

Greenland IPY Project***GL-IPY 006******TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE IN THE ARCTIC: PAST AND PRESENT***

The confrontation of the local arctic traditions with Christian culture has represented and still represents a fundamental challenge to the maintaining of cultural identity as expressed in religion, ethics, worldview and aesthetics (oral traditions, literature, drama, music and the visual arts). In the process of acculturation new forms of meaning emerge and are constantly negotiated. In Greenland, for instance, the appropriation of foreign musical forms reallocates the traditional functions of indigenous music while investing the former with a new meaning, examples of this to be seen from Lutheran as well Moravian song traditions. Another theme is the play with identities, which are invoked in the meeting between propagators of the Christian religion in various forms and their targets leading to a complex interchange of ideas, values, and aesthetic expressions as witnessed by literary evidence ranging from missionary reports, hymns, sermons to newspaper articles. This proposal invites contributions from various humanistic disciplines, e.g. religious studies, history of Christianity, anthropology, and aesthetics.

The project can be part of a multi-year and multi-disciplinary research effort (The Upernavik Project) into one well-defined region in Northwest Greenland: Upernavik municipality.

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