

THE ARCTIC TOGETHER

EPISODE EIGHT | SUMMER 2025 PODCAST

SHOW NOTES & RESOURCE GUIDE

Centering Indigenous community voices, getting to the root of research, and what it means to be “Arctic Together” through sharing story

 Podcast Website

Special Series: Fostering Indigenous-led Research Convergence Working Group Interviews

Mini-series Number 1: Dylan Blaskey hosts Louise Mercer and Henry Huntington



Navigating the New Arctic
Community Office



Photo By Jessica Lewis-Nicori

About

The *Arctic Together* podcast is a podcast series that centers Indigenous community voices, shares Navigating the New Arctic (NNA) community stories, and highlights different approaches to issues and solutions in Arctic-based research. The NNA-CO Community Extension Office at Alaska Pacific University is the content developer and host of the *Arctic Together* podcast, and aims to build awareness, partnerships, opportunities, and resources for collaboration. From local to international scales, to supporting the next generation of Arctic researchers, *Arctic Together* offers stories and wisdom towards a more holistic understanding of the Arctic.

This episode is number 1 of a 5 part mini-series hosted by a different co-lead of the Fostering Indigenous-led Research Convergence Working Group. The Fostering Indigenous-led Research group aimed to create space in research for fostering Indigenous-led research with early career researchers, policy, and recommendation for future work. Check out their NNA-CO website [here](#).

In this episode, co-lead host Dr. Dylan Blaskey is joined by Louise Mercer and Henry P. Huntington. Drawing from their experiences as non-Indigenous researchers working with Arctic Indigenous communities and people, they discuss what it means to be a community member and partner. Lessons learned and real-life examples abound. Tune in to learn more.



Produced by *Arctic Together* Host & FILR CWG members
JESSICA LEWIS-NICORI / DYLAN BLASKEY

NNA-CO Community Extension Office
Alaska Pacific University

Photo by Jessica Lewis-Nicori

SPECIAL FEATURE GUESTS

Henry P. Huntington



Henry P. Huntington is the Arctic Science Director at Ocean Conservancy and an independent researcher based in Eagle River, Alaska. His research focuses on human-environment interactions in the Arctic, particularly Indigenous knowledge, climate change, subsistence hunting, sea ice use, and Arctic marine mammals. He has participated in numerous international initiatives, including the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program and the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, and served as co-chair of the National Academy of Sciences committee on emerging Arctic research questions. He supports conservation efforts across Alaska, Canada, and the high seas of the Arctic Ocean, and has authored numerous academic and popular works, including three books. He is also Editor-in-Chief of *Weather, Climate, and Society*, and has traveled extensively in the Arctic by dog team, snowmobile, and open boat.

Louise Mercer



Louise Mercer successfully defended her dissertation at Northumbria University, UK after recording this podcast. Her research centers on better understanding community-based monitoring of environmental change in the Canadian Arctic. Through her research, she hopes to advance collaborative partnerships and capacity sharing to promote resilient and sustainable environmental monitoring approaches. In doing so, different capacities and insights from diverse knowledge systems are brought together to guide environmental monitoring toward appropriate and effective decision-making.

SHOW NOTES

Join host Dylan Blaskey and guests Henry P. Huntington and Louise Mercer as they share stories from their lived experiences practicing research in Arctic communities with Arctic Indigenous peoples. Their work in Alaska and Canada reveals both striking similarities and important differences, highlighting how each community is unique, and why there is no one-size-fits-all approach to Arctic research. Discover new insights throughout the episode, and be sure to explore the resources below.

- Yua, E., Raymond-Yakoubian, J., Daniel, R. A., & Behe, C. (2022). A framework for co-production of knowledge in the context of Arctic research. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-12960-270134>
- Kuskokwim Intertribal Fish Commission: <https://www.kuskosalmon.org/>
- [Arctic Research is Relationship Flyer](#)
- Northern Contaminants Program Project [Coastguard](#). Led by Deva-Lynn Pokiak, supported by Louise Mercer
- Fox, S., H.P. Huntington, F. Stammer, B.C. Forbes, L.K. Holm, V. Alexeev, E. Alexeeva, C. Apok, V. Balanov, R. Comeau, B. Frederiksen, A. Ivanova, J. Jaypoody, A. Josefsen, R. Kautuk, E. Kielsen, I. Kolesov, T. Kumpula, E. Magga, J. Magga, N. Mazzullo, V. Nielsen, G. Noongwook, T. Oshima, P. Pfiefer, N. Rufov, T. Sanila, N. Sleptsov, M. Tapaninen, T. Tikhonova, and K. Tobiassen. 2025. The power of community knowledge exchange for research: community knowledge exchanges lead to innovation and action in the Arctic. Arctic Science 11:1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1139/as-2024-0015>
- Gearheard, S.F., L. Kielsen Holm, H.P. Huntington, J.M. Leavitt, A.R. Mahoney, M. Opie, T. Oshima, and J. Sanguya. 2013. The meaning of ice: people and sea ice in three Arctic communities. Hanover, NH: IPI Press. xliii + 365p.



Podcast Show Notes

Click the links below for more information & resources shared by guests.

Featured Music



**From the artist
Byron Nicholai**

- Mercer, L., Pokiak, D. L., Whalen, D., Lim, M., & Mann, P. J. (2024). Empowering Indigenous-led contaminant monitoring through collaborative partnerships and two-way capacity sharing. *Arctic Science*, 11, 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1139/as-2023-0079>
- Mercer, L., Whalen, D., Lim, M., Cockney, K., Cormier, S., Irish, C., & Mann, P. J. (2023). Towards more inclusive and solution orientated community-based environmental monitoring. *Environmental Research Letters*, 18(6), 064003. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/accfb0>
- Mercer, L., Whalen, D., Pokiak, D. L., Lim, M., & Mann, P. J. (2023). Ensuring continuity and impact in Arctic monitoring: a solution-orientated model for community-based environmental research. *Environmental Research: Ecology*, 2(4), 045001. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/2752-664X/ad0241>
- Blaskey, D., Mercer, L., van Crimpen, F., & Devoie, É. (2024). Perspectives on funding structures, cross-cultural collaboration and institutional support needed to support the next generation of convergence climate scientists. *PLOS Climate*, 3(1), e0000330. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000330>
- For more on Louise's work, visit <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5084-2674>
- Gryba, R., Von Duyke, A., Huntington, H. P., Adams, B., Frantz, B., Gatten, J., ... & Auger-Méthé, M. (2025). Indigenous Knowledge as a sole data source in habitat selection functions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 122(15), e2411946122. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2411946122>
- Saleh, N. B., Medina, M., Huntington, H. P., Baghirzade, B. S., Bzdyra, B., Dev, S., ... & Aggarwal, S. (2024). Explicit Planning for Converging Indigenous Knowledge and Western Scientific Knowledge on Water: A Western Science and Engineering Perspective. *ACS ES&T Water*, 4(4), 1236-1241. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsestwater.3c00623>
- Eerkes-Medrano, L., & Huntington, H. P. (2021). Untold stories: Indigenous knowledge beyond the changing Arctic cryosphere. *Frontiers in Climate*, 3, 675805. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2021.675805>
- Huntington, H. P. (2000). Using traditional ecological knowledge in science: methods and applications. *Ecological applications*, 10(5), 1270-1274. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1890/1051-0761%282000%29010%5B1270%3AUTEKIS%5D2.0.CO%3B22>
- For more on Henry's work, visit <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=rWJr-OsAAAAJ&hl=en>

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“It’s being willing to step out of your mindset of ‘I’m here to collect data,’ to be willing to go and help dry fish.”

-Louise Mercer on building relationship with community

“If someone (like an elder) says no, I should graciously accept that.”

-Henry Huntington on building relationship with community

“...We need to put people first. ...it comes down to a discussion. ... I’m constantly listening, most of the time people will tell you what they need.”

-Dylan Blaskey, episode 7 of Arctic Together Podcast

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The Navigating the New Arctic Community Office (NNA-CO) builds awareness, partnerships, opportunities, and resources for collaboration and equitable knowledge generation within, between, and beyond the research projects funded by the National Science Foundation’s NNA Initiative. The office builds capacity in early career researchers and provides unique opportunities to inspire and engage a wide audience toward a more holistic understanding of the Arctic—its natural environment, built environment, and diverse cultures and communities.

The NNA-CO is supported through a cooperative agreement (Award # 2040729) with the U.S. National Science Foundation. For more information, visit nna-co.org.