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TAKUJUQ - Contribution of Arts for communicating Science

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RATIONALE

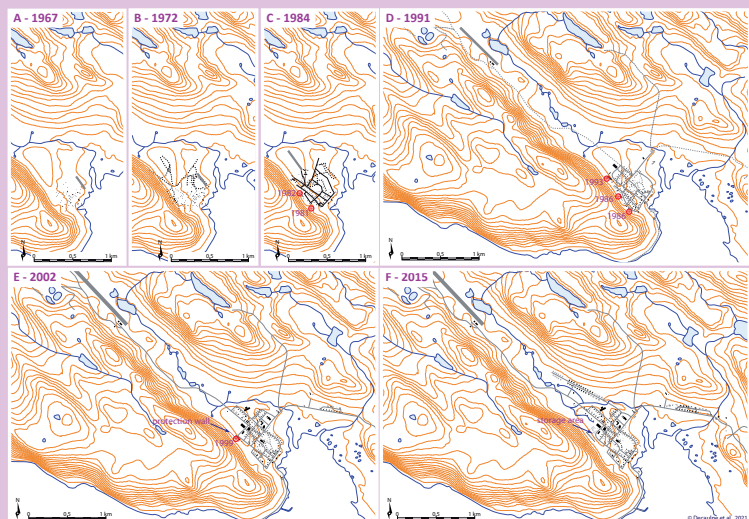
Geography, either social, cultural or physical, is a spatial science; maps are therefore massively used to represent geographical results. However, maps and other scientific results can be complicated to read and understand as the outcomes are not easily accessible to a public beyond academia.

Within the TAKUJUQ project (He/she sees), we explore alternative techniques that involve Arts for scientific mediation. The aim is to enhance the understanding of scientific results and the appropriation of the results by those living in areas where research is taking place. OHMi NUNAVIK works in and with Indigenous communities; we wish that the results of our research are

understood by all generations of Inuit/Cree who welcome the presence of researchers. The examples presented here are based on MOVE (slope movement) and NUNA (our land) projects. Working together with artists and scientific mediators, we attempt to share scientific facts through art and producing simplified (not simplistic) models.

VILLAGE EXPANSION UNDER SNOW-AVALANCHE HAZARD

Many of the villages in Nunavik are built near slopes on which snow avalanches are likely to occur, yet this phenomenon has only been studied in recent years and deserves much more attention. In Kangiqsualujuaq, where a dramatic avalanche occurred in 1999, its spatial influence on the extension of the village is clearly visible: first built by the cove, the village then gathered by the slope; after the 1999 snow avalanche, the village development occupied the valley bottom. The consequences of the snow avalanche were so striking that today few people talk about this event, and that for Nunavimut an avalanche can only be devastating.



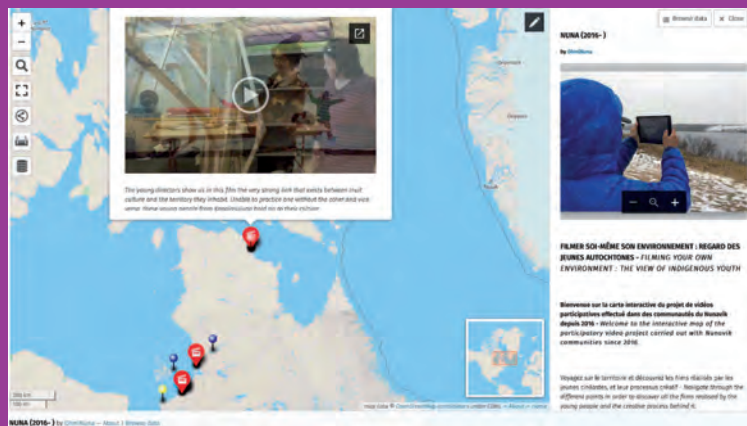
Diachronic maps of the building of Kangiqsualujuaq, together with the location of known snow avalanches; the 1999 event caused the death of nine and injured 25 (Decaulne et al., 2021). This is a formal academic presentation, one way of highlighting the obtained results of the research.



A journey through space and time, illustrated by the moving character; one notices the superposition between the landscape and its topographic representation. During the first decades, the life of the village is turned towards the cove; at the end of the 1990s, it is the avalanche slope that is represented as well as the building/people at stake located at its foot; then the most recent years show rather an expansion towards the valley (watercolor-colored pencil painting based on the authors' fieldwork, done by Orsane Rousset, 2021).

ONE LAND, SEVERAL ARCTIC REALITIES

The emic perspective of young Inuit and Cree pupils is expressed in collectively realized short films, which showcase a lively and contemporary portrait of the ways of life connected to the land in four northern villages, sustaining thereby Inuit and Cree iconographic sovereignty. Artistic and media techniques - video, drawing and interactive maps - allow for the encounter of different images of the Arctic.



Interactive Map, which gives access to videos realized in the Nuna project allowing to experience by everyone the different cultural views of Nunavik (Der Gazerian et al., 2021).



Drawings illustrating the different phases of the video-making process during a workshop in Nunavik's school (watercolor pencil painting done by Orsane Rousset, 2021). This artistic mediation helps to motivate new schools to participate in workshops, which in turn enables researchers to enrich the data on local environmental perceptions.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS FOR COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

Scientific mediation materials are essential for the transmission of knowledge, in order to foster intercultural dialogues and to mutually enrich the combined results of academic research and Indigenous knowledge. A better communication of scientific results is key to sustaining meaningful research with applied results in Indigenous communities.