

# Cold as an advantage

## Холод как преимущество

### L'avantage du froid



Photographies Imaginaire | Nord + Robert Fréchet

*The Republic of Sakha [also called Yakutia or Yakutia, in Russian: Республика Саха, Respublika Sakha, or Якутия, Yakoutiia, in Yakut: Саха Өрөспүүбүлүкэтэ, Sakha Өröspübülükete] is located in northeastern Siberia. Yakutsk, its capital, is known as the coldest city in the world. Entirely built on permafrost, it has more than 300,000 inhabitants. In addition to the North-East Federal University (16,000 students), which specializes in permafrost, there is the Institute of Human Sciences and Northern Indigenous Studies, the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Following the conference, will be held the Yakutia Winter Festival. The Université du Québec à Montréal collaborates with Yakut researchers on the issues of northern cultural representation and on the development of indigenous cultures, including the Yakut culture.*

At the North-Eastern Federal University M.K.Ammosov  
in Yakoutsk (Sakha Republic, Russia)

From November 30th to December 1st, 2018

In collaboration with

The International Circumpolar Observatory – Arctic and Antarctic

The Laboratory of the Complex Geocultural Study of the Arctic

The International Laboratory for the Multidisciplinary Study of Representations of the North at the Université du Québec à Montréal  
and the UArctic thematic network "World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North"

**Cities and permafrost: traditions, innovations, and creativities** The urban spaces of the northern territories as an innovative resource for the development of the region are an important direction in the strategy of sustainable development of the Arctic and the North. The modern city is a dynamic process of continuous production of new images and new cultural "texts" of imagination of its geocultural images. The feature of the northern cities (including those of Yakutia) is a life strategy, conditioned by the cold and the permafrost. Today in modern science the permafrost is considered not only as a natural phenomenon, largely determining the conditions, culture and lifestyle in the cold region, but also as a metaphor for all the hyperprocesses and hyperphenomena that are determinative and crucial for human existence.

The location of this conference, Yakutia, is a region in which everyone feels a part of a hyper phenomenon, that is inaccessible to human forces and understanding. The creative resource of the urban environment is associated with the creative potential and creative code of ethnic culture.

The creative strategy, conditioned by permafrost - cold as an advantage - dictates new principles for shaping the urban landscape (urban concept of light and ethnic design). A model is being developed for constructing a new positive trajectory of northern identity that represents the creative resources of territorial / regional / geocultural identities.

A comprehensive study of cities located in the permafrost zone is of specific scientific interest because it could help to solve not only some fundamental problems of the city life sustenance in extreme conditions, but also a wide range of humanitarian problems connected with conceptualization, adaptation, cultural experience of life in "permafrost zone".

The focus of this conference is the representation of the cultural landscapes of the Arctic's urban spaces in the context of humanitarian and geographical urbanistic and symbolic creative technologies, the study of local urban communities and the development of a model of a new type of northern identity in Russian Arctic, but also in all the circumpolar Arctic.

In the conference it is planned to discuss the following themes:

1. Modern urban space on extremely cold lands (adaptation, practices, representations)
2. Cultural space of the city (tradition, innovation, creativity)
3. Cold as opportunity (traditional knowledge and practices, high technologies, design, architecture, tourism promotion)
4. Cold in art and literature, languages, concepts, world view, etc.
5. Social, environmental and economic challenges of cold cities.

Please submit your proposal before September 30th, 2018 with a title, brief description, your professional of cultural affiliation and status, postal and email addresses both to Liudmila Zamorshchikova [lszam@mail.ru](mailto:lszam@mail.ru) and Daniel Chartier [imaginaireunord@uqam.ca](mailto:imaginaireunord@uqam.ca). Proposals should be written in English, French, or Russian. Answers will be sent by October 15th, 2018.