Dear all

It with great sadness that we announce to you that our good and former colleague Rasmus Ole Rasmussen has passed. He had been sick for a while.

Rasmus was my mentor for over a quart of a century. I was very young when he inspired me to pursue a career within Arctic geography focused studies in 1991. I had just given birth to my first born Jonas Hrafn and was studying political studies and administration at Roskilde University. We had our ups and downs in communications – he said I was a free bird and at some point tried to convince me to move to Greenland to take on role in their increased independency effort from colonial rule of Denmark. He did not manage to do that – but he recruited me as a PhD student (and Soren Eliassen who has just left us at Nordregio) with a grant from the Danish National Research Council for a four year research project on Sustainable regional Development in the Arctic. Both me and Soren managed to get our PhDs from this grant even if I took me quite longer time to pursue it. He later was pivotal in launching the Circumpolar Arctic Social Science stucies (CASS) who enabled both of us to travel all over the Arctic and study.

All through my career Rasmus was there. He would periodically contact me when he thought I could be helpful with perspectives. Something that has made him being a very big influencer in my destiny in relation to Arctic social science research conduct.

We are around 50 people around the world in the Circumpolar Arctic who owe Rasmus quite a bit to where we stand today and will try to make it up to him to shed light on his important role as mentor to social science and regional development in the Nordic and circumpolar Arctic context.

I dare to say that he added some new profiles to Nordregio strength while he worked here. The Arctic became added as an important dimension –a milestone in that was our endeavour in developing the megatrend in the Arctic work to the Danish presidency of Arctic council and Nordic council of ministers. Also his effort in addressing implications of climate change and mitigations to regional development aspects in the North Atlantic region.

I for my own part will miss him forever for the good person and visionary scholar he was – and despise the cognitive and neurological diseases that he and our civilisation is experiencing to what feels to be greater degree than earlier generations.

When I got recruited to Nordregio Rasmus wisely withdrew from the committee to interview me. It was primarily Kjell and other colleagues who wanted me to join Nordregio forces. After joining the crew at Skeppsholmen I realized that my mentor was not at his best – and things became more complicated. I had experienced a mother in law going the same avenue and realized that some cognitive skills he had mastered earlier were not at its best. His time was over at Nordregio.

Ryan our colleague has these words to share to us: Rasmus will be remembered for so many things - not least the tireless work ethic and energy he put into his career and his personal health and well-being. But I'll always remember him first and foremost as a generous mentor, who nurtured and supported me during my first years as an intern and then a junior researcher.

He not only taught me new methods of research, but also provided me countless opportunities to take on more and more responsibility and to receive the credit for my efforts. It goes without saying that I wouldn't be in the position I am today without the guidance and opportunity that Rasmus provided. Thank-you, Rasmus, for your encouragement, generosity, and patience.

All the best to you

Anna and Ryan

Dr.Anna Karlsdóttir

Senior Research Fellow

www.nordregio.org