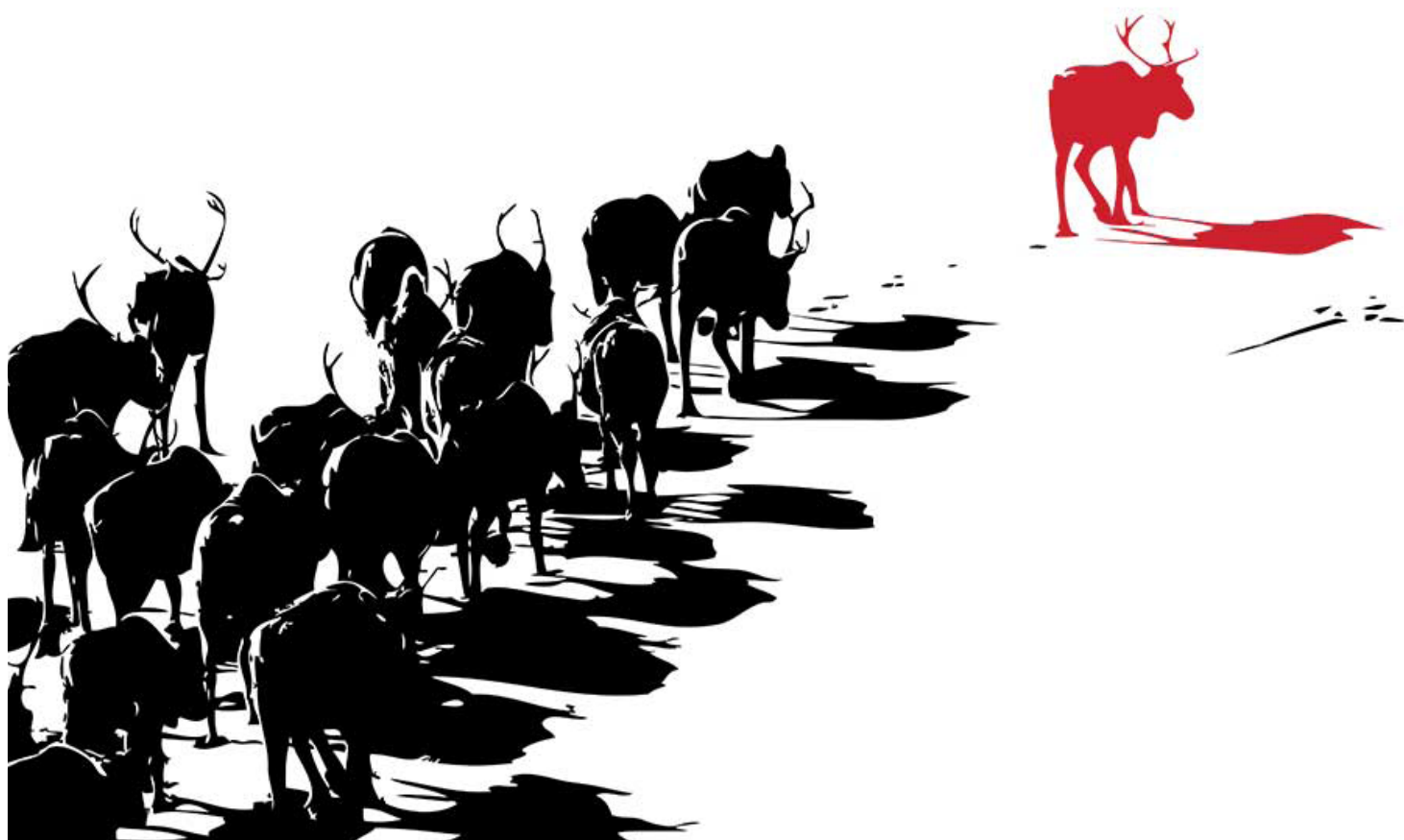




**SÁMIID RIIKKASEARVI**

Svenska Samernas Riksförbund · SSR

# **Policy regarding research and project collaborations with Sámiid Riikkasearvi**



# For those who want to start research collaborations with Sámiid Riikkasearvi

The research community's interest in Sámi matters has increased over the last 30 years and there is no indication that this interest will cease. Sámiid Riikkasearvi has chosen to align with an international Indigenous development where the aim is to take charge of and actively participate in the research that is undertaken within the framework of Sámiid Riikkasearvi.

In order to start a collaboration with Sámiid Riikkasearvi, we demand that researchers and anyone employed with research projects, undertake the education about Sámi culture, society and reindeer herding, regularly offered by Sámiid Riikkasearvi.

This demand is placed on researchers wishing to collaborate with Sámiid Riikkasearvi in order for the researchers to have basic knowledge about Sámi society prior to initiating projects. If the researcher can show that they have gained equivalent knowledge in some other way, they do not have to undertake the course offered by Sámiid Riikkasearvi. Sámiid Riikkasearvi will determine whether the researcher possess equivalent knowledge or not.

## Sámiid Riikkasearvi and Research

Sámiid Riikkasearvi will predominantly engage with research that deals with Sámi society, where there is focus on different matters affecting the Sámi reindeer herding communities.

Researchers interested in starting collaborations with Sámiid Riikkasearvi are advised to think through and answer a number of questions prior to contacting Sámiid Riikkasearvi.

- Why do we want Sámiid Riikkasearvi to participate in the project?
- Who owns the research? Why are we going to conduct this research?
- Who will benefit from the research? Whose interests will benefit from the research?
- What possibilities and opportunities will Sámiid Riikkasearvi have to influence the research ideas, questions and design of the project?
- What are the expected results of the project?
- What happens to the research data – who owns it?
- How shall we as researchers “give back” to Sámiid Riikkasearvi and other research participants?
- What happens if Sámiid Riikkasearvi are not satisfied with the research project?
- What possibilities will Sámiid Riikkasearvi have to exit the project, if the project deviates from agreed protocols?
- Is Sámiid Riikkasearvi only hearva/a decoration (an alibi) for our application?

If Sámiid Riikkasearvi chooses to participate in a research project it will lend its name as a quality insurance indicator which should mean that the research is of high academic quality and sensitive to values that exist in Sámi society and reindeer herding communities.

## Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

If Sámiid Riikkasearvi decides to participate in a research project, a Free, prior and informed consent (hereafter called FPIC) should be drawn up between the relevant parties, the research party is responsible for creating this document. FPIC should be seen as a mutually beneficial document which can eliminate misunderstandings at an early stage as the parties are obliged to work through the project together. The FPIC document should include the following:

- Who will finance the project?
- Who is responsible for the project and who will be employed within the framework of the project?
- Is there a need for knowledge holders, guides and interpreters in order to conduct the project?
- What theories and methods will be used in the project?
- What language will be used in the project?
- What positive and negative effects can be expected from participation in the project for Sámiid Riikkasearvi and other research participants including the research institution?
- How should research results be delivered back to the Sámi society?
- How will research data be handled now and in the future?
- The researchers should respect the Sámi culture and its values and traditions.
- FPIC should also include how agreements with individual knowledge holders should be drawn up and dealt with.

## Researchers and knowledge holders

Sámiid Riikkasearvi can exit the research collaboration at any stage if the researchers do not follow the FPIC agreement.

Sámiid Riikkasearvi has chosen to highlight additional issues relating to the implementation of research projects and the interactions between researchers and knowledge holders in the field. This because all knowledge holders that choose to participate in research projects where Sámiid Riikkasearvi are participating should be treated equally, no matter who is conducting the project and when it is conducted.

- Sámiid Riikkasearvi's primary standpoint is that research theories and methods shall not be offensive /insulting either to Sámi society, individuals or the reindeer.
- The research participants should be accredited in publications, lectures etc.
- Anonymity shall be guaranteed if the knowledge holder wishes to be anonymous – the researcher should be aware that it is more difficult to achieve a successful anonymity in Sámi society than it would be in a research project conducted with a majority society.
- In conjunction with field work, the researcher often receives more information than they request, sometimes even sensitive information about the individual, their company etc. When analysing the data, the researcher must determine what can be used and what can have negative implications for the individual if it is published.
- The knowledge holders that participate in the project have the right to access the data collected, prior to publication, in order to ensure that they have been represented correctly.
- The researchers shall cover the costs that project participation incurs for Sámiid Riikkasearvi unless something else has been agreed on in the FPIC document.
- Participating knowledge holders that give up their time to share information should be reimbursed for loss of salary/work hours by the researchers.
- The researchers shall cover hidden costs relating to field work.
- An agreement relating to project participation should be made between researchers and knowledge holders.
- The knowledge holders should have the possibility to determine what language they use in interviews – Sámi is often the preferred language.
- Sámi concepts or words should be written in publications with explanations in other languages using footnotes or in brackets.
- Sámi orthography should be used. Swedish place names should be placed in footnotes or in brackets.
- Summaries in publications / journal articles etc shall also be available in Sámi and English.
- Information about the project should be disseminated to the research participants – a well-defined plan shall be created for how this shall be implemented.
- Publications resulting from the project shall be sent to all participants of the research project.



Formvägen 16 | 906 21 Umeå | 090 - 14 11 80 | [info@sapmi.se](mailto:info@sapmi.se) | [www.sapmi.se](http://www.sapmi.se)



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