

Philosophy of science for PhD students in social science

SCHEDULE SPRING 2024

Lecture 1: truth and knowledge

Thursday 24-02-29 10.15-12.00 HUM.H.119

No readings.

Lecture 2: philosophical problems in social science

Friday 24-03-01 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118

No readings.

Seminar 1: naturalism versus interpretivism

Monday 24-03-04 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118

Claude Lévi-Strauss (1958/2003, 1963/2003): "Structural analysis in linguistics and anthropology", "Language and the analysis of social laws". In Gerard Delanty & Piet Strydom (eds.): *Philosophies of Social Science: The Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2003, pp. 330-339.

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: holism versus individualism

Thursday 24-03-07 10.15-12.00 HUM.H.119

Emile Durkheim (1895/1982). *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press (Chapter 1, "What is a Social Fact?", pp. 50-59).

Steven Lukes (1968). "Methodological Individualism Reconsidered". *British Journal of Sociology* 19, pp. 119-129.

Martin Van Hees (1997). "Explaining Institutions: A Defence of Reductionism". *European Journal of Political Research* 32, pp. 51-69.

Seminar 3: functional explanation in social science

Monday 24-03-11 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118

Jon Elster (1983/1994). "Functional Explanation: In Social Science". In Michael Martin & Lee C. McIntyre (eds.): *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1994, pp. 403-414.

Seminar 4: social construction

Thursday 24-03-14 10.15-12.00 HUM.H.119

Ian Hacking (1999). *The Social Construction of What?* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press (Chapter 1, "Why Ask What?", pp. 1-34).

Seminar 5: social norms and norm change

Monday 24-03-18 10.15-12.00 HUM.H.119

Christina Bicchieri (2014). "Norms, Conventions and the Power of Expectations". In Nancy Cartwright & Elenora Montuschi (eds.): *Philosophy of Social Science: A New Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 208-229.

Christina Bicchieri & Hugo Mercier (2014): "Norms and Beliefs: How Change Occurs". *The Jerusalem Philosophical Quarterly*, 63, pp. 60-82.

Seminar 6: social science, gender and feminism

Thursday 24-03-21 10.15-12.00 HUM.F.231

Janet Kourany (2012). "Feminist critiques: Harding and Longino". In James Robert Brown (ed.): *Philosophy of Science: The Key Thinkers*. London: Continuum, 2012, pp. 236-254

Noretta Kourtge (2012). "Critical perspectives on feminist epistemology". In S. N. Hesse-Biber (ed.): *Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Praxis, Second Edition* (pp. 119-134). Los Angeles: Sage.

Seminar 7: evidence-based policy and practice

Monday 24-03-25 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118

Eileen Munro (2014). "Evidence-Based Policy". In Nancy Cartwright & Elenora Montuschi (eds.): *Philosophy of Social Science: A New Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 48-67.

Seminar 8: postmodernism, poststructuralism and "theory"

Wednesday 24-03-27 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118

Jonathan Culler (2011). *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 1, "What is theory?", pp. 1-18).

Andrew Scull (2007). Scholarship of fools: The frail foundations of Foucault's monument". *The Times Literary Supplement*, March 23, 2007, pp. 3-4.

John R. Searle (1983). "The world turned upside down". *The New York Review of Books*, October 27, 1983, pp. 74-79.

Camille Paglia (2013). "Scholars in Bondage: Dogma dominates studies of kink". *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 20, 2013. Available at <http://chronicle.com/article/Scholars-in-Bondage/139251/>

All of the **readings** (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 21 april 23:59 on the course's Canvas page.