

El Departament d'Antropologia Social i Cultural  
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## CONFERÈNCIA - SEMINARI OBERT:

**"Fishing rights and financial capitalism in  
Iceland: From common property to panaceas of  
private ownership"**



Dr. Níels Einarsson (Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland)

**Dijous 21 de febrer de 2019, 16:00-18:00h.**

**Sala de Junes de la Facultat de Lletres de la UAB**

**Resum:**

The introduction of private property rights in fisheries has been widely implemented as a panacea to solve the problems of fisheries crises, both in terms of ecological factors such as overexploitation as well as economic inefficiency. This internationally steamrolling governance paradigm seeks inspiration and guidance from radical neoliberal philosophy and has been widely criticized for a range of side effects, including various negative social impacts on coastal communities. The consequences for fishing villages include deprivation of traditional resource rights and other equity and human rights issues. Iceland introduced its Individual Transferable Quota System (ITQs) in 1984 where the first steps were taken in the transformation of open access common property into private property rights or catch quotas in the ground fisheries. What was initially introduced as an experiment in marine resource management has lasted more than three decades and has showed itself to be potentially irreversible. The irreversibility is connected to the transformation of fishing rights into various forms of financial products which link the fate of fishing communities into the logic and vested interests of financial capitalism. There are valuable lessons to be learned from the Icelandic experience, not least for countries, regions and fisheries where the introduction of private property rights is seen as fit governance solution to tackle the current predicament of fisheries management.