Region

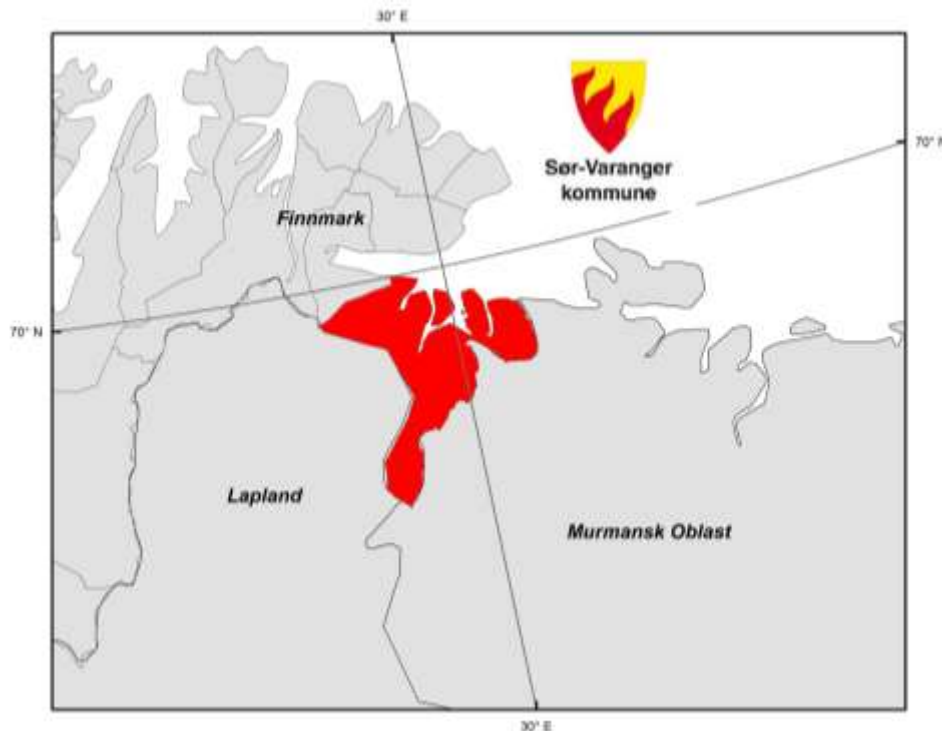


Share of population with foreign background in the total population is from 2% in Oulu or Kainuu to 12% in Finnmark.

Case study of Sør-Varanger

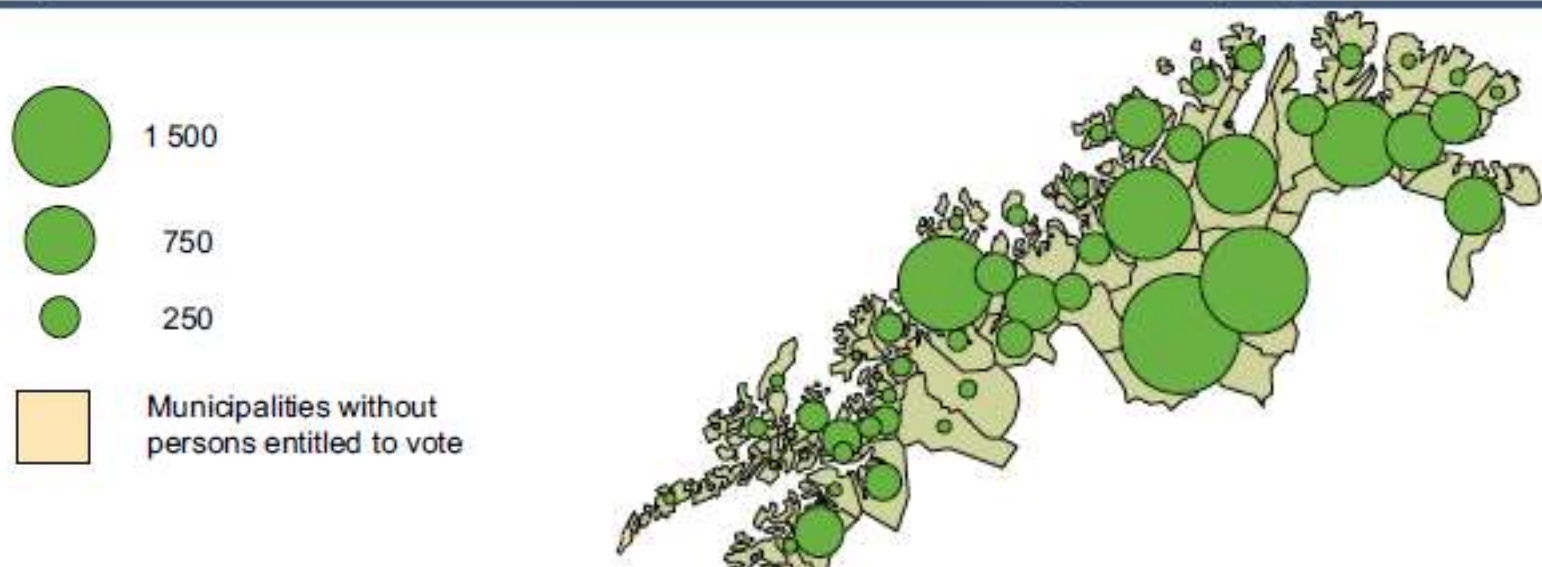
Border area

- Approx. 70 different nationalities (15% of population)
- Sami identity

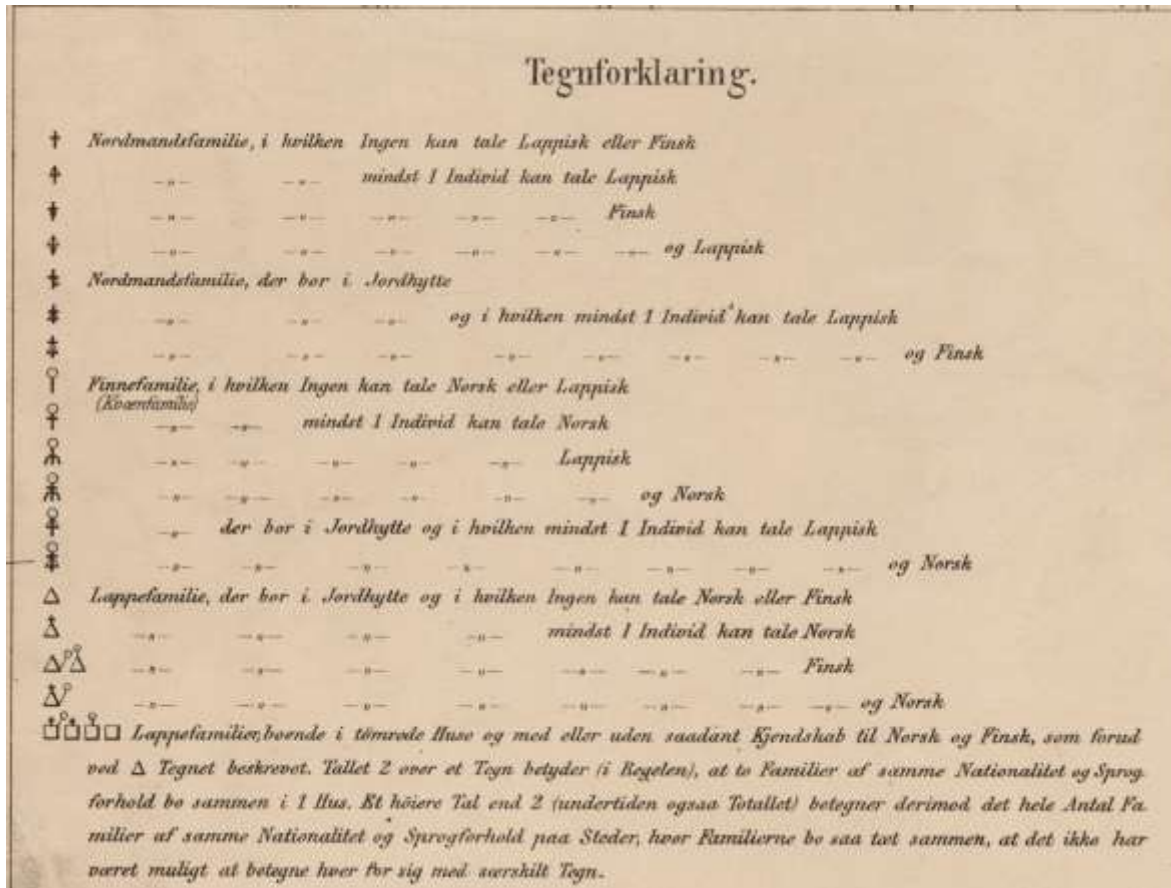


2015	Total Population	Population foreign background
Sør-Varanger	10221	1510
		15 %
Russia		395 (26%)
Finland		170 (11%)
Estonia		89 (6 %)
Poland		73 (5 %)
Sweden		61 (4 %)
Fillipines		56 (4 %)
Thailand		51 (3 %)
Germany		50 (3 %)

Map 10. Persons on the Sami Parliament electoral roll, 2009, by municipality



Ethnography of Sør-Varanger



Kartverket (Norges Geografiske Oppmåling): Rektangelmåling 1:200000, Finnmarkens amt nr 44-1 sør:Etnografisk kart over Finmarken 1 sør, 1888.



Perspectives on multicultural character of Sør-Varanger

The society created from the mixture of different nations and cultures. It is seen as a tradition that formed this community.

“Long time before this area was called Barents, we have been multicultural. Our history of people moving between borders, meeting, trading, and falling in love made us what we are today. We are used to different type of people living in this area with different stories, culture and language. [...] This historical background gave us good qualities of treating people in a good way and be more curious about others who come here to visit or to live with us.”

Perspectives on multicultural character of Sør-Varanger

Advantages:

- Values of open society
- Benefits for the economy

“People are used to it [many cultures], but also they are very pragmatic about it. You can also see it historically that they took the best part of cultures and they make it their own. Nowadays we are also quite open, and they see that it is important to have migration to get skilled people and dynamics in the region. “

Perspectives on multicultural character of Sør-Varanger

Challenges:

- Multicultural or multinational – not all cultures are visible in public space
- Keeping balance between different cultures and focus on all regional traditions



“Kirkenes is rather multinational than multicultural. There is many nations, but they are invisible [...]. Definitely, there is unused potential for this town. We should bring all those culture to the public sphere. I hope that there will be more space for art projects that reflect on this issue.”

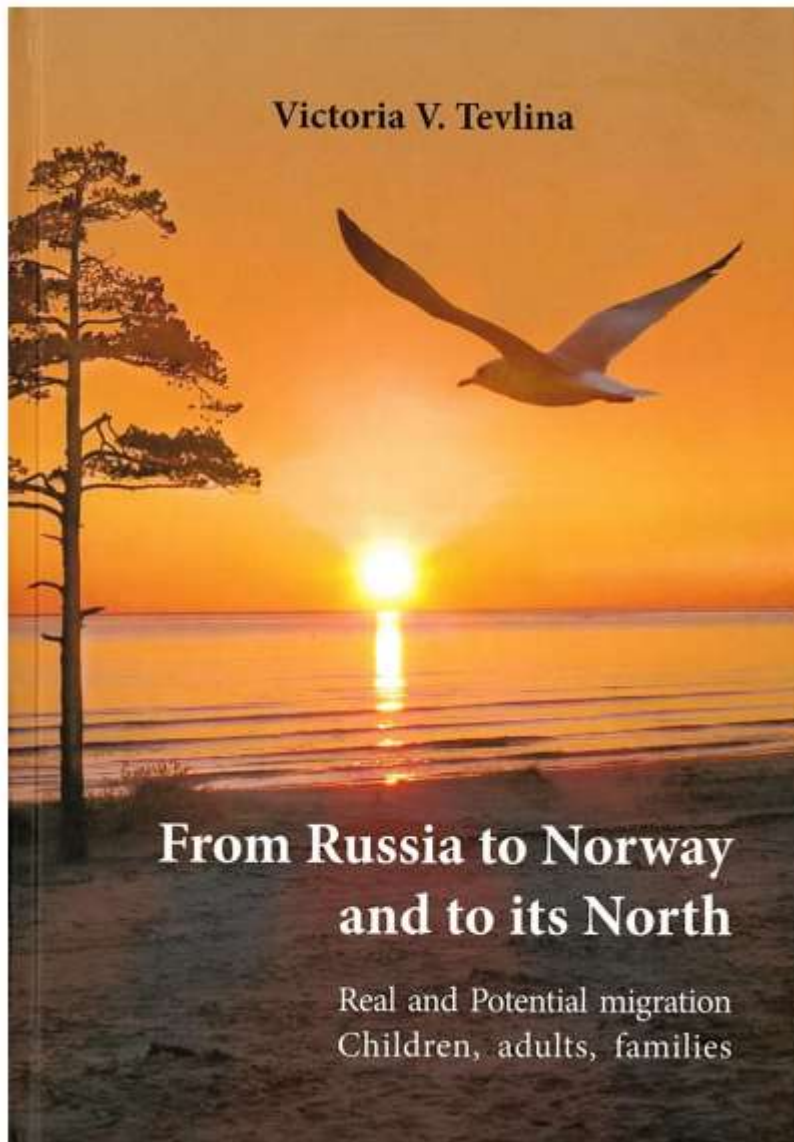
“It is very easy to define us as living close to Russia and its culture, but it is more difficult to define all the other cultures living here [...]. There is also strong Finnish history and Sami traditions in this area. [...] We have a great task to show everything.”

UiT

NORGES
ARKTISKE
UNIVERSITET

Thank you for attention





- topic of migration - historiography, quantitative indicators, reasons, aspects and peculiarities of the emigration of Russian citizens to Norway from the 1990s until the 2010s.
- Special attention is paid to the welfare, social-psychological self-esteem of Russian children, who have settled far from their native soil in most cases because their mothers brought them there.