

Monitoring and Managing Local Knowledge as it Relates to Indigenous Arctic Games

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Throughout history the games we have played have been a testament about who we were, and are. From early Inuit bone and hunting games, to the gladiator contests of Ancient Rome, to the modern American game of baseball, the games we play have served as a statement of and a rehearsal for the life-world of that period and place. By reconnecting with and understanding the games of our past, we can build meaningful bridges between our past and present, and hopefully gain a better understanding of the meaning and importance of the modern games we play. Both of the aforesaid are timely and important, especially as they relate to indigenous Arctic people who are trying to build networks to monitor and preserve their traditions in our modern world.

The games of indigenous Arctic people (Inuit of the Eastern Arctic of Canada, and the Sámi of Scandinavia) provide a myriad of lessons and rewards. These lessons and rewards furnished the sustenance that secured the Inuit's and Sámi's continued progress and evolution. By learning about and practicing the games of the Inuit and Sámi, we can affirm many important lessons about living in our modern world. These lessons include a heightened respect for indigenous people throughout the world; an enlightened understanding about fairness and reciprocity; greater awareness of the importance of our environmental playground; and a greater awareness of the importance of intercultural and international education. Most important, by reconnecting with and understanding indigenous Arctic games, we can build meaningful and important bridges between our past and present.

The presentation will focus on and about research into the games of indigenous Arctic people, i.e., the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic of Canada, and the Sámi of the Arctic of Norway. Using lecture, photography, and video the presentation will share the importance of monitoring and preserving game activities of indigenous Arctic people. Included in the presentation will be an overview of the partnerships being established that include Inuit and Sámi community members, university researchers, and educators, who are dedicated to the preservation, management, and distribution of the aforesaid local knowledge on and about indigenous games. The preservation, management, and distribution includes a new web site (Resource Base) dedicated to indigenous Arctic games.

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