

Dissertation



Johnny-Leo L. Jernsletten

On September 21st, 2007 Cand. polit. **Johnny-Leo L. Jernsletten** successfully defended his dissertation "*Med rett til å gjete...*" *Utfordringer og muligheter i Liehittjä konsesjonssameby* ["With a license to herd..."] Challenges and opportunities in Liehittjä consession Sami village], for the degree Dr. philos. at Uppsala university, Dept. of cultural anthropology and ethnology, Sweden.

His supervisor has been professor Hugh Beach. The evaluation committee consisted of professor Öje Danell, Swedish university of agricultural sciences, professor emeritus Louise Bäckman, Stockholm university and docent Jan Ovesen, Uppsala university. The opponent was professor emeritus Robert Paine, Memorial university of Newfoundland, Canada.

Thesis

Jernsletten, J.-L. 2007. "Med rett til å gjete...". *Utfordringer og muligheter i Liehittjä konsesjonssameby*. – *Dissertations in cultural anthropology, DICA* 9. 359pp. Institutionen för kulturanthropologi och etnologi, Uppsala universitet, Sweden. (Monography written in Norwegian). <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:uu:diva-8173>

Abstract: The dissertation focuses upon the unique reindeer management system in Kalix - and Torne valleys – the *concession reindeer management system* – small in territorial extent, yet highly significant in principle. It has an interesting historical development – a development that differs from the development within Lappmarken. Furthermore, a development of the legal framework connected to the concession reindeer management system has taken place, and the traditional "vêrdde"- relations have been revitalized and modernized, through the contract reindeer system. This system could also be described as an "embedded" management system.

The concept of the concession management system means that there exists a concession or permission to stay

year-around in the Kalix - and Torne valleys, in other words below the Lappmark border. The legal basis for the concession reindeer management system is connected to the Sami reindeer herding rights (Sw: renkötselsrätt) through a Sami concession holder, while the right to use this area, especially the right to use the summer pastures, is connected with the contract reindeer owners' private ownership of land. The concession reindeer management system could therefore be viewed as both a cultural cornerstone and an industry based upon a Sami and a local customary law and private property in Tornedalen. The concession, given from the government, is a time-limited permission (1-10 years) involving the Swedish government, one or several Sami concession holders, and indirectly, the private land owners (the contract reindeer owners).

One of the significant differences from the well known Sami reindeer management system further north and west of the concession areas, is the role of the contract reindeer owner as an ordinary reindeer herding member of the concession Sami village. The concession reindeer management system is of unique interest, because it offers an opportunity to look into a management system that, compared to other reindeer management systems, is different in history, in legal framework, and in local management practice. It offers solutions to many of the challenges the industry faces today.

Short biography

Jernsletten was born in 1967 in Fauske, Nordland county, northern Norway. He earned his master degree (hovedfag) in social anthropology/sami studies at the University of Tromsø in 1997 with a thesis about the reindeer industry in Nenets autonomous okrug, Northwest-Russia. He was the general manager at the Centre for Sami studies for five years (1997-2002) before he started his doctoral studies in 2003. Jernsletten has worked in a circumpolar perspective on reindeer husbandry and was the author of the Arctic council report *Sustainable reindeer husbandry* (2002) together with Konstantin Klokov, St. Petersburg State university.

Jernsletten is now working at the Institute of biology, University of Tromsø, as a researcher on the multi-disciplinary project *Eco-system Finnmark*, and he is also coordinating the SARVVIS program at the Centre for Sami studies.

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