



"Our environment is our future"

## RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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## Friday

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3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 152

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
 SERVED AT 3:20 PM

## Living with Climate Change in the Arctic

Climate change is already being experienced in the Arctic with implications for ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. This presentation describes research conducted in collaboration with Inuit in the community of Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories that documents human exposure-sensitivities to climate change and the adaptive strategies employed. An approach for assessing community vulnerability to climate change is described and results are discussed. It is based on research involving over 120 interviews, secondary sources of information, and participant observation. In the context of subsistence hunting, changes in temperature, seasonal patterns, sea ice and wind dynamics, and weather variability have affected the health and availability of some species of wildlife important for subsistence and have exacerbated risks associated with hunting and travel. Inuit in Ulukhaktok are coping with these changes by taking extra precautions when traveling, shifting modes of transportation, travel routes and hunting areas to deal with changing trail conditions, switching species harvested, and supplementing their diet with store bought foods. Limited access to capital resources, changing levels of traditional knowledge and land skills, and substance abuse were identified as key constraints to adaptation. The research demonstrates the need to consider the perspectives and experiences of local people for climate change research to have practical relevance to arctic communities such as for the development and promotion of adaptive strategies.