

faulty, coverage of climate change in the media, simultaneously she writes about ‘meteorologists, who are not generally experts in anything beyond daily weather forecasting’ (page 226) and misses references to the facts and arguments presented in the section, e.g. ‘where smog over Beijing contributes to smog over Los Angeles’ (page 229) or ‘an amazingly precise body of knowledge about previous changes to global climate’ (page 200).

Furthermore, in the introductory chapter she juxtaposes science with traditional wisdom when writing: ‘We have forgotten the language of Mother Earth and the beautiful terrifying magic that is part of her and our reality. Now we call it science and think we can control it’ (page 12). In this reviewer’s view such opinions may not be particularly helpful in making people more aware of the threatening reality of climate change and in efforts to bridge indigenous knowledge and scientific research to jointly offer responses to the consequences of human-induced climate change. Finally, they may not be especially useful in appeasing extremely politicised wrangles over climate change, where science is often misused as a proxy for what are primarily debates over fundamental values.

Nevertheless, even if some readers do not find themselves entirely at ease with the way Wright writes about the science, this

point certainly should not overshadow the overall value of the book. *Our ice is vanishing* can be highly commended to the broad audience not well familiar with the realities and inherent complexities of life mostly in the Canadian Arctic, both historical and the ones of today. Wright takes her readers for a long and often fascinating journey through the centuries of life in the North. She neither hides her admiration for the resilience and perseverance of the Inuit people nor passion for making and defending their case. Seeing the generally low level of understanding of the North in the South of Canada (cf. Gordon Foundation 2015), such voices are certainly very much needed and Wright’s volume represents a great addition to the growing body of literature on those matters (Malgorzata (Gosia) Smieszek, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland ([malgorzata@smieszek@ulapland.fi](mailto:malgorzata@smieszek@ulapland.fi))).

### Reference

Gordon Foundation. 2015. Toronto: Gordon Foundation. URL: <http://gordonfoundation.ca/publication/789> (accessed 12 July 2016).

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**Dispatches from continent seven. An anthology of Antarctic science.** Rebecca Priestley. 2016. Wellington: Awa Press. xxxiii + 422p, illustrated, softcover. ISBN 978-1-927249055. NZ \$55.  
*doi:10.1017/S0032247416000553*

Reviewing anthologies will always be difficult. Everyone can come up with their own selection of pieces in any field in which they are expert so why is this particular selection better or worse than one I might have compiled? In fact this anthology has several very positive features. The first thing to say is that Rebecca Priestley had the idea and did something about it. There are plenty of anthologies of heroic narratives but this is the first I have come across that aims to focus on science rather than exploring and adventure. The second positive feature is that she persuaded the publisher to allow her enough pages to make the extracts valuable, allowing the style and voice of the writer to come through. And the third is her flexible approach using not only the original books but also blogs, popular science articles and poems, as well as commissioning a few articles on topics she felt needed to be included.

She has assembled the 48 prose extracts and the poems (from six poets) into four sections – *Unknown land*, *The first Antarcitians*, *Continent for science* and *Global barometer* – each with a short introduction in bold type. She also contributed a 10 page introduction to the volume explaining its origins and her own experience of being in Antarctica as a writer with the New Zealand national programme. There are some small errors I noted, especially on page xxv where she intimates that there were no stations in Antarctica before IGY when of course the British, Argentine, Chilean, French and Australian had already been established. She also says that the Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1961 when it was actually signed in 1959 and ratified in 1961. Whilst Bellinghousen is referred to as a German he was born to what are known as Baltic Germans in what is now

Estonia and then was Russian, and De Gerlache was suffering from depression as well as scurvy which undermined his control of *Belgica*. But these are minor comments given the high quality of the proof reading for the many transcribed extracts in the volume.

Many of the pieces will be familiar to readers of *Polar Record* as they come from the classic accounts but even they may not immediately recognise the selections from the expeditions of Scott and Shackleton where the extracts are from the science appendices rather than the main text. But even for this well-read audience there will be things they have missed like Rhian Salmon on her days at Halley, Graham Turbot on seals, Robin Bell on the Gamburtsev Mountains and Kathryn Smith on the invasion of the King Crabs to name just some. The compiler has tried to choose a range of topics – meteorites, katabatic winds, penguins, seals, geology, icebergs, ozone hole, meteorology, balloon ascent, etc – to give a broad feel for science and in that respect I think that her inclusion of some of the exploration narratives like James Cook, Frederick Cook, Leopold McClintock, and even Joseph Dubouzet does not help the focus. If these early expeditions needed to be included then we should be hearing from the scientists/naturalists about science and not the expedition leaders.

If it were my selection then I would have included pieces from Mawson whose enthusiasm for Antarctic geology was palpable, from Charcot’s scientists looking for insects and mosses on the Antarctic Peninsula, and perhaps from Tom Bagshawe whose expedition achieved the first detailed life cycle of the Gentoo penguin whilst living under an upturned boat. Instead of Cook I would have included something more scientific from his naturalists, the Forsters. And whilst we have Rob Dunbar’s blog on drilling from *Joindes Resolution* there is nothing from the thousands of scientists who have investigated the oceanography and biology of the Southern Ocean on ships from many nations as whale scientists, marine biologists and oceanographers. There is not much poetry I am aware of specifically on science and that is clear in the compiler’s choices which encompass Chris

Orsman's *The polar captain's wife* to Ashleigh Young's *Small fry*. Given that limitation I thought she might have wanted to include something from *The rime of the ancient mariner* (surely the best known poem on Antarctica) and maybe a poem from Jean McNeill who has spent two summers with scientists in Antarctica.

Perhaps she has been unduly generous to New Zealand authors (which includes most of the poetry) but the book is published in New Zealand and needs to appeal to the local audience. But these are only the sort of comments that every anthology compiler must expect! And whilst proposing other authors and topics I would not want to suggest that this book will not achieve its primary aim – to highlight the contribution scientists have made and are making to understanding Antarctica

and explaining it to the public in simple and engaging accounts. This is a book for dipping into so surely, with our apparently reduced attention spans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, an ideal volume for the younger generations?

The author includes a useful glossary to cover some of the technical terms in the extracts, and a well constructed index. The list of sources would have been more valuable if she had added details of the more recent editions of many of the books used. That way the reader would stand a reasonable chance of finding the book unlike the first editions of Captain Cook or Cherry-Garrard! Overall a welcome addition to the literature (David W.H. Walton, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, UK ([dwhw@bas.ac.uk](mailto:dwhw@bas.ac.uk))).

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**The continent of international law. Explaining agreement design.** Barbara Koremenos. 2016. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xviii + 437 p, softcover. ISBN 978-1-107-56144-1. \$29.99. doi:[10.1017/S0032247416000619](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0032247416000619)

Much has been written about the law(s) in Arctic in media and scientific sources. Oftentimes, especially media sources report about the lack of international regulation in the far north and the accompanying risk for armed conflict. In other words, Arctic states are considered to behave in an anarchic way which would only be controllable through the existence of a regulative body of law. The scientific community, on the other hand, has shown that Arctic cooperation is indeed based on *cooperative* elements, best exemplified by the Arctic Council, and that the Arctic and its resources as a cause for conflict is rather unlikely.

When taking these seemingly adversarial approaches into account, the present volume *The continent of international law* which is the outcome of the research project with the same title – abbreviated as COIL – at the Centre for Political Studies at the University of Michigan becomes very relevant. While as such not an Arctic or polar book, a review of this work appears necessary given the prominence of international law and international relations in Arctic discourse. The point of departure of COIL is therefore the behaviour of rationally acting states in an anarchic system that enact agreements as a means to tackle mutual problems (see also Guzman 2008). As the author notes on page 62, the book pulls together ‘insights from the international cooperation literature’ while the focus of this work lies on more than 200 sample agreements from the fields of environment, human rights, economics and security and a theory of monitoring, punishment, dispute resolution or withdrawal from these agreements. At the same time, game theory, contract theory and other political sciences tools are used. Koremenos as the Principle Investigator of COIL thus builds a bridge between international legal scholarship, political sciences and International Relations (IR), a link that only until rather recently has been oftentimes neglected, and remarks that ‘one cannot entertain a positive theory of international law without considering international politics, in particular, how power and self-interest matter for both the design and enforcement of international law’ (page 12).

With this in mind, Koremenos embarks on a journey to conduct a broad comparison within international law on the design of treaties, focusing on the treaties’ underlying cooperation problems and characteristics of the states engaged in the drafting and implementation of these treaties. Testable empirical data constitutes a crucial part of the discussion and makes the findings of the book go beyond the theoretical dimension of the study of international law. This being said, the state-centred focus of the book and indeed Koremenos’ claim that NGOs and the transnational society ‘are not the major force behind global order’ (page 28) does not stand without problems. This reviewer would argue that it depends on the subject area of cooperation. While, of course, states are those actors entering into specific agreements, especially in the field of the environment the agreements’ scope and application is indeed driven by non-state actors. One example would be the hunt for whales and the non-utilitarian approach now employed under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (see Epstein 2005). Yet, this shall only be considered as a side note as regards the content of this book. This being said, the author nicely deals with the role of NGOs as (in)formal monitoring bodies of international agreements, therefore highlighting the normative role these organisations can play in the international system (page 279–292).

Koremenos has succeeded in analysing the design of international legal agreements to a degree that serves as a fundamental study for any further theoretical and empirical analysis regarding the legal speaker (the agreement itself) and the legal audience (the agreement’s subjects) in international law. At the same time, the approach taken in the book, especially as regards the implications of ‘uncertainty’ as regards agreement design, serve as a benchmark for analysis also of other legal environments. Especially relevant this reviewer would consider the focus on ‘uncertainty’ in the study of legal pluralism, both on an international level (Schiff Berman 2012) as well as on a regional and national level (see Larcom 2015).

It is thus the conjectures presented in this book, which then are empirically tested, which are of relevance particularly for Arctic legal research. They can be used to tackle numerous Arctic-relevant questions. One of these could be, for instance: what is the dependence between the uncertainty of behaviour of one or more Arctic Council member states and the degree of centralisation of a particular agreement? However, also Antarctic