

HIDDEN PARTICIPANTS AND UNHEARD VOICES:

TEK and Climate Change Research in the North

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Introduction & Acknowledgements

- Introduction
 - Hi!
- Acknowledgements
 - Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis
 - Funding from the Rural Policy Learning Commons

Research Questions

“Is everyone’s* knowledge* represented* as it should be in the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)* literature*?”

“What are the characteristics* of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)* as presented* in the literature*?”

“Is there any relationship* between author’s gender* and characteristics* of the knowledge* presented*?”

Definitions

- * Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
 - * a.k.a. Local Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, Farmer's Knowledge ...
- * Everyone
 - * Women vs. Men, Youth vs. Elders
- * Author's Gender
- * Literature
 - * Peer-reviewed Journal Articles available through the UofS library
- * Represented or presented knowledge

METHODS

Methods

- Peer-reviewed journal articles
- Published between Jan. 1990 and Sep. 2017
- Presenting TEK relating to climate change or its effects
 - whether the project collected said TEK or not
- Systematically reviewed using Google Scholar

- Saturation: 3 pages with no new results
 - 10 pages were always reviewed

Search Terms

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

OR

Traditional Knowledge

OR

Indigenous Knowledge

OR

Local Knowledge

AND

Climate Change

OR

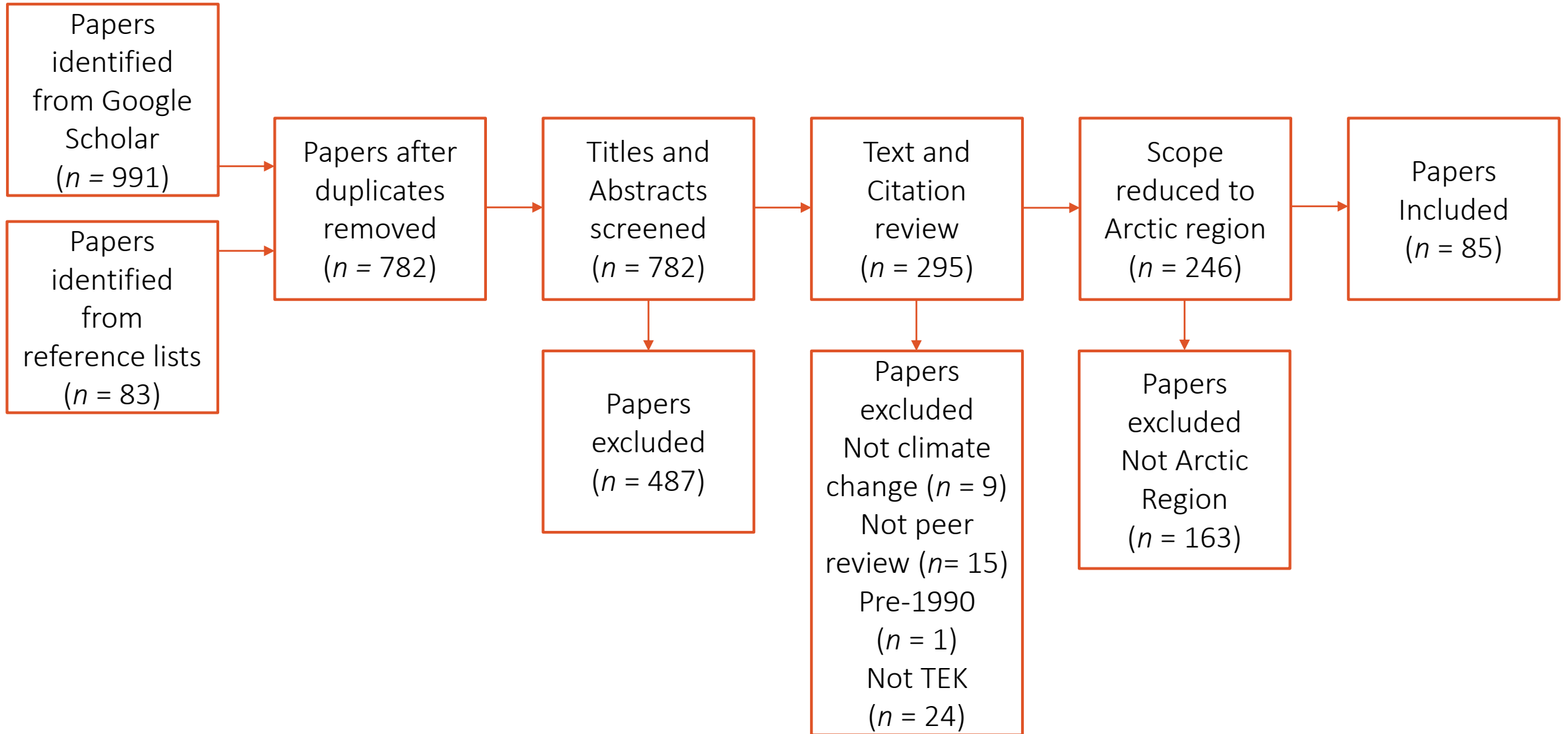
Environmental Change

Identification

Screening

Eligibility

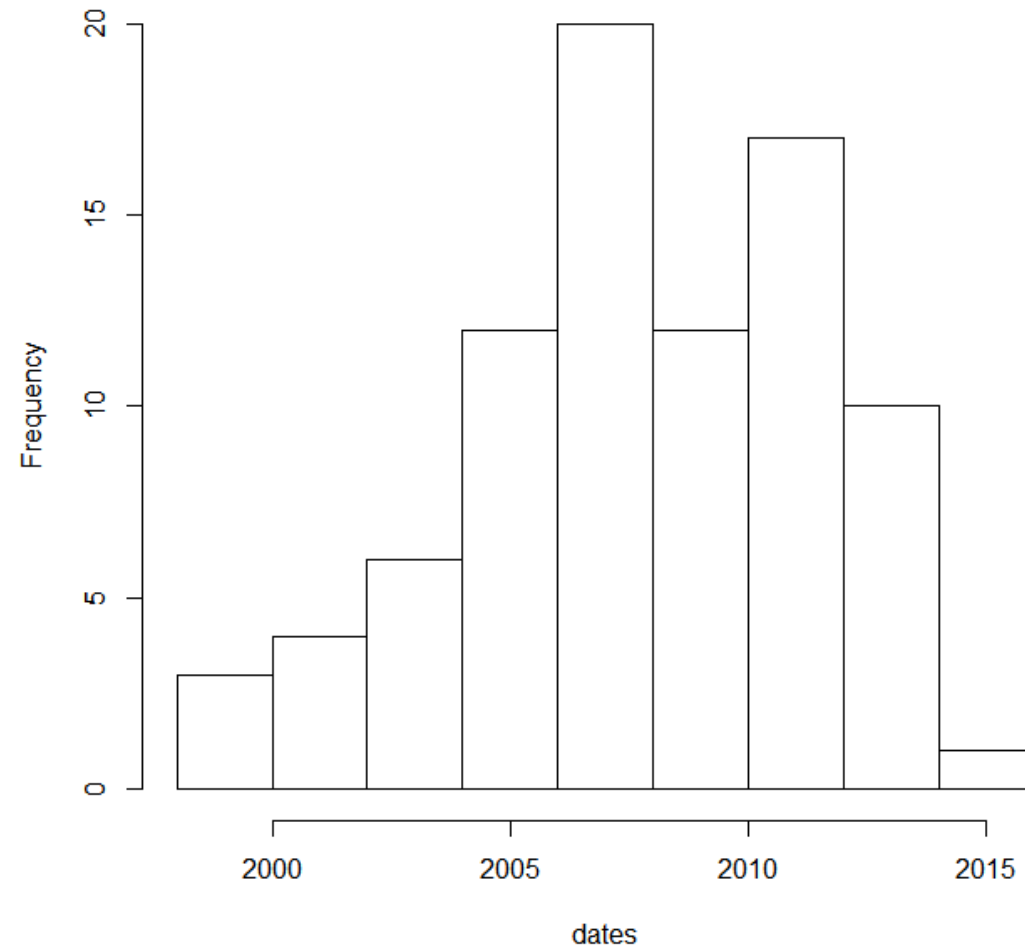
Included



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Literature Characteristics

Histogram of dates



Literature Characteristics

- Male authors outnumber female roughly 2:1 (120:230:23)
- Lit. reviews are common ($n = 18$)
- Purposive sampling was the most common sampling method
- About half didn't describe sampling ($n = 33$)
- Interviews most common, followed by focus groups and participant observation

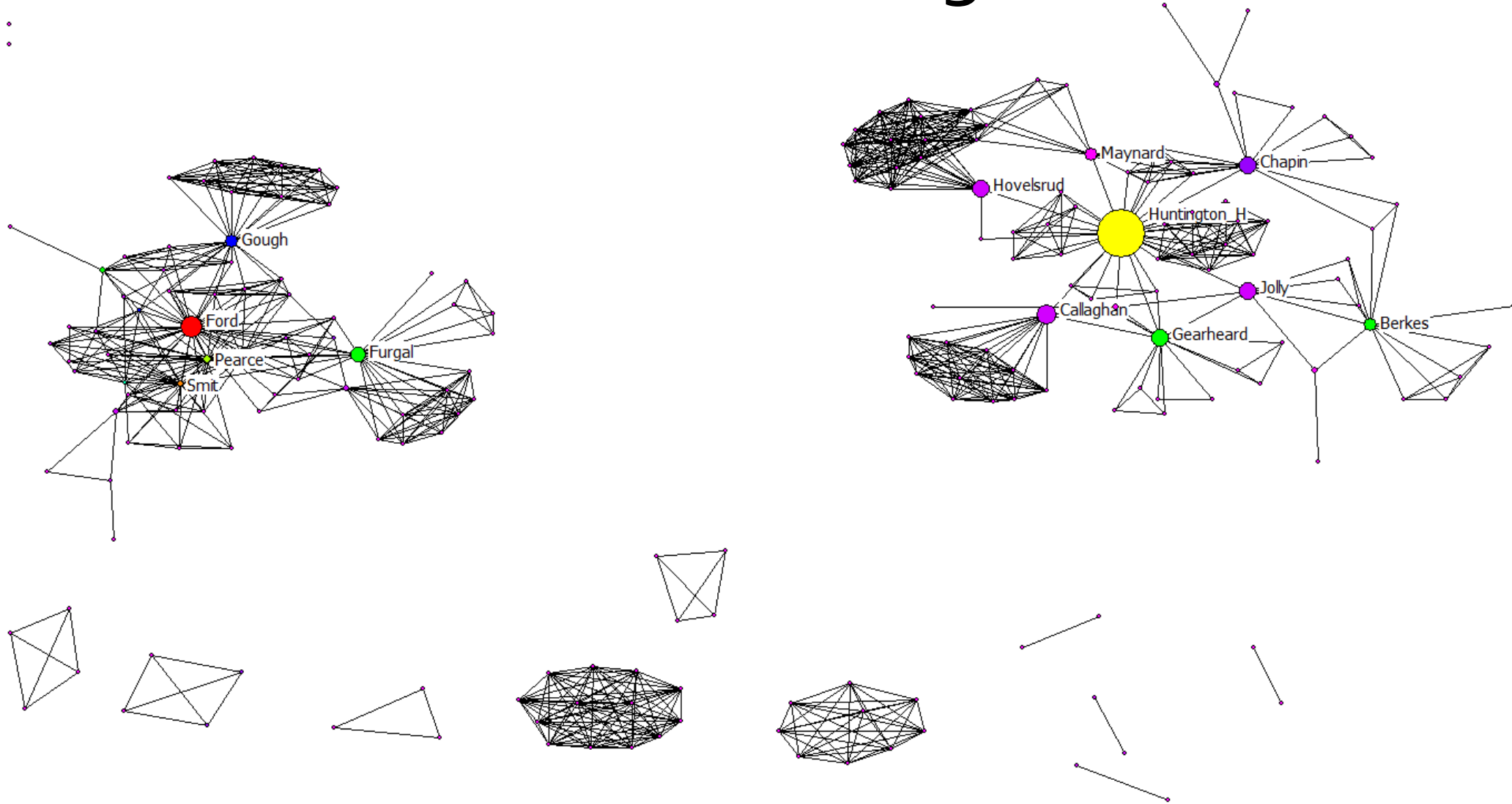
Literature Characteristics

- Studies mainly of the North American Arctic
 - Due to language?
 - Due to Russian skepticism of climate change? (Stammler)
- Piecemeal publications were very common
- Case studies failed to locate the knowledge at all
- Literature reviews were sometimes circular

Invisible Colleges

- Group of authors who collaborate, support, and cite each other's work
- Influential due to citations, collaboration, and connections
- Can influence entire fields of study (positively or negatively)
- One, possibly two invisible colleges appear to exist (Ford and Huntington)

Invisible Colleges



Knowledge Representation

Q: Is everyone's knowledge represented as it should be in the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) literature?

A: I don't know...

No?

Knowledge Representation

- 3 reported both gender and age data
- 13 reported some demographic information
- 69 reported no demographics at all

- Only 23 reported clear participant numbers

- 166 Women to 317 Men
- Mostly 55+ (1 youth); Usually “elders” and “hunters”

Knowledge Characteristics

Q: "What are the characteristics of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as presented in the literature?"

A: Vulnerability Framework

Knowledge Characteristics

- Focused on observations of climate change or vulnerabilities to climate change
- Knowledge was collected primarily for elders and animal resources users (i.e., hunters and trappers)
- In Europe & Asia, knowledge collected from herders

Knowledge Characteristics

- Knowledge tended to focus on the largest hunted mammal (i.e., whale, caribou, seal, moose)
- Knowledge of harvesters, small game hunters, and fishers are largely absent

Knowledge Characteristics

- Developing community-based research skills and facilitating community knowledge collection and archival practice was commonly mentioned
- The results of this are unclear, however, as no peer-reviewed publications were found resulting from these efforts

Gender's Impact

Q: "Is there any relationship between author's gender and characteristics of the knowledge presented?"

A: Seems so.

Gender's Impact

- Large collaborative projects were more disproportionate than average
- Women-led projects appeared more likely to list individual community-based guides/partners as authors
- Women-led projects didn't appear to do any better at collecting data from or recruiting women

RESEARCH CONTEXT

Research Context

- Outside perspective
- Circumpolar Arctic

- Articles only identified through Google Scholar
- Peer-reviewed articles only (No books, no reports)
- Considerable adjacent literature
 - Resource management, co-management, law
 - Anthropology, Ethnobiology, Ethnobotany, Ethnoecology, Environmental Engineering, Law

DISCUSSION

Expertise and Voices

- How are experts defined?
 - By Whom?
- Is there a balance among community sovereignty with our mandate to elevate marginalized voices and issues?
 - i.e., to define expertise and identify experts while not indirectly silence
 - Focus on prioritized species might limit how we understand ecosystem change
- If this research is building capacity to bring TEK into science, why are we not seeing it?

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