

Breakout Session #2 - Logistics Needs for Arctic Domains  
Monday p.m., 7 October 2013  
Social Sciences Group

#### Support Social Science Field Research

We need to support the continuous presence of researchers in the field to sustain and expand relationships with local communities. We should aim to integrate field research with innovative use of social media for education and outreach. While carrying great potential for enhancing, expanding, and extending the reach of social science field research, social media tools cannot replace field research.

#### Inform, Coordinate, and Collaborate with Communities

Because face-to-face engagement with people living in Arctic communities is usually an inherent part of social science field research, social scientists inevitably absorb the burden of “all these other -ologists” who are not informing communities about the research they are doing. Social scientists frequently encounter a mistaken assumption of their role as that of an intermediary between other researchers and local communities. The responsibility to engage with the local communities during the planning, implementation, and reporting phases of the research taking place on the lands and in the waters to which local residents connect their subsistence livelihoods and cultural heritage contributes is an ethical expectation that is directly relevant for the effectiveness of logistical operations, as it contributes to coordination of activities and collaboration. It therefore is appropriate that the support of facilities, transportation, and distribution of educational materials connected with outreach is channeled through logistics.

#### Walk the walk of Interdisciplinary Research

Move past the “Add-On” model for including a human dimensions component to a project. Interdisciplinary work should be conceived from the standpoint of research questions of common interests. Good models for best practices: North Atlantic BioCultural Organization (NABO), Global Human- Ecodynamics Alliance (GHEA). There is a lot of diversity within social sciences and it should be adequately and appropriately represented on inter- and multidisciplinary projects. Given the traditionally more restricted social science research budgets, it is wise to coordinate logistics, transportation, wherever possible with natural science projects but not at the cost of adequate time in the field needed for the qualitative, ethnographic, life history research.

#### Invest in local and regional capacity building

This is simultaneously local training and outreach: when local people understand what you are doing they become an intellectual and logistical manpower resource. We need to establish community-based interpretation centers and regional coordination of outreach (including coordination of social media materials). A good model is the Chicago Field Museum Chief Curiosity Correspondent and the associated Tumblr blog, but staffed by local people. The staff of community-based interpretation centers should be employed as agents of the logistics provider and be

tasked with serving a broad range of science logistics needs. In addition to being engaged in the planning and implementation of specific field projects, these local agents should be encouraged to keep a web-based community journal/calendar where they update on the of social and environmental events around the community. It is a logistics service because it helps with research planning. This local staff can also help with outreach.

Social science is volatile to political climates, therefore both researchers and logistics should cultivate local and regional connections. Scientists should not rely on top-down approach for decision making that affect permitting and logistics.

Bringing young scientists in the field can assist in giving a renewed image of “smart” and stimulate interest in science and research among local youth.

#### Understanding the Logistical Needs of Social Scientists

Field operations of social scientists are very diverse and require different accommodations in the field with respect to the duration of fieldwork, access to transportation and technology, needs to bways of bringing students and young scientists, etc. Representatives of agency and interagency coordination efforts need to be educated about the importance, relevance, and needs of different areas of social science research.