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A Sami-Inuit Youth Exchange

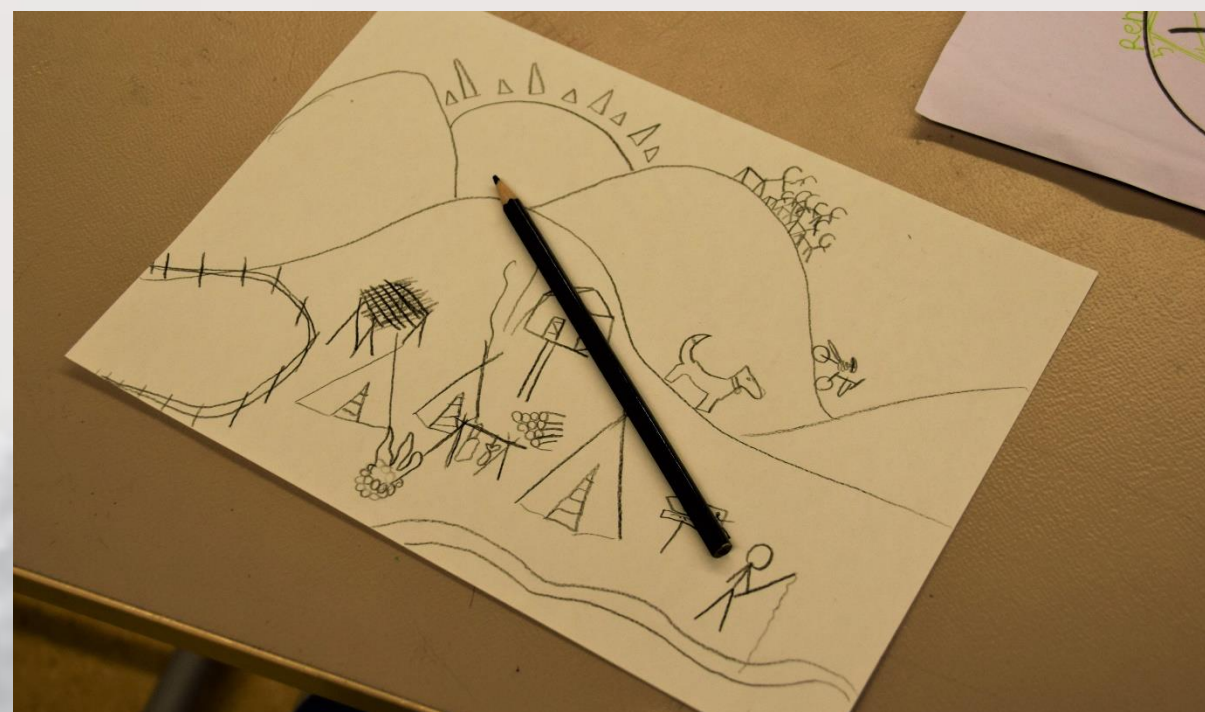


Sylvie Blangy & Laura Martin--Wurtz

CEFE-CNRS (French National Centre of Scientific Research) and the University of Helsinki

A cross-cultural, community and school-based research project

Looking to the future by learning about change through the eyes of the youth



Students from Jokkmokk and Baker Lake making drawings and filming each other in class.

The Sami–Inuit youth exchange was developed in the framework of the BOAZU and TUKTU research projects. The ongoing BOAZU project involves the Sami people from Sweden with the purpose of exploring the future of reindeer herding for this culture. It started in 2017 and is currently centered in Sápmi.

The completed TUKTU project involved the Inuit people from Baker Lake in Nunavut, northern Canada, and focused on changing relationships to the land and mining impacts. It was conducted from 2013 to 2017. Both projects were co-designed with the communities involved using participatory research methods.

The aim of the Sami–Inuit exchange is for Sami and Inuit youth to share their perceptions about the future of their cultures. From 2013, school-based and community workshops have been held with Sami schools in Gällivare, Karesuando and Jokkmokk in Sweden and Inuit schools in Baker Lake in Nunavut.

A cross-Arctic cultural exchange

Children from both communities participated in workshops organized in their schools with researchers and teachers. Working together, they created 2 radar charts (Fig. 1 & 2), a Caribou wheel and a Sami wheel, drawings and videos to share their daily lives with the community living on the other side of the Arctic. By exchanging these, Sami and Inuit youth will be able to learn about each other's cultures and explore differences and similarities.

What is it like to be Sami/Inuit?

How important are reindeer/caribou for the community?

How has the relationship to these animals evolved?

SAMI WHEEL

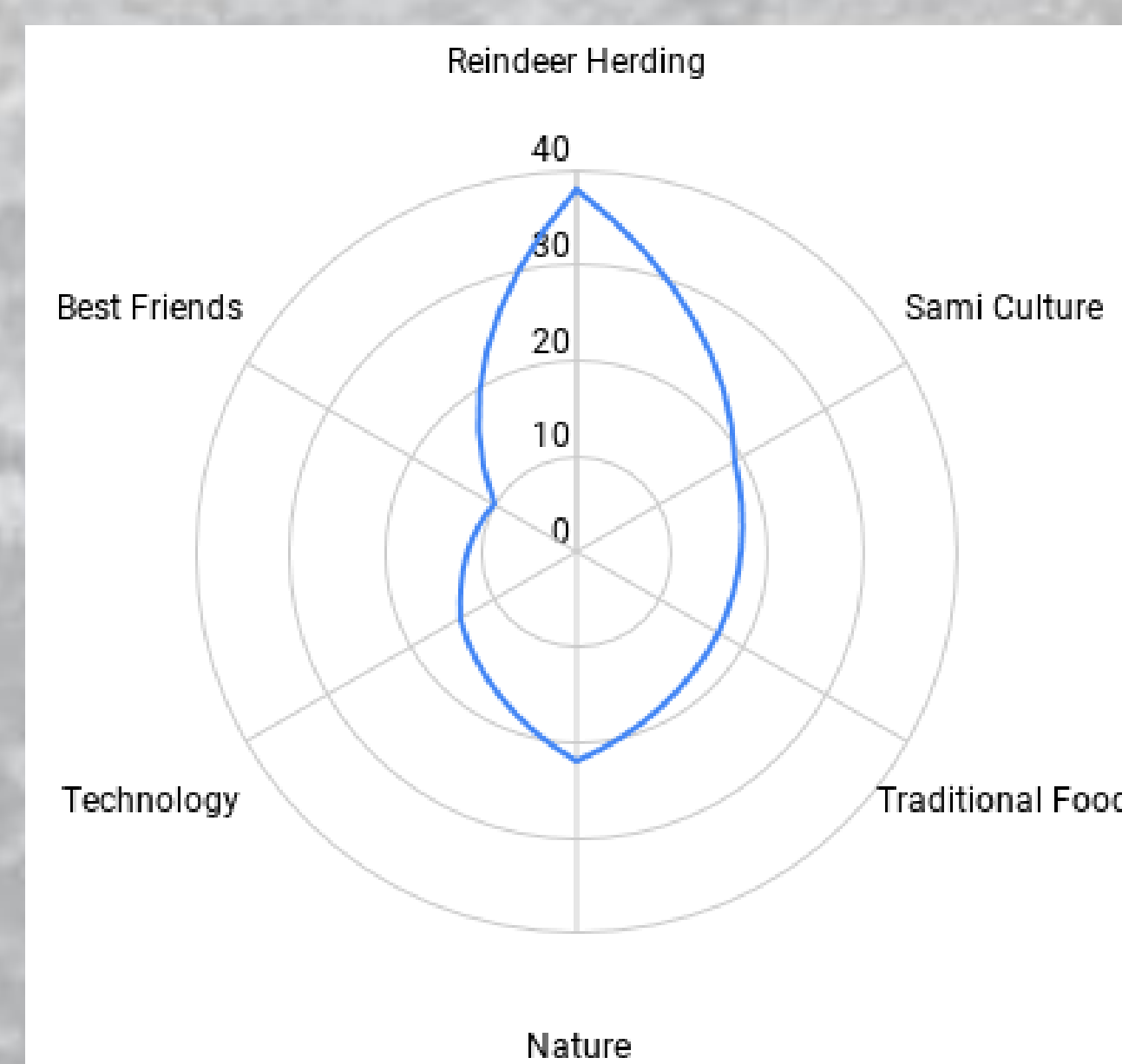


Fig.1 Importance of aspects of Sami children's lives (Grade 4, Jokkmokk)

CARIBOU WHEEL

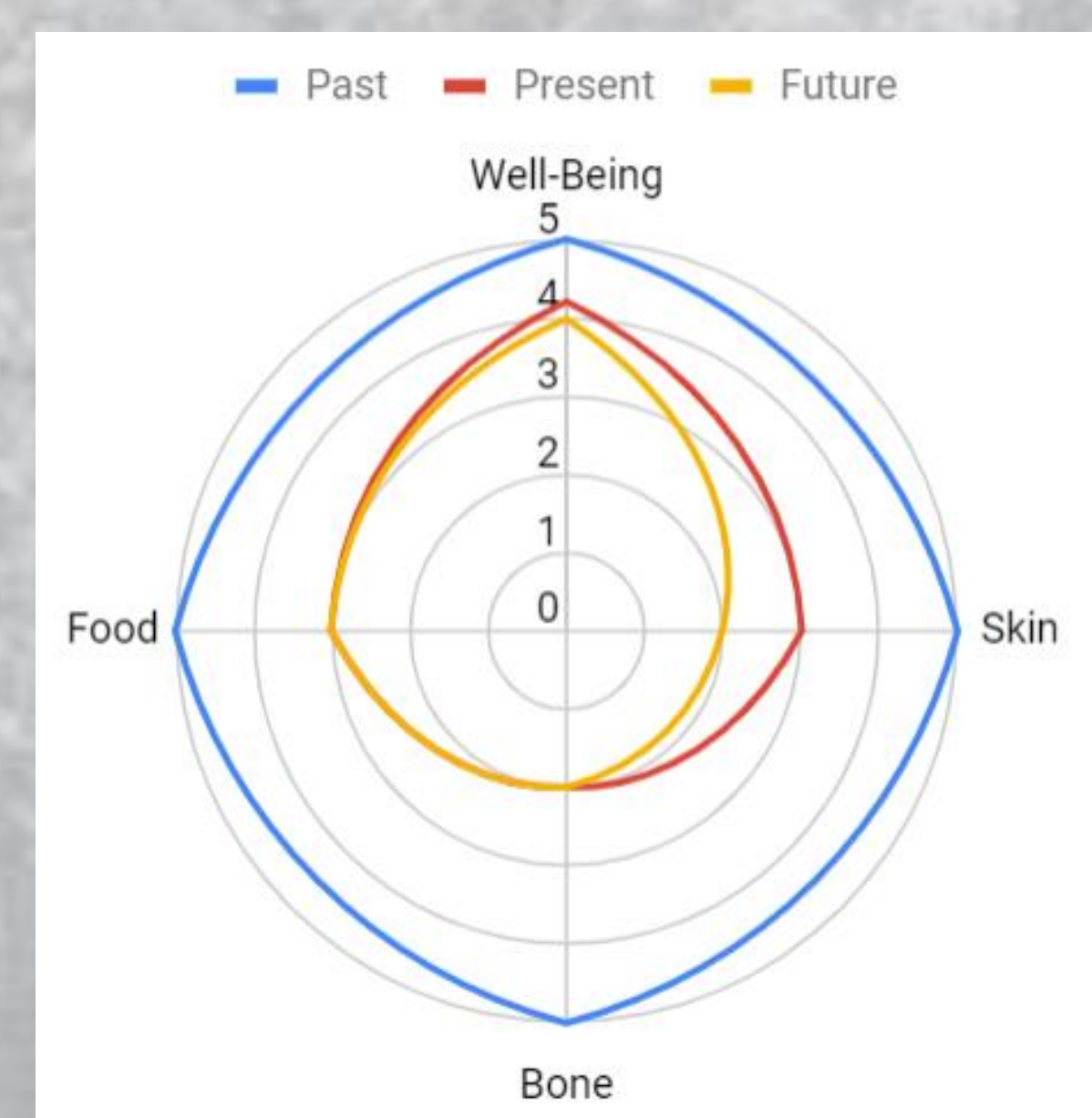


Fig. 2 Importance of caribou in Inuit culture (Baker Lake)

Objectives and Perspectives

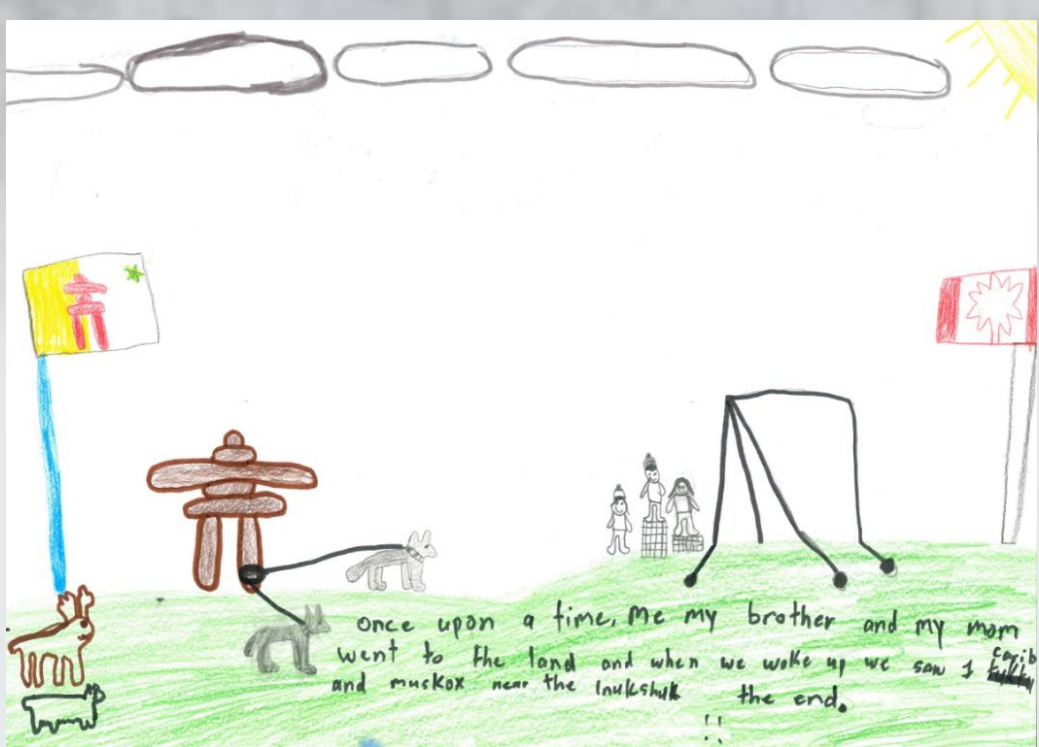
The process of representing their daily lives to share this information with another community gives young Sami and Inuit the possibility to reflect on their own culture.

It allows them to think about what makes them a part of their community and what they value about their lifestyle, encouraging them to be proud of who they are. They are also able to reflect on how they see their future as members of the community.

Another important goal of the project is to promote dialogue between the youth and the elders in the community, so that knowledge can be appropriated by the new generation.

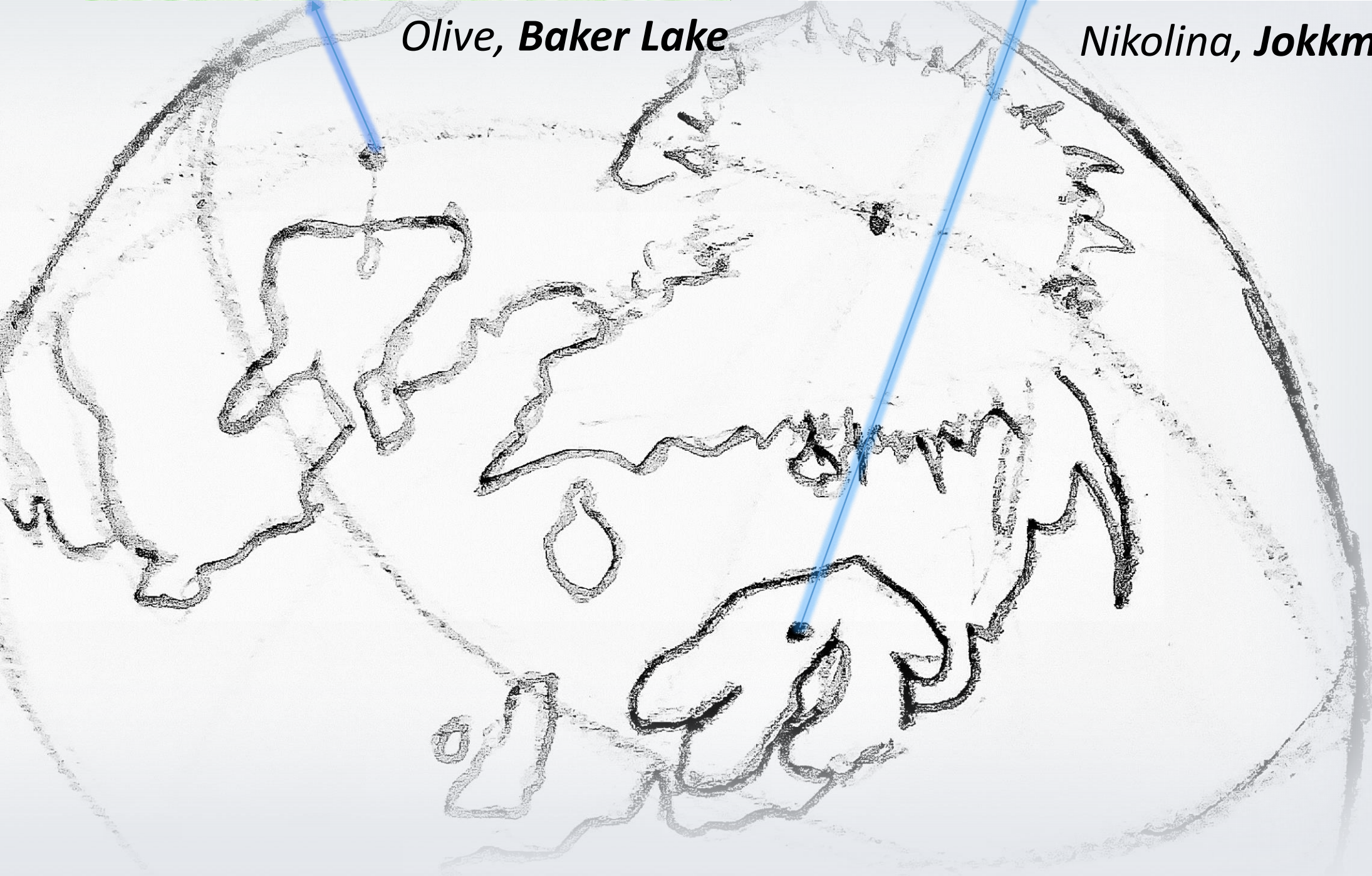
The next step is to seek funding to organize a meeting between Sami and Inuit youth to give them the opportunity to meet each other and exchange in person.

Research assistants who participated to the project: Anna Deffner, Annabel Rixen, Amélie Broage, Elise Brunel, Cécile de Cérigny, and Timothée Couëttil.



Olive, Baker Lake

Nikolina, Jokkmokk



Tuktu website: <http://website.cefe.cnrs.fr/tuktu>
Boazu website: <http://websie.cefe.cnrs.fr/boazu>