



APRI Meeting, 8 – 9 November 2023, Vienna

Update:
Snow2School Project

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Outline

1. *Snow2School* project: Uummannaq (GL) & Eisenerz (A)
2. „Citizen Science“ at *Snow2School*
3. Current project status



Snow2School

An interdisciplinary approach for recording changes in snow
in Greenland and Austria (2023-2025)

www.snow2school.com

- **Background:** Snow is a key variable of climate change, making it and its associated impacts clearly visible. The changes in snow cover over the last 150 years are well documented for the Alps, whereas few measurements exist for Greenland.
- **Transdisciplinary, Citizen Science project:** close collaboration with two schools in Uummannaq (West Greenland) and Eisenerz (Styria, Austria)
- **The research goal is to quantitatively and qualitatively determine snow changes from a combination of measurements, photos, film, narratives and memories.**
 - 1) for being able to better quantify changes in snow conditions, we aim to develop and test a new reconstruction method based on photographs for Eisenerz. This method is then being applied to the example of Uummannaq.
 - 2) in order to create a better understanding of the impact of snow changes on the lives of people in Greenland and in Austria



Uummannaq, Greenland

Eisenerz, Austria



Project team:

Uni Graz: Wolfgang Schöner (PI), Jorrit van der Schot (PhD Student); Jacob Abermann (associated)

Uni Vienna: Peter Schweitzer (PI), Sophie Elixhauser (Senior Researcher), Theresa Gusenleitner (PhD Student)

...and the Junior Researchers from the two schools

Eisenerz, Austria



- Town in the Austrian county of Steiermark, 3.501 inhabitants
- Mountain climate; winter sport (Eisenerzer Ramsau)
- Mining history; historical centre of the Austrian iron road
- Strong depopulation; development projects, e.g. tourism development
- School „BORG Eisenerz“, upper level secondary school; students 14–18 years old



Uummannaq, Greenland

- Town & district in West Greenland (1.407/2.290 inhabitants)
- The town is located on an island with a distinctive, heart-shaped mountain (1175m high), after which the place is named
- Local economy based on fishing (fish plant), tourism
- School „Atuarfik Edvard Kruse“, ca. 200 pupils, grades 1 – 10; grades 9 & 10 include all pupils from the seven district villages

3. „Citizen Science“ at Snow2School

- Methods: interpretation and evaluation of past and present-day photographs and film recordings and associated narratives of the local population; collaborative snow measurements
- Junior researchers (students), teachers and researchers closely work together
- Two participating school classes of each school; students 14-18 years (A) and 11-16 years old (GL); integration of project themes into the curricula



Photo credit: Theresa Gusenleitner



Photo credit: Anna Burdinski

- Training in research methods (quantitative & qualitative): Setting up measuring stations; doing snow measurements; semistructured/narrative interviews; collecting photographs/films and doing photo elicitation; field analysis & comparative measurements
- Intercultural exchange: junior researchers meet online to exchange about the project theme, exchanging materials (e.g. photographs)
- Collaborative analysis of data (students, teachers, researchers)
- Joint presentation of project results/outputs; final exhibitions at the local museums in both A and GL

- The Eisenerz component is stronger than the Uummanaq component (more staff for the former)



Photo credit: Theresa Gusenleitner



Photo credit: Theresa Gusenleitner

Project Update: Recent/planned activities

- **Eisenerz**

- Introductory event took place this spring; several short visits
- Photo collection is starting now (guidelines have been shared)
- Workshop about methods and the relevance of snow in climatology, anthropology and the Ummannaq region took place this Monday
- Two more workshops and anthropological fieldwork are planned for autumn and winter
- Snow measuring station(s) will be put up soon

- **Ummannaq**

- Introductory event took place this spring
- Guidelines for photo collection will be shared before Christmas
- Fieldtrip is planned for April 2024: Workshop about methods and the meaning of snow; practical exercises; setting up a snow measuring station(s) together with the junior researchers

- ***Intercultural exchange***

- First online exchange of the junior researchers planned before Christmas

Thank you!

