

TOWARD NATURECULTURAL RESEARCH ETHICS

Ethical questions in research on
nature–cultures and society

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**BIODIVERSE
ANTHROPOCENES**

**UNIVERSITY
OF OULU**



Bridging the Nature Culture divide

epistemologies
ontologies
ethics
politics



Image: Melta

NATURECULTURAL APPROACH

1) COLLABORATIVE
Bridging disciplinary siloes

2) REFLEXIVE
Ethical self-reflexivity of disciplines' own "truths"

3) PROCESSUAL
Iterative and learning from difference

4) LIVING
Situated, place-based



What about naturecultural research ethics?

Situated ontoethicopolitics:
collaborative knowing, reflexivity,
processuality, non-innocence,
paying attention to difference,
including “how” and “why” to “what”



Example: CLEAR LaB

Research space, methods incubator, and social collective

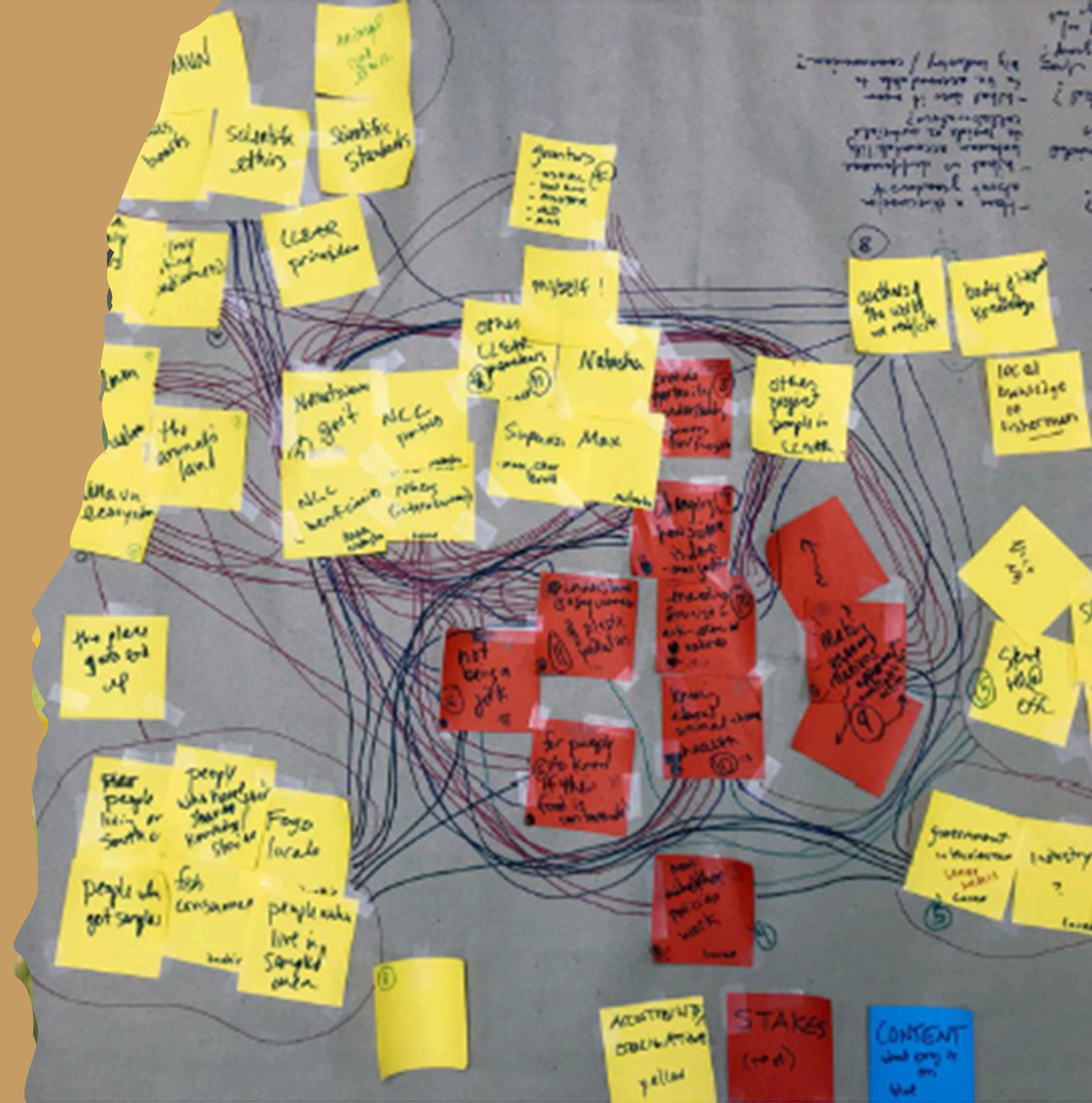
Specializes in:
community-based monitoring of plastic pollution, particularly in wild foodways in Nunatsiavut
creation and use of anti-colonial research methodologies.

<https://civiclaboratory.nl/methodological-projects/>



HOW? and WHY?

“CLEAR works at the level of protocol. Rather than lead with good intentions, we work to ensure that every step of research and every moment of laboratory life exemplifies our values and commitments”



The above image shows an accountability map made during a lab meeting. It maps out the "stakeholders of our research" (why is it important?), which are noted on red notes. Then, for each stakeholder, it asks "in these stakes, who are we accountable to?".

CLEAR Lab Book: A living manual of our values, guidelines, and protocols, V.03. St. John's, NL:

Liboiron, Max (2021). Pollution is Colonialism. Duke University Press.

Neimanis, Astrida, Cecilia Åsberg, and Johan Hedrén 2015. "Four Problems, Four Directions for Environmental Humanities: Toward Critical Posthumanities for the Anthropocene." *Ethics and the Environment* 20(1): 67–97.

Rautio, P., Tammi, T., Aivelo, T. et al. "For whom? For whom?": critical perspectives of participation in ecological citizen science. *Cult Stud of Sci Educ* 17: 765–793 (2022).

