

Arctic StoryWords: Weaving Different Ways of Knowing through Arts, Science, Local and Indigenous Knowledge

Sardaana Barabanova

Barabanova is an Indigenous Sakha documentary filmmaker and producer based in Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha, Northeast Siberia, Russia. In 2014 Sardaana founded a documentary film studio "Kün Ogholoro" (Children of The Sun) which focuses on Indigenous cultures, history, and ethnography of her native community. Nowadays the studio has released more than 10 full-length documentaries. Sardaana's films were screened all around the world and won many prizes at various film festivals including III IFF (International Film Festival) "The Arctic" in Moscow, II IFF in Perm, and IFF in Istanbul, among others. In ArtSLInK Sardaana teamed up with fellow community members to demonstrate the Indigenization of urban public space through photos and video. [youtube.com/@KYN-O](https://www.youtube.com/@KYN-O); <https://kyunogoloro.studio/>

Aryuna Bulutova

Bulutova is a Buryat-Mongolian new media artist. In her multidisciplinary practice, she explores Buryat culture and its Buddhist and Shamanist heritage through the lens of digital and generative art. Her work has been exhibited at the Lkham Gallery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A motion designer by training, Bulutova frequently collaborates with other artists, musicians, and fashion designers. The audiovisual performance she did for the Buryat fashion brand ABZAEVA has been shown at a major international fashion show. Her most recent video work *Lusuud* was shown at COP28 (United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, UAE) – the artwork was created as part of the collaboration between the ArtSLInK initiative and Dissolving Earths. https://www.behance.net/aryuna_song

Jason Dobkowski

Dobkowski is a professor at the University of Michigan and is the research laboratory senior specialist for Dr. George W. Kling in

the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Dobkowski joins Kling in researching Arctic ecosystem ecology near Toolik Field Station on Alaska's North Slope.

Nikita Donchenko

Donchenko is a video editor and camera operator. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the Saint Petersburg State Institute of Film and Television and pursued a master's degree in Sustainable Development at Saint Petersburg State University. He has worked with the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Norway in Saint Petersburg on a documentary film about Roald Amundsen. Additionally, he has collaborated with the Central Exhibition Hall «Manege», where he was involved in creating video presentations for exhibitions, video tours, and lecture series. His experience also extends to SM-Clinic, where he worked on video advertising and educational content.

Friederike Gehrmann

Gehrmann is the managing editor of the Nordic Journal of Botany in Sweden. She has a background as a researcher in biochemistry and biotechnology and is currently residing in Abisko, the far North of Sweden, where she has been studying Arctic plants and specializing in plant and snow interactions.

Aleksandra Ianchenko

Ianchenko is a multidisciplinary artist and researcher. Currently, she is completing her PhD at Tallinn University (Estonia) and Åbo Akademi University (Finland) based on her artistic research on the atmospheres of tramways. Among her methods are on-site drawing, painting, and performing in public spaces. Previously, Aleksandra completed an MA in Fine Art in Irkutsk, Russia, and an MA in Art Management in Moscow and Berlin. Aleksandra's projects are presented both in an artistic and academic context, at

exhibitions and conferences.
<https://www.sasha-art.com/>

Diana Khaziakhmetova

Khaziakhmetova is an urban researcher. She graduated from the Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia) with a Bachelor's in Law and a Master's in Urban Planning. Currently a graduate student and Research Assistant at the Department of Geography of George Washington University (USA). She has two years of urban planning analytical experience in the public participation sphere using methods on the edge of science and art: mental mapping with citizens, drawing with children, co-creation with local activists, and placemaking with youth. In the frame of the ArtSLInK platform, she is interested in researching the perception of Arctic cities, especially their public spaces, by enabling local citizens to use methods such as media content analysis, drawing, mapping, and co-creation.

Diana Khudaeva

Khudaeva is an Indigenous Sakha film director born and raised in Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha, Northeastern Siberia, Russia. Graduated from St.Petersburg State University of Cinema and Television with a degree in TV journalism. Master of Cultural Studies earned from Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha. Diana co-founded the film studio "Kün Ogoloro" which produces documentaries mainly about Sakha, its inhabitants, history, and culture. In ArtSLInK Diana teamed up with fellow community members to demonstrate the Indigenization of urban public space through photos and video.
<https://kyunogoloro.studio/>

Dmitrii Kobylkin

Dr. Kobylkin is a specialist in the fields of paleogeography, geomorphology, and physical geography. He has authored and co-authored 120 scientific papers, including three monographs. His research interests encompass geomorphological systems in diverse paleogeographic settings, processes involved in contemporary relief formation, aeolian exomorphogenesis in arid regions, as well as paleontology and paleozoology

of large mammals in the southern part of Eastern Siberia. He is among the pioneers in providing a paleogeographic interpretation of the fauna of large mammals found in some of the new Paleolithic monuments of Transbaikalia. Kobylkin has actively participated in and organized numerous scientific events. Additionally, he has been involved in scientific work related to the environmental support of subsurface development and new construction projects. Currently, his research focuses on studying the formation of topography, the paleogeographic situation of Inner and North Asia from the Late Neopleistocene to the present, and addressing geocological problems in the region arising from global changes.

Natalia Krasnoshtanova

Dr. Krasnoshtanova holds a Ph.D. in Human Geography, with a research focus on sustainability, remote areas, Indigenous peoples, and the industrial development of the North. She was born and raised in the small taiga village of Tokma in Eastern Siberia, within a family of hunters. The isolation of this Northern Russian-Evenki village, her childhood surroundings, the lifestyle of the indigenous and local population engaged in hunting and fishing, and the profound connection between daily life and nature have significantly influenced her professional journey. During her school years, witnessing forest fires as a pressing issue in her home village led her to decide to study environmental studies.

Collaborating with artists for her is an opportunity to reevaluate her research results from a different perspective, including on an emotional level. She believes such collaborations yield outcomes that enhance public understanding of scientific results, particularly benefiting those responsible for decision-making in various parts of the North and the Arctic.

Stanislav Saas Ksenofontov

Dr. Ksenofontov is an Indigenous Sakha social scientist from the Republic of Sakha, NE Siberia. As a postdoctoral scholar at the ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa

(USA) he continues his research on the impacts of global change on Arctic Indigenous social-ecological systems, with a particular focus on climate change, socio-political transformations, urbanization, and extractivism. As part of ArtSLInK Stanislav together with Indigenous artists and photographers has contributed to the MUST project in understanding the Indigenization of urban public space in Yakutsk through photo and video and to the Frozen Commons project to showcase Indigenous Knowledge of snow, ice, and permafrost through the “Khaar Kyyrpagha” (Snowflake) installation.

Mariia Kuklina

Dr. Kuklina holds a Ph.D. in Economics and is a postdoctoral scholar at the ARCTICenter of the Department of Geography, University of Northern Iowa, USA. She studies emerging digital Indigenous knowledge-sharing networks in remote Indigenous communities and is currently involved in research of social components of social-ecological systems in the Khovsgol Aimag and Selenge river basin in Mongolia. Over the past three years, Kuklina has participated in expeditions to remote areas of the Republics of Sakha (Yakutia), Tyva, and Buryatia, as well as Magadan, and Amur regions in Russia and Khovsgol aimag (region) in Mongolia. Her research interests include regional economy, actor-network approach, complex networks, tourism, remote areas, indigenous communities, and sustainable development.

Vera Kuklina

Dr. Kuklina is a Research Professor at the Department of Geography at George Washington University. Research interests include the urbanization of indigenous people, traditional land use, socio-ecological systems, cultural geographies of infrastructure, and remoteness. Her research is based on field studies and collaborations with local and Indigenous communities in the Baikal region, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), northern Mongolia, and Alaska. Dr. Kuklina leads a research project on Frozen Commons and participates in several other projects, including Measuring Urban

Sustainability in Transition (MUST) projects. She also co-leads an ArtSLInK initiative, focused on the convergence of science, arts, and place-based local and Indigenous Knowledge systems. Kuklina is the author of about eighty articles.

Nikki Lindt

Lindt is a New York City-based interdisciplinary artist who grew up in the Netherlands and the US. She received her MFA from Yale University. Lindt works primarily in the mediums of painting, sound, and video on long-term projects focusing on environmental stewardship and people’s relationship to natural areas - from the Arctic Circle to the forests of New York City. She often works with ecologists, social scientists, philosophers, and others and is a part of several interdisciplinary research teams. Lindt’s work has been internationally exhibited as public artworks, in museums and galleries. Recent exhibitions include The United Nations in Rome, the Robischon Gallery, The Hudson River Museum in New York, the White Mountains Museum in New Hampshire, and a 2-year long public art piece in New York City’s Prospect Park.<https://www.nlindt.com>

Beili Liu

Liu is a visual artist who creates site-responsive installations and performances that address themes of migration, cultural memory, and social and environmental concerns. Liu has exhibited internationally, including in Norway, Finland, the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, France, Belgium, Poland, China, Taiwan and across the United States. Born in Jilin, China, Beili Liu now lives and works in Austin, Texas. Liu received her MFA degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2003) and is the Leslie Waggner Endowed Professor in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Austin. Liu has received numerous fellowships and awards, including the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship (2022-2024), the Pollock Prize for Creativity (2022), and the Fulbright Arctic Chair, Norway (2021-2022), among others. In 2018, Liu was honored by the Texas Legislature as the Texas State Artist in 3D medium. <https://beililiu.com>

Olga Lo

Olga is a traditional and digital artist who creates artworks about the harmony of natural and artificial worlds, their beauty, and the importance of their balance in coexistence. She participated in many solo and group exhibitions around the globe, including Canada, Italy, France, Hungary, the UK, and Russia, among others. Each of Lo's solo exhibitions has been dedicated to various research that she performed in her favorite art media - watercolor. Born in Saint-Petersburg, Russia, Olga Lo now lives and works in Budapest, Hungary. Lo received her MFA degree from the State Academy Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. She is a new member of the ArtSLInK platform. She also works with artificial intelligence programs (Dalle-3, MidJourney, ChatGPT) to explore the possibilities these media have in connecting scientists with artistic possibilities for representing their research. <https://olgalo.com>

Mariana Marakhovskaia

Marakhovskaia is an applied and decorative artist specializing in the craft of Indigenous Peoples in Russia. Born in the Sakha Republic, Mariana developed her skills from a young age by assisting her mother and grandmother in crafting traditional clothing, shoes, hats, and mittens. Choosing to turn her passion for handicraft into a profession, Mariana embarked on a journey as an artist. From 2002 to 2008, Mariana pursued formal education at Saint Petersburg University of Technology and Design, majoring in the Department of Applied and Decorative Arts and Folk Crafts. In 2012, Mariana relocated to Basel, Switzerland, where she has actively participated in various projects. Beyond her artistic endeavors, Mariana is involved in teaching drawing and crafting to children. She operates her studio and engages in activities such as painting, renovation, photography, sewing, and crafting.

Pauline Mnev

Mnev is a first-year graduate student at George Washington University, pursuing a Master of Science in Data Science. Pauline is working as a Graduate Research Assistant on the NSF project Frozen

Commons, examining ice, snow, and permafrost conditions in remote study areas. For her research, she is applying her undergraduate background in GIS and geography with skills in machine learning and automation to conduct environmental analysis. She loves designing maps, creating abstractions of the natural environment through fluid art, and finding art in technical processes

Kelsey Nyland

Dr. Nyland is a research scientist and adjunct professor at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Her research focuses on frozen ground, or permafrost, and uses spatial analysis of satellite and aerial imagery to examine landscape responses to both climate and anthropogenic activities. Nyland's past projects and publications have been based on work in Arctic and subarctic Alaska, Canada, and Russia that examined the impacts of long-term climate change on ecological systems, geomorphic processes, community and industrial development, pollution, and Indigenous infrastructure. Nyland leads the natural systems component of the MUST project and co-leads the Frozen Commons project, studying natural characteristics of snow, ice, and permafrost and mapping frozen commons in study areas.

Robert Orttung

Dr. Orttung is a Professor of Sustainability and International Affairs and Director of the Sustainability Research Institute at George Washington University. Orttung is the lead PI for two National Science Foundation Navigating the New Arctic projects: Measuring Urban Sustainability in Transition and Arctic Cruise Ship Tourism. A new project examines the green energy transition in the north. He is the editor of *Urban Sustainability in the Arctic: Measuring Progress in Circumpolar Cities* (NY: Berghahn, 2020). He has published extensively on Arctic topics and issues related to the development of Ukraine and Russia's political systems. Orttung received a B.A. in Russian Studies from Stanford University and both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles. [LinkedIn](#) [ORCID](#)

Andrey Petrov

Dr. Petrov is a Professor of Geography and ARCTICenter Director at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Petrov is an economic and social geographer who specializes in Arctic economy and sustainable development, with an emphasis on the social geography of the Indigenous Peoples and changing Arctic social-ecological systems. His current research is focused on sustainable regional and community development, spatial organization, and restructuring of Arctic economies amid rapid environmental change. Dr. Petrov leads the Research Coordination Networks in Arctic Sustainability (Arctic-FROST) and Arctic Coastal Resilience (Arctic-COAST), as well as multiple research projects. He has extensively published on issues pertaining to socio-ecological change, human-environmental relations, and demographic dynamics in the North.

Marya Rozanova-Smith

Dr. Rozanova-Smith is a Research Professor at the George Washington University. In addition to her work in academia, she participated in a wide range of social projects. She was the founder and chairperson of the Center for Civil, Social, Scientific, and Cultural Initiatives "STRATEGIA". She served as a Galina Starovoitova Fellow for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution at the Kennan Institute, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Her current research interests include Arctic governance, urban sustainability, Indigenous empowerment, gender equality, and the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Arctic. Dr. Rozanova-Smith is a Principal Investigator of the project "Understanding the Gendered Impacts of COVID-19 in the Arctic (COVID-GEA)" supported by NSF.

Khadbaatar Sandag

Khadbaatar Sandag currently works at the Geography Department of the Mongolian National University of Education. His research interests encompass physical geography, environmental science, geography education, education for sustainable development, climate change, and water education. As a teacher and professor of Geography, he is actively

engaged in research activities related to geography education and learning, as well as curriculum and textbook development. Currently, he is involved in the projects "Joint Russian-Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition" and "Informal Roads: The Impact of Unofficial Transportation Routes on Remote Arctic Communities."

Johan Sandström

Sandström is a professor of business administration at Luleå University of Technology (LTU), Sweden. He received his Ph.D. from Umeå University, Sweden, in 2003. His main subject is organization studies. Having studied industries such as energy, postal service, weapons, manufacturing, retail, porn, and white goods, he is currently studying mining and mining communities, and the integration of newly arrived migrants in the north. His most recent book is "Gruvans makt" (The Power of the Mine, with Tommy Jensen) published in 2021. He mainly teaches business students research methods and sustainable business and supervises bachelor and master theses in accounting and control. This spring, his theater script based on experiences from teaching business ethics will be transformed into a performance by students working towards an arts degree in acting at LTU.

Max Sher

Sher is a photographer and visual artist. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, he grew up in Siberia and lived in Moscow before moving to Berlin in 2021. Sher started as a photojournalist and then moved on to art photography and installation. While working in Russia, Sher was primarily interested in de-exoticizing the representation of the post-Soviet built environment, architecture, and infrastructure, as well as in investigating local/problematic histories. His work was exhibited as part of solo and group shows both in Russia and internationally. As a photographer, Sher has worked on assignments for *The Guardian*, *Der Spiegel*, *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazin*, *Le Monde*, *Libération*, etc. Sher has produced several artist books, including *Palimpsests* (2018), 245

Khrushchev Housing Entrances (2018–20), and *Infrastructures*, a joint project with Sergey Novikov published as a book in 2019 under their small publishing brand RecurrentBooks. <https://www.maxsher.com>

Nikolay (Kolia) Shiklomanov

Shiklomanov is a Professor of Geography at George Washington University. His main area of interest is permafrost and its interactions with natural and human systems. His research includes long-term permafrost observations in the high northern latitudes, permafrost-related process studies, and the effect of permafrost on human activity and infrastructure. He is also interested in the socioeconomic impacts of climate change in the Arctic. Since the early 1990s, he has been actively participating in fieldwork in the North American and Eurasian Arctic. Prof. Shiklomanov teaches courses in Physical Geography, Climatology, and Arctic Environments.

Jacob Taftrate

Taftrate is a second-year student in the Geography MS program and works as a Graduate Research Assistant on the US National Science Foundation project, Measuring Urban Sustainability in Transition (MUST). His thesis focuses on climate analyses of past and forecasted changes impacting the Arctic cities of interest to the MUST project and how these long-term climate changes impact broader sustainability efforts within the region. As part of his studies, he has also contributed to multiple field studies of the Arctic, conducting interviews with mayors and measuring permafrost thaw depths. With specializations in remote sensing, GIS, and sustainability indicators he is excited to be collaborating with artists as part of the ArtSLInK component of the MUST project and exploring how scientific tools shape perceptions of physical landscapes.

Olga Zaslavskaya

Dr. Zaslavskaya is a co-founder of the international platform *Arts, Science, Local and Indigenous Knowledge* (ArtSLInK). She is involved in its development by promoting research-driven creative projects in cooperation with natural, social, and

humanities scholars and representatives of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic. She participates in several projects focused on the Arctic: *Arctic Cities: Measuring Urban Sustainability in Transition*; *Frozen Commons: Change, Resilience and Sustainability in the Arctic*, and *Biocultural Heritage in Arctic Cities: Resource for Climate Adaptation?* As an independent curator, she curated exhibitions internationally. Currently, she leads the ArtSLInK project *Arctic StoryWorlds* and curates exhibitions within this program: *The Martian Taiga* (2022, Tromsø), *Arctic InfraScapes* (2023, Vienna), and forthcoming exhibitions in Washington, US and Bodo, Norway (2024).

Timur Zolotoev

Zolotoev is a Buryat curator, editor, and researcher, whose work intersects contemporary art and architecture. He has worked on exhibitions and research projects with the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW) and the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art. He also served as a curator at Lkham Gallery in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) and is a member of the curatorial team for the Dissolving Earths project. Additionally, he is engaged in a collaboration with the ArtSLInK (Arts, Science, Local, and Indigenous Knowledge) digital transmedia platform. He is the former editor-in-chief of the English version of *Strelka Mag*, the online magazine of the Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design.

Denis Dabaev