



Syllabus

Course Approval

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Doctoral study subject

Political Science

Course name

Critical studies of power, politics and governing – Anti-foundational analysis
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Credit points

7,5

Degree Level

Doctor

Language of Instruction

English

Target group and prerequisites

The target group for the course is PhD-students in general and the course is open to students from all disciplines. However, it is assumed that participants are acquainted with poststructuralist perspectives before the course.
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Aims

<p>After completing the course the doctoral student should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Explain central concepts and debates connected to anti essentialist ontology, anti-foundational epistemology and methodology.– Compare major poststructuralist perspectives with respect to their different takes on analysis– Assess the implications for conducting research when following different poststructuralist perspectives– Apply theories and concepts from anti-foundational thought to questions derived from the student's own research– Critically assess scholarly work from an anti-foundational perspective.

Course Content

The focus of this course is to introduce and deepen the understanding of employing an anti-essentialist perspective in research. After an introductory overview of contemporary post-structuralist perspectives – including, but not limited to - assemblage thinking, discourse theory and governmentality studies , the course focuses on the linkages between ontology, epistemology and methodology for designing, conducting and critiquing anti-essentialist research. The course will discuss questions of relevance, normative positions, problematizations, analytical clarity and credibility, impact, and dissemination in anti-foundationalist research.

The course has three phases:

- 1 Preparations - The first phase is conducted through online learning modules, where readings, online discussions and preparatory writing for the physical meeting takes place.
2. Physical meeting - The second phase consists of a full day meet-up with lectures, presentations and seminars.
3. Writing - In the last phase, the participants writes a paper where the content of the course is connected to their own research project.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Examination consists of participation in all three phases of the course. In the online modules reflective texts must be written based on the assigned literature and active participation in discussions are required. Active participation and a mandatory presentation an essay is part of the physical meeting. After the meeting a longer (about 5000 words) course paper must be submitted.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course. The results will be used as a basis when developing and planning future courses.

Additional Information