Greenland IPY Project

WHICH ROLE DO MEDIA PLAY FOR A YOUTH LIFE IN UPERNAVIK? MEDIA CULTURE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN UPERNAVIK.

On the basis of data from a quantitative and qualitative research conducted in 1997 in Upernavik, Sisimiut, Aasiaat, Qaqortoq, Illoqqortoormiut and Tasiilaq, we intend initially to focus on particularly Upernavik district in a follow-up study during 2005-06.

Since 1997 the media and IT area has undergone rapid and considerable changes. The idea of conducting media research using the same methods as we did in 1997 is 1) to trace the development over time as to media use and media habits among the young people and 2) to trace to which degree media plays a role for the target group, being aware of the limits of leisure possibilities for this group, especially in Upernavik.

As another theme we have chosen to focus on at Department of Greenlandic Language, Literature and Media, is children and youth in Greenland in a broad perspective. Likewise, there will be an overall theme and four sub aspects on the theme: for example ‘the paradigm shift in the view on children and youth in Greenland’, which will be presented through two research projects, These projects will be described and presented on different exhibitions:

- ‘Through own eyes I’ (2000) & ‘Through own eyes II’ (2003) – in both projects the informants has exposed their lives through disposable cameras and diaries delivered by us

In the run of this semester the students will be preparing these projects theoretically as well as practically. They will present this unique material, some of which they have gathered during last semester, i.e. ‘Through own eyes II.’

In order to give a historical perspective on the concept of youth in Greenland, which is undergoing a paradigm shift, in this country as well as in most of the (western) world, the exhibition will demonstrate – via photos from the national archives – a representation of the latest 25 years of children and youth life: “Through own eyes”.

The dominant paradigm until about 1980, which had a view on children and young people as ‘shapable’ objects, recipients, viewers, listeners, students has shifted to a view on children and young people in a new subject positioning, which recognize them as taking active part of their lives in a creative and a decision-making manner in the sake of democracy.

- Children of The Home Rule Government viewed through literature
- Reading habits project among Greenlandic children

This project includes students as participants in joint research projects.

The project is planned to be part of a multi-year and multi-disciplinary research effort (The Upernavik Project) into one well-defined region in Northwest Greenland: Upernavik municipality.
Prime investigators: Birgit Kleist Pedersen, associated professor & Jette Rygaard, associated professor; Department of Greenlandic Language, Literature and Media, Ilisimatusarfik.