



CV - Steven Arnfjord

Professor, director of Ilisimatusarfik's Centre for Arctic Welfare

Contact information:

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Research profile

I am researching the conditions of Greenland's welfare society and focusing on social policy, poverty, disability, voluntarism, the profession, and homelessness. Years of research have led to published work on the sociological history of Greenland, the welfare system, social work, poverty, and social policy under Arctic conditions. On a community and governmental level, I am researching social policy and developing methodologies to tackle homelessness and increase inclusion. The work has led to large professional networks and seats on various professional councils. I am also the head of Ilisimatusarfik's Centre for Arctic Welfare; in addition, I teach and supervise BA, MA, and PhD students.

Current and previous positions

- 2025 – Professor, Director of Ilisimatusarfik's Centre for Arctic Welfare
- 2021 – 2025 Associate professor, Director of Ilisimatusarfik's Centre for Arctic Welfare
- 2017 – 2022 Head of Social Work (& Social Science 2018-2020), associate professor, Institute of Social Science, Economy & Journalism, University of Greenland
- 2017 – 2008 Assistant professor, postdoc, PhD student, Institute of Health Science, University of Greenland, College teacher (SPS, Ilulissat), Researcher in different social science projects

Education

- 2022 Research Management Diploma, Copenhagen Business School
- 2014 PhD in Arctic Society Studies, University of Greenland - Title: *Participatory action research with social workers – empowering Greenland's overlooked Profession* (written in Danish)
- 2008 Master level studies in social psychology (Unfinished), Roskilde University
- 2003 Master of Welfare Studies, cand. scient. soc, Roskilde University
- Shorter courses 2015 Teacher training for assistant professors (adjunktpædagogikum)
- 2015 Scientific Communication – by Videnskab.dk

Media activities (+200)

National and international media: Greenland's National Radio, Sermitsiaq, AG, Die Zeit, Le Monde, Canadian CBC, The Globe and Mail (Canada), Ritzaus Bureau, Asahi Shimbun (Japan), Finnish Mtv, Kristelig Dagblad, Politiken, Jyllands-Posten, TV2 News and Danish Radio.

Commissions of trust

- 2025 Member of the board of Koføeds Skole Nuuk - Greenland
- 2024 Member of the Committee for Arctic Research - Independent Research Fund Denmark (Danmarks Frie Forskningsråd)
- 2023 – 2027 Member of Allorfik's (the national center for addiction's) advisory board
- 2022 – 2020 Member of the review panel under the Danish Ministry of the higher Education and Science for the master thesis competition
- 2019 – 2027 Member of the national social security appeal board (Det Sociale Ankenævn) – second term
- 2020 – 2019 Member of the government of Greenland's advisory board on marginalization and homelessness

Supervision of 3 current PhD-students (2 main / 2 co-supervisor) 1 graduated

- 2025 – 2019 (Main supervisor) **Mille Schiermacher**, "Fødekæde til hjemløshed - mislykket migration blandt udsatte grønlandske unge", University of Greenland. **Mona Madsen**: "Ældre i eget hjem - ressourcer og lokalsamfund", University of Greenland. (Co-supervisor) **Anna Arntzen**: "Sosial mobilitet og bolig i Nuuk", University of Tromsø & **Josefine Stage**: "Stories about the school and the history of the school in Greenland", University of Aarhus (Graduated) **Mitdlarak Lennert**: "Greenland's Educational Structure", University of Greenland
- Member of assessment committee**
- 2024 PhD thesis by **Ivalu Seider**: "Trajectories, risk factors and risk patterns for suicide in Greenland, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- 2022 PhD thesis by **Astrid Andersen**: "En Huskekage fra Kolonialismens Genfærd – konfigurationer af vold, fortællelse og vidnesbyrd", Roskilde University, Denmark
- 2017 PhD thesis by **Runa Preeti Ísfeld** (2017): "Marriage Migrants to the Faroe Islands", Aalborg

Reviewing

Journals: The British Journal of Social Work, Action Research, Études INUIT Studies, Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, Quality in Ageing and Older Adults, International Journal of Circumpolar Health, Social Kritik, *Nordic Journal of Social Research*, KULT (Journal for Nordic postcolonial studies), Research & Change (Forskning & Forandring).

Publishers: Aalborg University Press, Aarhus University Press, Greenland University Press, University Press of South Denmark.

Public Talks +75 (last four years)

- 2025 Sep** – Keynote, Disability & vulnerability – countering a culture of silence – Tilioq conference, Nuuk
Jul – Social impact of Greenland's emergent cruise ship economy – Tourism Voice, York
Mar – Homelessness in Greenland - Council for the Socially Vulnerable Denmark
2024 May – “The Greenlandic public’s attitudes towards disability in an empowerment perspective” & “10 years of Greenlandic Homeless Research” Arctic Congress in Bodø
2023 November – Invited Speaker – “The Social Situation – on the margins of Nuuk” Aalborg Municipality
April – Faroese ministry of Social Affairs – on homelessness
2022 November – Guest lecture – University of Alaska Anchorage: “Homelessness in Greenland from a street-level perspective”, Alaska, United States
May – Invited panelist – The municipality of Copenhagen’s conference: “Om udsatte borgere fra Grønland” [on marginalized Greenlanders], Copenhagen

Selected list of +120 publications (please see full list of publications at website above)

- Arnfred, Steven (2025) *Activism and Research in Arctic Homelessness in Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland)* European Journal of Homelessness, 19,(1) (in press)
- Arnfred, Steven (august, 2025) *Socialpolitik i Grønland*. U Press. (in press)
- Christensen, J., Hedwig, T., Carraher, S., & Arnfred, S. (Red.). (2024). *Housing, homelessness and social policy in the urban North: Perspectives from Alaska, the Canadian North and Greenland*. University of Toronto Press.
- Arnfred, Steven, Daverkosen, Drude & Jonsson, Anna Ida (2024) Public attitudes towards people with disabilities in Greenland. *Polar Journal*, 14(1), 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2154896X.2024.2342109>
- Arnfred, Steven (2023) *Sociale problemer og socialpolitik i Grønland* I "Socialpolitik" af Jørgen Elm Larsen & Søren Juul, 5. Udgave, Hans Reitzels Forlag.
- Arnfred, S. (2022). Challenges for Greenland’s Social Policies: How We Meet the Call for Social and Political Awareness. In P. Stern (Red.), *The Inuit World* (1. udg.). Routledge.
- Arnfred, S. (2021). Greenland’s emerging social conscience – Voluntary food delivery to people experiencing homelessness in Nuuk. *Qualitative Social Work*, 20(1–2), 433–438. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473325020973209>
- Arnfred, S., & Hovgaard, G. (Red.). (2021). *Samfundsvidenskabelig praksis—Arktiske perspektiver*. Greenland University Press. - BOOK
- Arnfred, S. (2021). *Grønlandsk socialpolitik & sociale forhold—*. INUSSUK - Arktisk Forskningsjournal. <https://uk.uni.gl/media/7860243/inussuk-2-2021-groenlandsk-socialpolitik-og-sociale-forhold.pdf> - BOOK
- Priested Nielsen, H., Hayfield, E. A., & Arnfred, S. (2020). *Equality in isolated labour markets—Equal opportunities for men and women in geographically isolated labour markets in Læsø (DK), Suðuroy (FO), and Narsaq (GL)*. Nordic Council of Ministers. <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1462101/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Arnfred, S. (2019). Grønlandernes deltagelse i socialforskningen i Grønland. I O. Høiris, O. Marquardt, & G. Reimer (Red.), *Grønlandernes syn på Danmark*. Aarhus Universitetsforlag.
- Christensen, J., Arnfred, S., Carraher, S., & Hedwig, T. (2017). Homelessness across Alaska, the Canadian North and Greenland. *Arctic*, 70(4), 349–364. <https://doi.org/10.14430/arctic4680>
- Arnfred, S., & Andersen, J. (2017). PAR as a way of organizing a social workers union in Greenland. I C. Bradley (Red.), *Collaborative and Sustainable Learning for a Fairer World: Rhetoric or Reality*. Sydney University Press.

Research grants (+ 12 mio. Dkr selected list - last 5 years)

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| 520.000 Dkr | PI, Empowering outreach workers – 2025 Ministry of Children, Youth and Families |
| 1.500.000 Dkr | PI, Mapping homelessness in Greenland 2025 – Folketinget |
| 4.800.000 Dkr | PI, Homeless inclusion, training, and data analysis 2024 – Oak Foundation Denmark |
| 1.650.000 Dkr | A national disability study (co-pi) with National Institute of Public Health 2023 |
| 800.000 Dkr | PI, The Greenlandic Homeless Count 2022 – Ministry of Social Affairs |
| 140.000 Dkr. | Publication of the co-edited (with Gestur Hovgaard) volume: Samfundsvidenskabelig praksis - Arktiske perspektiver” in 2020 awarded by Ilisimatusarfik’s publication fund |