

THE ARCTIC TOGETHER

EPISODE TWELVE | SUMMER 2026

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 #5 of 5: Dr. Margaret Anamaq Rudolf hosts Mary Beth Jäger and Dr. Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaaq



Navigating the New Arctic
Community Office



Photo By Julius Lauber

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. Margaret Anamaq Rudolf, with guests Mary Beth Jäger and Dr. Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaaq. Mary Beth and Cana talk about good research, giving back to the community, and the realities of research and work while investing and listening to the people the research should impact the most.

The views expressed by our guests are their own views and do not represent their respective institutions. This podcast was recorded in June 2025.



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

NNA-CO Community Extension Office
Alaska Pacific University

Photo by Gideon Billings]

SPECIAL FEATURE GUESTS

Dr. Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaq

Dr. Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaq is an Iñupiaq scholar and a Tribal citizen of the Noorvik Native Community in Northwest Alaska. She is an assistant professor of technical and scientific communication and the founding director of the Center for Sustainable Engagement in the Arctic (CSEA) at Virginia Tech. Her work focuses on Arctic research, data governance, and research methodologies that support community-led initiatives and scientific innovation. She has extensive experience developing research methods, partnerships, and programs that facilitate collaboration between Arctic communities and research institutions. She is the academic lead for Arctic community-led, transdisciplinary initiatives that focus on language documentation, NLP, data literacy, digital archiving, and increasing local research capacities. She serves as a co-lead for the IARPC Participatory Research and Indigenous Leadership in Research (PILR) collaborative team and as a co-lead for the IASC ICARP IV RPT7 on Services, Infrastructure, Logistics, and Technology. Dr. Itchuaqiyaq has received numerous honors, including the 2023 & 2025 CCCC Best Article on Philosophy or Theory of Technical or Scientific Communication.

Mary Beth Jäger

Mary Beth Jäger serves as a project manager for the Tishman Center For Social Justice and the Environment at the University of Michigan. In their role Mary Beth manages several research projects. One project is the Pathways Alliance for Transformation and Change, which is an alliance of global Indigenous organizations conducting Indigenous-led research focused on climate mitigation, biodiversity, resilience, well-being, and food sovereignty. When recording this podcast they served as an experienced co-lead for the Fostering Indigenous-led Research Convergence Work Group hosted by the NSF funded NNA-Community Office.

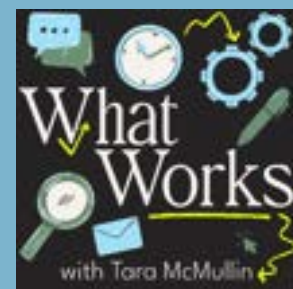
Jäger earned her Master's in Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis and her bachelor's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at Carroll College in Montana. Jäger is also enrolled in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Outside of work Jäger is a tamale enthusiast, food on the water admirer, sweet on pan dulce, fangirl of the Three Sisters and the list goes on. Besides being a big fan of food, they believe food is medicine and central to culture.



SHOW NOTES

Below are links to centers, organizations, the Anishanaabe calendar, and podcasts that were mentioned by Cana and Mary Beth.

- University of Michigan's Tishman Center - The center where Mary Beth works
- Virginia Tech's Center for Sustainable Engagement in the Arctic - The department that Cana created
- Aqqaluk Trust - the organization that Cana mentioned, headquartered in Kotzebue, Alaska
- Anishanaabe calendar - Mary Beth mentioned this calendar
- "What Works" Tara McMullin podcast mentioned by Mary Beth
- All My Relations Podcast



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Featured Music



From the artist
Byron Nicholai

“

*“You can make anything look good in the front. ...
What I was taught at home ... look at the stitches
in the back, the care I took to put it together.”*

-Cana's reflections on making sure work is done well all around

*“I've been creative. We couldn't do store bought Valentines,
we had to be creative.”*

*“How do we put together what our communities need, and
bring that to the front”*

*-Mary Beth on creativity and high-achievement converging for
community work*

*“The play on creativity and high-achievement. Part of high-
achievement is problem solving.”*

*-Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaq reflecting on Mary Beth's creative
upbringing, and trash pandas.*

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NNA
CO

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.