

Name: Greta Heim, Jan Höper, Renate Våg Boine, Marte Eliassen, Tove Beate Amundsen & Veronica Bergan

Institution: *UiT The Arctic University of Norway & Billefjord sjøsamiske oppvekstsenter*

E-mail: greta.heim@uit.no

How to integrate Sámi perspectives in Schools: a case study from a coastal Sámi context

Short description / Abstract:

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission report in Norway (TRC, 2023) emphasizes the need to strengthen knowledge about Sámi people and culture through education at all levels. This presentation aims to highlight how interdisciplinary coastal Sámi perspectives can be integrated into a small, local primary school context (grades 1–7). Over several years, the school has developed a whole-school approach to incorporating local traditions and resources into its teaching practices. The principal and teachers have purposefully emphasized Sámi perspectives within these local traditions to revitalize coastal Sámi identity. In doing so, they aim to foster children's relations with nature, people, and cultural practices within the local community.

We will present examples of how teaching can draw on coastal Sámi traditions through collaborative projects involving nature and the community. Our presentation is based on interviews with the principal and two teachers, video observations, and field notes from outdoor teaching sessions. We discuss how teacher identity and place-based contexts may challenge conventional notions of how Sámi perspectives are conveyed in schools. The discussion highlights implications for educational practices in other contexts.