During the last two decades, attention on the Polar Regions – the Arctic and Antarctic - has rapidly increased among states, businesses, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders. In the Arctic, tourism, mining and other activities have increased substantially while in the Antarctic, this is particularly true for tourism. Developments in relation to the Arctic Council and the Antarctic Treaty System make clear that an increasing number of states want to be involved in activities in the Polar Regions or strengthen their current involvement. The Polar Regions have clearly become internationally strategic important parts of our globe.

These developments create new strategic and economic opportunities. However, they may also have negative impacts on ecological and social values. While developments in the Arctic are often presented as ‘sustainable developments’, the question arises as to what does sustainable development mean in an Arctic setting. What are the main values and interests to be taken into account and what role do existing legal frameworks play in striking ‘the right balance’? At the other end of the earth, increasing activities give rise to the question as to how successful the Antarctic Treaty System is, and can be, in protecting Antarctica as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science.

The aim of this seminar is to explore these and other questions relating to the role of law in protecting environmental and social values in the Polar Regions. Without striving for comprehensiveness, a number of important themes have been selected, including: issues relating to marine governance and the sustainability of marine living and non-living resources; indigenous views on sustainable development; the challenges of environmentally responsible and sustainable tourism and scientific research; and Sweden’s interests in the Polar Regions. It is hoped that the seminar may stimulate awareness of and collaborations on these and other pressing issues of interest to both Sweden and the international community relating to the Polar Regions.
Program

Opening & Introduction

9.30-10.00  Coffee and tea

10.00-10.10  Welcome and Opening by Olof Johansson Stenman, Professor of Economics and Vice Dean of the School of Business, Economics and Law of the University of Gothenburg

10.15-10.35  Niels Krabbe, LLM Lund University, Doctoral Candidate, School of Business, Economics and Law of the University of Gothenburg  

The International Governance Systems of the Arctic and the Antarctic: A Brief Introduction

The Arctic

10.40-11.00  Rosemary Rayfuse, Scientia Professor of Law at UNSW Sydney, Conjoint Professor in the Faculty of Law at Lund University and Visiting Professor of the School of Business, Economics and Law of the University of Gothenburg  

The Role of Law in Ensuring Sustainability of Fisheries in the Arctic

11.05-11.25  David Langlet, Professor of Ocean Governance Law, School of Business, Economics and Law of the University of Gothenburg  

The Role of the EU in Sustainable Marine Governance in the Arctic

11.25-11.45  Questions and discussion

12.00-13.15  Lunch

13.15-13.35  Nicolas Waller, lecturer at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg  

Sustainable Development in the Arctic: The Position of the Sami
13.40-14.00  **Eva Marie Svenson**, Professor of Legal Philosophy and Law, School of Business, Economics and Law of the University of Gothenburg  
**Gender Equality: a Component of Sustainability in the Arctic? (Video Presentation from Vancouver)**

14.05-14.25  **Jessica Nilsson**, Senior Advisor, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Hav och vatten), Gothenburg  
**Sweden's perspective on the Role of the Arctic Council in Protecting Social and Ecological Values in the Arctic**

14.30-14.45  Questions and discussion

14.45-15.00  **Coffee & Tea**

**The Antarctic**

15.05-15.25  **Kees Bastmeijer**, Professor of Nature Conservation and Water Law at Tilburg University, Visiting Professor of the School of Business, Economics and Law of the University of Gothenburg  
**The Slow Loss of the Last Wild Continent: The Antarctic Treaty System and its Inability to Address Cumulative Impacts**

15.30-15.55  **Kim Crosbie**, Chair of the Boards of Salén Ship Management and Noble Caledonia Limited and former Executive Director of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO)  
**‘Sustainable Tourism’ in an Antarctic context: The Main Challenges and the Role of Governments and the Tourism Sector**

16.00-16.10  **Rolf Carman**, Ministry of Education and Research of Sweden,  
**Sweden's perspective on the Role of the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty in Protecting Social and Ecological Values in Antarctica**

16.10-16.30  Questions and discussion

16.30  **Closure**