Nathan Kettle is a post-doctoral fellow for IARC’s Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (ACCAP) and Alaska Climate Science Center (AK CSC). His research centers on supporting and evaluating use-inspired science to inform decision making. Dr. Kettle's current research projects focus on the role of social networks in increasing adaptive capacity, understanding decision thresholds, and risk-based scenario planning.

IARC’s Publications team interviewed Dr. Kettle about his scientific research, background, and personal interests.

**What might people find interesting about your research?**

Right now I’m studying how climate webinars can support knowledge to action networks across Alaska. There are a growing number of individuals and organizations working on climate-related research, decision making, and services in Alaska; however, there are several challenges in fostering interaction and providing usable data and information. These challenges are especially acute here, where individuals are separated by large geographic distances and there are significant time and resource constraints. We have found, through an evaluation of ACCAP’s ongoing monthly climate webinar series, that webinars provide a forum for the two-way transfer of knowledge between scientists and decision makers, building network connections and fostering cross-level linkages across different levels of governance. We also found that partnering with other boundary organizations to create in-person webinar viewings at remote locations and satellite sites increased the number and diversity of participants served, supported local networking within organizations, and reduced transaction costs for ACCAP and partnering boundary organizations by leveraging established, trusted networks and financial and human resources.

I’m also conducting a social network analysis (SNA) of climate research, applications, and services in Alaska. SNA projects are used to study the patterns, flows, and interactions between organizations and individuals. Relationships can be studied based on geographic location, organization, roles, interactions, and flows (information, resources), and network maps are often used to visualize network connections. My SNA project seeks to identify and map the network of climate research, applications, services, and adaptation in Alaska, identify how network structure relates to climate adaptation, and evaluate ACCAP and AK CSC program activities.

**What led you to study geography and climate change?**

I’ve always been interested in the outdoors, and in particular how humans interact with the natural world. In college, I discovered that geography provided a great lens to investigate nature–society relationships, natural hazards, risk perceptions and uncertainty, and how humans are adapting to changing social and environmental conditions. I became interested in climate change and the co-production of science in graduate school, when I became involved in a project that developed analytic–deliberative processes to integrate local and scientific knowledge to support climate-sensitive decisions in coastal communities.

**What interests do you have outside of your research?**

I love teaching and working with students. Outside of work, I enjoy growing and harvesting my own food. This fall and summer I enjoyed gardening, picking wild berries, dip netting salmon, and building a chicken coop. When it’s too cold to be outside, I love playing the piano, ballroom dancing, and lindy hop.