

Conducting research with and for local communities - intended and unintended consequences

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If one projects oneself further into the twenty-first century, taking stock of what is known today about the future, one quickly recognises the need to develop new strategies to face the rapid changes that arctic will be going through. Adaptation, at a pace rarely known to humankind, even in the arctic, may very well be the most challenging endeavour for local communities. Using adaptation to climate change as a case study, we explore, in various settings, arctic and non arctic - with and without permafrost - , how research with and for local communities is currently occurring. Through the analysis of our fieldwork we show that so-called transdisciplinary science making does have consequences, some of which are unintended. We will extrapolate these results to the challenge of analysing the local risks associated to permafrost thaw.