



## Blue Box Seminar Series

### Department of Geography

PRESENTS:

**Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**3-4pm SN2025**

**Dr. Robert Briggs**

Researcher, Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering group (NRC)



#### **Chasing your passions: sensing ice for community, government and industry needs**

Dr. Robert Briggs is a researcher with the Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering group of the National Research Centre (NRC) of Canada. Following an MEng in Systems Engineering at Loughborough University (1998; UK), he was a professional engineer in the aerospace industry until 2007. Seeking a new career direction, he obtained an MSc in Oceanography at the UK National Oceanography Centre (2008; Southampton), which led to a PhD in Glacial System Dynamics in the Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador (2012; St. John's). Following his PhD, Robert became a Research Scientist with C-CORE working with remote and in-situ sensing methods for monitoring sea ice, river ice and icebergs. During this time he was also contracted as project manager and technical lead to SmartICE, working closely with Trevor Bell (MUNL Geography) to co-develop with communities monitoring systems that support on-ice travel safety. As a member of the SmartICE team he shared the 2016 Arctic Inspiration Prize for its knowledge-to-action plan to both transform into an Indigenous-led social enterprise and build a sensor technology production centre in Nunatsiavut. In 2021, Robert joined NRC and among other ice-related projects is renewing his partnership with SmartICE to develop and adapt monitoring technology in support of safer lake, river, and sea ice travel for northern Indigenous communities.