

**Archives of the Arctic. Ice, Entropy and Memory**  
**Sept. 18-20, 2013**  
**Berlin, Germany**

**Buschina, Mandy**

***Venjamin Kaverins „Dva Kapitana“ and the conceptualization of the Arctic as an Archive***

The lecture wants to explore the mnemonic architecture of the popular soviet adventure novel *Two Captains (Dva Kapitana, 1938-1944)*, in which memory is realized as a figural disposition of progenitors, successor and doubles and polar space their basis to reconstruct a destructed historical narrative. Ice does not represent the untouched and unstructured, but is the saving and preserving medium of (historical) truth.

Whereas the disposal of a natural arctic archive is intensifying the authenticity of the frozen documents and vestiges, the main character as a double is opening a field of affirmation and negation, of simulation, which is a dissimulation on duty of a ideological interpretation.

Based on observations of Kaverins novel I want to discuss the potential of spacial semantization of arctic regions to convey historical processes and ask, to what extend the model of successors and doubles is not just a model of polar exploration and a spacial practice, but also a practice within the archives itself.