

# Abstract

## *Hunger and Cold. Journeys to a Horrible North*

This book examines a range of Arctic histories as narrative forms of telling and retelling. Most of the material – texts, images and a film – builds on the Romantic concept of the Arctic sublime. The methodological framework is that of artistic research.

The concept of *polarlore* and themes such as a failed journey and bad food are explored from Fridtjof Nansen's works from the 1890s and Vilhjalmur Stefansson's books and statements from the 1920s. These are read in parallel with texts such as the travelogue of the Sámi expedition member Samuel Balto and the diary of the Inuit seamstress Ada Blackjack, an original counterpoint to the male narratives of the North. Other topics include the new Arctic sublime of the 1930s as depicted in the film *S.O.S. Eisberg* by Arnold Fanck and in contemporary Soviet narratives of the rescue of the comrades from the sunken steamship *Chelyuskin*. *Hunger and Cold* juxtaposes new findings with critical discourses of *arcticality* and *arcticism*.