



A WEEK OF EXCHANGE: ETHICS AND METHODS IN ARCTIC TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH

DÁVGI

03 - 06 October 2023, Oulu, Finland

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are pleased to invite you to join us for a **week of exchange** in Oulu (Finland), to collectively engage with questions around **ethics and methods in Arctic transformative* research**.

Our gathering will take place from **Tuesday, 3 October 2023** to **Thursday, 5 October 2023**.

This week brings together two events. You are invited to join both:

1. October 3: The third **Workshop on Ethics and Methods in Arctic Transformative Research (WEMA III)**. WEMA III is jointly hosted and co-funded by the University of Oulu/Biodiverse Anthropocenes Programme (ANTS) and the Research Institute for Sustainability - Helmholtz-Centre Potsdam (RIFS). The programme and sessions are being planned collectively by an organizing group. You can find more information on our website (add link). The overarching theme of this year's WEMA workshop will be: *The role of communication in transformative Arctic research – Respecting diverse ways of communicating in the context of the UN decade on Indigenous languages*.
2. October 4-5: The final gathering for **DÁVGI: Co-Creation for Biocultural Diversity in the Arctic**, a project led by the Saami Council, RIFS, and Ecologic Institute, which focuses on applying co-creative methods and reflects on the nature of co-creative partnerships in Arctic research. DÁVGI is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).

To enable broad and inclusive accessibility, parts of our Week of Exchange will be held in hybrid format (more information on this will be added to the programme in the coming weeks). Limited funds are available to support travel, accommodation, visa expenses, or high costs of internet access for participants who do not have access to other funds. If you require financial support, please contact the organizers here.

Concept:

There is a growing interest in collaborative and co-created approaches to Arctic research. This has been accompanied by debates regarding the need to decolonize methods, research attitudes, and institutions. Increasingly, funders request that Arctic research projects include collaboration with communities. Yet, non-Indigenous researchers often do not know how to engage in a co-productive way and Indigenous knowledge continues to be misunderstood and misrepresented in research. Indigenous communities and organizations are frequently overburdened by requests

* By this we mean research that works towards positive changes

to collaborate – which often come after fundamental decisions on research projects have already been made. Indigenous-led and collaborative research are also hindered by academic structures and funding processes. To avoid co-creation/co-production becoming an empty concept and collaboration being reduced to box-ticking, fundamental questions need to be addressed. These include:

- How can meaningful communication and equitable research relationships be built across knowledge systems and academic disciplines?
- How does academia need to change to recognize different ways of knowing and communicating?
- How can Indigenous data sovereignty be ensured to enable just and meaningful communication?
- How can research support Indigenous language revitalization and cultural resurgence?
- What is the role of communication beyond texts and words in research?
- How can we foster collaborative and co-productive/co-creative research approaches without overburdening Indigenous communities?
- Who ultimately defines “good communication” and how can we ensure that Indigenous communities are able to evaluate if research communication is successful?
- How can Indigenous-led research be sustainably financially supported outside of academia?

The ***Week of Exchange*** encourages multi-sensory practices of learning, sharing, (re-)connecting, and communicating with humans and other-than-humans. This may be approached through handicraft, artistic performances, storytelling, movement, and silence. Participants are invited to ‘bring all their senses’ to a ‘room of exchange’ that will be open throughout the week to engage and communicate in various ways. This may include images, photos, drawings, texts / music and sounds (live, flash drives, online) / dance and movement / objects to smell, taste, feel, look at / projects-in-progress or new handicraft projects (e.g. sewing, knitting, writing, painting, etc.) to work on and share during and in-between sessions or in our room or exchange.

How to engage

We invite researchers, community members, students, artists, activists, representatives of IROs and NGOs, and policy makers to participate.

To sign up to participate, please use this [link](#). Please sign up before **August 7, 2023**. Some sessions will have limited capacity. We will inform participants registered for sessions after the registration deadline. If interest is greater than capacity and we cannot admit all participants to all sessions, we will make the selection process transparent and aim to provide alternatives.

There will be a ‘buddy system’: If you are interested (and sign up for it at registration), we will put you in contact with one other workshop participant already prior to the workshop. This will enable you to exchange on workshop themes already in the weeks before the workshop and be greeted by at least one familiar face when you arrive in Oulu.

We welcome feedback about the planning process and the workshop programme as it develops! If you would like to get involved before October, please contact Olga Lukyanova via olga.lukyano-va@rifs-potsdam.de.

Sessions (in progress, more information will be made available over the coming months)

Indigenous knowledge, Language, and Positionality in Indigenous Research

More information on this session will be available soon.

Workshop

Organizer: Naja Dyrendom Graugaard

More information on this session will be available soon.

This session will have limited capacity for participation

Session on The Role of Communication in Arctic Research in the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages

More information on this session will be available soon

The International Decade of Indigenous Languages in Russia: Research in and with Indigenous Communities

The workshop panel on “The International Decade of Indigenous Languages in Russia: Research in and with Indigenous Communities” focuses on the central role of Indigenous languages and forms of communication in shaping the lives and work in these communities. Recognizing the urgent need for conversations across borders, this panel will explore the challenges and opportunities of addressing the fragmented legacies of collaboration. Through this panel, participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences, insights, and challenges in working in and with Indigenous communities in Russia. By collectively examining the implications of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, the panel aims to foster a greater understanding of the critical importance of language and communication to Indigenous peoples and their ongoing efforts for self-determination, cultural revitalization, and justice.

Session on Project Evaluation

Organizer: Shelly Elverum (Ikaarvik)

More information on this session will be available soon.

This session will be held in a hybrid (online/offline) format

ICARP and Indigenous Self-Determination in Research

Organizers: Aslak Holmberg (Sámiráddi), Evie Morin (RIFS), Arne Riedel (Ecologic Institute) and the DÁVGI project team

This session will present and discuss a contribution to the 4th International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV) process, co-led by non-Indigenous and Indigenous rights holders and researchers. This contribution aims to support co-creative decolonial ethics and methods in Arctic research for the time period 2022-2026. Participants of this session will have the opportunity to provide input and feedback to this draft contribution.

Evening Session by and for early career researchers

More information will be available soon.

Engagement with communication through arts

More information will be available soon.

Room of Exchange - throughout the entire Week of Exchange

Organizer: The WEMA organizing group

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The Room of Exchange will be open to all throughout the Week of Exchange

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Oulu in October to meet, connect, and learn from and with you! If you have any questions, suggestions, concerns, or ideas, we would like to hear from you!

The organizers
www.arctic-ethics.org