PERSPECTIVES ON SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

PhD course, 7.5hp, Fall 2019

Course director: Professor Fredrik Tell

The course is mandatory for PhD students within
SUBS doctoral program; Stockholm Uppsala Business Studies, a joint effort between Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University, Stockholm School of Economics and The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

and

MIT; Swedish Research School of Management and IT
Aim of the course

The aim of the course is to introduce the students to science and research. The goal is that they after completing the course will have acquired knowledge about: the development of science and research, how science is organized, and management as a social science.

Themes

The course has three main themes: 1. History and philosophy of science and social science, 2. Business studies as social science, 3. Objectives and practices of research in management science.

Teaching

The course is conducted on a full time basis. Teaching is in English and consists of lectures and seminars. Attendance and active participation is required.

The teaching is concentrated to eight days. Please note that the participants are expected to have read the literature in advance. For two sessions there are also video recordings that need to be watched. In the annotated literature below, background readings refer to literature that serve as the foundations for lectures, while application literature is to be read as an input to group work and class discussions.

Assessment

To pass the course active participation is required as well as passing the final take-home exam.
Literature

History and philosophy of (social) science

Philosophy of Science
Background

Swedish translation:

Application I (for discussion 29 August)

For an interview with Francis Crick and James Watson, see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGBDFq5Kaw0

Application II (for discussion 30 August)
Distributed in class.

Scientific paradigms and progress
Background (for lecture 5 September)

Swedish translation:
Kuhn, Thomas (2009), De vetenskapliga revolutionernas struktur, 2:a upplagan, Bokförlaget Thales, ISBN: 9789172350779


Application III (for discussion 5 September)


Philosophy of Social Science
Background (for lecture 6 September)
Application IV (for discussion 6 September)

Questions, models and explanation in social science
Background (for lecture 12 September)

Application V (for discussion 12 September)
Selected introductions to doctoral dissertations in management (to be distributed)

Business studies as social science

Historical explanation in business studies
Background (for lecture 13 September)
Raff, Daniel (2019), ‘Business History Among the Social Sciences’, manuscript-in-progress, excerpts (available on PingPong)

Application VI (for discussion 13 September)
Pentland, Brian (2011). ‘The foundation is solid, if you know where to look: Comment on Felin and Foss’. Journal of Institutional Economics, 7(2), 279-293
Business studies as a scientific field

Background (for lecture 19 September)
Engwall, Lars (2009), Mercury Meets Minerva, Second extended edition, Stockholm: The Economic Research Institute, (362 s.) Copies are available for purchase at Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University contact golondrian.janke@ek.uu.se


For this session the participants are expected to view a film on the early years of the Department of Business Studies available at: http://media.medfarm.uu.se/flvplayer/vagenhit/video1 (Video film with English subtitles).

Application VII (for discussion 19 September)
Distributed in class.

Objectives and boundaries of research in business studies

Background (for lecture 20 September)

Application VIII (for discussion 20 September)

For this session the participants are expected to watch the DRUID 2017 Debate (between John Cantwell, Tina Ambos, Rita McGrath, and Andy Van de Ven) on Practical Engagement and Research from the DRUID conference at Stern School of Business, New York University, 13 June 2017: https://vimeo.com/224049892

If you are interested in digging deeper, see lectures by Andy van de Ven on the topics covered in the book: https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/avandeven/course-websites/mgmt-8101-theory-building-and-research-design
Regarding course literature:

☐ Course participants are responsible to make sure they have access to books and journal articles (available through library sources). Book chapters and unpublished manuscripts are distributed as pdf files by the course administration.

☐ You are expected to have read the course literature and videos before the session and be prepared to discuss it.

☐ Feel free to buy earlier editions of the books above. Perhaps they are not as updated, but they will be sufficient for our discussions.

☐ Check used bookstores for books. Amazon usually provides, but also alibris.com and bokborsen.se. The library and more senior colleagues may also be in possession of the literature.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Th 29/8</td>
<td>10.15-12.30</td>
<td>B153</td>
<td>Course introduction: What is scientific research, anyway? (Fredrik Tell)</td>
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<td>12.30-15.00</td>
<td>A156</td>
<td>Group work: Scientific inquiry and knowledge generation</td>
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<td>15.30-17.00</td>
<td>B153</td>
<td>Discussion: Scientific inquiry</td>
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<td>Fr 30/8</td>
<td>9.15-11.00</td>
<td>B153</td>
<td>Lecture: Philosophy of Science (Fredrik Tell)</td>
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<td>Group work: Key ideas in philosophy of science</td>
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<td>13.00-15.00</td>
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<td>Discussion: Key ideas in the philosophy of science</td>
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<td>Th 5/9</td>
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<td>Lecture: Scientific progress (Fredrik Tell)</td>
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<td>Group work: Paradigmatic debate</td>
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<td>Discussion: Paradigmatic debate</td>
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<td>Fr 6/9</td>
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<td>Lecture: Philosophy of Social Science (Fredrik Tell)</td>
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<td>Group work: Problems of social science</td>
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<td>13.00-15.00</td>
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<td>Seminar: Problems of social science</td>
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<td>Th 12/9</td>
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<td>Lecture: On models and explanations in social science (Fredrik Tell)</td>
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<td>Group work: What is an explanation in social science?</td>
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<td>Seminar: What is an explanation in social science?</td>
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<td>Lecture: Historical explanation in business studies (Daniel Raff)</td>
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<td>Lecture: Business studies as a scientific field (Lars Engwall)</td>
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<td>Fri 20/9</td>
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<td>Lecture: Objectives and boundaries of management research (Fredrik Tell)</td>
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<td>11.30-13.45</td>
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<td>Group work: Management science: How do we do it and who is it for?</td>
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<td>14.00-15.30</td>
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<td>Seminar: Management science: How do we do it and who is it for?</td>
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<td>15.30-17.00</td>
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<td>Final discussion</td>
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<td>Thu 26/9</td>
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<td>Last date to submit take-home exam (to be uploaded on pingpong, instructions will be sent out)</td>
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The course is given at Ekonomikum, Kyrkogårdsgatan 10C, Uppsala:
Uppsala: web map

State-procured hotels in Uppsala:
http://www.hotellstella.se/
www.radissonblu.com/hotel-uppsala
www.hotellcentralstation.se Hotell & Vandrarhem Centralstation
https://www.nordicchoicehotels.se/hotell/sverige/uppsala/clarion-hotel-gillet/
http://citystayuppsala.se/
www.akademihotellet.se
https://www.scandichotels.com/uplandia