Contested Land Use and Subsistence in the Olekma River Basin: The Natural Reserve and Indigenous Village Interactions

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My research aims to explore the experiences and reflections of the indigenous reindeer herders and hunters on their lives after the establishment of a strict nature reserve (zapovednik) in the 1980s on the Olekma River in South Yakutiia, East Siberia. Drawing on in-depth fieldwork, I will present an ethnographically informed account that elaborates on how the establishment of the zapovednik affected the people’s sense of well-being, subsistence practices (including reindeer herding and hunting), land use, and self-consciousness.

During my stay in Munich, I would like to work with available publications on various aspects and find good examples of the indigenous co-management of protected areas.