Abstract

In 2009, Greenland gained self-government, and the Greenlandic people became recognized as a national self-determined people. Much was subsequently said about Greenland's new status in the Arctic, less about what the Self-Government meant to the Greenlandic people and their life-modes. This PhD thesis examines the latter based on the life-mode analysis. The empirical field of study is limited to the catch and fisheries sector. The examination involves a diachronic analysis of the relationship between state formation process, modes of production and life-modes based on historical sources from colonial times to self-government, and a synchronous analysis based on an ethnological fieldwork in Greenland (2011-2013).

The dissertation shows how the Self-Government's strategy of foreign investments in both the fisheries and mining sector can be viewed as a means in the struggle to be recognized as a national self-determined entity and in the long term a state. However, this strategy changes the conditions for the life-modes that are allowed to reproduce their forms of existence in Greenland. A general observation is therefore that the struggle for independence is changing the conditions for the life-modes. The dissertation examines both why and how.