

Culturally Responsive Built Environments
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Lecture - 18
Cultural Heritage: Reassembled

Welcome to the course: Culturally Responsive Built Environments. Today, we will going we are going to discuss about Cultural Heritage, and how it is reassembled, especially with the case of Kiruna, the moving mining town. So, where this lecture actually comes from my understanding, while I was working in Sweden in Lulea University of Technology and especially some of my colleagues Prof. Christina Nelson and Jennie Sjöholm, Jennie Sjöholm was doing a doctoral research doctoral research at that time. And this is a very recent work, and which is an ongoing work.

So, I am just presenting this how what happens when a town moves and what are the cultural complexities, especially the planning officials and agencies do face. So, I will have a brief discussion on these kind of challenges.

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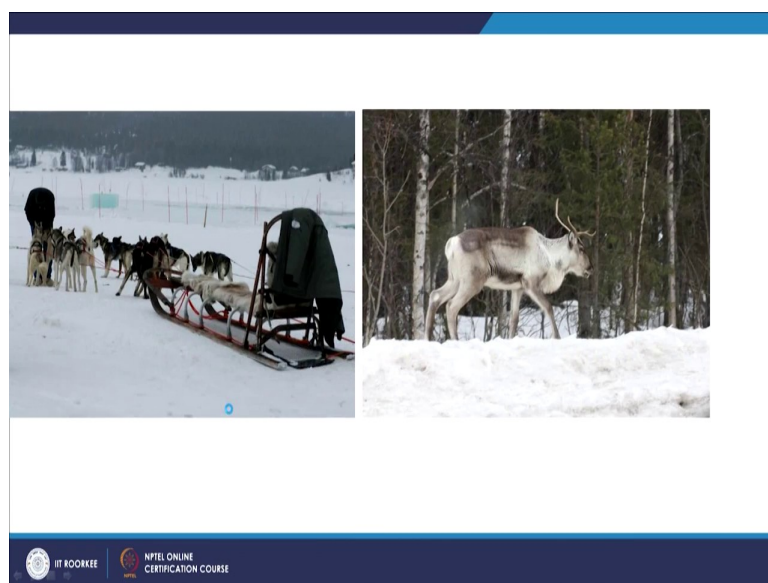


So, this is a town near Arctic Circle, almost when you cross the polar circle in Sweden and very near to the Norway Norwegian side as well, but it is located in the Northern end of the Sweden. And what you see here is the mining town, it's actually hardly 100 to 150 year old town. What you see here is the iron ore mine, and you know Sweden is known

for its rich economy based on its mining activities. And here especially, in the Northern part of Sweden, you have many mines, and some of them are closed, and some of them are still active. And this is one of the important mine is Kirunavaara. And based on this mining activity, the whole settlement has been formed in a span of 100 to 150 years. So, what you see here is this is what is today's Kiruna all about and during the mining activities, because you know the wealth, various intervention of various technological improvements and various advancements in taking the mine in a first processor. So obviously, they also have realized threats. In 2013, when I was working there and this is the map, which actually shows that kind of schematic sketch, how this iron ore can actually affect the city.

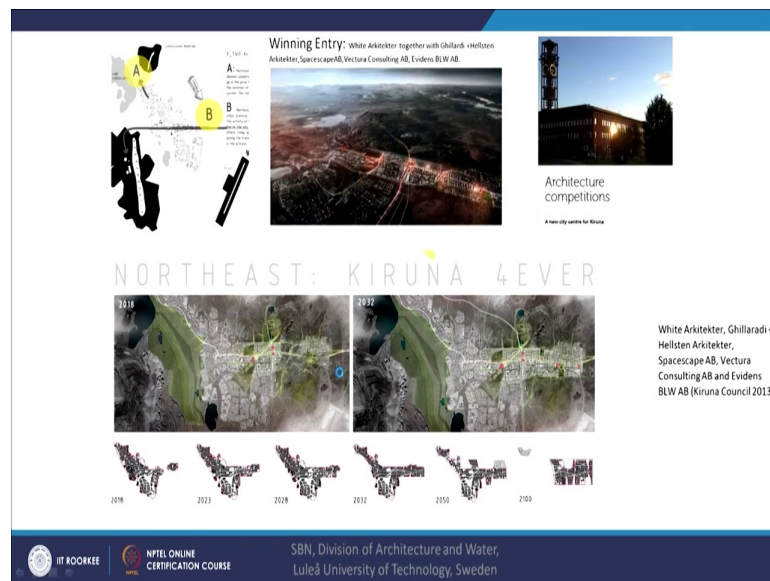
So, here in 2013, it was there, and they are also predicting that it by another a decade, it comes almost down the city centre. So, the mine is coming down like this, but it is coming over the city centre, so the town is above the ground. So, there is always they predicted that, there is always a danger that this town has a threat that it can fall in anytime or it can come, it can come across a serious damage. So that is how they have identified to move, I mean what is the possible steps to protect these inhabitants and the town. So, they have identified two towns, I mean two places, ideal places for relocating. And if before that I want to talk about what is Kiruna, because being in Arctic Circle it is a very cold place.

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And as I discussed in my previous lectures, you can see that reindeer herding is one of the important source of in an especially for the Sami tribes, and as well as this dogs ledgers, and the tourist economy is based on the ice hotel. And you know, there are lot of apart from the mine there also certain cultural activities, which are embedded with in that region.

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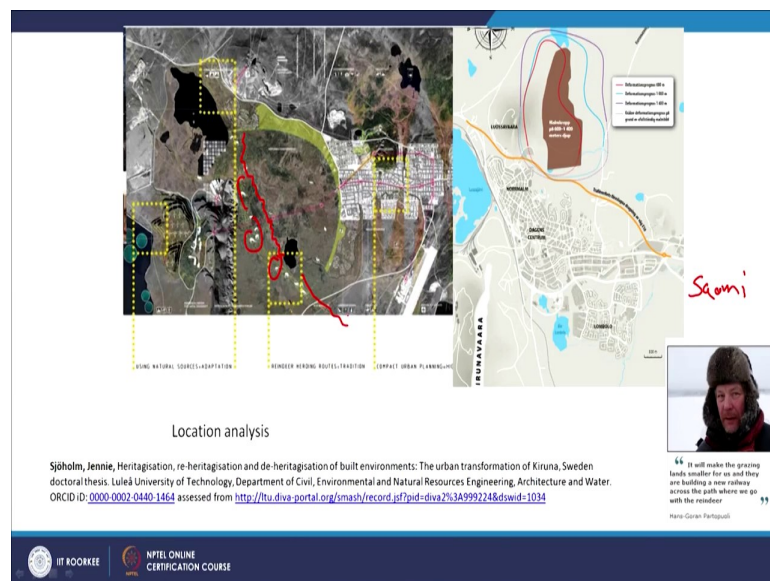
So, if I want to discuss briefly about so, now this whole town, they plan to move from to a faraway place. So, the immediate question, which one will get, is where to move, how far we can move. So, they identified one of the important two locations, here there is a Luossavaara mountain with there was also a closed mine, I mean ideally it was a preferable site, but then there was another site, which is on to the B, which I have pointed out here. So, this is what chosen.

The reason was, because in order to move and build a new town, so obviously, it actually adds a lot of I mean one of the reason could be the financial implications on moving the services. Because, what we see in a town on above ground and what we say the below ground itself is I am probably two times the investment of what we see from the building point of it, but how about to expand the services. And so finally, they have chosen the B, but there was some predictions of yes, if it is, if we are moving to B, obviously maybe after 50 years, we may have to move again, but still what is at what cost.

So, then in order to bring new ideas into it and how to move the town and obviously, the Kiruna commune and the LKAB, which is the Luossavaara Kiirunavaara, the mining company the state own mining company. They have they all together, and they floated the competition for you know, the new town, and especially the new city center.

In fact, the winning entry is they actually launched architectural competitions, and white architecture along with their partners. So, they have proposed this theme, that you know, it can be gradually taken into a kind of incremental basis. So, you move a part of the town, and then slowly what part to be dismantled, and what part to be moved. And so, they have set up a few stages of how we can actually, a span of 100 year thorough plan of how to move a town. The right hand side, you see the kind of town hall building-the tower over that. These are the significant landmarks of the town.

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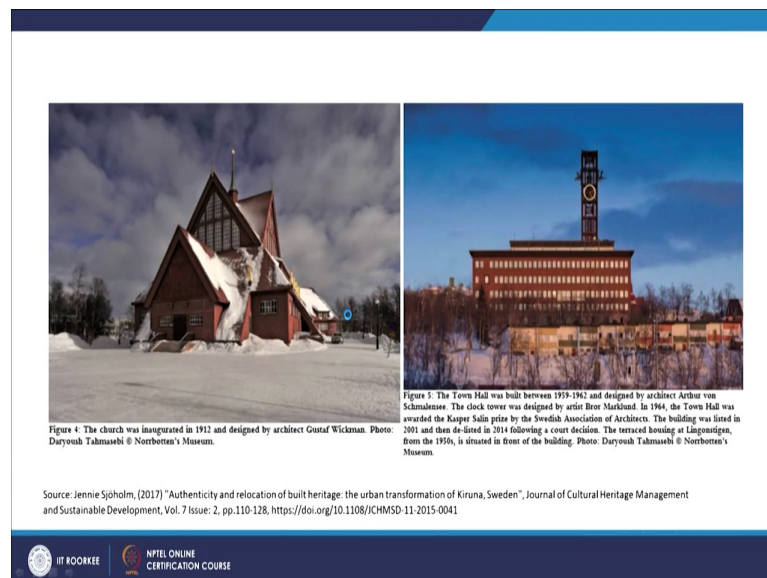
Now, in this proposal, there have been proposals of moving the railway station as well as building a new centre. And so, when we are planning for a new setup, so obviously, there are also some concerns about the tribes, especially the Sami tribes. In fact, this is from even this is a very important case, where the whole worldwide media serve represent about these concerns of moving Kiruna.

So, what you can see is some of the concerns, which they have raised by the indigenous tribes, especially you can see the reindeers. This is a kind of herding route. And this has become a kind of traditional patterns, how the reindeer passes through for their water

resources, because you have the water resources and how. But then, in the whole process, because you know you have to be careful, when you are building a road network, your building, railway network. So, how it should not affect these reindeer herding routes, you know, so that so this is all the concern of these indigenous tribes- the tribal population living over there and whose main source of income is rendered herding.

And it also has an impact on the ecological aspects natural how it cannot disturb the water features. So, in that way the whole competition started looking at kind of compact planning, and with a high density. So, now it is not just only the moving the buildings, you know moving residential buildings of the minors or the apartment blocks, but there is a big challenge here.

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So, what you see is here on the left hand side the Kiruna church, which was actually designed by the architect Gustaf Wickman. And this in fact, Jennie have worked on how this held being a conservation specialist, how these heritages will be in a question, and how it is taken by the pro by the whole authorities, and how it is considered in the process and what are the dilemmas and what are the complexities coming in through the process.

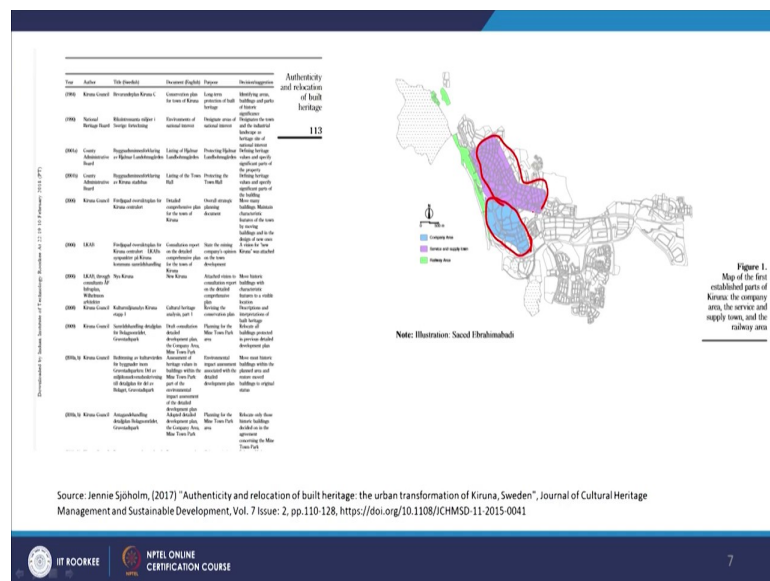
So, there are some heritage buildings, especially which are which have shaped the meaning of a given certain meanings to the Kiruna community. In fact, the church which has it is not very old like, but it is still inaugurated in 1912, which is hardly 100 year old

church, but still the kind of structures all made with wooden huge wooden shingles, and the kind of those this is one of the listed buildings.

And the town hall, which is again between 1950, it is not very old or ancient, but it is still the 1962, it is again designed by architect Arthur von Schmalensee. And this was again these are clock tower what you can see is a clock tower here; it was designed by artist Bror Marklund. So, this town hall was awarded the Kasper Salin prize with the Swedish association of architects. This building was listed in 2001, and delisted in 2014. I will tell you how this whole in 14 years of time, how they listing and delisting process of what are the story is behind it.

So, the important question was what happens when we move a town what happens to this heritage listed buildings, which people had associations with, how they religious association with, how their social and cultural association shift with the town hall building, and how their memory, you know.

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So, if you look at on the right hand side, you can see that there are two things; one is the Kiruna commune, which is responsible for the administrative aspect of it of the town, but the LKAB, which is the mining company. If you look at the designated this is where a company area, the blue color, and you have the service, and the supply town, the existing scenario. And then, you have the railway network railway area. So, basically this is how different zones.

So, what Jennie have done is, she started collecting a various of archives and in a she arranged everything you know what kind of documents are talking about this heritage like for example, the Kiruna council, the conservation plan of town of Kiruna. And then, what was the purpose of the document, and then she will look at what kind of decision or a suggestion implication of that particular document.

So, in that way, she collected I mean doing an archival study in such a rigorous manner, and putting in a much more holistic. It is not just one document you refer it and put it for, but a series of documents, which actual talked about this heritage, and the whole movement process. She actually analyzed with this kind, I am just showing one page of it and especially, where she was questioning the authenticity and relocation of this built heritage.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:23)

Authenticity and relocation of built heritage

119

Heritagisation can refer to:

- the addition of new heritage;
- reaffirmation of already designated heritage;
- re-interpretation of already designated heritage;
- rejection of previous designated heritage.

Figure 2: The map shows designated areas (red), buildings (red dots) and parks (green) in the local authority's conservation plan, adopted in 1984.

Note: Illustration: Jennie Spöhlén

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Now, in 1984, where Jennie talks about the heritization process, where almost what you see here is: these are the red marks, what you see here is a red marks, which are the designated areas are the red buildings and the greens are the parks by in the local authority conservation plan, which was prepared in 1984. But then, here we talk about three processes; heritization, re-heritization and de-heritization.

In heritization, what Jennie brings the idea of the addition of new heritage, because the moment it this whole process is the Kiruna is on move and obviously, what buildings to move, there is no clarity. On is this the building, we have to move and what is the criteria

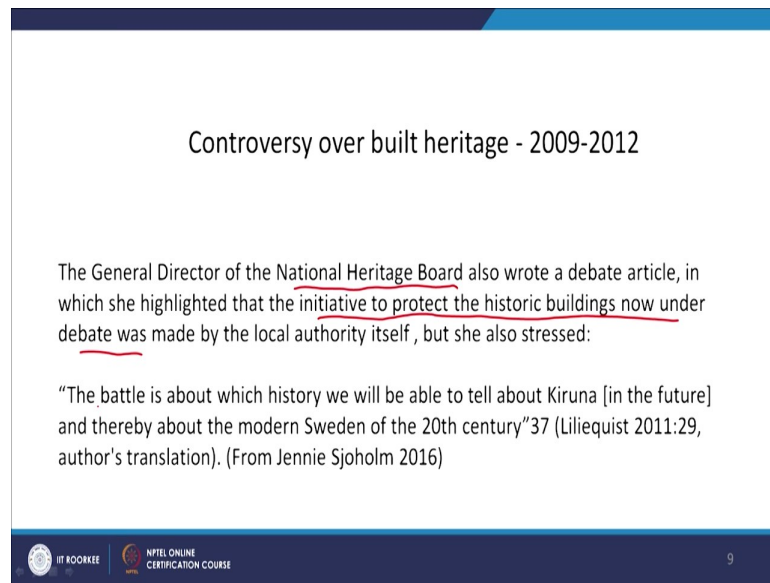
for that, why we are making that? So, there is not clear as a chaos between the decision makers, and the various factors like LKAB, and Kiruna commune and administrative board. So, obviously, in that whole process at in the white architect's entry as well. So, they have thought about moving certain buildings: historical listed buildings to the new location as it is. So, in that process obviously, through the media, and so obviously there is an addition of new heritage.

So, it and then in this process, the reaffirmation of already designated heritage, because once in from the 1984 document, and we are taking because of whole most started from 2004, 2005 onwards. And when the question of heritage came in obviously these designated buildings have already been given a certain reaffirmation that yes, some of them will be taken into consideration.

And the third aspect, which Jennie talks is the re-interpretation of already designated heritage. So, how it is interpreted, and how it is again reinterpreted. And the forth concept is rejection of previous designated heritage. So, I will explain you, what is the process, which is the de-heritization of it.

And there have been controversies of the built heritage. So, in fact, on one side they thought about yes, it is good to take all the buildings out, and construct in the same way, as it was in the new location. But then, the LKAB's decision because obviously they are the finance holders and to what cost, because it when they assist the whole cost of moving these buildings, so it has given them a much bigger insight. And that is where, it has been a little conflict between understanding on what to move, and what not to move, and how to move from the mining company perspective, and often the administrative perspective, and the community perspective.

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Controversy over built heritage - 2009-2012

The General Director of the National Heritage Board also wrote a debate article, in which she highlighted that the initiative to protect the historic buildings now under debate was made by the local authority itself, but she also stressed:

“The battle is about which history we will be able to tell about Kiruna [in the future] and thereby about the modern Sweden of the 20th century”³⁷ (Lilliequist 2011:29, author's translation). (From Jennie Sjöholm 2016)

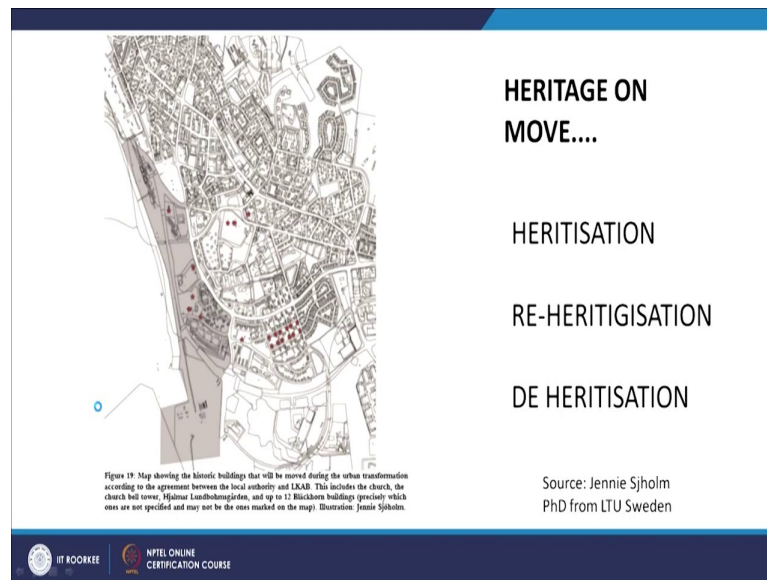
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So, this is what I just want to give a quote what Jennie brings as the, because this whole site has been become a site of national heritage interest. And that is where the General Director of National Heritage Board also written an article that the initiative to protect the historic buildings now under debate was made by the local authority itself.

So, she also stressed the battle is about which history we will be able to tell about Kiruna in the future, and thereby about the modern Sweden in the 20th century. So, in this how, like you know, and what jenny did was she collected a lot of interviews, and different opinions, perceptions from different stakeholders, starting from national heritage board from LKAB and from various agencies working in the commune.

And this is where the question of heritage on move. When we talk about the first state is heritization, because it is recognized with certain historic aspects and certain buildings are listed. And it is considered as national importance of heritage, you know in the in the list of that national importance. When it is subjected to move to a different place, obviously these particular buildings have got reaffirmation that yes, these are taken into consideration. And in that whole process, certain new buildings also have been added it added on it.

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But then, when what the map you see here is these are the historic buildings that will be moved during the urban transformation. And that is where the agreement between the local authority; the Kiruna commune and the LKAB.

So, in that process, when they realize the cost of expenditure and they realize the complexities in taking it out, so that is where they started delisting certain buildings from 2014 onwards, so that is where she calls about the de-heritization. So, finally, they talk about up to 12 block on buildings, you know they have these are the church, the church bell tower and Halmer, the first the mining company, offices how workplaces all the residences you know, and even the fire stations. So, there are a couple of buildings, which were already there. And they have selected a few of them which has, so this is how the delisting process went on.

I have to bring how it is also relevant from the planning perspective. On one side, we talked about how the heritage is on move, and what complexities it has. Because, moving a building from taking each shingle on and shingle and placing it back, it involves a lot of effort, and lot of careful effort to take each and every component, and give the same meaning in a new setting. And what kind of charters is will be applied, and how the new setting, and its landscape. I think there also some documents, which talk about some 15000 square meters area, and of how it could be treated and the landscape component of it. So, because it is not just taken a building and placing, but how you actually make that

setting of it. This is also an important question for the architectural and urban design perspective.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:50)

Complexity in Spatial Planning Practice and Theory:
The Case of Kiruna Mining Town

Complexity refers to Uncertainties and unpredictable outcomes when different natural, technical and social conditions are integrated with actions and reactions from various actors and stakeholders and when a great number and a variety of elements and time dimensions interact in society as a whole and in planning in particular.

Prof. Kristina L. Nilsson

LKAB

Local Communities
Mining Town in Transition

Kiruna Kommun

HIERARCHY

UNCERTAINTIES

CHAOS, NON-LINEARITY AND INTERDEPENDENCIES

ACTOR-NETWORK PERSPECTIVE

SELF-ORGANISATION

TIME VARIABLES

Critical Realist Theory and Methods

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So, Prof. KChristina Nelson whom with whom I have worked in Lulea University of Technology, she actually developed, I have written in complexities about Complexities and spatial planning practice and the theory. And here she talks about the complexities refers to uncertainties, unpredictable outcomes when different natural, technical and social conditions are integrated with actions and reactions from various actors and stakeholders and when a great number, and a variety of elements and time dimensions interact in society as a whole and in planning in particular.

So, I will explain in brief she adopts a critical realist theory and methods. And then, she reveals the what kind of complexities have do exist in this whole process. One is here; there are three important actors, which one can look at. So, one is the hierarchy component. So, there are three; one is the LKAB, which is the state owned mining company, and because of the mine, the community do exist there, and the whole town do exist there. And the Kiruna commune, which is an administrative setup, which actually looks at the welfare of the community. And the communities, which actually were dependent on both LKAB, and without them, LKAB is not there, and without LKAB they are not there, and without these two, the Kiruna commune is not there. So, this is how that kind of interdependent roles.

But now, the question is in the beginning, when I was working in 2012, the lot of confusion on various aspects, especially the hierarchy; who was the higher network, because whether the community commune has to the Kiruna commune has to is taking the responsibility of the whole move or the LKAB as a mining company, who is financing component of it, is it taking the whole move prospects? So, this was a little chaos, and this was not clear about these hierarchies, what role, which actor and what role does each one of them play.

There also some uncertainties. Now, the uncertainty is about how about yes, we are spending some billions of money and we are moving town. But what about, due to the advancement in technology or due to mining activities completed in may be in the next 10 years. So, what happens to the town later, you know, because I mean it will be the same case in even in the countries like Middle East where the oil reserves are almost done? Then what happens to the future, what happens to those towns and cities, which are completely dependent on that. So, how we can bring about these local economies, you know. So, what about alternative economies? So because it that is how tourism is one of the aspect, which the development agencies are looking at, so that you know it is not, so that to bring your kind of sustenance model.

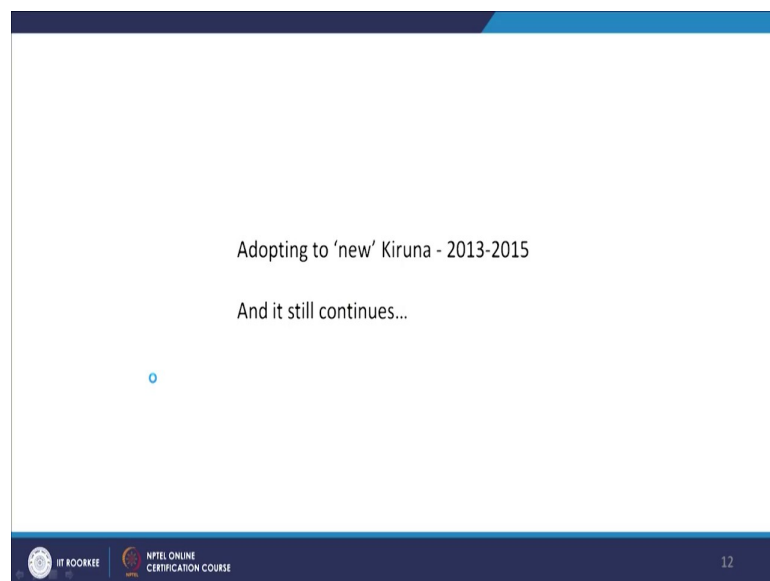
And the chaos and non-linearity and interdependence is as I said that apart from the hierarchy; so, just interdependence because all these three actors are interdependent with each other. So, with these processes, there is no clarity on the role to defining the role and obviously, there are some time variables. So, and when we talk about this, of course, there was a actor network perspective, which she talked about how again these all talks about, how these roles and their networks can or understood.

And how the self-organization processes? The last one she talks about is kind of time variable. Right now, we are talking about 100 year master plan and maybe from 2019, they want to set up all these things. But what are the various difficulties in because certain decisions are not having any clarity, and certain decisions are in a debate, especially when the heritage came into the picture.

And what you see in the reality is because there are many ideas, how to move the city, but on what idea and what is the kind of criteria, one should take up further. And what happens what about, because there is also the financial backup and into it, the financial

support, and how it has to be go with these kinds of time lines you know. And the fear which is again link to this kind of uncertainties. What happens, if the mine is digged out in effect in a quicker phase, so then it is definitely a waste of money of moving the whole town, then it serve a how it will have an impact. So, it is all lot of challenges the planning authority. And this is all they have to deal with the communities, what are their interest and identify that, because you have to put all these actors together, that itself become all the three actors coming into the same platform itself is a bigger task.

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In this whole process, what we have discussed is how, because is adapting to the new Kiruna, which is from 2013 to 2015, where you can see that people are able to come to certain decisions, and things are moving on right now. Though there are some complexities, and a lot of debates are going on.

And especially with this heritage component, where the cost is involved, it has taken a new shape, you know what. So what we are looking at is how the heritage is actually been discussed in three forms, one is the heritization process, in the second one is the re-heritization process, and the third one is the de-heritization process. And what are the aspects that has influenced these heritage outcomes or discussions.

So, one is through the media obviously, different interpretations came, and that is where when we talk about, when the interpretation different interpretations come outside through the media or through various resources. Obviously, communities are in a kind of

chaos, you know what is happening, who is taking care of it, so that communication for the development of moving there, this is what we called it as a risk communication, you know. So, how we actually communicate the potential of the risk, and what are the opportunities of moving a town, and what are the possibilities? So that transparency during the transparency in an orderly manner is almost very difficult.

But still, what we should appreciate, and what we should learn from the Kiruna case as compared to the South American cases, where some of the Chinese have completely taken away the copper mines. So, in those kind of re-locations in South American context, what they did was, they just give the money and resettle them, just ask them to get out of this place, and then they want to take the whole mine out. So, it is much more a business model.

But here, you can see a kind of human concerns, and how they are able to integrate communities, and they are able to develop some discussions, lot of work shops and lot of engagements, which is happening with in the civic engagement. This is not just a political thing and obviously, there is lot of court cases, people had raised summons and appeal against certain decisions and the Kiruna communes decisions were also appealed, and the LKAB decisions were also appealed.

So, in this whole process, there was a little component of the democratic values, but it is also taking some time. And there are different complexities within it. So, I think what we have to learn from the Kiruna is or even in future any movement of any town, it is not just moving a town, as it is cutting and pasting, like what you will do in a computer. But, it has to do we have to really thoroughly involve, and engage the community in understanding the hidden meanings. And there and also look at the financial and the operational aspects into it.

Thank you very much.