

NORDRESS

Nordic Centre of Excellence  
On Resilience and Societal Security



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ  
Ministry of Welfare



norden

## Social Services in Times of Disaster

### Multidisciplinary Nordic Symposium

Nordic House, Reykjavík, Iceland

May 4-5 2015

This Nordic Symposium will bring together a multidisciplinary group of experts including administrators, academics and students as well as stakeholders working in the field, to discuss the role of local social services in times of disaster. The Nordic countries are known for their extensive welfare systems and the importance of local social services in providing universal care to all members of the public. The aim of the Symposium is to discuss the roles of local social services in preparedness, emergency response and the aftermath of disasters and how social services can enhance the resilience of residents and communities under such circumstances.

*Organisers: The symposium is co-organised by the Nordic Welfare Watch – in Response to Crisis (NWW) and the Nordic Centre of Excellence on Resilience and Societal Security (NORDRESS) with support from the Ministry of Welfare in Iceland.*

NORDRESS has received a 5-year grant from NordForsk to carry out multidisciplinary studies to enhance societal security and resilience. Partners from 15 institutions in all Nordic countries will join forces to elucidate the nature and importance of resilience of individuals, communities, infrastructure and institutions. Training and mobility play a significant role in NORDRESS that will e.g. support courses and seminars through the *Nordic Societal Security Academy*.

The project *Nordic Welfare Watch - in Response to Crisis* is a 3-year research project financed by the *Nordic Council of Ministers*. The project examines the role of local social services in times of disasters and the need for a Nordic welfare watch.

## Schedule:

### May 3<sup>th</sup> 2015 Arrival

### May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015

- 8:30 **Welcome: Guðný Björk Eydal** Project leader of NWW and **Guðrún Pétursdóttir** NORDRESS coordinator
- 8:45 **Key Note Address: Gudmund Hernes** Professor and former President of the International Social Science Council  
***Blessings in Disguise? Are disasters necessary to change opinions about societal risks?***  
**Chair: Guðrún Pétursdóttir** NORDRESS coordinator
- 9:45 **Coffee**

#### **Session I: Social services in times of disaster**

- Chair: Kristján Sturluson** Director of Administration, Hafnarfjörður municipality
- 10:15 **Merja Rapeli** Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Finland  
***The role of social services in Finland in times of disasters***
- 10:45 **Carin Björngren Cuadra**, Associate professor, Department of Social Work, Malmö University, Sweden  
***The role of social services in Sweden in times of disasters***
- 11:15 **Ragnheiður Hergeirsdóttir** Former Mayor of Árborg, South Iceland  
***The earthquakes in southern Iceland in 2008; the Mayor's perspective on the role of local social services***
- 12:00 **Lunch**

#### **Session II: Residents in times of disasters**

- Chair: Arna Hauksdóttir** Associate Professor, Centre of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland
- 13:00 **Renate Gørnvold Bugge** Psychologist, specialist in clinical psychology and occupation and organisation psychology, Centre for Crisis Psychology, Bergen, Norway  
***Intervention for children after mass trauma bereavement***
- 14:00 **Guðrún Gísladóttir** Professor, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Iceland  
***Resident perception of volcanic risk in South Iceland and the impacts of the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption on people's livelihood***
- 15:00 **Coffee**
- 15:30 **Parallel paper sessions**

#### **Iceland during time of crisis: The Welfare Watch (The Nordic House, meeting room Alto)**

- Chair: Bjørn Hvinden**, Professor, Head of Research, NOVA-HIOA, Oslo.
- 15:30 **Lára Björnsdóttir** Social Worker and former head of the Welfare Watch and **Ingibjörg Broddadóttir** Deputy Director General, Ministry of Welfare  
***The Welfare Watch –practicing democracy during times of crisis***
- 15:50 **Vala Jónsdóttir** Project Manager, The Social Science Research Institute  
***The organization of the Welfare Watch in Iceland 2009 to 2013-an evaluation***
- 16:10 **Ásdís Arnalds** PhD student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Iceland

***The importance of the Welfare Watch in Iceland in 2009 to 2013: The relation between the Welfare Watch and the government***

**II Communities, participation and trust (Norræna Hús, main meeting room)**

**Chair:** Erna Danielsson Docent, Mid Sweden University

**15:30 Erin Kennedy** PhD Candidate, School of Social Work at Lund University and **Susan Evans** CEO and Founder GoodtoChina & Sky Farm, Adjunct professor at Tongji University Design & Innovation

***Navigating the line between participation and tyranny - Lessons learned in using participatory methods to engage community members in pro-environmental behaviours in rural China: The Case of Farm in a Box***

**15:50 Carin Björngren Cuadra** Associate professor, Malmö University.

***Catching the perspectives of the Public Social Services: reflections on scenario based table top seminars***

**16:10 Sigrún María Kristinsdóttir** PhD, Institute of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Iceland, Guðrún Gísladóttir School of Engineering and Natural Sciences, University of Iceland and Guðrún Jóhannesdóttir Civil Protection and Emergency Management of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police (NCIP)

***Local residents' trust in, and use of, information sources in regards to the natural hazard of SO<sub>2</sub> pollution from the Holuhraun volcanic eruption***

**III Crisis, communication and the aftermath (Gimli, room 102)**

**Chair:** Rasmus Dahlberg PhD Fellow at the Danish Emergency Management Agency and the University of Copenhagen

**15:30 Bergþóra Njála Guðmundsdóttir** Head of Information at the Ministry for the Environment and master student, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Iceland, Guðrún Gísladóttir School of Engineering and Natural Sciences, University of Iceland and Mats Eriksson Örebro University Sweden

***Best practices of crisis communication in Iceland; Eyjafjallajökull 2010 and Holuhraun 2014-2015 case study***

**15:50 Hugh Deeming, Maureen Fordham and Belinda Davis** Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne UK.

***Propagating the aftermath: the Cumbrian experience of using a community development approach to build resilience to flooding***

**16:10 Erin Kennedy** PhD Candidate, School of Social Work at Lund University

***Disaster waste management: The case of Japan's March 11th, 2011 earthquake and tsunami - Japan and the international response***

**IV Resilience, traumatic stress and social services (The Nordic House, meeting room Aina)**

**Chair:** Merja Rapeli Ministerial Adviser at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

**15:30 Ingibjörg Lilja Ómarsdóttir** Project Manager and PhD Student, Faculty of Social Work University of Iceland

***The Nordic Welfare Watch – In Response to Crises***

**15:50 Edda Björk Þórðardóttir** PhD Candidate Department of Public Health, University of Iceland, Ingunn Hansdóttir, Jillian C. Shipherd, Unnur Anna Valdimarsdóttir, Heidi Resnick, Ask Elklit, Ragnhildur Guðmundsdóttir and Berglind Gudmundsdóttir

***Risk Factors for Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Among Avalanche Survivors:***

***A 16 Year Follow-up***

**16:10 Guðrún Lísbet Níelsdóttir** MSc, BSc, RN. Landspítali University Hospital, Fossvogi, Reykjavík, Iceland

***Building resilience into the Icelandic hospital network: A conceptual framework***

17:00 **Closing of today's schedule**

19:00 **Dinner**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Chair: Stefán Eiríksson** Executive Director, Department of Welfare, City of Reykjavík

8:30 **Workshop: *A case of creeping crisis: Bárðarbunga; the earthquakes and volcanic eruption in northern Iceland***

**Guðrún Jóhannesdóttir** Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, National Commissioner of Police

9:45 **Closing remarks: Guðrún Gísladóttir** Professor and NORDRESS Project Leader

10:00 **Departure by bus** for Keflavik airport from the Nordic House

## Practical information

### **Flybus**

All international flights go through Keflavík International Airport, which is about 40 minutes' drive from Reykjavík. The Flybus departs from Keflavík Airport 35-40 minutes after each flight arrival. The busses are located right outside the terminal building.

*Please note:* Your transfer from the Nordic house to Keflavik airport on May 5<sup>th</sup> has been arranged. A bus will take you from the hotel at 8:10 in the morning to the Nordic house. You will have to take your luggage with you and the bus will then transfer you from the Nordic house to Keflavík airport, leaving the Nordic house at 10:00.

### **Hotel Marina**

Address: Myrargata 2, 101 Reykjavík Hotel phone: (+354) 560 8000

Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Marina, steps from downtown Reykjavik, is situated in a completely renovated four-story building that has become a landmark among local residents. It is located next to the historical, and still fully functioning, dry-dock called Slippur. With an emphasis on blending the dynamic, creative atmosphere of this rapidly developing district with the country's strong fishing traditions, the Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Marina offers everyone the opportunity to see and experience the capital at its most creative and colourful.

Map and location: <http://www.icelandairhotels.com/en/hotels/marina/maps-directions> Further information can be reached at the hotel website;

<http://www.icelandairhotels.com/en/hotels/marina>

### **Registration at the Nordic house**

Address: Sturlugata 5, 101 Reykjavík

Registration will take place at the Nordic house at 8-8:30, on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Website:

<http://www.nordichouse.is/>

### **Dinner – Restaurant Víkin**

Address: Grandagarður 8, 101 Reykjavík

The restaurant Víkin is located at the Reykjavík Maritime Museum in a building which was built in 1947 as a fish-freezing plant. It is built on a landfill called Grandi and housed, at the time, one of the best fish processing operations in Scandinavia.

In 1959, BÚR (Reykjavík Municipal Fishing Company) bought the plant, which became one of the largest processors of redfish fillets. In 1985, the freezing plant's operation was moved to another location, and for most of the next 20 years, the building remained unused until the Maritime Museum opened in 2005.

Víkin Restaurant is only 5 minutes walking distance from hotel Marina. See link:

<http://www.maritimemuseum.is/english/about-the-museum/getting-there/>

### **Last but not least**

We recommend that you have a look at the weather forecast before travelling to Iceland.

Website: <http://en.vedur.is/>

We strongly recommend you to bring your bathing suit and try the swimming pools in Iceland. Since the advent of harnessing geothermal energy in Iceland, the tradition of public bathing has become deeply rooted in the local culture. Locals of all ages and professions frequent some of the hundred public pools for both health and social purposes; in order to unwind after a long day or to catch up on gossip with friends. The swimming pool culture has clearly established itself, for the greater capital area alone has seventeen public swimming pools, most of which are outdoors and some of which are equipped with saunas and steam baths. Rules of hygiene are taken very seriously with regard to the pools and all visitors are required to shower thoroughly without a swimsuit before entering the water.

Swimming pools and spas in Reykjavík: <https://guidetoiceland.is/reykjavik-guide/best-swimming-pools-in-reykjavik>