**BACK IN TIME – MINING, TOURISM AND THE RESTRUCTURING OF NORTHERN SWEDEN**

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Sometimes seen as location for residual capitalist activities only, peripheral areas in industrialized countries have particularly suffered from globalization and subsequent economic decline for a considerable time. Not least a decline in basic industries during the 1990s forced communities in the northern European periphery to look for new livelihoods. In this context tourism has been identified as a tool for sustaining peripheral communities. This tourism solution was enhanced by substantial support from national and European regional policies aiming not least at restructuring the economy of the far North. However, mining and gas extraction experienced a revival during the early 2000s owing to an increasingly global demand, and thus the question is to what extent this also implied a re-restructuring of the economy into a state familiar from the early 1990s. The purpose of this paper is to review the development of the labor markets in the northern periphery of Europe. This is done by analyzing the geography of labor market change in Swedish Lapland. This is facilitated by a dataset on labor market change in the area that is analyzed in a geographical information system. Mainly descriptive statistical methods are used to analyze the patterns of change. The paper departs from theories on restructuring, exogenous development, marginal regions, and peripheral tourism development. Accordingly de-industrialization in the primary industries causes a trend towards an Americanization of the labor market, i.e. feminization, flexibilization and tertialization of the labor market. The outcome of this process, ‘junk’ jobs, are however hardly suitable for substituting incomes from industrial jobs and hence a return to the latter is likely when the opportunity is given. Therefore the recent interest in natural resources like biomass, oil and gas and mining products, redirects focus back to the primary industries. Thus tourism appears not to be an end in itself, but rather a way of hibernating economic decline in other sectors.