

Traditional Subsistence, Cooperation, and Sharing in Arctic Environments

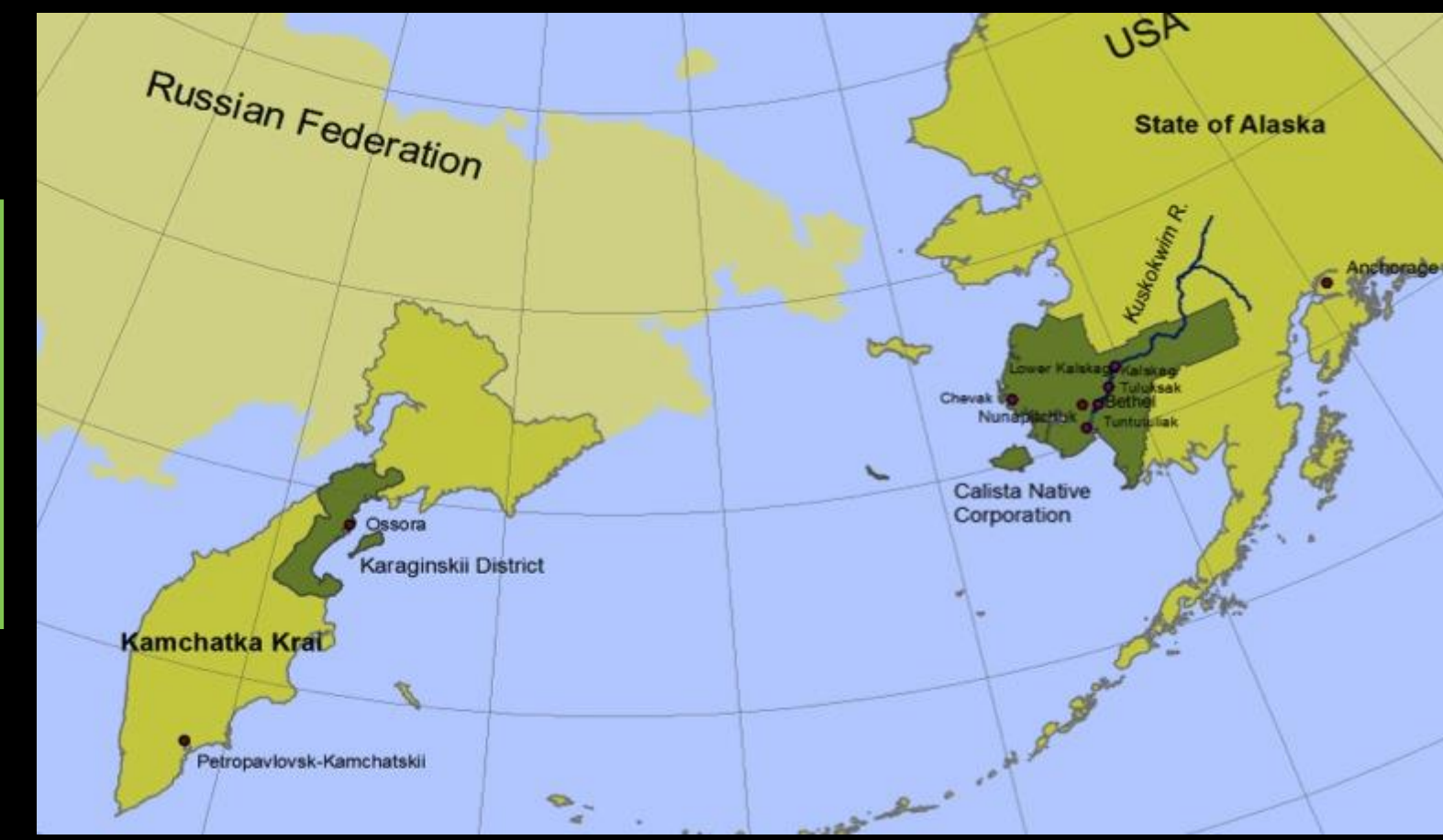


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PURPOSE:

- People living in the North have learned to survive in unpredictable Arctic environments.
- Cooperation is important → people work together to fish, hunt, herd reindeer, and gather wild foods.
- Sharing is important → people help those in need by giving food, access to equipment, money, and labor.
- Our project investigates how different factors enhance cooperation and sharing:
 - Environmental risks
 - Cultural norms, values, and traditions
- Project website: www.arcticresilience.org



ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH:

- Locations → Kamchatka Russia and Western Alaska
- Methods
 - (1) observe & participate in subsistence activities
 - (2) conduct interviews about cultural values.
- Results → sharing with people in need is an important part of culture.
 - "...whatever we catch, we're always told to share it with family or anyone that needs it."
 - "...sometimes nature doesn't provide; it doesn't give us meat. But there are other sources and where a person cannot catch, other people, other families, will come in to give."

ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING EXERCISES:

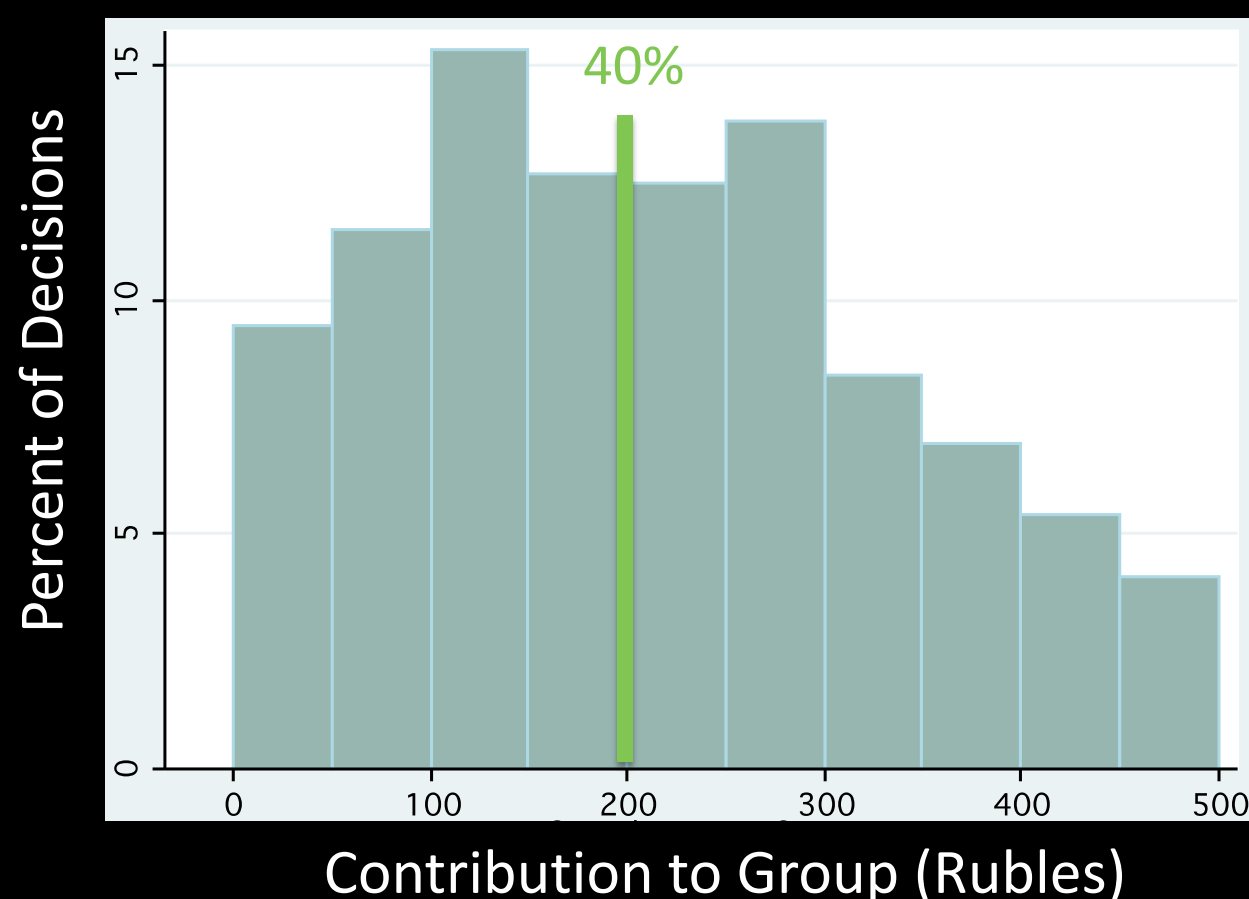
- Methods →
 - (1) exercises reflect choices one might make in harvesting or sharing subsistence resources
 - (2) participants earn cash based on individual choices and the decisions of other group members.
 - (3) researchers analyze how people solve cooperation and sharing dilemmas in risky and non-risky environments

DECISIONS AND DILEMMAS:

- Decision 1: How much time to contribute to a group activity versus an individual activity? →
- Dilemma 1: people achieve more through cooperation, but they must trust others.
- Decision 2: How many resources to share with other group members? →
- Dilemma 2: Sharing helps those in need, but is costly for those who provide help.

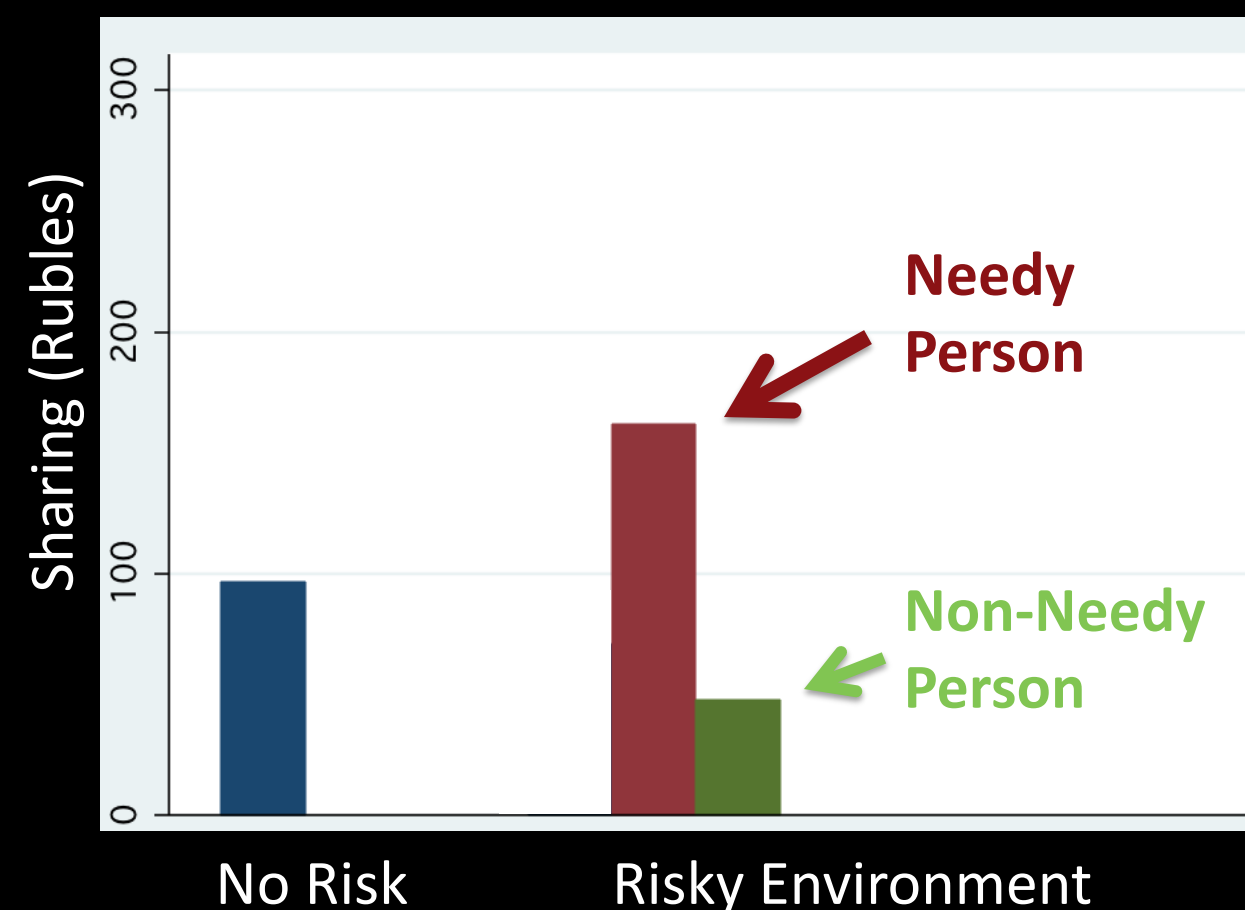
RESULT 1:

- People contribute about 40% to the group. Communication significantly improves cooperation.



RESULT 2:

- People share with those in need.



RESULT 3:

- People share more with those in need when the needy have cooperated and have been generous to others

