

# ARCTIC COASTAL COMMUNITIES

## GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY AND ETHNOGRAPHY OF MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

ARCTIC INFRASTRUCTURES

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Arctic map with the field sites. 1- Lapland; 2- Norrbotten; 3- Troms og Finnmark; 4- Nordland; 5- Murmanskaya Oblast'. © Alexis Sancho Reinoso

## CONTEXT

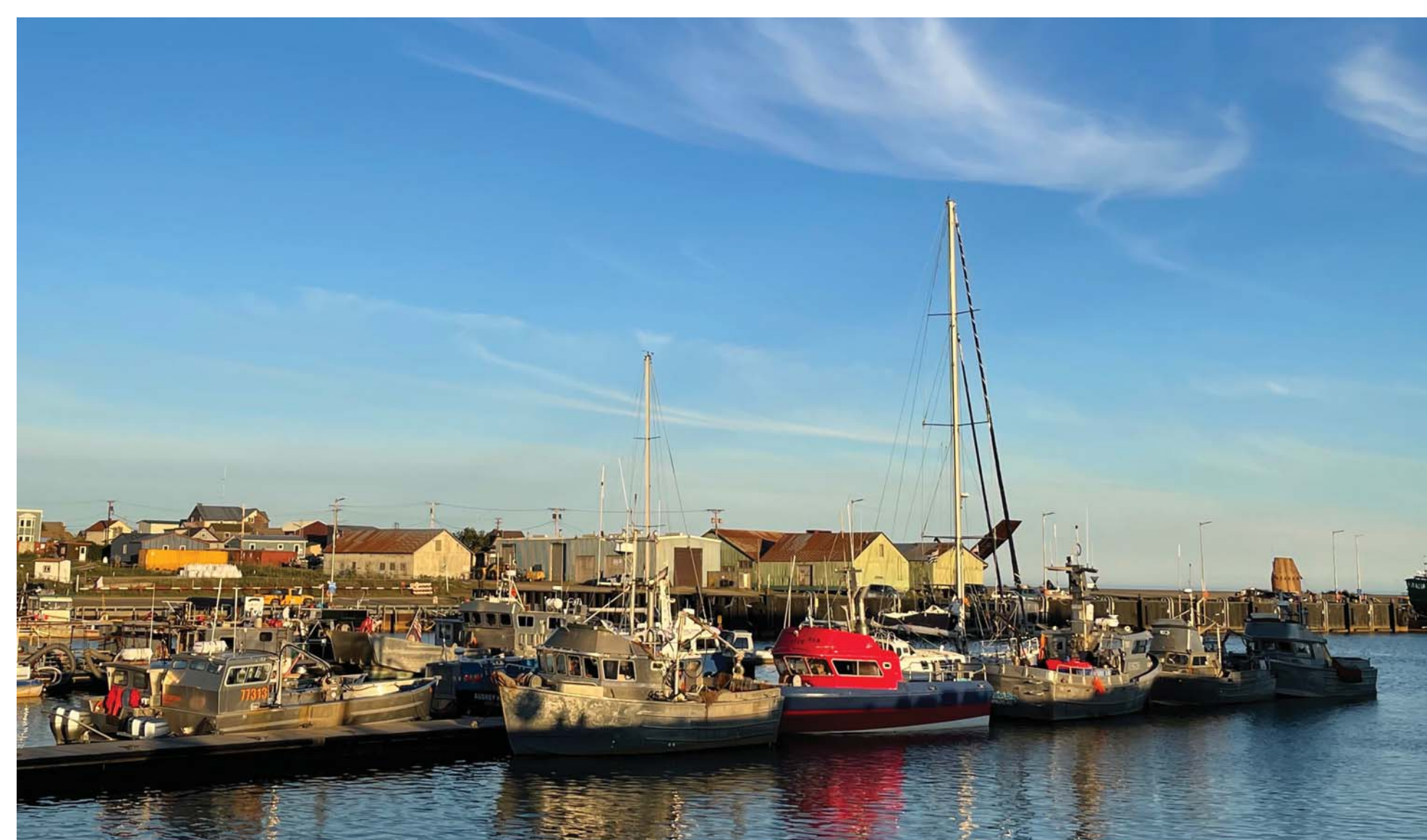
The Arctic has been conceptualized as a global region experiencing unprecedented environmental change, resource extraction, indigenous movement, and growing connectivity with the Arctic Ocean often referred to as “the new Mediterranean”. Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of

Ukraine the region has been turning into an arena for new military competition and struggles for access to maritime resources and seaways. This new Arctic geopolitics might impact infrastructural development, connectivity and well-being of coastal communities.

## RESEARCH FOCUS AND QUESTION

My ongoing research project considering global dimensions of maritime infrastructures enabling connectivity, shipping and exchange across the Arctic Ocean, focuses on ethnographies of sea port modernization and expansion projects.

I explore how maritime infrastructures effect social and cultural dynamics, environment, and economic development of local communities and what kinds of futures they promise. My main research question: *What is the role of maritime transport infrastructure in well-being of Arctic coastal communities?*



Seaport of Nome © Olga Povoroznyuk



Workers in seaport of Nome © Olga Povoroznyuk



Russian ship in the port of Kirkenes © Olga Povoroznyuk



Sea port infrastructure in Tiksi © Olga Povoroznyuk



Hurtigruten ship arrived at Vardø © Olga Povoroznyuk



Boat leaving for Tiksi © Olga Povoroznyuk

## APPROACHES AND METHODS

My research combines ethnographic fieldwork with the analysis of archival records, media and policy documents. Drawing on the case studies of Tiksi (Russia), Nome (Alaska), and Kirkenes (Norway), I explore social lives of sea port expansion projects from the perspectives of anthropology of infrastructure and built environment.

