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Academic paper (20+10 min)

Topics: Contemporary artistic and art educational approaches to diversity and cultural changes

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Seeking culturally sustainable approaches to art practices in the North

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My doctoral studies concentrate on cultural sustainability in higher education art practices in the North. I am especially interested in cases where activities and workshops are carried out in small remote location with local people. When we come from outside to work with these communities, it becomes essential to determine what are the methods of working to support culturally sensitive and sustainable art practice. Socially-engaged and place-specific approach to art requires the pre- and co-understanding of cultural identities, psychological and economic wellbeing that is gained only through ongoing dialogue between local people about their locality, traditions and aspirations.

In my presentation, I will approach these questions through Enontekiö Art Path project that has been started autumn 2016 and is ongoing. It is a collaboration project with the Municipality of Enontekiö and the International master's program Arctic Art and Design (AAD) run by the University of Lapland. In the Art Path, local stories lead the path from one village to another. The path is formed from different environmental art workshops done together with each village community and AAD and art education students.