

International PhD Courses Lund University, Sweden 2024

Join us for one or two international PhD courses at Lund University, spring 2024. Our intensive courses offer a combination of lectures, seminars, and workshops for students to learn and receive guided feedback on their PhD projects from leading scholars. The first course covers critical management studies, and the second course engages in reflexive and creative methodologies. These courses are aimed to be of interest to participants from across the social sciences.

Students can apply for one or both courses. Applications are due March 31, 2024.

The cost of each course is 5.000 SEK. VAT (25%) will also be charged to students from outside Sweden and Swedish students paying for the course personally.

Note: non-exempt students attending two courses will be charged a reduced rate of 7.500 SEK (plus VAT).

Critical Management Studies (7.5 credits)

Organized by: Roland Paulsen

13–17 May, 2024

30 hours of teaching, lecturing, and seminars

Cost: The course fee is 5.000 SEK. VAT (25%) will also be charged to students from outside Sweden and Swedish students paying for the course personally.

Many researchers in social science and organization studies assume that companies and other organizations work for ‘the common good’, that their outputs make things better for customers, employees, owners and the general public. Organizational structures and practices are thought to accomplish organizational objectives and serve stakeholders. In short, organizational and institutional arrangements are seen as fair and unproblematic. In contrast, studies within critical management problematize the status quo. They focus on the ‘darker’ side of business and organizations.

The word ‘critical’ has, of course, a number of meanings. All research is critical in the sense that the researcher is observant and intolerant of weak argumentation, speculative statements, erroneous conclusions etc. In Critical Management Studies, ‘critical’ is understood as the stimulation of a more extensive reflection upon established ideas, ideologies and institutions in order to encourage liberation or at least reduce repression. Critical theory is referred to as a tradition of social science, including the Frankfurt School and related authors and lines of thought such as Weber, Marx, Foucault, poststructuralism, certain versions of feminism and so on. Critical Management Studies is a large an expanding research orientation, prominent in organization studies and sociology but also to some extent in accounting, marketing and strategy.

The PhD course aims to give an advanced introduction to the theoretical frameworks, research interests, methodologies and discussions in Critical Management Studies. The course will also give examples of critical studies and explores how critical research can be produced. Much space will be given for participants to present and get feedback on their ideas and projects.

Content

- Theoretical roots of CMS such as critical theory, post-structuralism, labour process theory, critical realism, post-colonialism and feminism
- Methodological issues in doing CMS
- Applying CMS in fields such as leadership and identity
- CMS and philosophy
- Performativity and non-performativity in CMS
- Ethics, aesthetics and CMS
- Publishing in CMS and the rise of 'excellence'

Examination

Written paper based on student's own project (max 4.000 words). Deadline: end of August, 2024.

Literature

- Alvesson, Bridgeman & Willmott. Handbook of Critical Management Studies. Oxford 2009.
- Jeanes E. and Huzzard T. (eds) Critical Management Research – Reflections from the Field. Sage 2014.

And a selection of articles.

Teachers

Roland Paulsen (Lund University) will supervise the course. Other teachers will include Mats Alvesson (Lund University), Yiannis Gabriel (University of Bath), Paula Mulinari (Malmö University) and Dan Kärreman (Lund University and Copenhagen Business School). More teachers will be announced.

Application

Applicants should submit a short bio on their motivation for joining the course as well as a short description of their own research project (the latter will be distributed to other students of the course). Please send this document along with the completed [application form](#) to Roland Paulsen (roland.paulsen@fek.lu.se) by March 31, 2024, for provisional acceptance. (We can give earlier notification of provisional acceptance if needed).

Students who are provisionally accepted will be forwarded payment details. The course fee needs to be paid by April 14, 2024 to ensure a spot in the course. In certain cases, such as when students come from partner universities, course fees may be waived.

Reflexive and Creative Methodology (7.5 credits)

Organized by: Roland Paulsen and Dan Kärreman

20–24 May, 2024

30 hours of lectures and seminars

Cost: The course fee is 5.000 SEK. VAT (25%) will also be charged to students from outside Sweden and Swedish students paying for the course personally.

In principle, there are two major routes to producing credible research texts. One, indicating rationality, is to follow rules and procedures. The other is to journey competently and innovatively with the interpretive, political, linguistic, theory-data fused nature of the research process. This course posits that an awareness of the various elements that influence the research process and results is crucial. Students are encouraged to develop reflexivity both as a way to avoid traps and pitfalls and as a necessary measure for knowing how to engage creatively with the various elements in the research process. The ambition is to produce more interesting and unexpected research results through re-thinking conventions and opening up for more varied and challenging uses of research questions, fieldwork practices, modes of interpretations and styles of writing.

The course aims to develop the participants' skills in conducting qualitative research through exploring how various ideas on reflexivity can increase the quality and creativity of investigations. In particular, the course emphasizes how the process of research can lead to new ideas and theoretical results. The course is intended for PhD students that have good knowledge of the basics of qualitative research (i.e., participated at introductory PhD courses in qualitative methodology) and junior faculty members in management and other social sciences.

Content

- The art and technicalities of qualitative research
- Differing viewpoints: Reflexivity, pluralism and conflict
- Combining research perspectives
- Constructing (innovative) research questions
- Doing reflexive interviews
- Representations in research
- Interpretations and re-interpretations: perspective-seeing as an ideal
- Theory development in empirical work: the mystery metaphor
- The research process: alternative metaphors
- Studying narratives
- Writing
- Workshop: Discussion of participant's research interests and projects

Examination

A final course paper critically discussing and applying the course literature (max 3.000 words). Due August 11, 2024.

Literature

Alvesson & Sköldböck: Reflexive Methodology, 3rd ed. Sage 2018 (Chapters 1, 4–9)

Alvesson & Kärreman: Qualitative Research and Theory Development. Sage 2011

Alvesson & Sandberg: Constructing Research Questions. Sage 2013

A set of articles, incl. Davis: That's interesting. Philosophy of the Social Sciences, 1, 1971

Teachers

Roland Paulsen and Dan Kärreman (Lund University) will supervise the course. Guests include Yiannis Gabriel (University of Bath), Jörgen Sandberg (University of Queensland) and Mats Alvesson (Lund University) – more guests will be announced.

Application

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