



## Nieuwsbrief 73

### Maart 2019

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#### What's cooking in prehistoric Alaska?

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*Marjolein Admiraal*



When an archaeologist thinks of pottery, an image of prehistoric farmers in a temperate climate zone is usually what comes to mind. Certainly not a hunter-gatherer culture living in the remotest areas of Alaska some 3.000 years ago. Nonetheless, prehistoric peoples all around the circumpolar north produced and used pottery for thousands of years. Until very recently no research had been done on the reasons why these Arctic peoples used pottery. This is however, a very interesting question because the Arctic environment and climate is not well-suited for pottery production. A lack of trees makes firing pottery difficult, and the cold winters and damp summers make drying the clay nearly impossible. One can only conclude that pottery must have been an important tool for these people, why else would they have gone through the considerable trouble of making and maintaining ceramic pots in this region?

Why was pottery used in prehistoric Alaska? This is the main research question raised in this lecture. To answer this question, it is important to know when pottery was introduced in the region and under what circumstances that happened, but even more so it is important to understand what the pottery was used for. To investigate the function of Alaskan pottery more than a hundred pots were tested by *organic residue analysis*, a method that allows for the molecular identification of ancient food residues. This makes it possible to see what people were cooking in prehistoric Alaska.

In this lecture PhD researcher Marjolein Admiraal of the University of Groningen Arctic Centre will explain how pottery came to be used in Alaska some 3.000 years ago. Furthermore, she will elaborate on the methods used for her research project and will share some preliminary results as well. Finally, she will share some exciting stories about her research travels to the Last Frontier.

<b>Wanneer</b>	25 februari 2019
<b>Hoe laat</b>	19:30 uur
<b>Waar</b>	Aweg 30, Groningen – ingang Herman Colleniusstraat
<b>Toegang</b>	€ 2,00; studenten € 1,00; studenten minor (Ant-)Arctische en Studies gratis

## Imaka-lezingen 2019

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<i>Datum</i>	<i>Titel van de lezing</i>
29 april	Thomas Lameris: <i>Klimaatverandering en trekvogels in de Arctis</i>
Extra: 6 mei	Francois Lévoisseur over <b>Paleo-Inuit hunting technology</b>
27 mei	Marije Tempel " <i>Arctic Frontiers/ Emerging Leaders</i> " en de <i>Arctische energiesector</i>
30 september	Erik Roe over Groenland
29 oktober	Nog niet bekend
25 november	Nog niet bekend

## Wetenswaardigheden en nieuws

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### *The extensive repertoire of bowhead whales*

Virtually all mammals use sound to communicate, but very few produce intricate songs. One of them is the [bowhead whale](#) (*Balaena mysticetus*), recently studied in the Fram Strait between Greenland and Svalbard. Using recordings, researchers noticed that the Spitsbergen bowheads used distinct song types for relatively short periods of time—a few months at most—and then changed them.

According to a recently released study, these bowhead whales produced more than 184 different song types over a three-year period, a level of diversity the study says is “rivalled only by a few species of songbirds.”

Lees meer en beluister: <https://arcticwwf.org/newsroom/the-circle/arctic-biodiversity/the-extensive-repertoire-of-bowhead-whales/>

### *The Qikiqtaaluk Deep Map*

Krakend ijs en keelgezing van Inuit. Klanken die bijna verleden tijd zijn, dus hoog tijd om die vast te leggen in een zinsbegoochelende klankcollage, vond de Canadese geluidskunstenaar Robin Minard.

In zijn *Qikiqtaaluk Deep Map* gaat hij op zoek naar sporen van de Inuit-cultuur op het schitterende Baffin Island (Qikiqtaaluk in Inuktitut) in het noordelijkste deel van het Canadese territorium Nunavut. Minard bivakkeerde in de stad Iqaluit en nam daar in de winter van 2012 en 2013 een indrukwekkende hoeveelheid geluiden op.

Dit klankkunstwerk is te beluisteren via: [https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/hoerstueck-ueber-das-leben-der-inuit-the-qikiqtaaluk-deep.3685.de.html?dram:article\\_id=430916](https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/hoerstueck-ueber-das-leben-der-inuit-the-qikiqtaaluk-deep.3685.de.html?dram:article_id=430916), en via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfLGI8Zce3E> (gepubliceerd op 26 april 2017).

## *Superschoon naar Antarctica*

Hoe reis je zo schoon mogelijk op Antarctica? Onder de noemer “Clean2Antarctica” gaan twee avonturiers deze uitdaging aan, in een wagen gemaakt uit afvalplastic en aangedreven door zonne-energie.

Het NWO-instituut voor subatomaire fysica Nikhef draagt bij aan deze expeditie door een HISPARC-detector te leveren en deze op het dak van het expeditievoertuig te bouwen. Met deze detector kunnen de reizigers kosmische straling met hoge energie meten op de zuidpool.

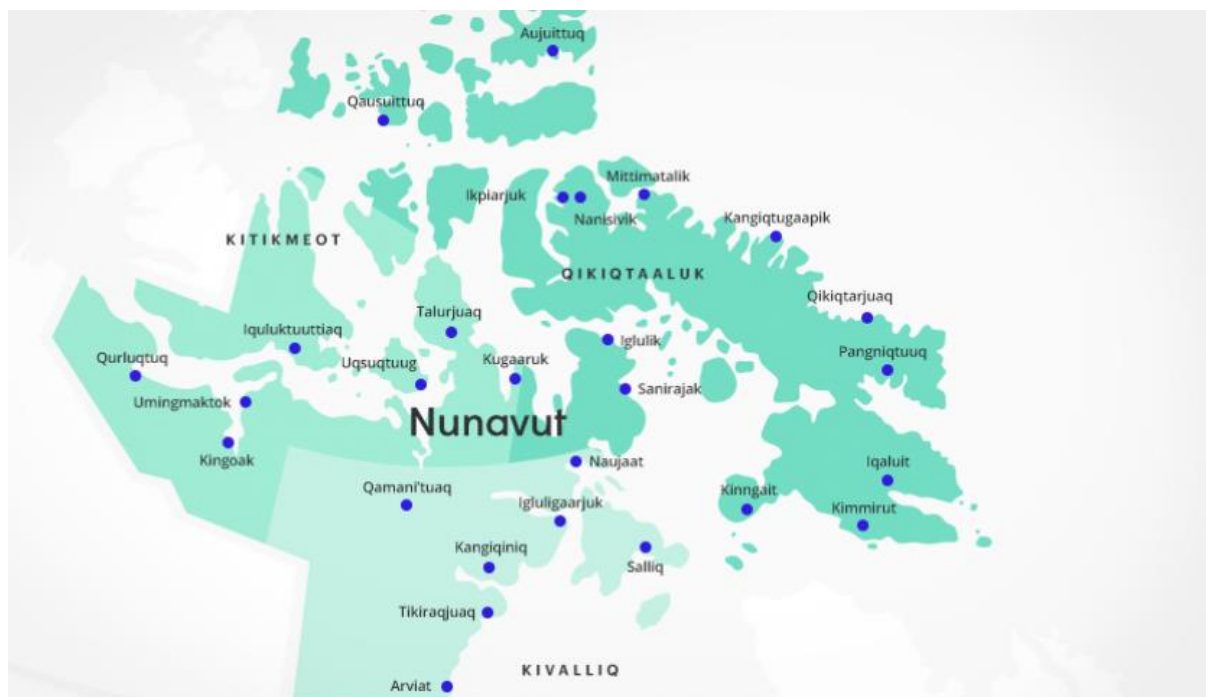
Het voertuig is gemaakt van gerecyclede petflessen en de bestuurders willen hiermee heen en terug rijden naar de zuidpool en op die manier aandacht vragen voor het toenemende probleem van plastic afval.

Kinderen spelen een grote rol in het project. Zij zullen immers bepalen of Antarctica ook na het aflopen van de Antarctic Treaty in 2048 schoon en onaangetast blijft. Samen met kinderen van basisscholen verzamelen de initiatiefnemers van Clean2Antarctica afvalplastic en laten zij hen ervaren hoe dit plastic een grondstof kan zijn.

Volg hun avontuur op [www.clean2antarctica.nl](http://www.clean2antarctica.nl)

## *Maps of Communities of Nunavut*

The current population of Nunavut is 33 330, 84% of which is Inuit. Of the 28 000 Inuit living in Nunavut, more than half live in the Qikiqtaaluk region, and nearly three-quarters are aged under 40.



*Nunavut is divided into three regions: Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot.*

The region of **Qikiqtaaluk**, also known as **Qikitani** and previously known as the region of Baffin, is made up of a multitude of islands and includes the Melville peninsula as well as Prince-de-Galles and Somerset islands in the north. **Iqaluit**, the capital of Nunavut, is located in this region.

The region of **Kivalliq** includes the area situated to the west of Hudson’s Bay, as well as the islands of Coats and Southampton. This region was named Keewatin before the creation of Nunavut in 1999. The regional capital of Kivalliq is **Rankin Inlet**.

The region of *Kitikmeot* consists of the areas to the South and East of Victoria Island and reaches all the way to the Boothia Peninsula, including King-William Island and the southern part of Prince-de-Galles. The regional capital of Kitikmeot is *Cambridge Bay*. Kijk voor meer informatie bij: <https://carrefournunavut.ca/en/live/maps-of-communities>

### *Huge cavity in Antarctic glacier signals rapid decay*



*Thwaites Glacier. Credit: NASA/OIB/Jeremy Harbeck*

A gigantic cavity – two-thirds the area of Manhattan and almost 1,000 feet (300 meters) tall - growing at the bottom of Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica is one of several disturbing discoveries reported in a new NASA-led study of the disintegrating glacier. The findings highlight the need for detailed observations of Antarctic glaciers' undersides in calculating how fast global sea levels will rise in response to climate change. – Lees het hele artikel van Carol Rasmussen (NASA's Earth Science News Team): <https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2838/huge-cavity-in-antarctic-glacier-signals-rapid-decay/> (gepubliceerd 30 januari 2019).

## Onderzoek

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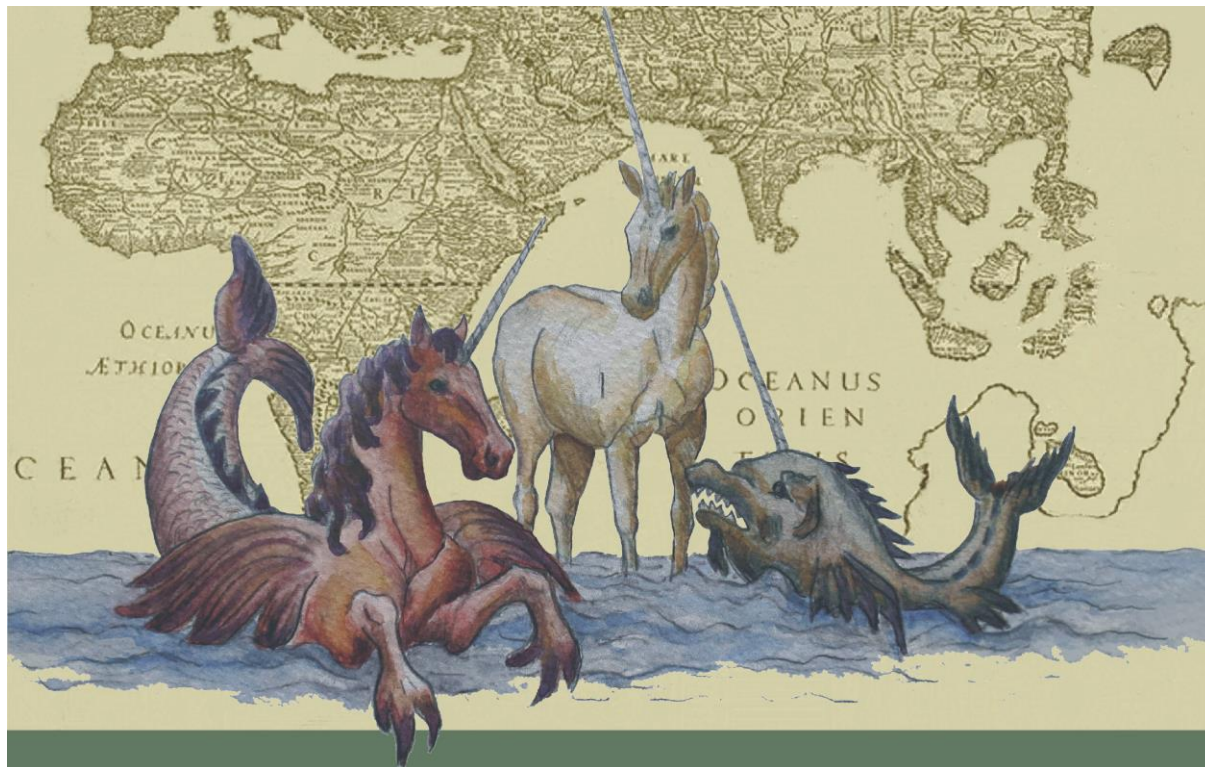
*De zee-eenhoorn in kaart gebracht. Zee-eenhoorns in woord en beeld in de middeleeuwen en vroegmoderne tijd*

Op 10 januari promoveerde Marjolein Zijlstra aan Rijksuniversiteit Leiden op het proefschrift met bovenstaande titel.

From the 16th century onwards, scholars searching for a satisfying explanation for the origin of the horn of the land-unicorn (which supposedly provided protection and cure for almost all ailments) considered the sea-unicorn as the carrier of this coveted horn. Until the 18th century, it was widely assumed that the sea-unicorn (regarded as the marine equivalent of the land-unicorn) inhabited the waters of distant, unknown territories worldwide. The animal was described in bestiaries, in the discourses of natural historians, doctors and apothecaries, and in the reports of sailors. For different reasons, they all contributed, each in their own way, to the myth of the animal, either reinforcing or



weakening it. In two different appearances - the equine sea-unicorn and the fish-like sea-unicorn - the animal even adorned nautical charts and was depicted in the visual arts. This study has provided the sea-unicorn with a unique, double identity and reveals that this animal played a much more significant role in the early modern period than solely to legitimize the declining belief in the existence of the land-unicorn. Its history is exemplary for the development of natural history research into fauna in the early modern period (including existing animals, animals people believed existed, and imaginary animals).



Het proefschrift is te downloaden en te lezen via:

<https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/67914>

Voor een recensie: <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2019/01/11/beruchte-zee-eenhoorn-bleek-narwal-a3402480>

## Websites

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*Website van de Nunavut Research Institute (NRI)*

The Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) is your gateway to scientific research in Nunavut! NRI is responsible for licensing research in the health, natural, and social science disciplines, as required under Nunavut's Scientists Act.

<https://www.nri.nu.ca/nunavut-research-institute-nri#>

*Willem Barentsz Pool Instituut:*

Het virtuele instituut van alle Nederlandse poolonderzoekers, een netwerk voor kennis, onderzoek en onderwijs over de Arctis en Antarctica: <http://www.wbpi.nl/>.

*Archief Imaka-Nieuwsbrieven:* <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/imaka/nieuwsbrieven/>