

## Conference Abstracts & Biographies

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### 5C – Creating places to belong? Narrating society and the sea across three generations and five countries II

Chair: Anne Trine Kjørholt, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

#### **Abstract:**

Coastal societies are characterized by being in transition with regard to economies, work, demography, and social-cultural life. The chronic loss of young people in some societies represents a large problem (Gerrard 2008). Studies reveal that local identity and sense of belonging to place and 'nature' are important reasons for staying (e.g. Nystad 2003), as well as the presence of activities connected to coastal culture (Gerrard 2008). Interesting questions to be addressed are: How is the coast and the sea narrated and represented as a 'home', and as a place for learning and work? What is the social meaning of sea and the coastal landscape for identity and belonging, for experiences of life quality?

This session explores perceptions and representations of everyday life, work and learning in coastal societies in five countries as these have changed over time, encompassing 1945 to present, in rapidly changing socio-cultural and material contexts.

All the papers are connected to the research project; Valuing the past, sustaining the future. Education, knowledge and identity across three generations in coastal communities, funded by Research Council Norway and NTNU, and the research programme: Norway as a sea nation. Coastal communities, generation, sustainability. A comparative qualitative research design has been developed, using life-biographies across three generations, supplemented with other methods. The research group is interdisciplinary, including anthropology, childhood research, public policy, education, health science and comparative literature. Six papers are included, examining the various ways in which coastal identities, education, and work opportunities in different coastal societies has changed over time. In some small communities, island identity is imbued with a deep connection to land and sea. Though the data in some contexts show that younger generations do not necessarily pursue fishing professionally, for many the sea continues to have a powerful impact on their identities and sense of belonging.

#### **Papers:**

#### **“I often ponder over what the elders in the family told us...” Children, place and local knowledge in the Faroe Islands**

Firouz Gaini, University of Faroe Islands

#### **The Norwegian literary coast in contemporary fiction: Places that shape identity**

Christopher Messelt, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

#### **Identity and Life quality: Shaping one's place on a small island in a fishing community in Norway.**

Harald Beyer Broch, University of Oslo, Norway

#### **Coastal communities, generations, health and sustainability.**

Sofie Hjorthen, Steinar Krokstad, Erik R Sund, Linn Getz, and Anne Trine Kjørholt, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

#### **Health, lifestyle and wellbeing across three generations in coastal communities**

Miriam Hjeldsbakken Engevd, Kari Bjerke Batt-Rawden, and, Anne Trine Kjørholt, Norwegian University of Science and Technology