

# GET TO KNOW MICHAEL SNYDER



**MIGRATION IN HARMONY**  
Research Coordination Network

PHOTOGRAPHER

FILMMAKER

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST &

MIGRATION IN HARMONY RCN COLLABORATOR



**Michael O. Snyder** is a photographer, filmmaker, and environmental scientist who uses his combined knowledge of visual storytelling and conservation to create narratives that connect people to the other-than-human-world and drive social change. He is a Fellow at the Bertha Foundation, a Blue Earth Alliance Photographer, and the co-founder of two environmental organizations. He holds an MSc in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Through his production company, Interdependent Pictures, he has directed films in the Arctic, the Amazon, the Himalaya, and East Africa. His journalism work has been featured by outlets such as National Geographic, The Guardian, and the BBC. His films have been selected to over 40 festivals and have taken home numerous awards.

**We interviewed Mike to learn more about Arctic storytelling.**



# Why do **you** do what you **do**?



“We have an amazing opportunity to reshape the narrative about what it means to live well on this planet without destroying it. I work to empower researchers, organizations, and front-line communities with the storytelling tools that they need to share their visions for the future.”

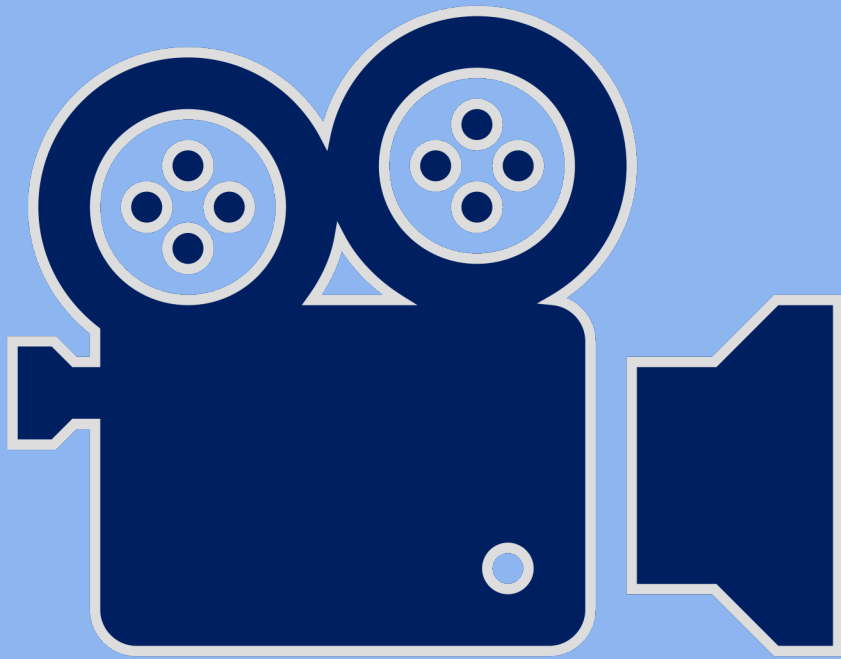
# What is something you are proud of?

"My recent project Into the Dark tells the story of a group of Arctic scientists on an expedition into the polar night. The project is about the surprising impact of light pollution in dark spaces. It was featured in National Geographic, Vox, Oceanographic Magazine, and film festivals across the US."

<https://www.interdependentpictures.org/intothedark>



What new area of research or **storytelling** are you most excited about, and why does this get you **excited**?



"For me, the most exciting development is something that I call "an ecosystem of storytelling". That is, a variety of storytelling tools, such as writing, photography, video, audio, graphic design, etc. that can be used together to tell the same story in different ways and reach different audiences. Today, we can produce these stories simultaneously."



We all **stand on the shoulders of giants**. Is there an individual(s) that our network members should check out that has inspired you?

"James Balog's work (e.g. Chasing Ice) is excellent!"



What are you most looking forward to in the **Migration in Harmony Research Coordination Network?**

“To support the ongoing efforts of people living and working at the frontlines of climate changes by helping to tell their stories. My hope is that these stories will help bring the resources needed to vulnerable communities while also sparking dialogues about what needs to be done to prevent the worst of climate change.”



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