

little attention is given to snowmobile racing or dogsled racing, two sporting activities that are widely practiced and that confer honour on successful participants. While Stern is perhaps a little too keen to point out the specifically Inuit take on virtually all contemporary recreational (and other) activities, from sports to modern music, she neglects many daily activities that clearly have been transformed to reflect Inuit values and mores.

It is not surprising that the book is heavily weighted towards Alaska, Greenland, and most of the Canadian Arctic, given the quantity of related scholarship and the comparatively high populations of these regions. However, the daily lives of those Inuit from Labrador and Siberia receive little attention, and the political status of these two regions is generally neglected.

The book is at times repetitive. This, however, is difficult to overcome, as Stern is keen (and rightly so) to express the interconnectedness of all aspects of Inuit life. For example, in times past Inuit conferred with or deferred to *angakkuit* (shamans) over matters political, economic, religious, and medicinal, and so we find similar descriptions of the roles of *angakkuit* appearing in several chapters.

Finally, this book is diminished somewhat by poor copy-editing, with minor errors cropping up on almost every page, and an index that is far from exhaustive.

Despite these shortcomings, this is an enjoyable and worthwhile read. For those with a general interest in the Arctic or those new to the study of Inuit culture, this book will provide a great many insights into Inuit life, both as it was lived in the past and as it has been transformed and is now lived in the 21st century. Stern captures the dynamism and richness of Inuit culture, portraying a people who, though geographically remote, are and have long been interconnected with the rest of the world through politics and economics, and who continue to face the social and environmental challenges of the 21st century with dignity and strength. And while *Daily Life of the Inuit* is too broad in focus to delve deeply into any one area of Inuit life, it will also serve as a good reference for the more specialist reader. Having this volume on one's bookshelf would provide the comfort of knowing that one could quickly confirm the key dates along the path to Greenlandic self-rule, for example, or find a handy explanation of Inuit naming practices to share with one's junior students.

In writing a book in the style of the early ethnographies, Stern has given us a delightful account of modern Inuit life. Unlike earlier ethnographers, however, who were often concerned that the cultures they described were in decline, Stern leaves us in no doubt that 21st century Inuit culture remains vibrant and strong.

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#### FIELD TECHNIQUES FOR SEA ICE RESEARCH.

Edited by HAJO EICKEN, ROLF GRADINGER, MAYA SALGANEK, KUNIO SHIRASAWA, DON PEROVICH, and MATTI LEPPÄRANTA. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-60223-059-0. xx + 566 p. + DVD. 29 contributors, b&w and colour illus., references, index. US\$65.00.

In light of recent attention paid to the climatic and socio-economic implications of sea ice variability and reduction, particularly in the Arctic, this book attempts a standardized handbook on sea ice research techniques for practicing students, scientists, and engineers. It is a synthesis of field techniques for the in situ measurement of the physical, climatological, and biogeochemical properties of sea ice, as well as approaches to monitoring and understanding the complex relationships of sea ice with people and the environment through programs based on data gathered via remote sensing and automatic measurement stations (AMS) or by observers on ships or in a community. The unique role of models in both the design and interpretation of field measurements and the theoretical investigation of sea ice is thoughtfully addressed. Such a guide for conducting sea ice research is much needed, given the importance of sea ice variability in the broader global climate and the attention now being paid to the rapid decline of summer ice in the Arctic and the potential to develop economic activities within, or adjacent to, the sea ice cover. The book serves not only as a reference for applied researchers who design and implement field studies working directly with sea ice, but also as a summary for interested stakeholders of how our understanding of sea ice in space and time is limited by our ability to measure it.

After a brief introductory chapter, the authors set the scene in the second chapter by outlining the sea ice systems services (SISS) approach to studying sea ice, which ties measured sea ice variables to the interrelated needs of citizens, scientists, industry, and government. They provide a richer context for conducting sea ice measurements by considering human management of ecosystems and the role of science in guiding policy. This contextual information—engineers may reflexively be inclined to disregard this—gives readers a basis for formulating research problems and developing and executing science plans specific to sea ice research (not to mention writing effective research grant proposals).

Measurement and observation techniques, which form the core of this text, are given as 18 subsections in chapter 3. Each contributing author provides a unique and original perspective on the need to measure or indirectly monitor a particular set of sea ice variables, though the formula of defining a given set within the SISS framework is unfortunately lost after the first two sections (on snow observations and ice thickness and roughness measurements). Despite this, editing is to a high standard, and the diverse approaches to sea ice research are fully covered, with a comprehensive list of references at the end of each section.

A section dedicated to emerging techniques would have been most welcome at the closing of this chapter.

The fourth and final chapter of the book stresses the need to integrate sea ice measurements into a broader polar system science approach and advocates an interdisciplinary approach in order to understand the human and environmental dimensions of sea ice research. A DVD resource, with video illustrations of field measurements, comments by sea ice research experts, and reference documents, is particularly useful to those entering the field but not familiar with field measurement techniques.

The strengths of this book lie in its demonstration of the need for standard methods when measuring sea ice properties and its coverage of the diverse disciplines that endeavor to understand them. It provides a good starting point for establishing standardized practices for sea ice measurement. Future editions of the book should place more emphasis on the standardization of variable names and measurement or derivation techniques and less emphasis on reviews of the discipline, which are available elsewhere.

On a more critical note, the handbook is sorely lacking in references to Canadian sea ice research, both the expeditions conducted in the 1990s and the more recent onboard Arctic scientific research cruises (e.g., CCGS *Amundsen*) conducted since 2004. Most references are to scientists from the United States, Finland, Germany, and even China. Given that Canadian sea ice, especially the landfast ice within the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, has proved highly suitable for seasonal in situ field programs, the techniques originating from several of the Canadian sea ice laboratories are worthy of mention. Examples are the work of H. Melling (Institute of Ocean Sciences, Fisheries and Oceans Canada), D. Barber (Centre for Earth Observation Science, University of Manitoba) S. Prinsenber (Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Nova Scotia), and E. LeDrew (University of Waterloo).

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