



DECEMBER 2022

MINUTES

Forum Study Board of Sociology

Meeting held 12 December 2022

Place Room 16.2.55

Minutes taker Troels Claus Baagland

Present

Sanja Jensenius, Jakob Johan Demant, Marie Petrine Nørgaard Kampmark,
Lasse Suonperä Liebst and Troels Claus Baagland

Guests

Sofie Trappaud Scholl (Student Advisor), Hanne Kraak (Teaching
Coordinator), and Signe Staun Kelly (Exam Coordinator), Kristina
Dünweber, Sophie Jagd Rosendal (Academic Officer), Lasse

Absent

Merlin Schaeffer, Mengni Chen, Sofus Vogel Bang, William Andreas
Ransfort and Frederikke Anastasia Felding

1) Approval of the agenda

Approved

2) Closed point

Guests Jens Roesdahl Lange (exemptions)

3) Discussion of the period for the written final course evaluation

The students mentioned that the evaluation period, 15.-30 November, is placed too early.

Jakob will bring this up in the HOS-forum.

4) Criticism of the planning of the 1st semester of the Master's program

Guest: students Rebekka Nordal Thomsen, Amanda Agnethe Wirnfeldt, Frederikke Anastasia Felding and Josefine Rønnow F. Christensen, Hanne Kraak (Teaching Coordinator), and Signe Staun Kelly (Exam Coordinator)

The students presented their case, which is that the workload at the 1. semester is massive due to portfolio exams and colliding deadlines. Also, the exams are not appropriately planned in January.

Hanne and Signe mentioned that they had looked into the exam plan and suggested a fast solution. The exam for Mixed Method should be moved to the 18th of January, and the exam in Quantitative- Qualitative should be moved to the 25th of January. This was appreciated by the students and will be updated in the Digital Exams system within one week.

The more substantial question about the workload during the first semester at the master was also discussed.

The students mentioned that it is a problem, that the exam form in all three courses is portfolio. The students spend too much time writing portfolio assignments during the whole semester. Consequently, the time spent on reading goes down, which means the students are not at all well prepared for the lectures.

The students mentioned that they have been informed that the three courses are deeply integrated, and the Study advisory therefore strongly recommend taking all three courses in the same semester. The students have experienced that the courses are not well integrated. They advise the Study Advisory to inform them about the realities, so the students can make the most appropriate planning for themselves e.g., consider postponing one of the courses.

Jakob agreed that the above-mentioned things should be addressed in the coming year. He still recommends the students to take all three courses in the 1 semester

The students mentioned that the workload for the course "Mixed Methods" was not in accordance with the ECTS weight (7.5 ECTS). The amount of time spent at "Mixed Methods" is equal to what is spent on a

regular 15 ECTS courses. The students experience that they work more than full-time during the 1. Semester.

Jakob praised the students for their constructive critique of the 1. Semester. Feedback is important, and he agreed that expectations seem too high at the Mixed Method Course. Also, he said that it would be appropriate to consider if the number of portfolio exams should be reduced at both the BA and MA program. It was mentioned that the exam form in Mixed Methods maybe should be changed to Oral Exam.

5) Discussion of the proposed electives 2023-24

Jakob introduced the students to the motivation behind the suggested electives. He emphasized that it is important to have some “broad” courses to attract students also from outside the department.

The student’s response to the courses catalogue was:

The students acknowledge that there are theoretical courses e.g. “Sociological diagnoses of our times” and “The art of theorizing in the social sciences”. Theoretical courses are of huge importance they would recommend not cancelling any of these courses. The students were also anxious that the more philosophical-oriented element is phased out of the BA and MA-programs of Sociology.

The course “Contemporary Economic Sociology: Frameworks and Applications” is considered important since this is the only course to introduce sociology students to economics.

It was discussed whether the course in experimental Sociology interferes with courses offered on Psychology. Lasse said that this was not the case since the use of Methods on the course made it very different from the more laboratory-oriented courses offered at Psychology.

It was mentioned that it is important to have master courses focusing on community diagnostic and also to have specialized courses at the BA-level.

We need a course on Criminology. A course is offered at the Faculty of Law and at Lund University. But we should take back the “ownership” to bring a sociological angle to this academic field. Jakob mentioned that Sociology has 20 seats at the course offered by Law. The academic level adjusted for BA-students.

It was asked why there is no gender course in the course catalogue e.g. a “Gender and Society” course. JD admitted that this is a problem and promised to look into this.

It was mentioned that there are three courses on consumption, maybe one of them should be prioritized over the other, or by broadening the course descriptions to appeal to more students.

Jakob mentioned that he is considering if electives can and should be offered at both BA and MA level. Both Economics, political Science and Psychology have courses offered at both levels. He and TCB would work on a model for this.

Open science (discussions) is not well-presented in "Philosophy of science"-courses at the BA. The Study Board recommended reintroducing Open Science into the courses and not running it as an elective.

A more concrete list of electives with courses descriptions will be presented at the next Study Board meeting.

6) Decision about further reduction of the admission requirements for the master's programme /Jakob

It was suggested to reduce the admission requirements for the MA in Sociology. The suggestion was that the demand for Methodology should be reduced from 40 ECTS to 30 ECTS, and with a minimum of 10 ECTS in quantitative Method and equally a minimum 10 ECTS in qualitative method. Also, the requirement of 30 ECTS within Sociological Theory should be changed to 30 ECTS within Social Science theory. The new requirements should be implemented from the summer intake 2023.

The students said that they would support alleviating the admission requirements, but very not pleased with the change from Sociological theory to Social Science. Jakob suggested a compromise, where the requirements would still be Social Science, but with a genuine Sociological element.

This started some consideration if there is enough sociological Theory in the Sociology Programs. The students think Sociological theory should be prioritized.

The Study Board accepted the suggestion to reduce the required number of ECTS within Method from 40 to 30 ECTS, as described above. Head of Studies will return with a revised version of the suggestion, and with a new formulation regarding Social Science and Sociological Science.

7) Information about the coding level

Lasse informed that the teachers in quantitative method had met to

discuss the narrative among the students, that the coding level is too high. LLS said that the new coding language “R” was not a big problem, so he and his colleagues felt confident that that this would settle when people were more used to the new coding language.

This sparked a discussion if more should be done to inform about the content of sociology BA program to the potential applicants. Especially Method (both quantitative and qualitative method) is a central element in the program. On the other hand, it is also important not to scare new students away.

8) Important points for the new Board of Studies to work with next year

- the workload across the semesters.
- formation of study groups and TA classes across the full BA study (and not just over a semester) in order to provide more security (in terms of what is to be expected in relation to working groups).
- inclusion, postcolonialism, gender, ethnicity, cross-disciplinary courses, stress among students.
- Exam forms – too many portfolio exams? Review if exam forms are the best across the program.
- “SAMF-studieliv” – stronger connection between BA and MA students across.
- BA and MA teachers should meet once a year to look at the coherence of Sociology programs.

9) Briefing on new administrative practice for bachelor students studying on the master’s programme at SAMF

Administrative staff Sophie Jagd Rosendal informed about the opportunity for BA-students to have courses at the Master program before finishing the Ba-program.

Only students missing <30 ECTS at 5th or 6th semester, and only one exam attempt used can be allowed to have courses at the Master program.

Academic internship and sociological project design are the only activities the students are not allowed to take in this arrangement.

10) Discussion Should there be made any changes in the practice for credit transfer

Administrative staff Ida Emilie Christiansen and Kristina Dünweber informed about the procedure for processing credit-transfer cases.

It was mentioned that the study administration can’t give promises beforehand to students not yet admitted at programs.

It was also mentioned that the study administration is working on a precedence list, to minimize the academic staff's involvement in the decision-making.

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11) Any other business

Jakob informed the Study Board that he would not continue as Head of studies after the 31. January 2023.