



Dr. Anna Kerttula de Echave, PhD

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Anna Kerttula de Echave is a lifelong Alaskan and social cultural anthropologist. Her research has spanned three decades of fieldwork in the Arctic, during which she has covered a diverse range of research topics from land use patterns and subsistence economies to identity, household organization, and domestic violence. Her host populations have been equally diverse including the Yup'ik, Denai'ina, Pribiloff Aleuts, and the Siberian Yupik and Chukchi of Russia. She has also participated in archaeological research projects investigating prehistoric Athabaskan and Pacific Inuit sites. Her early research in the former Soviet Union culminated in the book, "Antler on the Sea: the Yupik and Chukchi of the Russian Far East," published by Cornell University Press in 2000.

Anna has had a uniquely diverse career as the Program Director of the Arctic Social Sciences Program at the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), 2002-2018, and as the Associate Director of the Alaska Governor's Office in Washington, DC, 1997-2002 where her portfolio included Natural Resources, Rural Affairs, Environmental Conservation, and Fisheries. Prior to her appointment in the Alaska Governor's Office, Anna was the Legislative Assistant for Russian Affairs to US Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, 1992-1997.

During her 16 years of US federal service at the National Science Foundation, under Anna's guidance the Arctic Social Sciences program set the standard for Arctic Indigenous community participation in scientific research projects. As Program Director, Anna focused on ways to create partnerships between Arctic communities and academic researchers; from encouraging and funding Arctic Indigenous researchers and organizations to a multitude of educational programs that give rural Arctic students science experience and promote their interests in the sciences. During her tenure at NSF Anna led and participated in numerous research opportunities on Arctic sustainability including the NSF-BELMONT Forum Arctic Sustainability competition and Navigating the New Arctic.

In 2012, Anna served as the US Embassy Science Fellow to the US Embassy in Iceland. And in 2014 and 2016 she co-taught with Dr. Jón Haukur Ingimundarson the course on Arctic People and Culture for the Polar Law Program at the University of Akureyri, Iceland.

Anna became a member of the Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG) of the Sustainable Working Group of the Arctic Council during the Canadian Chairmanship; was the Co-Chair of the SECEG for the duration of the U.S. Chairmanship; and continued to serve under the Finnish Chairmanship until leaving her position at NSF this year (2018).