

# Year 1 Progress Meeting with Observers of “Seals, Stigma and Survival”

*Observer Progress Meeting*

*Presentation by the team of “Seals, Stigma and Survival”*

- *Principal Investigator and presenter: Danita Burke*
- *With support from secondary investigators: Erik Kielsen, Kristina Sveld, Helena Gonzales Lindberg, and Jim Winter*

*Date: January 26, 2026*



# Before we dig in...Special Thanks!

- Nordic Arctic Programme
- Innovation South Greenland
  - Sara Lundgaard Jensen
- Joan Mitchell Travel Award (Laurier Archives, Wilfrid Laurier University)
- University of Southern Denmark
  - Department of Political Science and Public Management and Center for War Studies
- NAMMCO
- Participants – many thanks for your contributions!



Traditional Newfoundland seal dinner - Photo taken by D.C. Burke; 2024

# Interviews and Archival Research



Burke at the Laurier Archives, March 2025

44 interviews and off the record conversations were completed

33 interview transcripts are approved for use on the project with an additional 4 pending approval (as of January 2026)

19 are hunters or have disclosed that they have hunted seals at some point.

4 interview transcripts are pending review (as of January 2026)



Photo taken by Sara Lundgaard Jensen; Nanortalik, Kalaallit Nunaat/Greenland, July 30, 2025

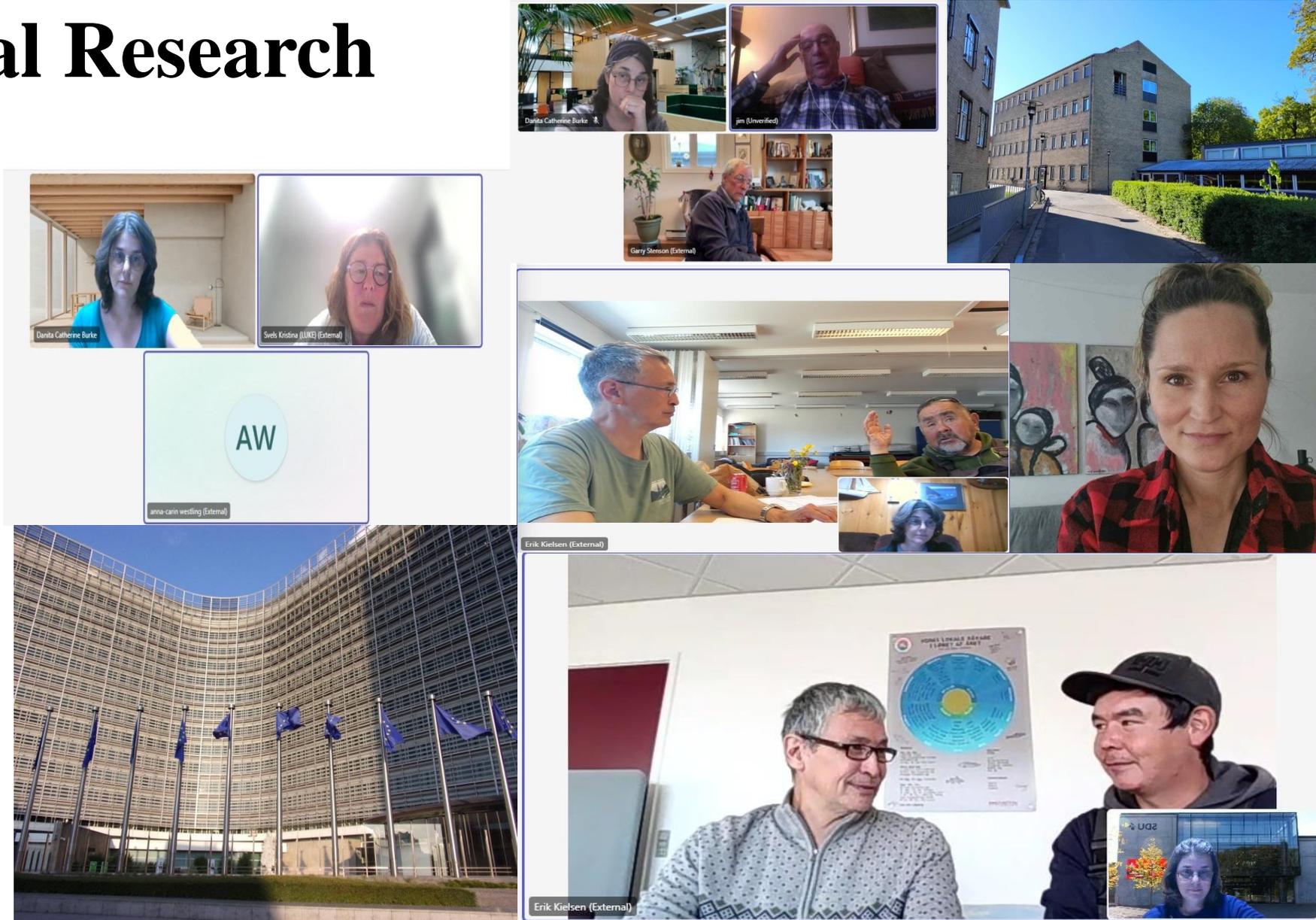
# Interviews and Archival Research

Laurier Archives in Waterloo, Canada

Interviews:

- Online
- Brussels, Belgium
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Narsaq, Nanortalik and Qaqortoq, Kalaallit Nunaat / Greenland

Visit to Carino Processing Limited, South Dildo, NL, Canada



# 2024 EU Public Consultations on the Fitness of its Regulations on the Trade in Seal Products



European Commission, Brussels, Belgium - June 2025

- You can find overview pieces on the website on views from Arctic states
- Preliminary statistics made available by the European commission website says that almost 83 percent of the feedback come from people based in France
- Statistics are suggestive that there is no public feedback from members of the Greenlandic public
- Now seeing more fishing stakeholders (e.g. companies and unions) speaking out publicly for change in the EU regulations, as well as hunters/fishers, Indigenous peoples, artisans, government departments and politicians in support of change to EU regulations.

# Outputs, Resources and Preliminary Findings



Photo taken by D.C. Burke 2013, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland

## Publications

- The Conversation
- Jim Winter Interview Series (Project Website)
- Discussion paper (SDU Arctic)
- Book (Routledge)
- 3 articles under review
- 2 pieces in progress (more information pending drafting)

## Resources

- Website (including interviews, fieldwork overviews, summaries, publication information and other resources)
  - <https://survivingsealingstigma.com/>
- Social media: BlueSky (@sealsandsurvival.bsky.social) and X (@SealsandStigma)
- WarPod podcast (project promotion)

## Preliminary Findings

- See draft report for summaries; information still being processed
- More information pending the publication of pieces under-review and in progress

# What's next

- Publications (3 under review 2 in progress)
- Year 2 application – Deadline February 2026
  - Including Year 1 preliminary reports
- Year 1 progress report finalization
  - Share on website
- IASH, Edinburgh book event online – February 27th
  - Please register to attend!
- Arctic Food Forum – March 2026 – Erik Kielsen representing the project in Sweden
- Pause in monthly email updates as of end of March 2026 and the end of Year 1 pending the results of the Year 2 application. An update will be provided on the application when available. The website will still be active in the meantime.
  - Reach out if you have any questions!

## **HEAR FROM YOU!**

Any thoughts on Year 1, the report, and what you found useful so far? We'd love to hear from you!



Photo taken by D.C. Burke;  
Kangerlussauq Lufthavn - 27 April 2018

**Thank you!**

**Up next: 2 minute break and then  
discussion and feedback**