

Alexander King grew up near Seattle, Washington, USA with an acute sense of the indigenous people around him. He studied anthropology and linguistics at Reed College (BA 1991) and at the University of Virginia (MA, 1996 PhD, 2000), where he deepened his interest in the peoples of the North Pacific. He has been working with Koryak people in Kamchatka, Russia since his first trip in 1995. He found that Koryaks were eager and even adamant that he record their stories and document their language and the knowledge of the elders. An ELDP grant funded a major documentation expedition in 2013, which built upon many months of visiting and working with Koryak people in several villages the previous 15 years. Many of the people recorded in 2013 have since passed away, but King and his research partner Valentina Dedyk continue to work on the entextualization and analysis of over 180 hours of recorded material.