

Abstracts

Temanummer: Danske grænser

Denmark's borders – A Historical Overview

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Hundred years ago the actual Danish-German border was established following the two Schleswigian plebiscites of 1920. Since then the map of Denmark has not changed its contours, but this does not imply that the borders can be considered to be constant or following a rigid nation state definition. The so-called Rigsfællesskab, the connection between Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, demonstrates how the dynastic rights of the composite state still defines the borders of the present day realm. The inextricable connection between the nation state and the border towards Germany still gives that border a paramount position in the debate in society and in the rhetoric about borders in general. Still we need to be aware of the existence of other borders and the fact that the process of European integration has changed the meaning and importance of national borders – also in the Danish case.

How does the Danish North Pole continental shelf submission fit within the Kingdom of Denmark's Arctic Policy?

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The Arctic has become a steadily more important part of Danish foreign and security policy since the late '00s, as climate change and globalization have opened the region for human activity.

Recently, an increased American interest in the Arctic has created new diplomatic opportunities for the Kingdom of Denmark. At the same time, the Kingdom is being changed from within, especially because Greenland has gained enhanced autonomy, which furthers its drive for independence. This article examines how these external and domestic dynamics shape Danish Arctic policy and whether Denmark can find a course that simultaneously allows Copenhagen to satisfy the great powers and the Greenlandic Self Rule Government. This is examined through an analysis of the Kingdom of Denmark's most northern continental shelf claim, which includes the geographical North Pole. Externally, Denmark tries to pursue a double course, where it on the one hand tries to punish Russia for its aggression in Eastern Europe and elsewhere and deter further aggression, while simultaneously cooperating with Russia in the Arctic about issues, such as the continental shelf process. At the same time, the continental shelf process can be seen as an attempt to strengthen the Kingdom of Denmark domestically. This approach has its limitations because of the postcolonial relationship between Denmark and Greenland and post-Westphalian tendencies in Greenlandic political thinking.

The first twenty years of the Oresund Bridge – from a border remover to a border defender perspective

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The story of the Danish-Swedish border is very different today than it was a few years after the opening of the Øresund Bridge in 2000. Back then in the early 00s, the Danish-Swedish cross-border organizations promoted the narrative of a common Danish-Swedish region, in which the inhabitants had a common identity as Øresund citizens. However, it was two simpler narratives that became more prevalent – that it was cheap to settle in Sweden and that many young Swedes got / had work in the Danish stores. These narratives are part of the border remover narrative that I argue in this article was dominant in the '00s. The refugee crisis in 2015 became the start of a new narrative about the Danish-Swedish border – a border guard narrative. The refugee crisis affected the Danish-Swedish border and made it visible, both physically and mentally. We got border control and for a time also ID control. Since then, cross-border crime has further supported the new border guard narrative. Today, focus in Denmark is on what you do not want from Sweden, crime and bomb explosions.

Borderwork among Cross-Border Commuters

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Inspired by Chris Rumford's theory of border work, the article addresses the ways in which the Danish-German border is practiced by cross-border commuters, who live and work on different

sides of the border. In our ethnographic study, we found that the mundane ways of how cross-border commuters practice and live with borders correspond to a diversity of boundaries that are in constant dialogue with the commuters' everyday lives. In particular, the importance of mobility, and of movement more generally, constitute an essential foundation for living the border. Furthermore, national differences and identity formation and, not least, linguistic practice, form the basis for special ways of living across borders. It is our impression that borders and their consequences are best understood in the light of the practice in which they are being realized. These practices are never unequivocally geopolitically determined, but rather open up a constant negotiation of what borders are.

Youth exodus from rural Denmark? The story about how Cooperative Denmark became marginalized as Outskirt Denmark, and the contemporary outcomes hereof

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'Outskirt-Denmark' peaked in the media in 2010, but the concept still dominates. The transformation of 'small is good' into 'big is well done' was reinforced by the 2007 Municipal Reform, which contributed to marginalize rural areas. This also led to a 'modern bondage', mirrored in the many, permanent for sale signs. Mostly young people are moving to the larger cities, which in turn has created agglomeration problems. Back in time, it was almost the other way around. The cooperative movement became strong in the countryside, and political power was gained as well. But how is the 'internal border' today experienced by young, rural people? My interviews with 25 young emigrants from Lemvig municipality showed that Outskirt-Denmark for them did not have a neg-

ative sound. They appreciated the strong local communities and the mentality there. Many of them lived in 'Lemvig colonies' in the big cities and seriously considered moving back.

Privatization at any cost? Drivers and barriers to the privatization of DONG Energy 2001-2018

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Since the 1980s the Danish state has privatized public companies for an aggregate amount of around 80 billion DKK (2017 prices). The wish

to promote market efficiency, political ideology and EU directives aimed at increasing competition in the single market have been strong drivers of privatization. In this light, why did it take more than ten years to complete a partial privatization of the Danish public energy company DONG? John Kingdon's multiple streams approach is applied in a comprehensive document study to capture the forces, which from 2001 to 2018 put the privatization of DONG Energy on the political agenda and contributed towards delaying and changing the decision to privatize. The stepwise privatization was shaped by exogenous factors such as international competition, financial crisis and the investment bank Goldman Sachs as well as by the efforts of successive Danish governments, ministries and the leadership of DONG Energy to privatize.