



Umeå University



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# Resilience in Reindeer Herding Societies

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*IPY EALAT Seminar*

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# What is Resilience

Resilience is *“the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity, and feedbacks”*

(walker et al. 2004)

In other words, **resilience is ability to deal with change successfully**

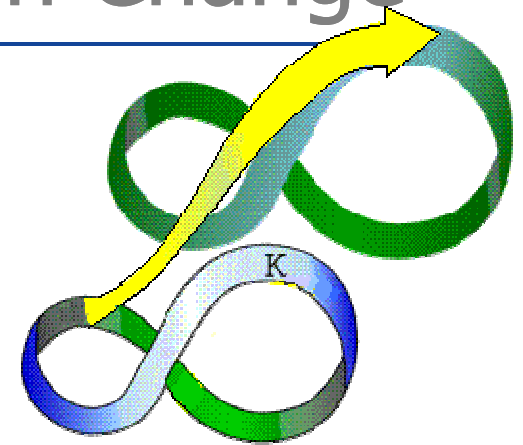
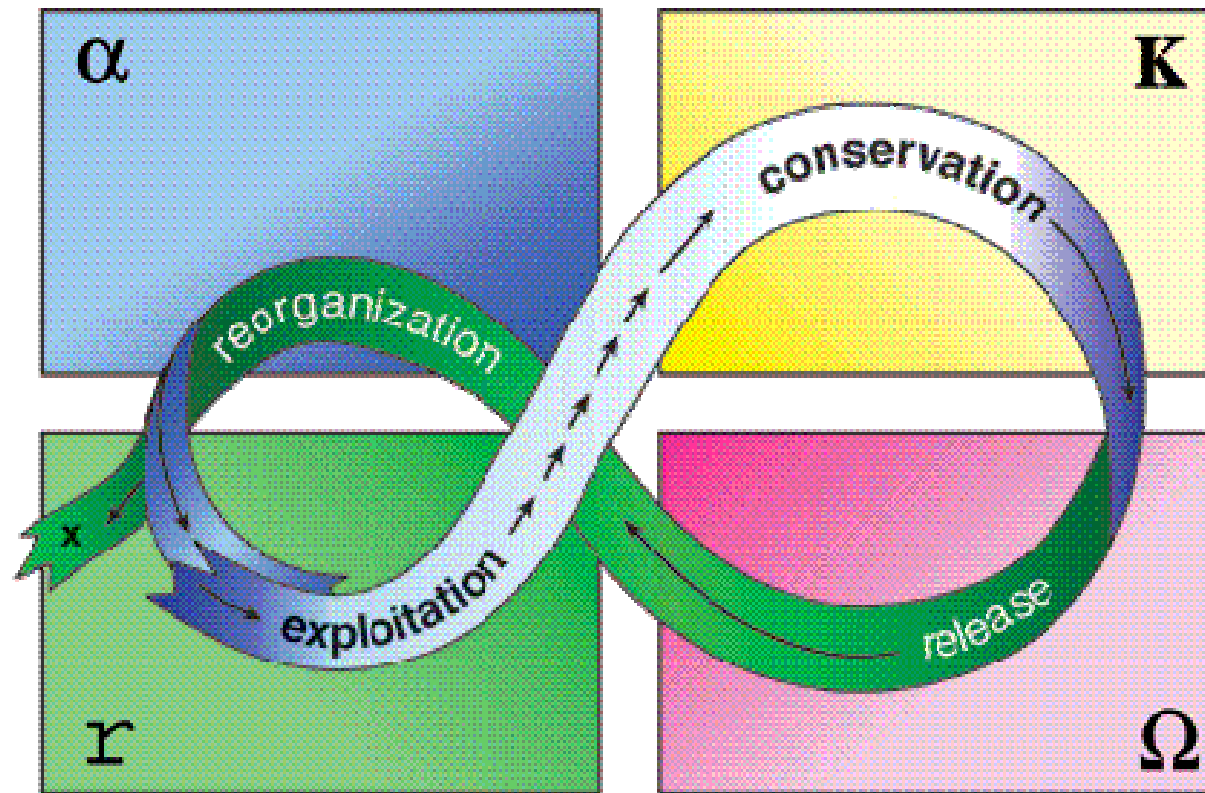


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# Resilience Thinking; Systems in Change



Modified from: Gundersen  
and Holling 2002

# Key characteristics of the social organisation of reindeer pastoralism

Reindeer pastoralism, is organised similarly almost everywhere in the world, and is:

- Organised in work-communities
- A family-based livelihood
- A nomadic livelihood





# The social-ecological resilience of reindeer pastoralism is embedded in:

- Knowledge
- decision-making structures
- Mobility
- Herd structure



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# Summary

Resilience is a way of looking at the world that coincides with how reindeer pastoralists look at the world: Change not stability is normal

The flexible social organisation of reindeer pastoralism through family-based nomadic work communities contributes towards increasing the resilience of the livelihood, as flexibility allows herders to cope with climatic variations and surprises and adapt to change