



**PEI 2025-USA** Boulder,  
Colorado

**Closing the Gap between Polar Science, Research, Indigenous Knowledge, & Polar Education- a wayfinder for IPY2032-33**

# Polar Bridges

Exchange. Inspire. Collaborate

The 6th Polar Educators International  
Biennial Conference and Workshop will be  
held in Boulder, Colorado 21-24 March, 2025

## Speakers' Biographies



Let's **BUILD** polar bridges, making one connection at a time.

# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## SOPHIE WEEKS PEI PRESIDENT



Sophie is an Institute Associate at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge UK, researching the role of education in polar research, and science outreach and communication since 4th IPY. She works with colleagues in the Institutes remote sensing and geoinformatics team to plan research impact through polar education and community science in Arctic Norway. She is a co-founder of the Polar Educators International network, launched at IPY2012-Montreal 'From Knowledge to Action'. In her role as president she offers expertise on the IPY2032-33 Planning Committee, the SCAR CBET Committee and the ICARPIV RPT6 Committee representing the interests of the global community of practising polar educators. As a museum and gallery educator (including The Polar Museum, Cambridge, the British Library and Kettle's Yard museum and gallery) she represented the UK's Eastern Region on ENGAGE (the National Association for Gallery Education) and GEM (the Group for Education in Museums). She worked for the London Borough of Camden as Learning Programmes Developer and coordinated interdisciplinary Holiday Festivals of Learning for children ages 6-14 across Camden's extraordinary cultural institutions and collections. She is a freelance arts project manager and sci-artist, trained at Central St Martins School of Art and Design, London and produces the Art and Science Soirée in Cambridge, The Colour Institute, and Neural Knitworks (UK representative).

### CONTACT

sophie.weeks@gmail.com



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## MARIA PIA CASARINI (PIA) PEI VICE PRESIDENT



Maria Pia Casarini, from Milan, Italy, PEI Vice-President since 2017, Past President 2022-2023, Partners' Coordinator of the Polar Resource Book project, is a polar historian. She has spent over 40 years connected to the polar world in Cambridge, UK, initially through her husband, Peter Wadhams. She has two degrees from Milan Cattolica University; M.Phil. in Polar Studies, University of Cambridge, UK. Carried on research in Polar History at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge. Co-author of the book "Unternehmen Polarstern" (Econ Verlag, 1988), describing the first winter Antarctic expedition on RV Polarstern. Has done 8 Arctic and 2 Antarctic scientific expeditions. Has lectured on ships (Northwest Passage and North Pole), at the Royal Geographical Society (Fellow) and regularly at the Orkney Science Festival. 2011-2016 Director of the Italian Zavatti Polar Institute, Fermo, Italy, in charge of its quarterly journal IL POLO. Former participant at the Arctic Table of the Italian Foreign Ministry. She is currently President of the Society of Woman Geographers (Washington, D.C.) in its centennial year.

### CONTACT

mariapiacasarini  
@gmail.com



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## JULIA DOOLEY PEI CONFERENCE LEAD ORGANIZER



Julia is an artist, recently retired Teacher of Talented and Gifted Elementary School students and a founding member of Polar Educators International. She was deployed to Antarctica in 2007 with ANDRILL as an ARISE Educator on a seismic survey in the Mackay Sea Valley. She was selected to participate in the POLAREducator at IPY Oslo and Montreal and has embraced the themes of From Knowledge to Action and Think Globally, Act Locally. Current projects include removal of non-native invasive plant species from local landscapes and planting for native species and watershed health.

### CONTACT

[julia.dooley@gmail.com](mailto:julia.dooley@gmail.com)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

**ALLISON A. FONG, PHD**

**PEI CONFERENCE  
ORGANIZING TEAM MEMBER**



Allison Fong is a microbial oceanographer and sea ice ecologist specializing in the roles microbes play in biogeochemistry and marine ecology. Formerly, she was a researcher at the Alfred-Wegener-Institute (Germany) and an Ecosystem Team Co-coordinator for the MOSAiC Project (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate). Now based in Rhode Island (USA), she is an independent researcher examining ecosystem-level processes in polar regions. Prior to working in polar regions, she earned her MSc and PhD in biological oceanography at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa examining open ocean particle dynamics. She continues to conduct work on marine and sea ice ecosystems and is expanding into more work at the intersection of science and art. Much of her current work builds on concepts of microbes as great engineers and integrators of our existence in time-space.

## CONTACT

allisonfongscience@  
gmail.com



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## LENI RUNGE, MSC

### PEI CONFERENCE ORGANIZING TEAM MEMBER



Leni holds a BSc in Marine Biology and a MSc in Climate Change, currently based in Copenhagen, Denmark. Her research interests lie in biogeochemistry and biological oceanography associated with Arctic sea ice and glacial systems. Aside from that she is interested in gender related issues and inclusion and diversity within the polar community. She joined PEI in 2024 and is keen to understand how intergenerational communication around changes in the polar regions and climate change can be improved. As well as how to strengthen local and national networks that equip young people with the tools to follow their natural motivation and curiosity to explore and give polar and climate change education a stronger focus in the schools' curriculum in the first place to help prepare current and future generations.

### CONTACT

erunge.10@gmail.com



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## DENIZ VURAL, MSC

### PEI CONFERENCE ORGANIZING TEAM MEMBER



Deniz is a doctoral researcher at the Alfred Wegener Institute & University of Potsdam, specializing in permafrost coastal dynamics and climate change impacts in the Arctic. Her research focuses on bathymetric mapping, environmental historical data integration & management, and assessing campsite vulnerability to sea level rise & storm surges. Deniz is also passionate about science communication, outreach, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Beyond academia, Deniz has over a decade of experience in education & outreach, actively engaging with initiatives that enhance polar literacy & environmental sustainability. She has organized international marine science conferences such as YOUMARES, represented ESRA at global events, and contributed to workshops, activities, and articles that support early-career scientists, as well as the future of polar & marine research. Deniz is committed to bridging scientific knowledge with community-driven solutions to address pressing environmental challenges.

### CONTACT

deniz.vural@awi.de



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## JANET WARBURTON

### PEI CONFERENCE ORGANIZING TEAM MEMBER



Education and Outreach Specialist: developing and implementing education related projects that focus on connecting people to science. Founder of Walrus Works. I have lived and worked in the Arctic and Alaska for over 40 years, with experience across non-profits (including 24 years with ARCUS), federal agencies, and local school districts. My work focuses on developing and enhancing science education programs that are place-based, integrating natural resource management and local knowledge. I have a strong background in student-driven initiatives, teacher training, community engagement, and citizen science. Additionally, I specialize in marine mammal management and environmental education. Throughout my career, I have worked to bridge scientific research with community perspectives, ensuring education is relevant and impactful.

### CONTACT

warburton01@gmail.com





# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## EMILY ARTINIAN, MA STREET ROAD ARTISTS SPACE, PARTICIPATORY ART, AND CITIZEN SCIENCE



Emily Artinian is an artist and curator, and is the founder and director of Street Road Artists Space, an experimental art and ideas incubator located in rural Pennsylvania. She is currently developing a second site for Street Road in London, UK to open in 2026, as well as a London-based residency for artists and writers called The Love Shack that will be located in the apartment she shared with her partner and co-founder of Street Road, James Avery Smith, before he passed away in 2022. Emily holds BA and MA degrees in Russian Literature from Columbia and Yale respectively, and an MA in Artists Books from Camberwell College of Art and Design. Her studio practice includes text-based art, installation, film, and audience participation works, with a focus on narrative and storytelling. Areas of focus have included Occupy Wall Street, the city of Wilmington, Delaware, and the complex relationships we have with material objects and ownership.

### CONTACT

emilyartinian@gmail.com  
emily@streetroad.org



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## KATAISEE ATTAGUTSIAK PEACE WITHIN BRIDGING THE GAP



Kataisee Attagutsiak was born in an outpost camp, and grew up with just her family in the camp, with four other families and all together was about about 30 people. It was until school was built in their community of Arctic Bay, Nunavut, Canada in the early 70's. It became mandatory for all school age children to attend school so my family moved to the community. Grew up educated didn't realize like all other Canadians and probably international friends, as well, reading "Dick and Jane" with their dog Spot. She was sent away by her parents to all girl school at 15 to Ottawa, Ontario. It really opened her eyes there are different cultures and languages other then the people that were hired to come to our community to teach whom where all caucasians. Fast forward to today, she has a long list of titles, Interpreter/ Translator, Teacher, Inuit, Cultural Teacher, Inuit Historian and a mother. She is quite active in our community as a Inuujaq School District Education Authority, Chairperson, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Arctic Bay Community Director, and local Arctic Coop Store board member. She was so honored to be the main interpreter/caretaker for her mom who lived to see the age 103 years old the last 12 years until December 14, 2023. She is internationally known especially for Inuit contributing to the Second World war by collecting bones from their land in the early 40's.

### CONTACT

kataisee@yahoo.ca



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## MELISSA BARKER POLAR STEAM

Melissa is the Outreach and Engagement Lead for the Polar STEAM initiative at the STEM Research Center. She works to support and collaborate with scientists, teachers, artists, and writers while engaging in polar science. As a former Director of Experiential Education and science teacher, Melissa managed a multifaceted program that involved training and supporting faculty to create innovative learning experiences for students. She also participated in several teacher-researcher programs, including working with scientists at Toolik Field Station in the Arctic.



### CONTACT

melissa.barker@  
oregonstate.edu



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## MELODY BROWN BURKINS, PHD

### RETHINKING THE PRACTICE OF ARCTIC SCIENCE DIPLOMACY



Melody Brown Burkins, PhD, is the Director of the Institute of Arctic Studies, Senior Associate Director in the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding, and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Studies at Dartmouth. In addition, she serves in both Arctic and global roles supporting international cooperation through science policy and diplomacy as the UArctic Chair in Science Diplomacy and Inclusion, as a member of international steering committees for the future of polar research, and as a Foundational Fellow of the International Science Council (ISC). With over 30 years of experience as a polar scientist and policy advisor working in both academia and government, Burkins is an advocate for the engagement and respect of diverse voices in decision-making to more ethically and equitably address global challenges. Burkins earned her B.S. in geology at Yale and both her M.S. and Ph.D. in earth and environmental systems studies at Dartmouth.

#### CONTACT

melody.b.burkins@  
dartmouth.edu



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## MATTEO CATTADORI ALBEDO AND ICE: A FEEDBACK IN ACTION



Matteo Cattadori works mainly as a science teacher at Liceo Filzi (Rovereto, Trento) and as a teacher tutor at the University of Trento (Italy). He was bewitched by polar sciences in 2006 during his involvement in the Education and Outreach Program of the ANDRILL scientific research, a project in the framework of the International Polar Year (IPY). He has designed and coordinated several science and polar educational projects and has collaborated with different institutions. Currently he is an associate in the INGV, the Italian National Geophysics and Volcanology Institute, with educational roles.

### CONTACT

[mcattadori@gmail.com](mailto:mcattadori@gmail.com)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

**SILVIA DOTTA**

**INTERACTING WITH AN ANTARCTIC  
FOOD WEB IN A 3D POLAR MUSEUM**



Silvia is a professor at Federal University of ABC (Santo André, SP, Brazil). She created and coordinates the InterAntar program, which brings together projects for disseminating polar sciences mediated by technologies. She developed scientific research in Education and Communication Science.

## CONTACT

[silviadotta@gmail.com](mailto:silviadotta@gmail.com)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## MARILENA DRACEA-CHELISOI, PHD

### TEACHING EFFICIENTLY POLAR STUDIES IN ENGLISH IN ROMANIA. MY OWN EXPERIENCE



Marilena Drăcea-Chelsoi graduated with a PhD in Literature and Culture from the University of Bucharest, Rumania, with a focus on North American Studies. Her background is philology, but she has frequently written and lectured on art and politics, as well as security and environmental issues. She is involved in polar education and outreach missions and emphasising the interconnection between the Poles and the rest of the world. She is also interested in tourism and the relationships between institutions of this field in order to promote tourist destinations without harming Nature.

### CONTACT

marilena.bamby@gmail.com



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

**BILL GROSSER, MA**

**GUIDE: U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE  
FOUNDATION ICE CORE FACILITY**



Bill Grosser is a retired high school chemistry and physical science teacher. He is a Radio Shack Technology Award Winner, Association of Science Institutions Award Winner, a National Board-Certified Teacher, and a 2004 Golden Apple Fellow. Bill is currently designing curriculum for the U.S. Ice Drilling Program (IDP) and co-facilitating IDP's educator professional development workshops. Bill received his BS in Geology from Illinois State University and has Masters Degrees from Northern Illinois University in Secondary Education and Educational Leadership.





# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## ULYANA NADIA HORODYSKYJ PEÑA, PHD POLLUTION IN PRISTINE PLACES



Ulyana Horodyskyj Peña is the head of science communication for the University of Colorado Boulder's Climate Adaptation Science Center. She's a national fellow of The Explorers Club and holds a PhD in geological sciences, with a specialization in glaciology. Her research has covered the growth of supraglacial lakes and flooding on Himalayan glaciers, as well as the impacts of pollution and soot falling on snow and ice in high latitudes and altitudes. Ulyana has been the recipient of National Science Foundation, National Geographic, USAID, The Explorers Club, and PONANT Science grants for her research. By the time she turned 23, she had traveled to and worked on all 7 continents. Ulyana started Science in the Wild, her own participatory science initiative that has traveled to Nepal, Baffin Island, Kilimanjaro, and the Andes, to continue scientific research while engaging the public. TEDx talk on black carbon.

### CONTACT

ulyana.horodyskyj@colorado.edu



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

**LOUISE HUFFMAN, MSED**

**GUIDE: U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE  
FOUNDATION ICE CORE FACILITY**



Currently, Louise is the Director of Education and Outreach for the US Ice Drilling Program. She is proud to have been a founding member of Polar Educators International and served as its president and several terms on the Council and Executive Boards. As a public school elementary and middle school teacher, Louise taught most ages from 6-14. In 2002, she was lucky to be selected for the NSF's Teachers Experiencing Antarctica Program and went to the Dry Valleys of Antarctica where she spent 6 months in a tent! After retiring from teaching, Louise worked as the Coordinator of EO for ANDRILL (Antarctic geological DRILLing). ANDRILL was her 2nd trip to Antarctica where she coordinated the on-ice experiences of an international team of 8 teachers embedded on the ANDRILL science fieldteam.

## CONTACT

[louise.t.huffman@  
dartmouth.edu](mailto:louise.t.huffman@dartmouth.edu)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

**SARAH JOHNSON, MA**

**SEA ICE AND OCEAN CURRENTS  
CONNECTING PEOPLE AND SCIENCE  
WITH FLOAT YOUR BOAT PROGRAM**



Sarah R. Johnson is a climate education practitioner at Wild Rose Education, a woman-owned Colorado public benefit corporation based in Carbondale, Colorado for nearly 10 years. She has a colorful past of growing up in very rural southwest Missouri in the midwestern region of the USA, serving as a national park interpretive ranger, working as a Colorado River Basin educator, serving on state and national environmental education boards and committees, leading wilderness expeditions, and completing degrees at Missouri State University and Hamline University. Today, she designs and facilitates educator professional development workshops, trainings, and graduate courses. Her commitment to climate action and justice education was solidified as she served as an observer delegate during the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021. Then, upon returning from the Arctic Ocean twice in 2022 and 2023 with PolarTREC, she now designs and coordinates broad reaching Arctic STEM programs for the International Arctic Buoy Programme and also the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States. Sarah has been an adjunct environmental science faculty at Western Colorado University since 2016 instructing for the summer Teacher Institute. And this year is directing the premiere Colorado Youth Climate Summit in May.

## CONTACT

[sarah@wildroseeducation.com](mailto:sarah@wildroseeducation.com)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## MARS SADIDAĀ KASHEVAROF FINDING OR CREATING A HOME



Mars SadidthaĀ Kashevarof is UnangaĀ and White. His family is from TanaĀ-AmiĀ [St. George and St. Paul communities] on Unangam Tanangin, named by Russian colonialism as the Pribilof Islands on the Aleutian Chain. Mars attends the University of Alaska Anchorage on Dena'ina lands as a Social Work student interested in arctic science research. After graduating, he plans to complete a Master's in Public Health and work with Arctic Indigenous communities to advance environmental, physical, and mental health.

### CONTACT

mmkashevarof2@  
alaska.edu



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

**JEFF KERBY, PHD**

**PICTURE THE POLAR REGIONS:  
IMAGES TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE, AND  
INFORM SCIENCE**



Jeff Kerby is an ecologist and geographer interested in polar regions, seasonality, and how herbivores and climate interact to shape ecosystem dynamics. He tends to work with imagery (whether from satellites, drones, time-lapse cameras, etc) to obtain perspectives and data that are then used to test classic and emerging theories in ecology. This work inevitably extends far beyond working with imagery to encompass diverse collaborations, fieldwork, and co-creation with local partners. Projects that embrace these perspectives emerge greater than the sum of their parts. Beyond being store-houses of pattern and data, images can inspire, provoke, or simply make you stop and wonder. In his work as a documentary photographer, he produces short- and long-form science and natural history photo-narratives. With these, he explores the nuance that binds ecology, natural history, and conservation and the diverse people and perspectives involved in these truly global issues.

## CONTACT

jk957@cam.ac.uk



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

**CHELSEA KOCH, PHD**

**OBSERVING CHANGE IN ARCTIC  
MARINE ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH A  
MULTIFACETED LENS: RESEARCH,  
EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE  
CO-PRODUCTION**



Chelsea Koch is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at American University, specializing in Arctic marine ecosystems and oceanography. Her research advances the use of sea ice lipid biomarkers, stable isotopes, and DNA metabarcoding techniques to understand and predict the potential impacts of declining sea ice on Arctic food webs, particularly in benthic invertebrates and walrus. Chelsea is deeply committed to supporting ethical and equitable research, with an emphasis on the co-production of knowledge towards food sovereignty for Indigenous communities in the Arctic. Beyond academia, she has held several roles in polar and ocean science and policy, including with the UN Ocean Decade, US Antarctic Program, and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, supporting ocean sustainability, research, and international collaborations. She has extensive field experience, having participated in research expeditions across the Arctic, Antarctic, and tropics.

## CONTACT

ckoch@american.edu



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## TIM MARTIN

### FROM THE CLASSROOM TO POLAR EXPEDITION GUIDE - EXPANDING THE REACH OF POLAR EDUCATION



Tim Martin has been teaching Geology, Astronomy, Art and Earth Science for over 25 years. Although he grew up in several locations around the United States, he always felt most at home in the natural world. His persistent curiosity led to his undergraduate study of the natural sciences and art, and his love of teaching led to graduate work in Geoscience Education. Beyond classroom study, through the Polar TREC program he worked with an international Climate and Geologic research expedition in Siberia, he and colleagues flew an experiment on NASA's zero-gravity research plane, studied volcanoes in Hawaii, and in 2016 Tim was selected as a National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions Grosvenor Teacher fellow. Tim has taught Art in addition to the science classes. Helping students explore their creative side through photography along with learning the technical aspects of working with and firing clay has been a wonderful extension to his scientific and aesthetic pursuits. In his free time, Tim is an active artist, and he enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities with his family. Frequently on weekends you may find him photographing wildlife or "up close and personal" with Earth Science while hiking and rock climbing.

#### CONTACT

tmartclimber@gmail.com



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## MARÍA JOSÈ NARIÑO VARGAS THE ARCTIC FLAGS INITIATIVE [IN SPANISH]



María José Nariño is a marine biologist and an active member of APECS Colombia. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the Universidad Austral de Chile, where she focuses on the study of Antarctic phytoplankton and its response to environmental variability. She is passionate about polar science communication and has participated in several educational outreach initiatives, including the Arctic Flags Initiative, which engages students in understanding polar environments through creative expression. Additionally, this initiative has been extended to include adult participants who are interested in science, fostering broader engagement with polar topics through art and discussion.

### CONTACT

[mnarinovargas@ucsd.edu](mailto:mnarinovargas@ucsd.edu)





# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## GARETH REES, PHD THE CRYOSPHERE AND THE ARCTIC

Gareth Rees is Professor of Polar Geoinformatics at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, where he studies polar (mostly arctic) environments using – and developing – remote sensing and other technologies. He has spent more than a year in total living and working in arctic regions, mostly in Russia but also in Norway. He teaches physics, and remote sensing – mainly applied to biogeography – to undergraduates, and tries to participate more widely in education and outreach activities whenever possible.



### CONTACT

wgr2@cam.ac.uk



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## EXODUS CHUN-LONG SIT SOME POLAR EDUCATION APPROACHES



Exodus CL Sit is a transmedia astronomy educator, polar explorer, popular science author, astro-musician, astrophotographer, and science communicator from Hong Kong, China. He is the National Astronomy Education Coordinator and Co-National Outreach Coordinator of the International Astronomical Union. He is also the president of Starrix Hong Kong and an International Committee Member of the Dark Sky International. He has visited around 50 countries and regions, including glacier hiking in Iceland (2017), Aurora Borealis research in Nordics (Sweden, Norway, and Finland) in the Arctic Circle (2023), Aurora Australis research in Tasmania (2023), and expedition to the "Third Pole" Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (2024). Exodus actively promotes dark-sky protection and popular science in various disciplines, with international initiatives and research on interdisciplinary approaches, such as sustainability, dark-sky protection, space exploration, astronomy innovation, astropreneurship, inclusive science communication, aurora hunting, natural science expedition, and STEAM Education.

### CONTACT

sitexodus@gmail.com



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## SUNNIVA SORBY

### STORIES OF HOPE FROM SVALBARD: WOMEN, EXPLORATION, AND THE POWER OF COMPASSION



Sunniva Sorby has lived a lifetime of exploring, teaching and advocating for the planet. She has long practiced and promoted Inclusive Leadership Ideals. She generously shares her insights about self-empowerment that she has gained through her extraordinary personal experiences. She champions the possibilities for women and girls as fervently as she champions the Polar Regions where she has spent so much of her life. From teaching outdoor skills and leading groups to higher heights, to broadening our knowledge through Citizen Science, to engaging school children to inspire young minds, Sunniva has consistently used her resources to enhance the learning and inspiration of others to get out, experience, and care for our beautiful, wild, yet fragile planet. She stands as a remarkable embodiment of the Explorer/Activist/Educator archetype, seamlessly merging her passion for exploration with her unwavering commitment to environmental activism.

#### CONTACT

[sunniva.hiti@gmail.com](mailto:sunniva.hiti@gmail.com)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## ELENA BAUTISTA SPARROW, PHD INTERGENERATIONAL AND CROSS- CULTURAL ARCTIC LEARNING WITH YOUTH THROUGH GLOBE AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE



Dr. Elena Bautista Sparrow is a Research Professor and Education Outreach Director at the University of Alaska Fairbanks International Arctic Research Center, bringing more than 30 years experience working with educators and community members in engaging youth in environmental and earth science in Alaska and beyond. Dr. Sparrow was born and raised in the Philippines, in the Tropics, and transplanted to the Arctic in 1976. Elena is a soil microbiologist and science education specialist. She established the Alaska GLOBE program a year after the GLOBE program, currently a 122- country citizen science network, launched worldwide in 1995. Her work is internationally recognized, earning her the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), and the Youth Learning as Citizen Environmental Scientists (YLACES) Medal.

### CONTACT

[ebsparrow@alaska.edu](mailto:ebsparrow@alaska.edu)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## KATIE VILLANO SPELLMAN, PHD INTERGENERATIONAL AND CROSS- CULTURAL ARCTIC LEARNING WITH YOUTH THROUGH GLOBE AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE



Dr. Katie Villano Spellman was born and raised in Alaska. She has dedicated her career to the interface of social justice and science and has found the overlap for her passion in both areas through climate change education and research. Her research is split evenly between plant ecology and education research, with public engagement in and access to the scientific process as a unifying theme in both areas. Her ecological research focuses on how a warming climate influences boreal and tundra plant communities through non-native species introductions, changes in phenology, and wildfire. Her education research investigates the effectiveness of different climate change learning strategies and science engagement models. She collaborates regularly with students, teachers, and community members across Alaska (currently in more than 40 communities) and in 122 countries through the GLOBE program to address climate change issues and increase access to science at local and global scales.

### CONTACT

[klspellman@alaska.edu](mailto:klspellman@alaska.edu)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## HALIEHANA STEPETIN, PHD ALAĠUĶ [OCEAN] AS PEDAGOGY



Dr. Haliehana Stepetin (UnangaĶ, Qigiġun Tribe) was born and raised in her homelands/waters in the village of Akutan, Alaska in Unangam Tanangin [Aleutian Islands]. She weaves together her transdisciplinary experience deeply shaped by the UnangaĶ subsistence cosmology she was raised within as an educator, artist, and scholar. Dr. Stepetin is an Assistant Professor of Arctic Security Studies at the Ted Stevens Center. Her research considers UnangaĶ and Arctic Indigenous Peoples' roles in sustainable food sovereignty and environmental practices amidst a changing climate. Her research has been funded by the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program, the Social Sciences Research Council, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She has published in Gender and Education and SAGE Publishing, with a forthcoming chapter in an anthology with Duke University Press.

### CONTACT

[hstepetin@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hstepetin@ucdavis.edu)



# PEI2025-USA POLAR BRIDGES

6TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR EDUCATORS CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP

21-24 MARCH 2025

## BETTY TRUMMEL, MS

### EXPANDING POLAR EDUCATION OUTREACH: FINDING A NEW AUDIENCE



Betty's love of teaching has spanned the globe and her passion is connecting people through education and learning experiences. Three deployments (1998, 2006, 2012) to Antarctica as a science communicator/education outreach specialist with different NSF-sponsored research projects had an enormous impact on her teaching. As part of the Homeward Bound expedition, Betty returned to Antarctica (2016) with 76 women in science from around the world. For 20 years Betty had a teacher exchange program with educators in arctic and subarctic Sweden. Exchanges have focused on environmental education and building cooperation between cultures. She joined ANDRILL colleague Matteo Cattadori and high school students from Italy, on a science and educational expedition to Arctic Svalbard in 2016. Betty has been awarded the Presidential Award for Elementary Science Teaching, named a Distinguished Alumni of the University of Illinois, and Outstanding Young Alumni of Northern Illinois University. In her "retirement" she remains active as a world-wide educator and guest speaker.

#### CONTACT

boop82@aol.com

