

# Alaska Indigenous Research Program: Researching within an Indigenist Paradigm



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Community  
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Researcher, Teacher  
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Opaskwayak Cree  
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Ceremony Helper and  
Leader



Indigenous people have always had ways of teaching, learning and conducting research



A photograph showing three people sitting on a large, flat rock ledge, looking out over a vast, layered canyon landscape. The canyon has distinct horizontal rock strata and winding paths. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The people are seen from behind, and their shadows are cast on the rock they are sitting on.

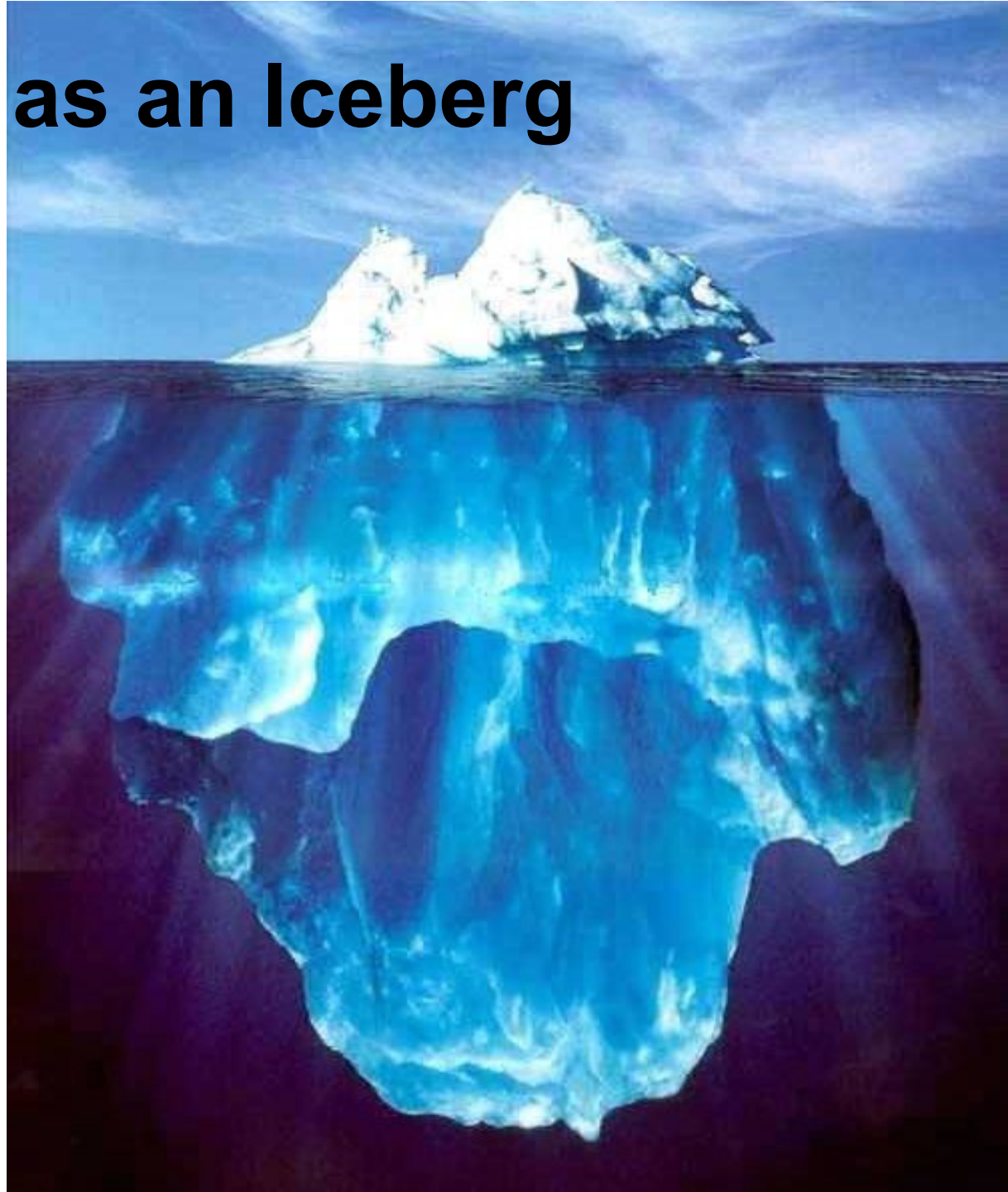
What is an Indigenist  
research paradigm,

and why do we need one?

# Culture as an Iceberg

Visible culture

Underlying  
philosophy



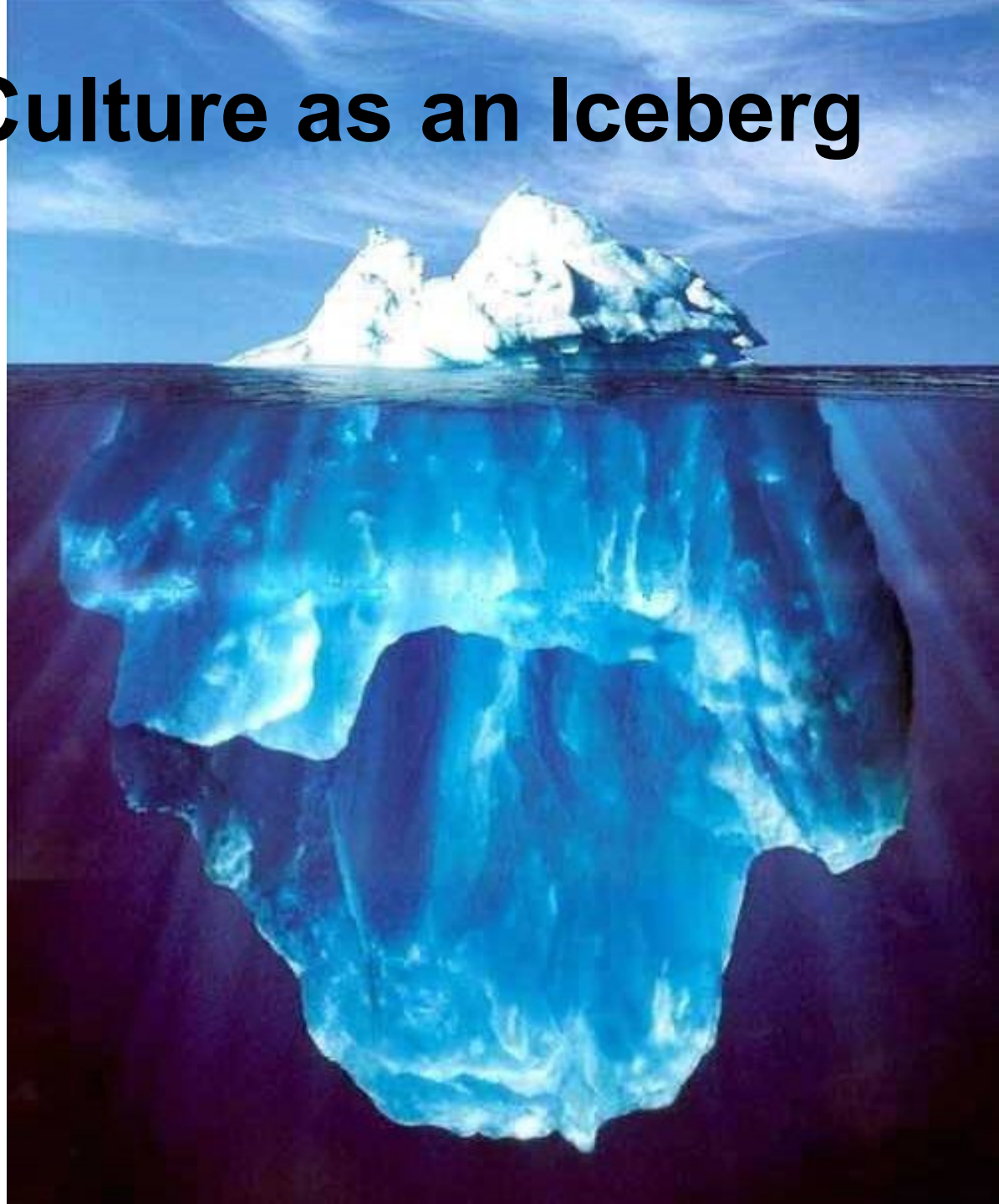


# Research Culture as an Iceberg

## Methods

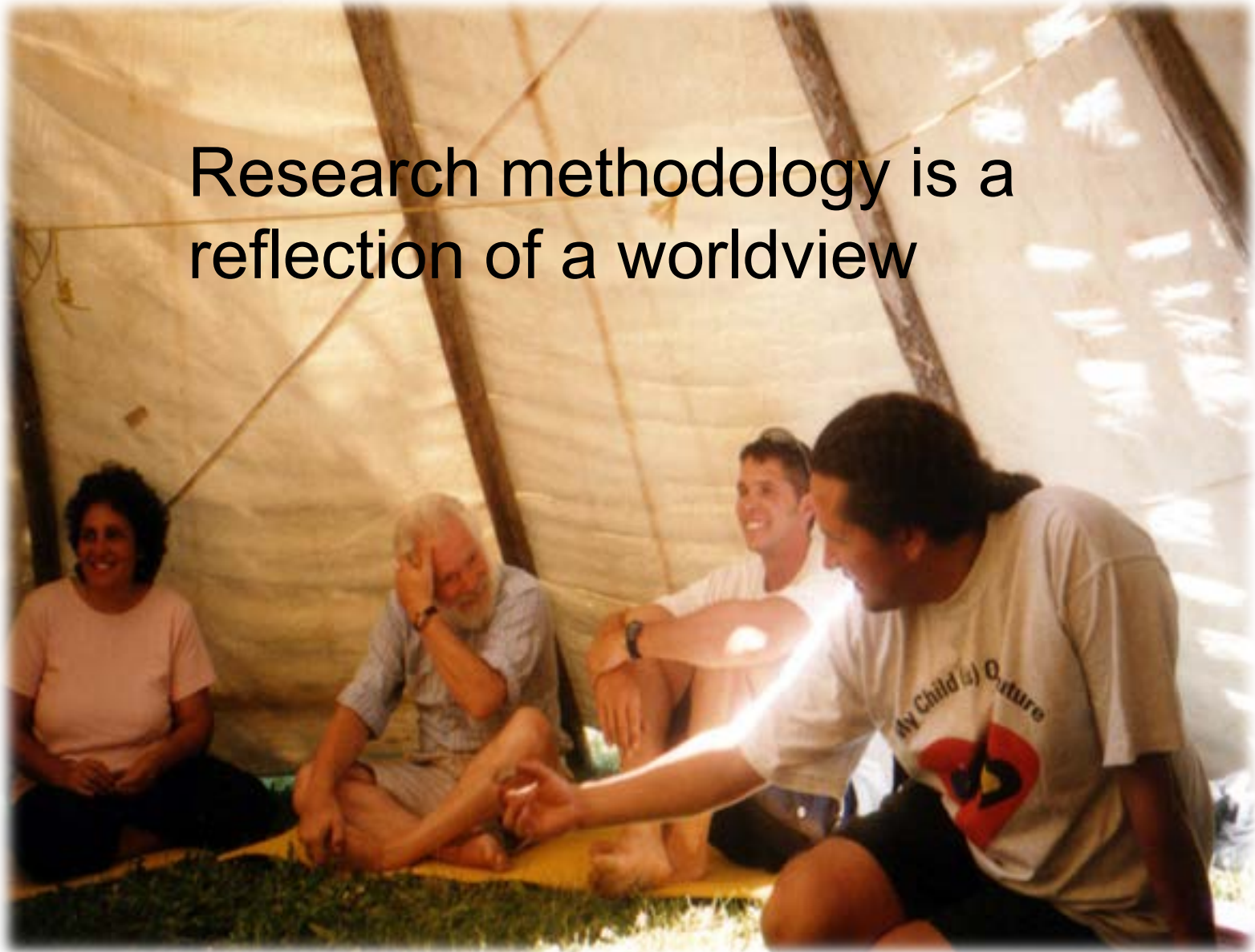
## Research Paradigm


- Nature of reality
- Ways of knowing
- Values
- Methodology – ways of acquiring knowledge





Research methodology is a reflection of a worldview





Building Indigenous  
Knowledge

requires  
an Indigenist Research  
Paradigm



Asserting our sovereignty includes reclaiming our intellectual traditions



Indigenous Knowledge  
has Agency



# Indigenist Research

Defining and  
articulating  
**OUR** knowledge

Operates upon  
an  
Indigenist  
paradigm



# Indigenous Research Paradigm

Relationality



Relational Accountability

# Relationality



Relationships ARE our reality

These relations make us who we are,  
our roles in relationships are our ways of  
being





Our ways of knowing  
are based upon relational epistemology



# Relational Accountability

We are accountable to  
all our relations





reciprocal  
respectful  
responsible

Our Ways of Being

# Why research is a ceremony

Reality is  
relationships

Space  
'between  
things' in  
relationships  
is sacred






Ceremony  
bridges this  
sacred space,  
and builds  
closer  
relationship

Research  
is a  
ceremony  
for building  
closer  
relationship  
with an idea



“If your research doesn’t  
change you,  
then you haven’t done it right”





Not a story until it's told

How to document it?







How I  
engage  
with the  
world  
around me

How we  
engage  
with  
Knowledge



Photos/pictures by:  
Helen Coleman  
Shawn Wilson  
Peggy Wilson  
Julius Wassenas



Ekosi

Bye



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