

# REPORT

## Workshop session „**Community-based Research: Do’s and Don’ts of Arctic Research**“

An IASC cross-cutting initiative during the Young Researcher Workshop  
at the 11th International Conference on Permafrost 2016

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 Josefina Lenz (TWG), Elena Kuznetsova, Louis-Philippe Roy, Robert Way (all CWG), Kristina Brown and Emily Choy (all MWG) 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.

The Permafrost Young Researchers Workshop was organized and received funding from the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), International Permafrost Association (IPA), BOLIN Centre for Climate Research, Potsdam Graduate School (PoGS), Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) and Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN). Funding by IASC was used for general workshop support and travel support for the organizers (ECS) and 4 invited guests (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: Organizers and invited guests prior the workshop (left to right: Richard Gordon, J. Otto Habeck, Elena Kuznetsova, Josefina Lenz, Robert Way, Louis-Philippe Roy, Kristina Brown and Anna Annasyeva)

**Richard Gordon** came from Inuvik, Yukon Territory, Canada, and is Chief Ranger of Herschel Island Territorial Park. He is Inuvialuit, an active member of his community and reported from very practical cooperation between scientists and northerners. **Anna Annasyeva** is a Russian Saami living in Norway and studying at the Centre for Sami Studies at the Arctic University of Tromsø (PhD project “Boarding school policies in education of the Kola Sámi from 1910 to 2010”). She is an Indigenous Peoples Adviser at the International Barents Secretariat (IBS) and reported on the panel by talking about both, her own experiences in community-based research and as well as board activities. **Jan Otto Habeck** is Professor at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Hamburg in Germany. His research experiences as a social scientist within his recent project on “Permafrost and Culture” in the region of Sakha (Yakutia, Russia) was of great value to stimulate workshop discussions. **Robert Way**, IASC Fellow and PhD student in the field of permafrost research at the University of Ottawa, Canada, is Inuk himself, and completed the panel with a report on his involvement within the Inuk community.

### Workshop organization

The 90-min session was held twice so that the ~150 participants from all over the world were given the chance to attend two of the offered 4 parallel sessions (icop2016.org/young\_researchers\_workshop). The workshop was opened with traditional music played on guitar and sung by Richard Gordon and started with some opening words by the organizers (Fig. 2). We first asked the invited experts to introduce themselves by giving their name and origin and their background in the context of scientific activities in the Arctic. Then we split into the four small groups of 5-6 participants each plus one invited expert and one moderator (organizer). Here, the participants were asked to introduce themselves and discussed research experiences in northern communities. The break-out groups were asked to create a list of do’s and don’ts in Arctic Research. After, the groups came back into the plenum and



Fig. 2: Opening of the workshop session (Foto: Niels Weiss).



Fig. 3 Group discussion opens to the plenum after the break-out sessions (Foto: Niels Weiss).

presented their list of do’s and don’ts (a small gift was given to the first one presenting). Questions and discussions developed already after these presentations and resulted in an active discussion round (Fig. 3). The workshop session was closed by final questions to the invited guests and closing remarks by the guests and organizers. The organizers provided a list of online links to reports and websites of



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”.

During the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Permafrost following the workshop, all organizers and invited guests met several times, including the final conference banquet dinner. We concluded that discussions held with the ECS were incredibly interesting and successful. Bringing young researchers of different fields and local actors of northern communities actively together to discuss the right approach of their work seems highly important and communications should be further enhanced in the future.

### Dissemination of results

This report will be shared with the invited panel guests and participants who registered their email address. We would like to ask them for their comments to develop further ideas based on workshop outcomes. We aim at writing a white paper which summarizes Do`s and Don`ts in Arctic Research based on the “Community-based Research” workshop.

Supplement:

Compilation of Do`s and Don`ts on Arctic Research developed during the “Community-based Research” workshop session during the Young Researchers Workshop at ICOP2016.

<b>DO`s</b>	<b>DON`Ts</b>
<b>planning</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start planning early!</li> <li>- Involve local community before writing the proposal</li> <li>- Hire local assistance and plan for local costs in the budget</li> <li>- Find out who in the community would be interested in your work</li> <li>- Get in touch with previous researchers in the area</li> <li>- Be aware of research “fatigue”</li> <li>- Respect community needs/wishes regarding your research</li> <li>- Search for external funding to spend time in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include communities in planning from start</li> <li>- Don’t leave until last minute</li> <li>- Don’t forget long-term plans</li> <li>- Don’t discard local concerns or knowledge</li> </ul>
<b>Contributions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ask community what they want for research products, outcomes</li> <li>- Be clear and transparent with research objectives and be able to connect that to local topics/interests/context</li> <li>- Acknowledge community partners in outputs</li> <li>- Write articles together with local community, use local media for outputs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don’t leave the community without any contributions (e.g., momentos, education, experience)</li> <li>- Don’t give money, but pay for work that is done</li> <li>- Don’t waste the community’s time, be prepared when you arrive</li> <li>- Don’t teach locals how they should be or live</li> </ul>
<b>Relationships</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create trust, be honest about your plans</li> <li>- Develop a relationship with community (come back!)</li> <li>- Respect traditional knowledge</li> <li>- Be aware of community dynamics/local values</li> <li>- Make community aware of your plans</li> <li>- Follow-up</li> <li>- Respect peoples time and personal needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don’t create mistrust</li> <li>- Don’t hide that you are a researcher</li> <li>- Share your observations and data with community</li> <li>- Don’t just present your work and leave, create open dialogue</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<b>Impressions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be aware of terminology</li> <li>- Non-verbal communication is important (smile!)</li> <li>- Communicate indirect effects of research (climate change context)</li> <li>- Talk to the local media to communicate results to the community</li> <li>- Clear, open communication is key</li> <li>- Create a community-based database of results</li> <li>- Use simple plane language to create summary of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don’t be rude/arrogant/ “know-it-all”</li> <li>- Don’t leave garbage</li> <li>- Don’t discuss controversial topics</li> <li>- Don’t lose the community’s respect</li> </ul>

<p>your work with highlights on the important topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be open, approachable</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Connect with a community in a personal way!</b></p>	<p><b>Respect for Community (Individuals &amp; Place)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Try to get informed about local history, culture, traditions</li> <li>- Share personal stories, connect on a personal level</li> <li>- Plan extra social days at start and end of research trip</li> <li>- Talk about your life experience (where you are from, what life is like there, etc.)</li> <li>- Bring gifts etc. to show appreciation, giving and sharing</li> <li>- Spend time in the community, get to know the region in person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don't call it "the field"</li> <li>- Don't judge from scientific pedestal</li> <li>- Don't force your project/solutions on the community</li> <li>- Don't be disrespectful of local traditions/customs</li> <li>- Don't take advantage of traditional knowledge or community contributions</li> <li>- Don't take safety for granted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Get involved!</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Link with local high school, college programs</li> <li>- Get involved with local youth</li> <li>- Contact local education organizations for presentations, curriculum applications of research</li> <li>- Offer support and help to community</li> <li>- Be ready to do volunteer work within the community, give back!</li> </ul>	