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“Vanishing Knowledge Systems Among South Siberian Herders and Hunter-Gatherers”

Indigenous knowledge systems have much to teach us about fine-grained observations of climate and ecosystems. South Siberian peoples (e.g., Tuvan, Todzhu, Monchak) possess a wealth of technologies such as ecological calendars, taxonomies for domesticated animals, sound symbolic lexica for describing natural phenomena, and weather indicators. South Siberia lies at the edge of the permafrost zone and is experiencing some of the most drastic effects of global warming. At the same time, traditional knowledge systems are vanishing as the languages that contain them are under threat. What can we learn from ethnoclimatology and ethnoscience that may be relevant to our understanding of human adaptation to Siberian ecosystems and climate change?