

THE ARCTIC TOGETHER

EPISODE NINE | FALL 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 Episode Number 2 of 5: Stanislav Ksenofontov hosts Vera Solovyeva and Ekaterina Zibrova



Navigating the New Arctic
Community Office



Photo By Sunniva Sheffield

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 hosted by Dr. Stanislav “Saas” Ksenefontov with guests Dr. Ekaterina Zibrova and Dr. Vera Solovyeva. Together, they discuss Indigenous research in Siberia, and offer ways forward to make Indigenous research beneficial, authentic, and de-colonial.



Produced by *Arctic Together* Host & FILR CWG members
JESSICA LEWIS-NICORI / MARGARET RUDOLF

NNA-CO Community Extension Office
Alaska Pacific University



Photo by Gideon Billings¹

SPECIAL FEATURE GUESTS

Dr. Ekaterina Zibrova



Dr. Ekaterina Zibrova (PhD in Psychology) is a researcher with Wits Centre for Diversity Studies, University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Currently she studies Indigenous perspectives on decolonisation, Indigenous identity in Russia, and its role in social changes. Also, her areas of academic interests include critical diversity literacy and politics of identity. Dr. Zibrova is a representative of the Evenki People (East Siberia). Postdoctoral Fellow, Wits University (2023-2024); Non-Resident Fellow, Russia Program, George Washington University (2023-2024); Spencer Foundation Grantee (2025-2027).

Dr. Vera Solovyeva

Dr. Vera Solovyeva is an Indigenous Sakha scholar from the Sakha Republic, northeast Siberia and currently is a fellow in the Life on a Sustainable Planet program at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, hosted at the Arctic Studies Center (NMNH). Her research project focuses on studying climate change impacts on a remote Indigenous community in Alaska, located on the Bering Sea coast, and exploring ways for Indigenous people to enhance their resilience and improve food security. This study aligns with Vera's main interest in amplifying Indigenous voices to develop effective policies from the ground up that reflect the needs and aspirations of Indigenous communities.



SHOW NOTES

Host Dr. Stanislav “Saas” Ksenefontov and guests Dr. Ekaterina Zibrova and Dr. Vera Solovyeva share what it means to be an Indigenous scholar in Siberia and what it’s like to conduct Indigenous and decolonial research there and elsewhere. Though Siberia occupies almost half of the geographical space of northern Eurasia, it is one of the least studied regions in western academia. It straddles both Arctic and subarctic climes and is home to two million people, the majority of whom are Indigenous. Tune in and hear their fascinating stories!

- Biography of Dr. Ekaterina Zibrova at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg: <https://www.wits.ac.za/people/academic-a-z-listing/z/ekaterinazibrovawitsacza/>
- Biography of Dr. Vera Solovyeva on ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vera-Solovyeva-2>
- Zibrova E. (2024) Indigenous Peoples of Russia Against the War: Narrative Analysis of the Stages of Ethnic Identity as Recourse of Activism. *Ethnologia Polona*, 45, 127–147. <https://doi.org/10.23858/ethp.2024.45.3753>
- Vera Solovyeva (2024). Climate Change in Arctic and Indigenous Peoples: Challenges and Solutions, 29 *Ocean & Coastal L.J.* 317. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.maine.law.maine.edu/oclj/vol29/iss2/8>

Featured Music



From the artist
Byron Nicholai

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“The main reason for research should be to benefit the communities.”

-Dr. Vera Solovyeva on Indigenous research in Russia

“Decolonial research is a different perspective (than Indigenous research), There is a focus on detecting, critically analyzing, and dismantling heirarchies.”

-Dr. Ekaterina Zibrova on decolonial Indigenous research

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“We prioritize our knowledge systems, bring our cultural perspectives, world views, epistemologies, and community needs.”

Stanislav Ksenefontov, quote from Episode 7

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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.

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For more information, visit nna-co.org.