Philosophy of science for PhD students in social science

SCHEDULE SPRING 2022

Lecture 1: truth and knowledge
Thursday 22-03-03 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM
No readings.

Lecture 2: philosophical problems in social science
Friday 22-03-04 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM
No readings.

Seminar 1: naturalism versus interpretivism
Monday 22-03-07 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM
Clifford Geertz (1973). The Interpretation of Cultures. New York: Basic Books (Chapter 1, ”Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture”, pp. 3-30).

Seminar 2: collectivism versus individualism
Thursday 22-03-10 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM
http://www.jstor.org/stable/685790
Seminar 3: functional explanation in social science
Monday 22-03-14 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM

Seminar 4: social construction
Thursday 22-03-17 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM

Seminar 5: social norms and norm change
Monday 22-03-21 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM

Seminar 6: social science, gender and feminism
Thursday 22-03-24 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM

Seminar 7: evidence-based policy and practice
Monday 22-03-28 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM
Seminar 8: postmodernism, poststructuralism and “theory”
Thursday 22-03-31 10.15-12.00 HE109 Hum PM


Hum = Humanisthuset PM = Peter Melander

All of the course literature will be available as pdf:s on the course’s Canvas page.

The examination consists of a take home exam in which the student is asked to discuss some of the issues and concepts that have been covered in the course and relate them to his or her discipline (sociology, political science, economics etc.) or his or her own research project. The student is expected to submit between 3 000 and 6 000 words no later than Sunday 24 april 23:59 on the course’s Canvas page.