The Sami and EIAs
Ezequiel Pinto-Guillaume
Archaeologist

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The Sami people
The first EIAs for projects within Sápmi

Identified physical remains – Archaeological survey

Ancient monument
Other cultural-historical remains
The first EIAs for projects within Sápmi

Example:

A Sami hearth

Sami dwelling: Kåta
The first EIAs for projects within Sápmi

An abandoned physical object
→ Relevant as historic evidence
From a Sami point-of-view
2010 → Publication
The Sami land use and EIA guidelines

Recommendation
Take into consideration:

1. Tangible cultural heritage
2. Intangible cultural heritage
3. Biological cultural heritage
2011 (SNHB Congress) → Ragnhild Svonni
Siellu min siste (The Lanscape within us)
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Siellu min siste (The Lanscape within us)

From a Sami point-of-view:

Physica: remains

Knowledge connected to the place
So what happened after that?
EIAs after 2011:

Most EIAs have the same approach as before

Only a few took up a certain dialogue with the local Sami people

But in this case cultural heritage was restricted to activities connected to reindeer herding
So what happened after that?
EIAs after 2011:

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- Only a few took up a certain dialogue with the local Sami people
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We are still on square one.
So what is the problem?

Worldview based on Western European and American thought

The core of my thinking has a cause-and-effect relationship

Logical, time oriented, and systematic

To understand the world is to understand the linear cause-and-effect relationships between events
So what is the problem?

A linear person

according to Members of a Canadian First Nation

Canadian First Nations:
Define...
"We are the landscape."

Myself
The Sami challenge

Understanding the Relational Worldview

It is intuitive, non-time oriented and fluid.

The balance and harmony in relationships between multiple variables, including spiritual forces, make up the core of the thought system.
The Sami challenge

When we work with EIAs

→ Project to be insterted in the landscape
→ Disrupting the balance

Possible solutions:

→ Dialogue with the local Sami, of course
→ Ask about Jojk and traditional knowledge in relation to the place
→ Take into consideration the three main aspects of cultural heritage pointed out by the Sami
Balance

Context

Mind

Spirit

Body
Not this:

Cause  Effect
Past  Future
Scene from Áile ja áhkku (Áile and her Grandmother) a short firm by Siljá Somby
Thank you!