



NAVIGATING THE NEW ARCTIC  
COMMUNITY OFFICE  
ANNUAL MEETING EVALUATION REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2022



University of Colorado





# NNA-CO ANNUAL MEETING VALUATION REPORT

**November 2022**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

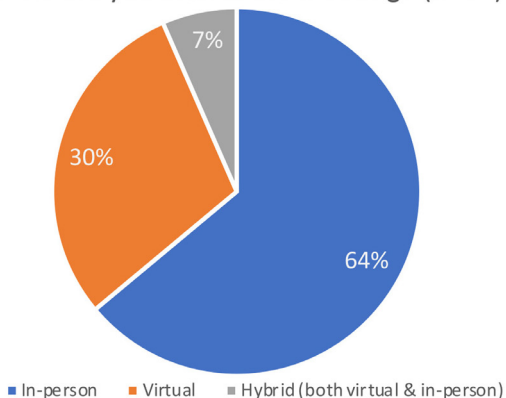
## SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

### Who Attended



165 people attended the meeting in-person, and approximately 125 attended virtually (virtual attendance was difficult to track, this number was estimated by conference organizers). The meeting evaluation survey respondents were mostly scientists and communication professionals, with almost half of respondents early in their career (students or within 5 years of terminal degree; see figure below). The majority of participants attended the meeting in-person, a third virtual, and 7% attended as hybrid participants.

How did you attend the meeting? (n=61)



How do you describe your current career stage? (n=49)

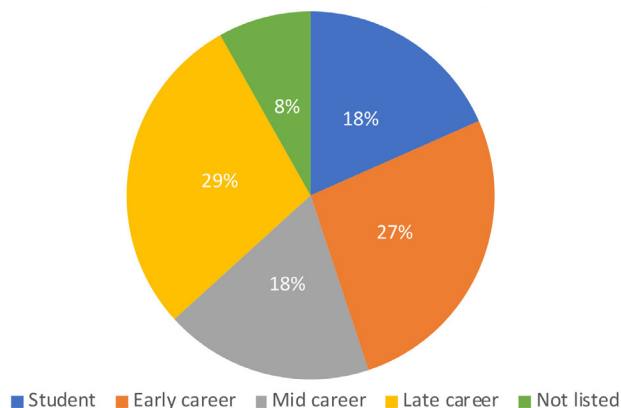
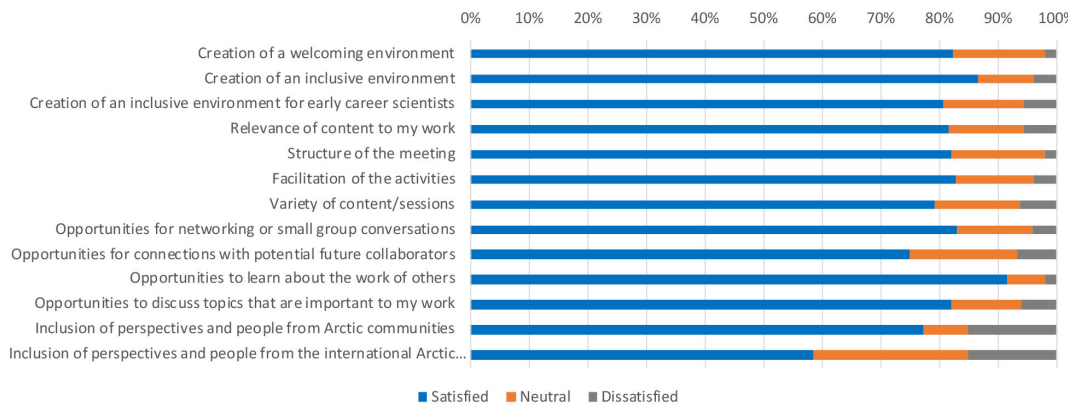


Photo above: NNA-CO Community Meeting Mural.

## Satisfaction



- Overall, meeting attendees were satisfied with the event and plan to attend future community meetings
- Satisfaction with various aspects of the meeting (e.g., structure/facilitation, the inclusive and welcoming environment, opportunities to learn about others' work, and opportunities for conversations) was high with slightly lower ratings given to the inclusion of people from Arctic communities and the international Arctic research community.



## Inclusion



Attendees highlighted the value of Indigenous perspectives and the overall diversity of attendees and speakers. They appreciated learning from Indigenous leaders and communities on topics around research and community engagement. Attendees gave positive feedback on the ways in which Indigenous voices were elevated during the meeting, and the respectful and inclusive tone of the meeting, while some called for even more representation of Indigenous voices.

## Sessions



Attendees especially liked sessions on co-production and convergence research.

## Content Relevance



Respondents found the meeting content highly relevant and helpful to their work, particularly the breadth of perspectives provided. Several respondents asked for more opportunities for asking questions of presenters and for other NNA researchers to share more about their projects with attendees.

## Takeaways



Respondents recognized the importance of engaging communities and making space for them to voice their perspectives. Respondents highlighted the value of centering Indigenous cultures and found the space created during the meeting for Indigenous peoples and Arctic researchers to work together inspiring.

## Takeaways



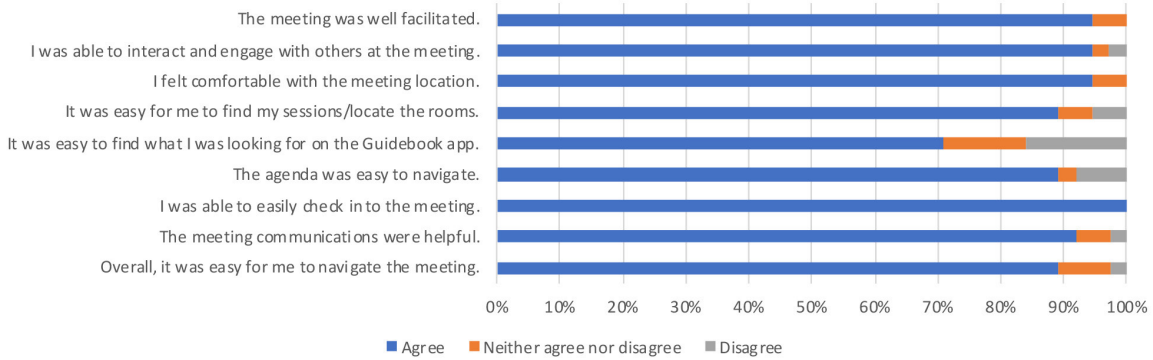
Respondents reported takeaways surrounding the overall positive vibe of the meeting, the value of concepts presented, and the discovery of resources they didn't know existed. Some respondents commented that the NNA-CO seems to still be getting on the right track and that the meeting or some sessions lacked clear objectives and outcomes.

## Environment

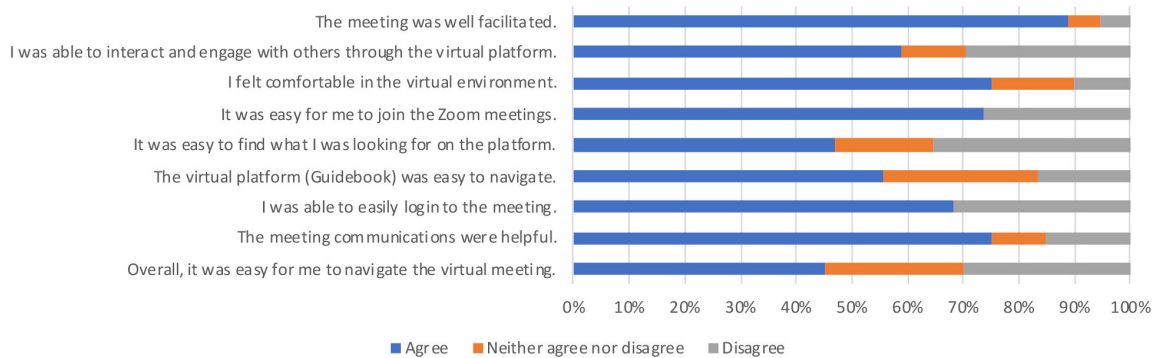


Overall, attendees rated both the in-person and virtual environments highly. Those who responded to open-ended questions expressed some difficulties with the virtual platform such as finding the right Zoom links, poor audio and video quality, and general confusion about virtual features such as the Q&A application.

### In-Person Attendees



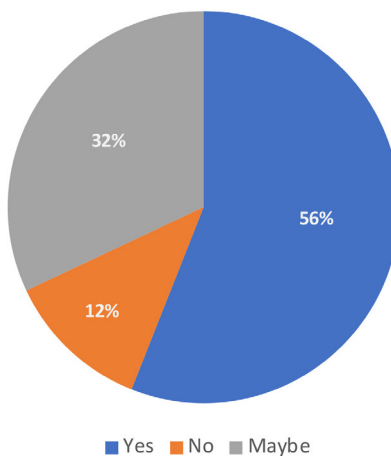
### Virtual Attendees



## Connections

Respondents valued the opportunity to connect across projects and learn about ongoing work to better coordinate among groups.

Did you establish any connections or collaborations within the NNA Community during this meeting?



## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

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### Collaborations/Connections to Research



Attendees often expressed an interest in spending more time on the connection between NNA groups, projects, and research areas and in seeing more NNA research highlighted. Respondents felt that increased opportunities for collaboration and community engagement would make future meetings more valuable. Suggestions included encouraging PI and senior researchers to engage more in discussions and the inclusion of more local stakeholders to express community concerns.

### Content



While many respondents found spaces for networking and discussion valuable, many also stated they wanted to learn more about ongoing research and have more time to ask presenters questions about their work. Comments surrounding meeting content included specific requests for sessions unique to erosion and food insecurity, trainings for PIs on how to achieve NNA objectives, information about the NNA-CO and NSF NNA funding initiative, as well as centering content even more on Indigenous knowledge and convergence research.

### Format (Hybrid Modality)



Respondents stated that they valued the opportunity for remote participation but mentioned struggling with technical difficulties and making connections with others online. Some in-person and virtual attendees found the Q&A feature on Guidebook confusing and awkward. Future meetings should address these concerns.

### Format (Virtual Platform)



Respondents expressed interest in a walkthrough of the platform features, or shifting to a more basic format such as a simple schedule with Zoom/YouTube links.

### Format (Organization)



Comments surrounding the organization of the meeting highlighted the need for better-facilitated cohorts and talking circles, more time for questions, and more project presentations.

### Format (Organization)



Specific suggestions for improving accessibility included fewer topics presented from a variety of perspectives, more time for networking and discussions, more clarity in-person on the room assignments for each session, and better integration of virtual participants.

### Timing



Some respondents expressed that the use of their time over three days was valuable considering the heavy focus on networking and discussions. There were also comments on the value of having the recordings made available after the meeting to make up for schedule conflicts. We recommend continuing these practices.

### NNA-CO



Suggestions for the NNA-CO included providing an introduction on what the NNA-CO's role is to those unfamiliar with it, and direct engagement with PIs and co-PIs of NNA projects to support them in achieving NNA objectives.