

People convert to a religion for various reasons and the resilience of the newly created alliance with a religious entity is usually highly instable. Oftentimes such conversions are nominal in nature, might fade away in course of generational changes, and have no lasting affects on the people or their culture. For the Sugpiaq of Nanwalek, however, Russian Orthodoxy, essentially a foreign religious practice, became “native” (and Native) in the sense that it is incorporated into everyday Sugpiaq reality, and referred to as such by all in the community. Russian Orthodoxy