

**Film and Panel Discussion**  
**Thursday 21 February 2008, 4.30–8 pm**

***The Last Yoik in Saami Forests? Extractive Industries and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - the Case of Finland***

Venue: Finnland-Institut in Deutschland/The Finnish Institute, Georgenstr. 24, 10117 Berlin, phone +49-30-520 02 60 10, info@finstitut.de, www.finnland-institut.de  
Public transport: Friedrichstraße station

Organizer – Information:

Dr. Reetta Toivanen, Centre of Excellence in Global Governance Research, University of Helsinki, phone 00358-9-19 12 37 37, reetta.toivanen@helsinki.fi

Programme:

4.30 pm Coffee at the Finnish Institute

Welcoming address: Dr. Marjaliisa Hentilä, Director of the Finnish Institute

5 pm Introduction Hannu Hyvönen, film maker

5.10 pm Film: The Last Yoik in Saami Forest – a Report for the UN

6.15 pm Panel discussion

Chair: Reetta Toivanen

Panel:

Pekka Aikio, President of the Finnish Saami Parliament

Stefan Mikaelsson, Swedish Saami Parliament and Saami Council

Aleksandra Artijeva, Saami activist, Murmansk/Russland

Michael Rießler M.A., Department for Northern European Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin

Professor Martin Scheinin, Human Rights Institute, Åbo Akademi University

Indigenous peoples in many parts of the world are in the process of renegotiating their relations with states on the one side and with new private actors (multinational and national companies) on the other side. One of the main goals for the indigenous groups in these processes is to get access to the natural resources in their living areas, either in order to protect them or to use them in manner which would benefit what is called the “indigenous way of life”. They are emphasizing their right to free, prior and informed consent as expressed through the organisations and institutions representing the indigenous groups in dealing with the many external interests. The global efforts to lay down legal and political frameworks to guarantee the rights of indigenous people in the global scale requires not only own (indigenous) experts with specific skills to deal with the international law’s and state politics’ and private companies’ demands but also an effective basis to change of information on experiences and advices. The UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues has been established in order to offer this kind of forum for the exchange among different indigenous movements and support the cooperation with international human rights bodies. It aims also at finding new ways for the groups of being recognized by international and national laws and systems of decision-making. At the same time, the internationally expressed goal is that the indigenous people would be supported

in seeking autonomy and protecting their own values, cultures, languages and ways of gaining livelihood.

The film and discussion evening is organised together with the Department for Northern European Studies, Humboldt University Berlin, the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN), the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Institute in Germany, Berlin.

The goal of the workshop is to discuss extractive industries in the context of international human rights treaties and assess the national legal and political means in Finland in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples.

Links:

[www2.hu-berlin.de/ethno/seiten/institut/mitarbeiter/Toivanen.htm](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/ethno/seiten/institut/mitarbeiter/Toivanen.htm)

[www.uni-potsdam.de/humanrightsresearch](http://www.uni-potsdam.de/humanrightsresearch)

[www.helsinki.fi/oik/globalgovernance](http://www.helsinki.fi/oik/globalgovernance)

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/ksdp/>

[www2.hu-berlin.de/skan/](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/skan/)

<http://www.elonmerkki.net/en/synopsis> (about the film)