

The opening *move* establishes the context of the paper, whereby the author provides some general background information. In doing so, the author identifies the theoretical framework, “affect,” the geographical scope, and the geopolitical context of the study.

Thinking through affect: Inuit knowledge on the tundra and in global environmental politics

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Abstract

Inuit residents of the Canadian Arctic balance a commitment to the land and to land-based traditions with full engagement in governance across different scales of decision-making. In this article, I suggest that thinking with and through ‘affect’ offers a promising approach to conceptualizing the dynamic role of Inuit knowledge across these different scales. Food sharing in remote Inuit settlements tangibly demonstrates the affective dimensions of Inuit knowledge, reflecting practices rooted in social and ethical relations with land, animals, and human community. Affect also informs the role of Inuit knowledge in international environmental negotiations. I explore this relationship in the work of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), an organization that advocated for a ban on persistent organic pollutants (POP) in the negotiations leading up to the Stockholm Convention. Facilitated by the gift of an Inuit carving, ICC shared a moral and ethical perspective that helped connect negotiators to the physical harms caused by pollutants. Drawing on the philosophy of former ICC Chair Sheila Watt-Cloutier and the non-capitalist framework of J.K. Gibson-Graham (2006), I examine the role this gift played in the POPs negotiations. I conclude that thinking through affect offers new ways of conceptualizing the emergent possibilities of environmental politics and practice.

Keywords: Indigenous knowledge, persistent organic pollutants, Stockholm Convention, environmental politics, the gift, food sharing, Gibson-Graham.

Résumé

Les résidents inuits de l'Arctique canadien équilibrent leur attachement à la terre et aux traditions terrestres, avec la pleine participation à la gouvernance multi-scalaire. Dans cet article, je suggère que penser avec et à travers le concept de «affect» offre une approche prometteuse pour conceptualiser le rôle dynamique des connaissances des Inuits à travers ces différentes échelles. Le partage de la nourriture dans les collectivités inuites éloignées démontre concrètement les dimensions affectives de savoir inuit, reflétant les pratiques ancrées dans les relations sociales et éthiques avec la terre, les animaux, et de la communauté humaine. «Affect» informe également le rôle des connaissances des Inuits dans les négociations internationales sur l'environnement. J'explore cette relation dans le travail du Conseil Circumpolaire Inuit (ICC), une organisation qui a plaidé pour une interdiction sur les polluants organiques persistants (POP) dans les négociations menant à la Convention de Stockholm. Animé par le don d'une sculpture inuite, la ICC a partagé un point de vue moral et éthique qui a contribué à relier les négociateurs pour les dommages physiques causés par les polluants. S'appuyant sur la philosophie de l'ancien président de la ICC Sheila Watt-Cloutier et le cadre non-capitaliste de J.K. Gibson-Graham (2006), j'examine le rôle joué dans ce cadeau négociations sur les POP. Je conclus que réfléchir à «affect» offre de nouvelles façons de conceptualiser les possibilités émergentes de la politique et des pratiques environnementales.

Mots-clés: les connaissances autochtones, les polluants organiques persistants, la Convention de Stockholm, la politique de l'environnement, le don, le partage de la nourriture, Gibson-Graham.

Resumen

Los residentes Inuit del Ártico canadiense equilibran un compromiso a la tierra y a las tradiciones basadas-en-la-tierra con un total compromiso en gobernanza a través de diferentes escalas de toma de decisión. En este artículo, sugiero que pensar con y a través del afecto ofrece una aproximación prometedora para conceptualizar el papel dinámico del conocimiento Inuit a través de estas diferentes escalas. Compartir la

In thinking about the dynamics of relationship and decision making, Johnson points to the significance of the study, particularly through the expression “promising approach”.

The use of the *self-mention* “I” highlights the author's presence and subjectivity. By using the verb “suggest,” the author invites readers to join in “thinking with and through ‘affect.’” Using *self-mention* together with the *hedge* “suggest,” the author engages readers in a collaborative thinking process.

Citations are used as a means of including other scholarly voices in dialogue with the current study. Note how in “drawing on” previous studies the author summarizes those studies.

The author concludes the abstract with a definitive summary of the original contribution.

The author states the aims and objectives, describes the methodological approach and outlines the findings and conclusions. The latter comprise the author's unique contribution.

Note how at the first usage full terms precede the parenthetical abbreviations. From then on, the author uses the abbreviations only.

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