

connections between heritage and nation-building which still influence states' contemporary Arctic approaches. It is understandable, however, that the short length requires some compromises in content, and the book still fulfils its role, often signposting to topics dealt with only briefly so that engaged readers can delve further.

The authors begin their concluding paragraph by saying 'distinguishing between global geopolitical dynamics and local regional realities in the Arctic is crucial. We need to be wary of assuming that the Arctic is a singular region' (142), and in this they have fulfilled what they set out to do. No reader could finish this book and remain unaware of the plurality and complexity of the Arctic.

This book will be of significant use to students and publics new to the Arctic. The authors have achieved exactly what is suggested by the title: a short but detailed introduction to the Arctic. Accessible and concise but comprehensive, tackling both physical and human Arctic worlds, *The Arctic* is a strong and necessary addition to the *Very Short Introduction* series.

Alice Oates

*Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK*

[ao330@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ao330@cam.ac.uk) <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5177-9681>

© 2022 Alice Oates

<https://doi.org/10.1080/2154896X.2022.2056673>



**Antarcticness: inspirations and imaginaries** Edited by Ilan Kelman, London, UCL Press, 2022, 297pp., £25.00 (paperback) ISBN 9781800081451, £0.00 (open access PDF), ISBN 9781800081444

What is *Antarcticness*? For early British Antarctic Survey base staff, Antarcticness was about 'masculine comradery, about creating a masculine environment where toughness and adaptability were treasured,' writes Andrew J. Avery in his chapter about Antarctic base life 1942–82 (p. 85). According to editor Ilan Kelman, Antarcticness is 'about being untamed and placid, dangerous and embracing, untouched and contaminated, and alien and comforting' (p. 275). Looking to the future, Rosa Jijón imagines a 'southern, decolonial, feminist, mestizo Antarcticness,' with 'the possibility of walking the other way, not exploring any further, not taking any more pictures, not allowing any more tourism, not collecting any more information' (p. 107).

*Antarcticness: Inspirations and imaginaries* is a new illustrated volume edited by Ilan Kelman, Professor of Digital and Health at UCL, English and American Studies, Kelman's