



## **PhD-course on Document analysis**

August 21-25, 2023, Nuuk, Ilisimatusarfik – University of Greenland

Documents are everywhere. To a large extent they define our lives, what we can do, where we can travel, and who we are. Political institutions are centered on document work, such as that of drawing up plans, evaluations, making policy resolutions, or even a new constitution. Documents come in the form of paper, but increasingly also in digital form. Some documents sit quietly in a bureaucrat's drawer or in an archive, but often documents are quite active. They move around, between offices and people, between those who work on and produce documents, and those who read, use, and sometimes fight against them. Documents may contain writing, but also other forms of expression, such as maps, photographs, video, budgets, and models. All of which can provide rich entrances to studying social and material worlds. Through their movements across sites and agencies, documents furthermore contribute to producing cases, be it on environmental issues or historical controversies. Sometimes documents produce scandals, other times they secure that formal procedures are followed and that processes are kept fair and neutral. Documents are places we can seek out, and they are tools for making things happen.

This course will introduce you to a series of different approaches to analyzing and working with documents. The role they play in contemporary politics and research and their significance to the manufacturing of the past. A key part of the course will be to introduce the analytical method of practice-oriented document analysis (Asdal and Reinertsen 2022). This is a qualitative method that can be applied to all sorts of documents and that can easily be used in combination with other methodological approaches such as interviews and observation.

Conducting document analysis, asking how documents come about, what wider apparatuses they are part of and help build, how they move, and what they do can as such add very interesting aspects to a research project. With this course you will be introduced to the theoretical foundations for practice-oriented document analysis, as well as to practical, analytical tools for developing document analyses in your own research, and to different sites and practices for producing documents in Kalaallit Nunaat. Through fieldtrips, discussions, lectures, and social activities we hope to engender a creative space for thinking about document analysis in a broad and interdisciplinary student group.

The course will be organized collectively by Inge Høst Seiding (Ilisimatusarfik) Tone Huse (The Arctic University of Norway) and Kristin Asdal (University of Oslo), assisted by Clement Scavenius Sonne-Schmidt (Ilisimatusarfik). Seiding, Huse and Asdal will also be lecturing in the course.

**Inge Høst Seiding** is Head of Institute at the Institute of Culture, Language & History and Associate Professor at Ilisimatusarfik. She has primarily done research within the fields of the colonial history of Greenland, archives and archival science in postcolonial contexts. She has worked for Nunatta Allagaateqarfia for a number of years, most recently as the Head of the Archives in 2016-2020. Her current research primarily takes place in the work package on comparative welfare history in Greenland, Northern Norway and Sweden in the project *IndHome: Indigenous Homemaking as Survivance – Homemaking as Cultural Resilience to the Effects of Colonisation and Assimilation* <https://site.nord.no/ihas/project-description/> . In addition, she is a part of the NordForsk funded network on *Decolonising Nordic Archives* working on a research agenda on the topics of displaced archives and archival law in a postcolonial context in the Nordic countries. Her former research on the colonial history and joint cultural heritage in the West Nordic countries was published as a co-author and co-editor in *Denmark and the New North Atlantic: Narratives and Memories in a Former Empire* (Aarhus University Press 2020)

**Tone Huse** is an associate professor at the Department of Archaeology, History, Religious Science and Theology, UiT The Arctic University of Norway. She is the leader of the UrbTrans research project (<https://en.uit.no/project/urbtrans>), which focuses on the geographies and materialities of urban politics, economies, and planning in Nuuk, Kalaallit Nunaat. The UrbTrans research group collaborates with researchers at Ilisimatusarfik, with Nunatta Allagaateqarfia and Nuutoqaq. Huse's work spans historical as well as contemporary research, is radically interdisciplinary, and committed to experimenting with new means for interacting with broad publics. Huse is the author of *Everyday Life in the Gentrifying City. On Displacement, Ethnic Privileging and the Right to Stay Put* (Ashgate 2014), and co-author (with Kristin Asdal) of *Nature Made Economy: Cod, Capital and the Great Economization of the Ocean* (MIT Press 2023, in press).

Professor **Kristin Asdal** is director of the TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at the University of Oslo. Researching at the intersection of STS and history Asdal has worked extensively on qualitative methods and how the ethnographic tradition in Science and Technology Studies can be combined with new practice-oriented approaches to working with documents and archival materials. She is the co-author of *Doing document analysis: A practice-oriented method* (Asdal og Reinertsen, SAGE Research Methods 2022) Empirically Kristin's research has been focusing on the role of political, scientific, and democratic procedures particularly within the field of the environment and the bioeconomy. She is currently researching the struggle against whaling and the role of the fisheries in Norwegian parliamentary history and is the PI of the research project ValueThreads [Value threads: Tracing the economy as technology and culture in an emerging 'value economy' - TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture \(uio.no\)](#) which examines valuation practices in economic and scientific practices. The project is a continuation of the ERC-project "The Good Economy: Biocapitalization and the Little tools of valuation" of which the up-coming book with Tone Huse is part: *Nature-Made Economy: Cod, Capital, and the Great Economization of the Ocean* (MIT Press 2023, in press).

#### **Small FAQ:**

- The course language will be English.
- The course will likely award around 5 ECTS (depending on the final program), plus another 5 ECTS for handing in a paper.
- It will unfortunately not be possible to participate online since the course will also consist of off-campus visits.
- The final program for the course will be shared with participants when ready.
- The course will be able to host approximately 20 participants.
- The course is free and open for all, but PHD Students from Ilisimatusarfik and UiT The Arctic University of Norway will have priority

*If you are interested in participating in this course, write an email to:  
Clement Scavenius Sonne-Schmidt: [clss@uni.gl](mailto:clss@uni.gl)*

Please register for the course, no later than: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

*For more information on the course write to:  
Tone Huse: [tone.huse@uit.no](mailto:tone.huse@uit.no)*