



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2017 – 2018

Arctic Speaker Series

Learning to Listen: Furtive Strands of Climate Change in Everyday Stories of the Kitikmeot, Nunavut

Date: Wednesday,
January 17, 2018

Time:
4:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: University of Calgary;
Math Sciences 527

Arctic-dwelling peoples enjoy an iconic status in the global discourse of climate change. However, in the Kitikmeot region of western Nunavut, invoking climate change inspired varied and contradictory responses in two communities. Field research involving observation, attendance at public meetings and interviews with diverse actors, determined that Inuit perceptions of “climate change” varied from worry to disinterest to confusion over the meaning of the term. Ostensibly, the researcher achieved little deliberative communication about climate. However, there was plenty of non-deliberative communication such as everyday stories and conversations about immediate concerns such as the weather, caribou harvesting, the growing unpredictability of sea ice and impacts on seasonal food harvesting. Unearthing those stories requires a methodology of listening. Preliminary findings point to an unrecognized diversity of perceptions about climate change among the distinct Inuit communities across the vast and varied space of the Arctic Archipelago. To communicate effectively about climate change in the Arctic, the climate change discourse must be placed in the context of Arctic people's lived experience of resource dependence and food security, their colonial past and postcolonial representations. We need to interrogate climate change as a phenomenon that is strategized, managed and communicated by global actors at a distance from Arctic lives.



Biography: Chui-Ling Tam is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary. Her research concerns the spatial politics of environmental communication and its effects on public participation in environmental and resource management decision-making and implementation. She has a particular interest in maritime communities. She is currently conducting a project comparing climate change communication in Southeast Asia and the Canadian Arctic.

This event is **free and open to the public**

There will be a reception in the AINA offices (ES-1040) immediately following the presentation

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