Ph.d.-forsvar – Hans Peder Kirkegaard

Tirsdag d. 8. december, 2026, kl. 13:00 vil Hans Peder Kirkegaard fra Institut for Samfund, Økonomi & Journalistik, Ilisimatusarfik forsvare sin ph.d.-afhandling "*Security Policy Conduct Lens: An Example From Greenland.*"

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

- Steven Arnfjord, Professor, Ilisimatusarfik
- Kira Vrist Rønn, Professor, Syddansk Universitet
- Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv, Professor, UiT the Arctic University of Norway

Vejledere:

- Rasmus Leander Nielsen, lektor, Institut for Samfund, Økonomi & Journalistik, Ilisimatusarfik
- Ulrik Pram Gad, Seniorforsker, Danish Institute for International Studies

Program:

Auditoriet på Campus Ilimmarfik, tirsdag d. 8. december, 2026 kl. 13:00 (grønlandsk tid)

- Indledning og velkomst ved forsvarsleder (max 10 min.)
- Præsentation af ph.d.-afhandling ved Hans Peder Kirkegaard (max 1 time)
- Pause (15 min)
- Bedømmelsesudvalget:
  - Kira Vrist Rønn (max 25 min.)
  - Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv (max 25 min.)
  - Steven Arnfjord (max 25 min.)
- Ex auditorio – Spørgsmål fra salen (max 15 min.)
- Forsvarshandlingen afsluttes
- Bedømmelsesudvalgets vurdering af forsvaret og reception

Forsvaret vil foregå på engelsk.

Bevillingen til ph.d.-projektet er givet af Forsvarsministeriet.

Vær opmærksom på, at dørene lukkes under forsvarsprocessen og at det her ikke vil være muligt at gå ind eller ud af auditoriet.

Forsvaret kan tilgås online via Teams Link

Kopier af afhandlingen kan findes på Ilisimatusarfiks bibliotek.

Resumé

This research focuses on how the Members of the **Parliament of Greenland's Foreign and Security Policy Committee** conduct Security Policy and the role of the Danish Intelligence Services in this regard. There are an increasing number of arenas where security policy is being invoked, i.e. the strategic competition of China in areas such as infrastructure, supply chains and others in NATO' strategic concept (NATO, 2022). Olsvig demonstrated how the motivation for increased civilian cooperation between Greenland and the U.S. is motivated by security from the American side (Olsvig, 2022). The most recent proposal for defense agreement by the Danish government has, besides military investment, focus on ensuring societal resilience and responding to non-military threats (Danish Ministry of Defense, 2023), and per the agreement from 2022, Government of Greenland will participate in the preparation for the Defense agreement (Forsvarsministeriet & Naalakkersuisut, 2022). The Governments of Greenland, Denmark and the Faroe Islands created a Contact Committee to coordinate the Kingdoms Foreign-, Security and Defense Policy in 2021 in an effort to better share information, coordination and dialogue on the issues which the Government of Denmark has the competencies (Statsministeriet, 2021). This landscape increasingly demands information from the intelligence community, where part of the purpose of the Contact Committee is to share information (Statsministeriet, 2021).

The research starts with the positioning within Hermeneutic Phenomenology and theoretically within Phenomenological Institutional Theory, followed by explanation of translation theory, conceptual framework, agency in International relations. This is followed by the literature review of Security Studies, in particular Security in the Arctic, and Intelligence literature, in particular *parliamentarization* of intelligence. From these backgrounds, the conceptual framework of "Security Policy Conduct Lense" is developed, as an analytical framework. This is followed by explaining the methods, including the data collection, which is followed by presentation of Data, then analysis and finally the conclusion.

Findings include the Paradox of information, where intelligence is considered as information, much the same way as information from other sources. The traditional understanding of the role of intelligence agencies is to support policy makers, but in parliaments they appear to only provide information among other information providers. The intelligences agencies own understanding of their role therefore does not align with the actual role they have for the Foreign and Security Policy Committee in the Parliament of Greenland, where they view themselves as advisor and providers of intelligence. They have been made into givers of information, whose messages carry the same weight as news reports.

Another finding is the parliamentarization of Security Policy, where the Parliament of Greenland is another example of a parliament wanting to participate in a country Foreign and Security Policy, a trend that is increasing across Europe, in particular driven by intelligence failures (such as the Iraq war in 2003), increasing conflicts, and the Great Power Competition. It is part of the finding of how the parliament of Greenland's behavior and attitude towards world event is consistent with other parliaments, namely that they are reacting to world events, and have been since the 1980's.