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
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

Seminar 3: functional explanation in social science
Monday 24-03-11 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118

**Seminar 4: social construction**
Thursday 24-03-14 10.15-12.00 HUM.H.119

**Seminar 5: social norms and norm change**
Monday 24-03-18 10.15-12.00 HUM.H.119

**Seminar 6: social science, gender and feminism**
Thursday 24-03-21 10.15-12.00 HUM.F.231

**Seminar 7: evidence-based policy and practice**
Monday 24-03-25 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118

**Seminar 8: postmodernism, poststructuralism and “theory”**
Wednesday 24-03-27 10.15-12.00 HUM.J.118


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.