

# Astri Dankertsen

## Fighting Colonial Erasure of Sámi Presence through Indigenous Feminist Perspectives

In the recent years, there has been an increasing scholarly attention to Sámi feminist perspectives, where the feminist debates within Sámi studies have gone from being almost invisible and non-existing, to being a central part of the scholarly development within the field. Even though both Sámi studies and gender studies in the Nordic countries have been important fields of research, there has been little overlap between the fields. The turn to Sámi feminist perspectives reflect political debates within the Sámi society itself, such as debates on violence and sexual abuse of women in Sámi societies (Eriksen et al. 2015). However, the shift also reflects an international trend in Indigenous studies, where Indigenous feminist scholars have addressed how Indigenous women are dually affected by colonialism and patriarchy, and a change in Nordic feminist debates, where formerly marginalized voices within feminist studies have been actively invited to share their perspectives. Feminist scholars have pointed out how the Nordic debates on colonialism have mostly been concerned with the cultures and societies in former colonies in non-European territories, while silencing the colonial structures within the Nordic society, including the relationship with its Indigenous people and minorities (Mulinari et al 2009). Sámi feminist interventions therefore challenge both the power relations between the colonized and the colonizers, women and men, and open up for new reflections about the future of Sápmi.



### Bio

Associate Professor Astri Dankertsen is is Head of Division for Research on Environment, International Relations, the Arctic and Security at Faculty for Social Sciences at Nord University. She holds a PhD in sociology. Her research has been mostly concerned with Sámi and Indigenous issues, colonialism, youth, gender and communities in the Arctic, and is inspired by theories of affect, decolonial and postcolonial theories and Indigenous feminist theories. She a member of the Council of Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. She is of Norwegian and North Sámi origin, and is also the leader of Sáltó sámesiebrre, the local Sámi association in Salten, Norway.