Last reminder

- Exam on Monday 10 February
  - Check attendance list and approved exercises
  - Meet at 08:45; you will get a candidate number
- Prepare for exam
  - See course website for solution examples of previous exams and tips on how to succeed
  - Look through curriculum and summaries
- Course evaluation
  - Please answer the evaluation you receive on email
  - If you liked the course – tell us and others!
    (If you didn't – please don't…)

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SH-201 THE HISTORY OF SVALBARD

10 The development of settlements and the history of Longyearbyen

Thor Bjørn Arlov, NTNU & UNIS

UNIS   NTNU

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Content of today's lecture

1st half:
- The growth of permanent settlements
  - Settlements: from camps to communities
  - The development of mining settlements
  - Company towns: for better or worse?

2nd half:
- The modern Longyearbyen
  - White Paper no. 39 (1974–75)
  - "Normalization": creating a family community
  - The modernization of Longyearbyen

Problem:
- Why and how did local communities develop?
- How "normal" are the communities?

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Today's Cultural Heritage Quiz
What is this?
© Svalbard Museum

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From camps to communities

- What does it take to be a local community?
  - Permanent or semi-permanent settlement
  - A minimum of physical and social infrastructure
  - Social composition of the community, demographical characteristics
- Some short-lived settlements on Svalbard
  - Advent City 1905–08
  - Hiorthamn 1917–26, 1938–40
  - Sveagruvan (Swedish) 1917–25
  - Tunheim on Bjørnøya 1915–25
  - Barentsburg (Dutch) 1920–26

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The early mining camps

- Advent City – a pretentious name?
  - Established 1905 by Spitsbergen Coal & Trading Co.
  - 1905–06: 30 winterers; 1906–07: 70
  - Advent City reborn in Hiorthhamn 1917
- Longyear City
  - The American period 1906–15
  - An (almost) all male, multi-ethnic community
  - Working and living conditions
  - Labour conflicts
  - The Norwegian take-over in 1916: did the conditions really improve?

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Ny-Ålesund

- Established 1917 as a mining camp. 150 people wintered in 1918–19
- First production period 1920–29
- Fishery station 1935–39; hotel 1938–39
- Reopening of coal mining in 1945
- Modernization and investments after the accident in 1953; coal mining until 1963
- The Kings Bay accident 5 November 1962 and its aftermath
- The ESRO-period 1965–74 and development of Ny-Ålesund as a research base

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The Russian settlements

- The Anglo-Russian Grumant Co. in Grumant 1920–26
- Soviet Trust Arktikugol bought Barentsburg from NESPICO, took over Grumant and bought the Pyramiden property in 1931–32
- Evacuation 1941, settlements bombed and destroyed in 1943
- Rebuilding after World War II; Pyramiden established 1949–56
- Grumant closed in 1962, Pyramiden in 1998
- Community structure and standards; post-Soviet development

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15 minutes break

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Longyearbyen – the company town

- Store Norske: more than a company
  - The requirements of the Mining Code
  - Social, medical and spiritual (!) services
  - Caretaker of Norwegian sovereignty?
- The physical lay-out of Longyearbyen
  - Local development: the needs of the company
  - Living standards and welfare
- A class-concious and controlled society
  - Privileges and benefits
  - Recruitment practice; seasonal contracts
  - Labour rights and local democracy

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"Normalization" in the 1970s

- Parliament White Paper 39 (1974–75)
  - Nationalization of Store Norske in 1976
  - Housing; construction of a family community
  - Expansion of public services, infrastructure and local administration
- The airport opened in 1975: a watershed in the local development
- Social and demographical structure in the 1980s: how did Longyearbyen change?
- Cross-cultural contacts: gradual opening of the Russian settlements from 1986

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Modern Longyearbyen

- The economic development
  - A new rôle for Store Norske: reorganization 1989-90
  - Diversifying the economic structure: White Paper no. 50 (1990–91)
  - Rebuilding the local community – an unexcpected success story?
- Demography and social structure
  - A stable or unstable community?
  - Living standards and quality of life
  - Local democracy 2002 – another watershed
  - Effects of globalization: > 35% foreign citizens , > 40 nationalities (2019)

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Summing up: Past, present, future

- A slow, gradual development from mining camps to local communities
- Permanent or temporary settlement? Average mobility is still high (4-5 years)
- Svalbard communities are fundamentally different compared to the mainland. Will they ever be "normal"?
- Longyearbyen on its own: from instrument of Norwegian policy to a goal by itself
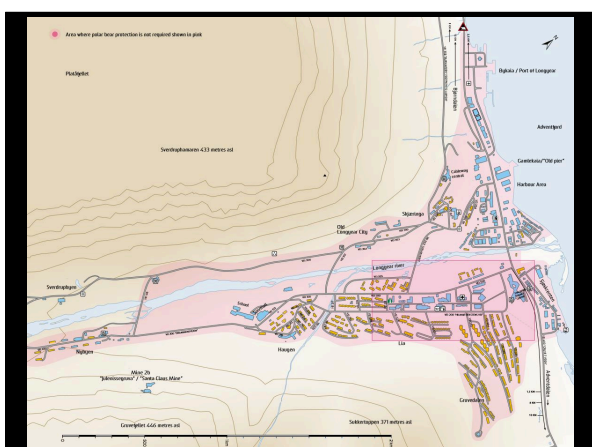- Towards a post-industrial Svalbard?

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End of 10th lecture

and end of the course
Thank you, good luck!

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