NAME
Bjørn L. Basberg

TITLE OF PRESENTATION
The Economic History of the Antarctic

ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATION
The Antarctic region has a long history of resource exploitation, from the 19th century sealing industry and the 20th century whaling industry to the more recent fisheries and even bio-prospecting. Tourism, often considered a new activity in the Antarctic region, has already been a growth industry for almost 50 years. Even science, research and exploration – main historic activities in Antarctica, have economic aspects. Historically, these activities were often motivated by economic prospects. The activities in themselves also include economic aspects involving employment, equipment, support, logistics etc.
The presentation will review the historic industries. The main purpose, however, is to discuss the peculiarities of the Antarctic as a region – a region with no permanent population and no sovereignty in a traditional sense, and how that poses difficulties and challenges when analyzing and defining the Antarctic as an economic region. The presentation will also discuss differences and similarities between the Antarctic and the Arctic in a context of economic activities.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE
Bjørn L. Basberg (b. 1952) is a Professor in Economic History at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) in Bergen. His main research interests are within the history of technology and economic history of 20th century maritime industries (whaling and shipping) especially relating the Antarctic region. For many years he has been in charge of a project on industrial archaeology at South Georgia, and published, *The Shore Whaling Stations at South Georgia. A Study in Antarctic Industrial Archaeology* (2004).
Basberg is an Advisory Curator at New Bedford Whaling Museum. He is a trustee of South Georgia Heritage Trust. He has been a visiting scholar at M.I.T., the National Bureau of Economic Research, Brown University and most recently University of Cambridge (Scott Polar Research Institute).