

Public Research Dissemination Seminar

Innovative Pathways: Indigenous Research in Canada

Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland, Nuuk, October 28, 2025

Time	Names	Title	Abstract	Short summary
10:00	<p>Name to be confirm Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland</p> <p>Suzy Basile, professor, School of Indigenous Studies, Université du Québec en Abitibi- Témiscamingu e (UQAT)</p>	<p>Introduction of the topic:</p> <p>Co-hosting the seminar</p> <p>*Je propose de vous laisser présenter et je vais coprésider le séminaire pour le moment.</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Introduces the presenters and the agenda of the day.</p> <p>*L'ordre des présentations n'est pas définitif, provisoire pour le moment.</p>	
10:30	<p>Francis Lévesque, Professor & Director of the School of Indigenous studies, UQAT</p>	<p>UQAT's School of Indigenous Studies: A history of successes and challenges.</p>	<p>Created in 2016, UQAT's School of Indigenous Studies is a unique department in Quebec. It was established to support and expand a growing range of programs designed in collaboration with Indigenous communities and grounded in their priorities and ways of knowing. The SIS is committed to providing culturally safe and inclusive education. Its programs attract both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and are delivered in very small cohorts either in English or French, sometimes in person, often online. Many of SIS's students are the first in their families to attend university and need</p>	<p>The School of Indigenous Studies at UQAT was created in 2016 to offer programs developed with Indigenous communities and based on their knowledge and priorities. It provides culturally safe and inclusive education for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, often in small groups and online. Many students are the first in their families to attend university and receive strong academic and personal support. Faculty and staff also conduct research with Indigenous partners on topics such as land, health, women, forestry, and relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.</p>

			<p>sustained academic and personal support. Faculty and staff work closely with UQAT's Indigenous Student Services to offer individualized, person-centred assistance that addresses physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs. Despite the challenges of scale and language, ÉÉA's approach has proven successful, and its faculty actively contribute to research on issues ranging from land governance and legal traditions to health, women's issues, forestry, and Indigenous–non-Indigenous relations. All research is co-developed with Indigenous partners and grounded in Indigenous ethical frameworks. This presentation invites a dialogue on the pedagogical strategies, institutional supports, and shared challenges involved in building meaningful Indigenous-centred education.</p>	
	Q&A			
	15 minutes break			
11:15	<p>Natasha Ita MacDonald, Inuit Consultant at Silattusarniq Community Solutions Consulting</p>	<p>The Road to 2030: Building the Inuit Nunangat University</p>	<p>Inuit Nunangat University (INU), scheduled to launch by 2030, is the first university in the Arctic created to serve all four Inuit regions of Canada. Guided by Inuit maligait and founded on Inuit knowledge, language, and traditions, INU's mission is to reclaim and revitalize Inuit education while fostering future generations of leaders grounded in Inuit values. This presentation shares progress on the development of INU's foundational academic and research policies, which ensure that post-secondary education and inquiry reflect Inuit worldviews, uphold intellectual freedom, and support student wellbeing. Anchored in the INU Charter, we affirm that Inuit have</p>	<p>Inuit Nunangat University (INU), scheduled to launch by 2030, is the first university in the Arctic created to serve all four Inuit regions of Canada. Guided by Inuit maligait and founded on Inuit knowledge, language, and traditions, INU's mission is to reclaim and revitalize Inuit education while fostering future generations of leaders grounded in Inuit values. INU embodies the principle of Inuit Unity, offering unique opportunities for education, research, and collaboration across Inuit Nunangat and internationally, with the goal of enriching Arctic communities and contributing to global knowledge.</p>

			<p>been self-governing and self-sustaining since time immemorial, and despite colonial hardship, our culture and language continue to prevail. INU embodies the principle of Inuit Unity, offering unique opportunities for education, research, and collaboration across Inuit Nunangat and internationally, with the goal of enriching Arctic communities and contributing to global knowledge.</p> <p>Bio: Natasha Ita MacDonald, an Inuk originally from Kuujuaapik, Nunavik, recently completed her PhD at Concordia University, earning the Governor General's Gold Medal for research on Inuit-led approaches to decolonizing education and protecting Inuktitut through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. She founded Silattusarniq Community Solutions Consulting to advance Inuit-driven research, evaluation, and training rooted in Inuit values. Currently, she is co-developing the action plan for Inuit Nunangat University with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, while her research focuses on decolonizing tuberculosis responses.</p>	
	Q&A			
11:45	Magalie Quintal-Marineau , Associate Professor, Institut national de la recherche scientifique	Rooted in Care: Inuit Economic Practices and the Limits of Colonial Integration	<p>This presentation investigates employment as a central mechanism of colonial intervention aimed at incorporating the Canadian North and Inuit populations into the global capitalist economy. It critically examines the concept of the Indigenous northern economy, which, unlike conventional Western economic frameworks, is deeply embedded in the fabric of daily life and grounded in networks of care,</p>	<p>This presentation explores employment in the Canadian Arctic, with a focus on how Inuit communities are reimagining work. It examines the Indigenous northern economy, which is rooted in care, reciprocity, and relationships—offering a sharp contrast to mainstream economic models. Through two case studies from Nunavik, it highlights how Inuit-led organizations are redefining the meaning of</p>

	(INRS), Centre Urbanisation Culture Société		reciprocity, and relationality. By foregrounding care as an organizing principle, the Indigenous northern economy presents a fundamentally different epistemological and ontological orientation toward work, value, and community well-being. Drawing on two ethnographic case studies from organizations in Nunavik, this analysis illuminates the complex entanglements between employment, economic activity, and care practices. These cases reveal how Inuit-led institutions reconfigure the meaning and function of employment, challenging dominant economic paradigms and offering alternative models rooted in Inuit worldviews. Ultimately, the presentation highlights the need to rethink economic integration through a decolonial lens that centers Inuit agency, knowledge systems, and social relations.	work in line with Inuit values. The presentation ultimately calls for a decolonial approach that honors Inuit knowledge, practices, and ways of life.
	Q&A			
12:15	60 minutes lunch break			
1:15 PM	Laurie Paquin , Ph. D. candidate, School of Indigenous Studies, UQAT	Drilling through the land : Tensions between resource extraction and Indigenous rights	Throughout colonization, extractivism has reorganized ancestral lands and traditional ways of living of Indigenous Peoples, which has resulted in the erosion of ancestral knowledge and a reversal of traditional social and economic models. As climate change facilitates accessibility to mineral resources, Greenland and Canada are now a focal point for global extractive interests. This presentation, based on a narrative literature review, aims to analyze the sociopolitical tensions between resource extraction and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Greenland and Canada, drawing on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This analysis explores	Colonial resource extraction has reshaped Indigenous lands and ways of life, impacting traditional knowledge transmission and community relationships. Today, climate change is making mineral resources more accessible and demand increases, placing Greenland and Canada at the center of global mining interests. This presentation reviews how extractive projects intersect with Indigenous peoples rights and how colonial legacies and evolving mining relations continue to influence land use, relationships, and self-determination.

			how the colonial legacy and Greenland and Canada's evolving relationship with mining industries continues to shape power dynamics regarding the land, gender relations and self-determination. In conclusion, this presentation highlights both critical challenges and potential opportunities to protect Indigenous rights in the face of increasing economic pressures, social and political tensions and environmental crises.	
	Q&A			
1:45 PM	Ioana Radu, Professor, School of Indigenous Studies, UQAT	The role of community-driven culture-based Indigenous wellness initiatives for health system governance: assessing kinship approaches to building local agency	There is broad consensus among scholars and practitioners that wellness interventions predicated on Indigenous paradigms of health and wellbeing are essential for program acceptability and effectiveness, improving access to culturally responsive care, and safeguarding community control and ownership of programs and services. Within this context, family and kinship-based approaches have been increasingly designed and operationalized in various domains including, child welfare, addictions treatment, maternal and child health, and justice. Notwithstanding the broad acknowledgement of the central role of family and kinship networks in both wellness interventions and health system change, studies continue to focus on individual outcomes. The presentation will provide a summary of a research project, codeveloped in collaboration with Inshiyuu Miyupimaatissiiun (Chisasibi Wellness) from the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, that focuses on the role of kinship as a primary driver of health system governance by exploring how it contributes to developing local leadership and engagement in the design and delivery of	Indigenous-led wellness programs focused on family and kinship are widely considered the most effective way to improve health outcomes and give communities ownership of their services. While this approach is gaining traction most studies still focus on individual results, ignoring the central role of family networks. The presentation will provide a summary of a research project, codeveloped in collaboration with Inshiyuu Miyupimaatissiiun (Chisasibi Wellness) from the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, that focuses on the role of kinship in developing local leadership and engagement in the design and delivery of wellness initiatives.

			wellness initiatives. Some preliminary findings from two discussion sessions with community elders conducted in 2024 and 2025 will be presented in detail.	
	Q&A			
	15 minutes break			
2:30 PM	Sébastien Brodeur-Girard, Professor, School of Indigenous Studies, UQAT	Official Words, Living Languages: Indigenous Language Legislation Across the Circumpolar Region	Since the early 21st century, there has been a growing global trend toward the official recognition of Indigenous languages, often through language legislation or constitutional provisions. However, the relationship between this legal recognition and the realities on the ground remains underexplored. The actual effectiveness of such legal frameworks is frequently taken for granted, especially by official bodies—including language oversight institutions—which may overstate their impact to legitimize their mandates. Meanwhile, grassroots language revitalization efforts often operate independently of legislative support, driven by community agency and local initiatives. To better understand the legal effectiveness of these recognition frameworks, this presentation offers a comparative analysis of Indigenous language legislation across several northern jurisdictions. We will examine the values and principles underpinning the major laws, as well as their scope and reach, to identify emerging patterns among the different territorial contexts. This analysis aims to enrich our understanding of the broader socio-legal ecosystem and lays the groundwork for deeper inquiry into the actual implementation of these legal measures.	Since the early 2000s, more countries have been giving official recognition to Indigenous languages through laws or constitutional measures. Yet this recognition often says little about what happens in practice. Official bodies may overstate the impact of these measures, while real progress often comes from local, community-driven initiatives. This talk compares legislation from several northern regions, looking at their values, scope, and common patterns, to better understand what these laws actually change—if anything—on the ground.
	Q&A			

3:00 PM	Lydia Risi PhD candidate, Populations Studies INRS-UCS	Reimagining sex research as a pleasure practice	While recent literature has documented the institutional, professional, and personal challenges that researchers face when studying sex and sexuality, the current project aims to highlight how can create the conditions for making sex research pleasurable. Drawing from my doctoral research on women's experiences of sexual pleasure in Nunavik, Canada, I will discuss how practices of care, visiting, and beading are intentionally woven into my research, from conception through to the early stages of analysis. Preliminary findings reveal that creating space for relational practices not only supports participants in feeling safe to share intimate stories, but also nourishes the researcher's own sense of connection, purpose, and joy. These findings highlight how a strength-based approach can make sex and sexuality research in an Arctic context both pleasurable and transformative for the researcher and for participants alike.	This presentation shares how sex research can also be pleasurable, not only difficult. Based on my doctoral project about women's experiences of sexual pleasure in Nunavik, Canada, I show how care, visiting, and beading were part of the research from the beginning to the first analysis. These practices create a safe and warm space for women to share their stories. They also gave me, as a researcher, a feeling of connection and joy. The findings suggest that in Arctic communities, a focus on strengths and relationships can make research about sex and sexuality positive and transformative for everyone involved.
	Q&A			
3:30 PM	Suzy Basile	Conclusion		
4:00 PM			Signing of the Collaboration Agreement between Ilisimatusarfik and the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT)	