

**ARCTIC/HSTCMP 220:**

*At the Top of the World: Arctic Histories*

Winter 2020

Monday, Wednesday, 10:30-12:20

Elena I. Campbell



Image: Benois A.N.(?) *Polar lights, Olginsky camp*. 08.12.1925

This course will explore the history of humans' understanding of and relationship to the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, by tracing the social, economic, political, and environmental transformations of the Earth's northernmost areas during the period from the earliest settlements to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (the creation of the Arctic Council in 1996), as well as the shifts in ideas that accompanied these changes. The topics covered in this course include the history of indigenous settlements and adaptation to the northern environment; European colonization, state-building and border-making; religion and empire; economic development, industrialization and resource exploitation; exploration, cultural imagination and nationalism; the international race to the North Pole, the Soviet conquest of the Arctic and the GULAG in the Far North; World War II and Cold War; indigenous rights, decolonization, environmental concerns and attempts for international cooperation. Special attention will be paid to the transnational and nationalizing trends, as well as the evolving concepts of the region and its past.

