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 (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.
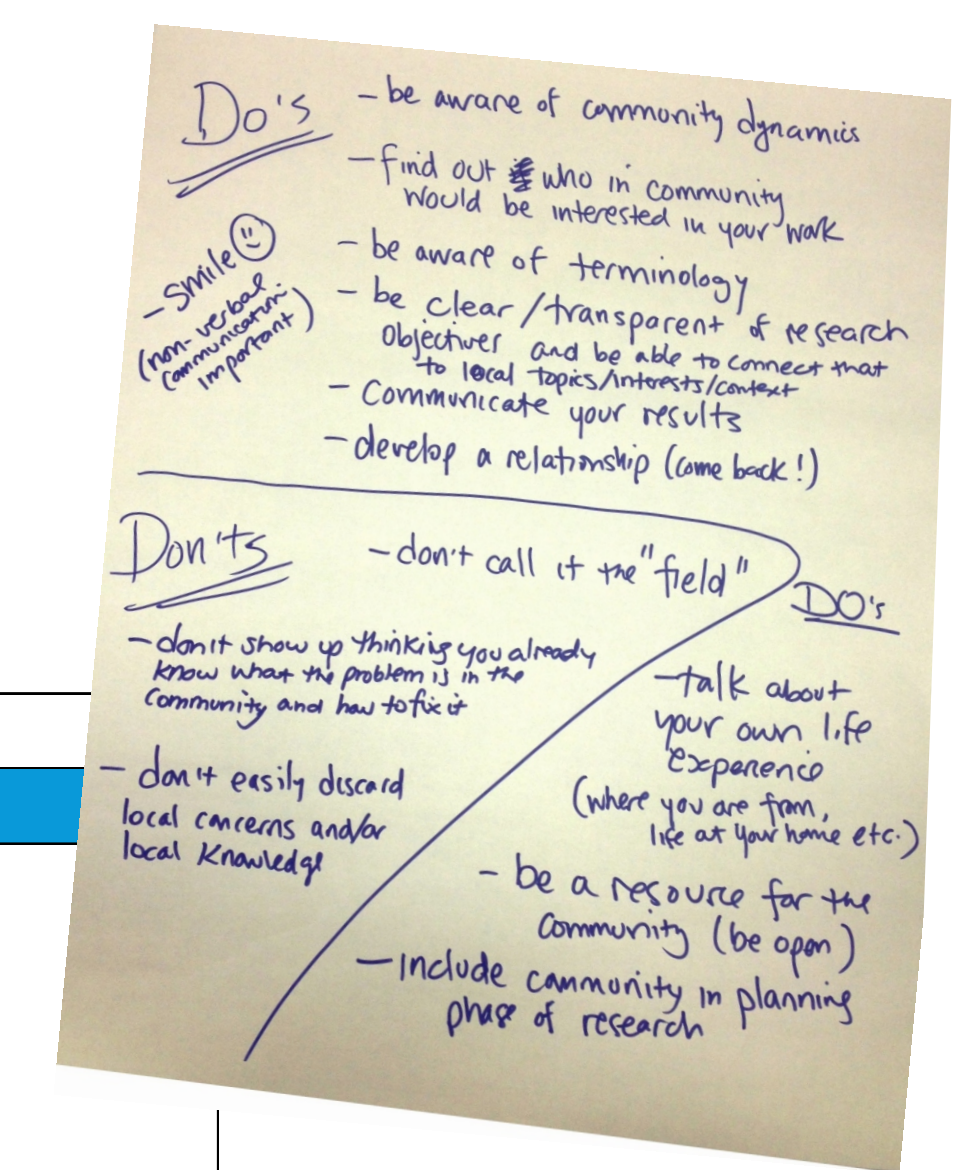
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Our invited panelists

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

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DO`s	DON`Ts
Planning	
- Start planning early! Involve local community before writing the proposal - Hire local assistance and plan for local costs in the budget - Find out who in the community would be interested in your work - Get in touch with previous researchers in the area - Be aware of research "fatigue" - Respect community needs/wishes regarding your research - Search for external funding to spend time in the community	- Include communities in planning from start - Don't leave until last minute - Don't forget long-term plans - Don't discard local concerns or knowledge
Contributions	
- Ask community what they want for research products, outcomes - Be clear and transparent with research objectives and be able to connect that to local topics/interests/context - Acknowledge community partners in outputs - Write articles together with local community, use local media for outputs	- Don't leave the community without any contributions (e.g., momentos, education, experience) - Don't give money, but pay for work that is done - Don't waste the community's time, be prepared when you arrive - Don't teach locals how they should be or live
Relationships	
- Create trust, be honest about your plans - Develop a relationship with community (come back!) - Respect traditional knowledge - Be aware of community dynamics/local values - Make community aware of your plans; respect peoples time & personal needs - Follow-up	- Don't create mistrust - Don't hide that you are a researcher - Share your observations and data with community - Don't just present your work and leave, create open dialogue
Communication	**Impressions**
- Be aware of terminology; Clear, open communication is key - Non-verbal communication is important (smile!) - Communicate indirect effects of research (climate change context) - Talk to the local media to communicate results to the community - Create a community-based database of results - Use simple plane language to create summary of your work with highlights on the important topics; be open, approachable	- Don't be rude/arrogant/ "know-it-all" - Don't leave garbage - Don't discuss controversial topics - Don't lose the community's respect
Connect with a community in a personal way!	**Respect for Community (Individuals & Place)**
- Try to get informed about local history, culture, traditions - Share personal stories, connect on a personal level - Plan extra social days at start and end of research trip - Talk about your life experience (where you are from, what life is like there, etc.) - Bring gifts etc. to show appreciation, giving and sharing - Spend time in the community, get to know the region in person	- Don't call it "the field" - Don't judge from scientific pedestal - Don't force your project/solutions on the community - Don't be disrespectful of local traditions/ customs - Don't take advantage of traditional knowledge or community contributions - Don't take safety for granted
Get involved!	
- Link with local high school, college programs & Get involved with local youth - contact local education organizations for presentations, curriculum applications of research - Offer support and help to community and be ready to do volunteer work within the community, give back!	

Results

A lively exchange between all workshop participants and experts allowed to develope 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 then 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.

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Workshop Structure

- 90-min session (held twice à ~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
- 4 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`ts in Arctic Research was created by each group
- plenum: all groups presented their lists and discussed them actively
- closing: questions to the invited experts and a summary of the organizers

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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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Arctic Science Summit Week 2017
March 31 - April 7, Prague/Czech Republic