



My PhD research, ‘Evolution along Coasts of Iceland: Worldviews of Nature in Resilience and Adaptation to a Rapidly Changing Environment in the face of Climate Change’ is focused on island communities in Northern Regions; specifically the communities of Iceland and Newfoundland. Prior to my PhD I received a Masters of Science, with research focused on a hard-rock coastline, home to 565 Ediacaran fossils – the first multi-cellular organisms on earth. And although an extraordinary project to work on with respects to deep geological time and human evolution, my research has become more focused on human relationships; within their communities and in relation to Nature in the setting of ocean and coast. Currently, the

most relevant aspect of my research is that it is transdisciplinary as well as interdisciplinary. Transdisciplinary is treating non-academic knowledge as equal to that of academic knowledge. A transdisciplinary approach is a particularly important practice for the inclusion of local and traditional knowledge of coastal communities that reside in both North Atlantic and Arctic regions.

Our most recent paper (accepted), Thompson, S. and Valliant, M. (2023) Local Knowledge in Resilience and Adaptation to Snow Storm Hazards in Two North Atlantic Islands; Newfoundland and Iceland. *Journal of Newfoundland and Labrador Studies* – aims to understand local knowledge as equal to academic knowledge by telling the story of our experiences with the communities of Westfjords, Iceland and Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland, Canada during snowstorm events in January of 2020.

A somewhat experimental piece where, we the authors, situate ourselves within the place and events as both local participants as well as outside observers (guests). Although, participant-observer research is a reasonably common research methodology - where the researcher is immersed in the day-to-day activities of the participants we aim to deepen our understanding – moving away from positivistic approaches, by holding ourselves, not as experts in the field of local knowledge, but as contributing story tellers. Our stories are sometimes in scholarly language and they are sometimes, personal and informal, and even mythical, but no matter what language, or background, they always hold invaluable meaning.