THREATS AND RESPONSE IN GREENLAND
Marine Erosion Impacts
Kangeq, West Greenland

1894

2016
We have shown that archaeological deposits from four contrasting archaeological sites located in different climatic zones in West and South Greenland all are highly reactive and vulnerable to increasing soil temperatures and changes in the water balance.

The results provide strong evidence that Arctic organic archaeological deposits, regardless of age and geographical location, are particularly vulnerable to degradation under the climatic changes predicted by global climate models.
Greenland Projects and Collaborators


- US NSF *Greenland RESPONSE* project (NABO team) 2019-21 total US$ 850k

- Greenland National Museum and Archives / Inst. Field Research *Arctic Vikings Field School* 2018- present
Arctic Vikings Field School 2018-present

RESPONSE Project 2019-22

Alluitsoq Project 2019-22

ACTIVATING ARCTIC HERITAGE

NABO
North Atlantic Biocultural Organisation

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

CARLSBERG FOUNDATION

Nationalmuseet
National Museum of Denmark
THE ALLUITSOQ PROJECT:
COMMUNITY-BASED AND
COLLABORATIVE ARCHAEOLOGY IN
SOUTH GREENLAND

Cameron C. Turley
Alluitsoq (Lichtenau)

- Former Moravian Mission est. 1774
- Once largest settlement in South Greenland
- One farmer remains, still an important site for descendants
- 2019 Ethnographic and Oral History Interviews
- 2019-20 Excavations

http://nunniffiit.natmus.gl/spatialmap
Outreach Education and Training

- Campus Kujalleq, Qaqortoq
  - 1) Interest in Archaeology; 2) Economy
- Greenlandic students actively involved.
Direct Connections

- In some cases, connecting informants and their families to identified archaeological contexts
- (images shown with permission)
Alluitsoq 2019 Massive Storm Damage Since 2017!
But the international crew comes through and large collections are recovered, and additional deposits found.
Climate change, capacity-building and local engagement: report on the 2018 Arctic Viking Field School, Vatnahverfi, South Greenland

Hans Harmsen¹, Christian Koch Madsen¹,³, Elie Pinta² and Michael Nielsen¹

1Greenland National Museum and Archives, Nuuk
2Université Paris, Panthéon-Sorbonne
3National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen

Society for American Archaeology 84th Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico
12 April 2019
Arctic Vikings Field School 2019

DUOD & POVL BRAND FOND

NAALAKKERSISUT
GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND

RPA
Register of Professional Archaeologists
Norse Cemetery at Gardar/Igaliku AVFS 2019
Some Challenges

• Setting & spreading priorities and best practice standards
• New digital tech for working fast but smart.
• Data management for a long curation.
• Housing doctoral collections for students not born yet.
• Generating sustained public support for ongoing fund raising and long term curation.
Changing Us

• Need for a new paradigm
• *In situ* Preservation is not possible
• Going *Ex situ*? Setting Priorities?
• Good archaeologists now
  – Create huge backlogs they will never fully study
  – Spend far too much time in the field
  – Spend lots of time on outreach, communication, community engagement
  – Generate lots of data that needs curation and discoverability for years to come
Some Opportunities

• New data sets of great potential value.
• New technology and data management skills.
• Field schools for a purpose!
• Integrating archaeology, environmental science, and local and traditional knowledge
• Engaging with indigenous partners for co-production of knowledge
• Creating teachable products highlighting the value of the past for the present and future.
• Expanding our Discipline.
But the Libraries are Still Burning
Thank You!