



Frontiers, borderlands or border zones? Changing ideas of borders, mobility and security in the Barents region

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Today's presentation

- Security, borders and mobility in the Barents region
- Increase of people, goods and capital crossing the borders
- Different understanding of borders: frontiers, border zones and border lands

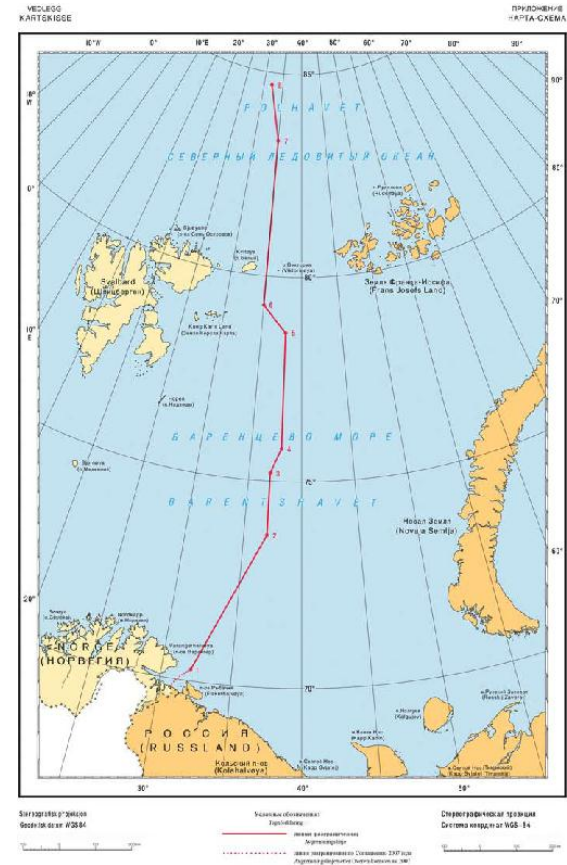
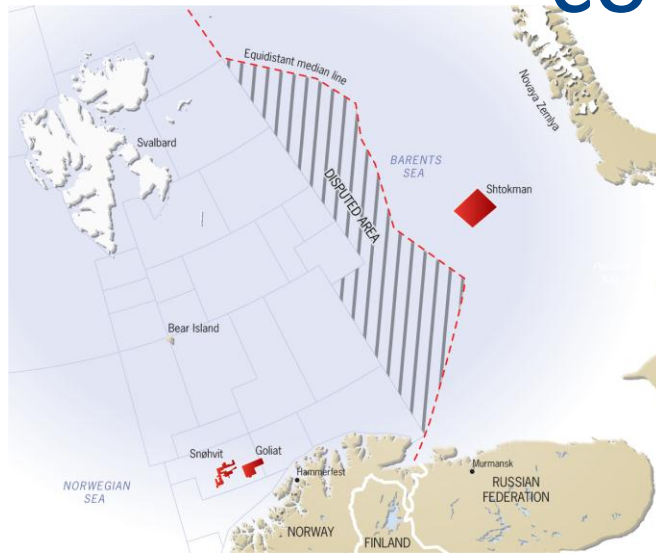


M. Foucault (2007) Territory, Population and Security

- The first aspect of security, “sovereignty capitalizes a territory, ... and forms the permitted”.
- The disciplinary aspect of security: “nothing is allowed to escape discipline, it is the forbidden”.
- The third aspect of security, governmentality: “works, fabricates, organizes, and plans a milieu of tolerable”.



Borders, frontiers and territorial control



Borders as frontiers:
a part of a country which fronts or faces
another country or an unsettled region



Frontier as the use of sovereign and disciplinary power

- Sovereignty

- Legal code and crime
- Securing territories
- Territories as possessions
- "The permitted": documents, practices
- Schengen agreement

- Discipline

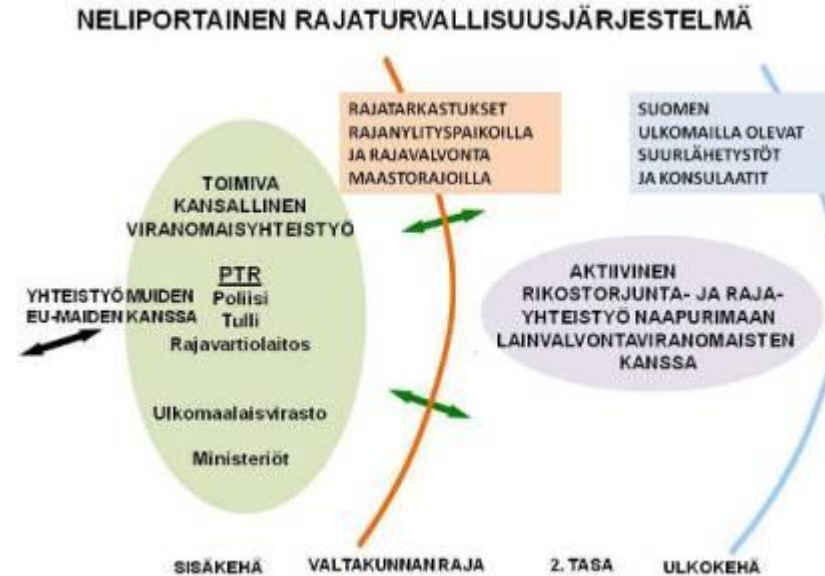
- The culprit
- Bodies and performances at the border
- "The forbidden": crime related to cross-border activities
- Raja-Jooseppi/Näätämö



- Governmentality:
 - Securing freedom of movement: goods, people and capital
 - Tolerance of threats, dangers and risks related to mobility
 - Borders as "border zones"
 - New border practices: automatic monitoring, border control personnel



From frontiers to border zones



Four border zones:

1. Outer zone: Finnish embassies and foreign authorities
2. Border and customs cooperation with neighbouring countries
3. National zone: Border and customs control at borders
4. Zone inside: National and EU cooperation among authorities: Police, customs, border guard and migration authorities



Barents region

- Mobility of goods: Fish, tobacco, alcohol, weapons and counterfeit products
 - Over 50 000 tobacco packages caught at the border in 2010
- Mobility of people:
 - visa-free travel, labour force needs, working tourists
 - In early 1990s 3000 people crossing borders, now over 100 000
- Mobility of capital:
 - expected by 2020 more than 120 million euros worth foreign direct investments in the Barents region



The borderless North?

A Finnish woman with one child moved to Sweden to live near Haaparanda in 2009. She works in Tornio on the Finnish side. She received social benefits for the child until 2010, but not any more. The authorities from two EU countries disagree who should pay the social benefits:

- The Finnish authorities interpret that the work is part-time and not enough for social security benefits
- The Swedish authorities interpret that the woman is employed in Finland and therefore, the social benefits should be paid by Finland.
- The woman pays 33,8 % tax to Sweden and 2 % to Finland.

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18.5.2011



Non-governmental borderlands?

- Borderlands are “focal points for emergences of hybrid identities ... as a result of overlapping relations, shifting boundaries, regimented nationalities and overarching political practices”
- Borderlands are areas where the antagonisms are other than between the states in question, if they exist at all
- Borderlands in the Barents region?



Bordering the Barents region

- Power at work at borders: sovereign, disciplinary and governmental powers
- Borders as governmental practices forming "the permitted", "the forbidden" and "the tolerated"
- A variety of bordering practices in the Barents region
- Bordering as changing political and economic rationalities
 - Political rationality: Balancing the need for territorial control and freeing the movement of people, goods and capital
 - Economic rationality: Resources and new techniques for border control