



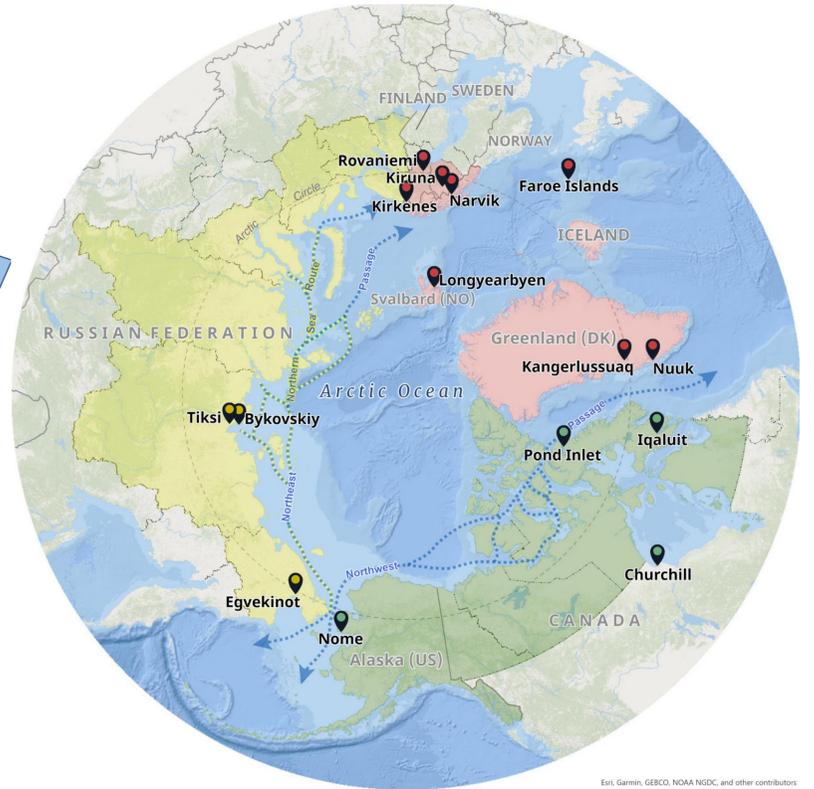
Katrin Schmid (University of Vienna)

What is InfraNorth?

The ERC Advanced Grant Project "InfraNorth" examines how residents of the Arctic engage with transport infrastructures and their intended and unintended local consequences. We ask, "What is the role of transport infrastructures in sustaining arctic communities?"

We take an anthropological and geographic approach to this topic to examine individual case studies in the European, Russian and North American Arctic. Our approach combines ethnographic research with mapping, future scenario workshops, quantitative population data, a survey, and archival research.

My doctoral research examines the intersection of infrastructure planning and development, with the futures Nunavut residents imagine for their communities. Within this, I ask how these infrastructures can support access to country food in the territory.



Map of InfraNorth study locations. Map by Alexis Sancho-Reinoso.

Nunavut Case Study



transport infrastructure

No roads between communities
→ reliant on air & marine transportation
24 of 25 communities are coastal, but only 3 have a harbour or port; predominantly gravel runways



food sovereignty

75% food insecurity in Nunavut
Ongoing food sovereignty movement
→ small craft harbours, cargo pricing, flight routes & sealift logistics influence access to country food



infrastructure as affordances

Transportation infrastructure policy & planning influences images of the future
→ Whose needs are being prioritized? For which reasons?



"Nunavut is losing out on millions if not billions because of lack of infrastructure..."

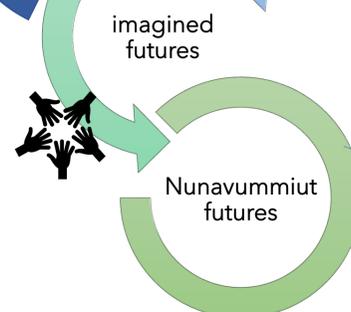
"The animals we get - just migratory animals, like belugas, narwhals - they're on the exact same route as the ships because that's the deep, deep end. Common sense. They're going to move to different routes. Just like we see at Milne Inlet or Baffinland, Pond Inlet people. So, we're going to see the same thing. For sure."

"Community freezers, small craft harbours...the basic, basic stuff."

How do the ways people think about the futures of their communities influence transport infrastructure development?



What role does transport infrastructure play in the ways people imagine the futures of their communities?



What could this mean for Nunavut communities?

