Lead Author e-mail: claudio_aporta@carleton.ca

Title: Inuit and sea ice: The importance of "knowledge artifacts" in indigenous Arctic research

Claudio Aporta¹
¹Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University

This presentation will describe a multi-media example of cybertographic atlas, which reproduces Inuit knowledge and use of the sea ice in the Eastern Canadian Arctic. Cyber-atlases are web-based, multi-media platforms that have the ability to represent and connect narratives of different types and formats. Geographic information, for instance, can be represented alongside oral narratives of sea ice use. This presentation will argue that such artifacts are important for several reasons: a) they make traditional knowledge available to younger generations of aboriginal people, whose context of learning has dramatically changed over the past few decades; b) they can record and store language and knowledge that may otherwise disappear or diminish, as the importance of formal education grows; and c) they have the potential to create links between climate change scientists and indigenous experts, making scientists aware of the remarkable complexity and depth of indigenous knowledge. This presentation will highlight the importance of the production of flexible "knowledge artifacts" in the context of indigenous Arctic research.