

New book explores the diversity of life-modes in our contemporary era

***Life-Modes in a Changing World Order* challenges the widespread perception of our complex contemporary era as fluid and random, where social identity is seen as an individual project. Instead, the book shows how fundamentally different life-modes exist side by side and mutually influence each other while shaping our world.**

The book is based on extensive ethnographic fieldwork, primarily conducted in Denmark and China between 2013 and 2018. Through interviews and observations with families, businesses, and authorities, readers gain insight into how different people live, and how their lives have changed over the past half-century.

By examining local changes and the everyday lives of ordinary people in the welfare state and in the context of Denmark's efforts for recognition in the international state system, the authors document how life-modes and societies are dynamic and interconnected. Additionally, the authors compare Danish and Chinese fieldwork to show contrasting perceptions of what constitutes 'the good life' in the family, at work, in the community, and in society, viewed from a global perspective.

Life-Modes in a Changing World Order demonstrates how and why life-modes have changed from the Cold War to our contemporary era marked by neoliberal political economy, conflicts between great powers, and global challenges such as increasing inequality, climate change, and biodiversity loss. The book provides a deeper understanding of why some groups are marginalised while others are favored and benefited by shifting political agendas. It also marks a further development of the state and life-mode theory founded in the ethnological environment in Denmark in the 1980s.

The authors, Thomas Højrup and Niels Jul Nielsen, are experts in the field with extensive experience in ethnology. Thomas Højrup is a professor and was previously the head of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Copenhagen, a lecturer at the Danish Defence Academy, and a researcher at EUCIS. Niels Jul Nielsen is PhD and DPhil in European ethnology, is a lecturer at the Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, and has previously served as a curator at the Copenhagen Museum.

Life-Modes in a Changing World Order: The neoculturation of life-modes in a state system under transformation will be published as a three-volume work in English on May 27th by Nord Academic. The Saxo Institute will be hosting an open mini-seminar on the same day at 13.00, South Campus, Building 12, 3rd floor. Hardcover, 2,060 pages, illustrated, suggested retail price 699.95 DKK. Contact editor Rikke Kensinger at rk@gad.dk for more information.