

Best Practices in Collaborative Research with Northern Communities

- A Synopsis from Early Career Researchers -



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 (ECS, 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.

With support from:



Results

A lively exchange between all workshop participants and experts allowed to develop a long and diverse list of Do's and Don'ts of Arctic Research. Not only the working atmosphere was very positive, also the positive list (Do's) was generally more extensive than negative recommendations (Don'ts). The word cloud (created with wordle) visualizes the most frequently mentioned terms in the collected lists of Do's and Don'ts of Arctic Research.



Our invited panelists

Richard Gordon: Inuvialuit and an active member of his community in Inuvik (Yukon, Canada), Chief Ranger of Herschel Island Territorial Park
Anna Annasyeva: Russian Saami living in Norway (PhD study at Centre for Sami Studies at the Arctic University of Tromsø) and Indigenous Peoples Adviser at the International Barents Secretariat (IBS)
Jan Otto Habeck: Professor at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Hamburg (Germany); co-lead of the project "Permafrost and Culture" in the region of Sakha (Yakutia, Russia)
Robert Way: Inuk, IASC Fellow and PhD student at the University of Ottawa, Canada



Workshop Structure

The workshop was held twice for 90 min with about 25 participants during each session. At the beginning, the workshop was opened with traditional music sung and played on guitar by Richard Gordon, followed by some words of the organizers. The invited experts shortly introduced themselves before the group was organized in four smaller groups of 5-6 participants each; plus one invited expert and one organizer as moderator. The participants were asked to introduce themselves and discuss their personal experiences in northern communities with the aim was to create a list of do's and don'ts in Arctic Research. After 20 minutes the participants came back into the plenum in order to present and actively discuss their lists. By the end, questions to the invited experts were asked before the organizers summarized the outputs from the workshop.



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. 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“.

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