

## Come on Ugzruk, Have Mercy: Experience, Relationality, and Knowing in Kigiqtaamiut Hunting and Ethnography

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This ethnography of marine mammal hunting explores linkages between individual, personal experiences, and shared understandings of ecological phenomena among a group of Kigiqtaamiut hunters in Shishmaref, Alaska. Specifically, it examines the relationships between Kigiqtaamiut hunters' experiences and the means by which the experienced world is brought into being through hunters' ways knowing. This work is informed by three spring hunting seasons spent as a member of a familial marine mammal hunting crew and over 20 months of fieldwork. It addresses hunters' ways of learning, knowing and directly experiencing the reality of the phenomenal world.

Exploring a multiplicity of modes and facets of experience connected to the relationships between hunters' processual way of knowing bearded seals (*Eringathus barbatus*) through an experiential ethnographic investigation, I empirically examine the practices of hunting and the ethnography of hunting as linked, reflexive, and ultimately inseparable processes of coming to know. Considering the plausibility that a more rigorous presentation of a way of knowing can be realized through highlighting the reflexive and experiential interactions that shape these two concurrent phenomenological inquiries this work suggests an "ethnography of knowing" approach to engage these multiple-linked processes of knowledge construction. It is suggested that separating hunters' ways of being and knowing misconstrues the depth and complexity of local knowledge as actualized in pragmatic decision making processes in the context of hunting.