Research (Data): Arctic Indigenous Community-based Perspectives

Dr. Ranjan Datta
Banting Postdoctoral Fellow
The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS)
University of Regina
Outline

- Situating Self
- Case Studies from My Research.
- Community Perspectives on:
  - Challenges in Community-based Resiliency and Sustainability
  - Ways to Overcome these Challenges
Arctic Research and Community Engagements

- Inuit Indigenous Community in Yukon Territory
- Inuit, Tlingit, Haida Indigenous Communities in Alaska
- Sami Indigenous Communities in Finland and Norway
- Inuit Indigenous Communities in Greenland
- Dene and Cree Indigenous Communities in North
Meanings of Research From and Within Indigenous Community Perspectives
Build Meaningful Collaboration between Western and Traditional Knowledge

Meanings of Research

Speak for Community-based Practice

Reduce Effects on Communities by Resource Extraction/Uneven Developmental Projects

Discuss Environmental Changes (Pollution, Climate Change)

Bridge between Academics and Communities

Protect Land, Water, Culture, and Language
Community Perspectives on Challenges in Sustainability Research
Challenges in Community-based Resiliency and Sustainability Research

- Politics of “Recognition” toward Community Scholarship
- Western Worldview over Community Worldview
- Lack of Collaborative Approaches
- Separation between Knowledge and Practice
- Misunderstanding the Meanings of Development
- Unclear Researcher Responsibilities in Research
Community Perspectives:
Ways to Overcome these Challenges
Ways to Overcome Challenges

- Bridging between Community and Scholars’ Worldviews
- Understanding Complexities in Adaptation and Barriers
- Acknowledging for Epistemological Pluralism
- Engaging in Community-based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR)
- Engaging in Community-based Decision Making
- Considering Community Practice as Capacity Building
- Understanding Community Needs
- Rethinking Research as Action
Examples from My Case Studies
Community-based Resiliency and Sustainability Includes “Everything”

Case Studies 2-5: Rural and Northern Indigenous Communities in Canada
Traditional Stories and Learning

Case Studies 2-5: Rural and Northern Indigenous Communities in Canada
Relational Learning

Case Studies 2-5: Rural and Northern Indigenous Communities in Canada
Decolonization: Unlearning and Relearning

Case Studies 2-5: Rural and Northern Indigenous Communities in Canada
Bridging between Traditional Knowledge and Western Science

Photos from Eskimos Indigenous Communities Archive, Alaska
Epistemological Pluralism Through Collaborative Knowledge

Case Studies 2-5: Rural and Northern Indigenous Communities in Canada
Promoting Traditional Ways of Life for Understanding Arctic Environment and Climate

Photos from Arctic Council 2019
Contact Information:
Ranjan.datta@usask.ca