

# Exploring climate adaptation in northern communities

April 1, 2025, 11am-12:20pm (MDT), via Zoom

PLOS-Climate +  
UArctic Thematic Network on Local-scale Planning, Climate Change and Resilience

## Panelists: Talk Descriptions and Biographies

**Rikke Becker Jacobsen** ([rbi@ifm.aau.dk](mailto:rbi@ifm.aau.dk)), Associate Professor, Department of Sustainability and Planning, Aalborg University, Denmark

### ***Adaptation to climate change in Greenlandic fisheries***

Fisheries are the cultural and economic backbone of many coastal communities in Greenland, as well as the Greenlandic national economy. Based on knowledge obtained from interviews, stakeholder workshops and statistical analyses, this talk will showcase how the Greenlandic fishery as a sector has demonstrated a high capacity to adapt their fisheries during the last 15 years: Fishers have been able to experiment and change strategies and techniques within a season (e.g., cod gillnetting in Nuuk), a few years (shifting to open-water fisheries in North Greenland), or gradually over a decade (the offshore trawling fleet following shrimp distribution northward). This talk will offer suggestions to support pro-active adaptation across multiple domains - including infrastructure, market diversification, seafood innovation, fishery management, local knowledge and financialization for entrepreneurship.

BIO: Rikke is an associate professor at Centre for Blue Governance, holds a MSc in Ethnography and Anthropology (University of Aarhus 2008) and a PhD in Planning and development (AAU 2014). She has worked in several cross-disciplinary European, Danish and Arctic research projects focusing on the politics of sustainability in fishery governance, climate change adaptation, inclusion of local and Indigenous knowledge, and coastal community transition. She is coordinator at AAU Arctic - the cross-faculty platform at Aalborg University which aims to strengthen Arctic-related research and collaboration across disciplines, networks and communities in the Arctic.

**John Duffy** ([jduffy@alaska.edu](mailto:jduffy@alaska.edu)), Professor, College of Business and Public Policy, University of Alaska Anchorage, United States

### ***Alaskan experiences building resiliency***

Local governments in Alaska are faced with many climate challenges similar to those faced by northern communities throughout the world. Some of these challenges include permafrost degradation, riverine and coastal erosion, melting sea ice and sea level rise as well as extreme weather events and weather whiplash. These challenges negatively

affect community-based infrastructure, food security, cultural livelihoods and more. This talk will describe the climate challenges faced by Alaska communities, the cultural dimensions of such challenges as they relate to building resiliency, the use of local or traditional knowledge in addressing climate challenges, and examine the contemporary planning and policy tools used by Alaska local governments.

BIO: John is a professor with the University of Alaska, Anchorage and is a visiting professor at the National University of Mongolia. He teaches graduate courses in public policy analysis, sustainability science and executive managerial skills. John has received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Administration from the National University of Mongolia and has received the Friendship Medal from the President of Mongolia. John has over 30-years' experience in local government and served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee. John maintains professional certifications with the International City/County Managers Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners.

**Nadezhda Filimonova** ([nadezhda.Filimonova@ulapland.fi](mailto:nadezhda.Filimonova@ulapland.fi)), Postdoctoral Researcher, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

***Climate change adaptation and water management in urban Arctic***

This talk uses urban water management as a case study to better understand how climate adaptation issues are framed and governed in the Russian city of Murmansk and the Norwegian city of Tromsø. The talk will hone in the interactions of local authorities across vertical and horizontal dimensions, and with regional and non-state actors (academia and NGOs) in water governance. The research at the foundation of this talk relied on document analysis, archival materials, local newspaper articles, and semi-structured interviews conducted. The research focused on Arctic cities with a population of less than 300,000 in order to expand on a climate literature dominated by large global cities.

BIO: Nadia is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland. She completed her PhD in Global Governance and Human Security at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She has received numerous fellowships and grants and is the author of several peer-reviewed publications. Nadezhda has taught courses on international relations, Arctic studies, and daily life in Soviet Russia. Her research explores environmental governance and urban sustainability in the Arctic.