Do`s and Don`ts in Arctic Research?  
An interactive Workshop on Community-based Research with Early Career Scientists

A cross-cutting initiative by IASC Fellows

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In the frame of the Permafrost Young Researchers Workshop on 18-19 June 2016 during the 11th International Conference on Permafrost 2016 (icop.org), a workshop session was organized by IASC Fellows and supported by an IASC cross-cutting proposal. This workshop session aimed at bringing together Early Career Scientists (ECSs, including engineers) and resident Arctic representatives and experts to discuss best practice and exchange of traditional and modern knowledge when conducting research in northern countries.

\textbf{Workshop Structure:}
- 90-min session (field twice \textasciitilde 25 participants)
- opening of the workshop: traditional music sung and played on guitar followed by opening words of the organizers
- introduction of the invited experts
- break-out groups of 5-6 participants plus one invited expert and one organizer as moderator: participants introduced themselves and discussed experiences in northern communities; a list of do`s and don`t s in Arctic Research was created by each group
- plenun: all groups presented their lists and discussed them actively
- closing: questions to the invited experts and a summary of the organizers

\textbf{Examples of Do`s and Don`t s:}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{Do`s:}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item Start planning early: involve local community before writing the proposal
      \item Hire local assistant and plan for local costs in the budget
      \item Get in touch with previous researchers in the area
      \item Be aware of research "lazy"
      \item Respect community needs/whishes regarding your research
      \item Search for external funding to spend time in the community
    \end{itemize}
  \item \textbf{Don`t s:}
    \begin{itemize}
      \item Don`t leave until last minute
      \item Don`t forget long-term plans
      \item Don`t disclose local concerns or knowledge
      \item Don`t hide that you are a researcher
      \item Don`t just present your work and leave, create open dialogue
      \item Don`t teach locals how they should be or live
    \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\begin{table}[ht]
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\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Do`s} & \textbf{Don`t s} \\
\hline
Start planning early: involve local community before writing the proposal & Don`t leave until last minute \\
Hire local assistant and plan for local costs in the budget & Don`t forget long-term plans \\
Get in touch with previous researchers in the area & Don`t disclose local concerns or knowledge \\
Be aware of research "lazy" & Don`t hide that you are a researcher \\
Respect community needs/whishes regarding your research & Don`t just present your work and leave, create open dialogue \\
Search for external funding to spend time in the community & Don`t teach locals how they should be or live \\
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\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textbf{Evaluation:}
On a scale from 0 (“waste of time”) and 5 (“great”) the workshop was rated with 4.3 (sd=0.8) which was the highest mean score among all parallel workshop sessions.

\textbf{Written comments included: “good format,” “good but possibly better when divided by discipline”, “interactive” and “It was great to meet and talk with representatives of native communities and professionals working with them.”}