

To members of the Study Board of Sociology and attendants to the Study Board meetings



SEPTEMBER 2022

MINUTES

Forum Study Board of Sociology

Meeting held 13 September 2022

Place Room 16.1.62

Minutes taker Tea Malthesen

Present

Jakob Johan Demant, Mengni Chen (until 9:45), Merlin Schaeffer, William Andreas Ransfort, and Sanja Jensenius.

Guests

Sofie Trappaud Scholl (Guidance counsellor), Hanne Kraak (Teaching Coordinator).

Absent

Marie Petrine Nørgaard Kampmark, and Sofus Vogel Bang.

1) Approval of the agenda

Approved.

2) Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

Approved.

3) Course evaluations

- a) The evaluations of the courses Spring 2022 (Continued from the last meeting)

- Do the Board of Studies agree with Head of Studies on the ABC-categorisation of the courses Spring 2022?

The Board of Studies agree with Head of Studies on the ABC-categorisation.

Merlin argued that when the categorisations are going to be aligned across the faculty it may be interesting to look a bit more into how the scales are constructed in order to identify some statistical sound thresholds for each category. All so it is interesting how the answers are distributed (do the students agree or are there a great divergence in the answers).

- Do any courses need follow-up actions? What follow-up actions are needed?

The Board of Studies discussed follow-up actions.

Kritisk læsning og re-analyse

Discussion

Jakob told the Board of Studies about the teacher's reflections about the course. The teacher suggest that a new teacher takes the course. It seems that the course description is unclear. The "Re-analyse-part" is difficult and maybe don't fit so well with the rest of the programme. Maybe there should be more focus on the "kritisk læsning" and less on "Re-analyse".

The course runs at the same time as "Sociologiske teoriudviklinger". This course seems to have a very heavy workload and this maybe causes that the students use more time at this course and less time on "Kritisk læsning og re-analyse".

It was suggested that the two courses run together in close corporation between the teachers. It was also suggested that the two courses are combined into one 15 ECTS course.

Conclusion

Jakob will try to allocate a new teacher to the course and ask the teachers on the two courses to coordinate and cooperate about the two courses.

In the spring the Board of Studies must work more in detail with the course and the courses in the 2. semester.

Viden, Organisation og Politik (VOP) and Nyere statistiske analysestrategier (NSA)

Discussion

The integration between the two courses do not work well. Maybe there is not enough alignment between the theory in VOP and the data in NSA. The theory seems to be to macro and the data to micro.

It was suggested that NSA should make sure to use data from different countries.

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Conclusion

The teachers at the courses should discuss how they can make the integration work better and if they think it would be a good idea to have teaching assistants at the courses.

Sociologisk teori og faghistorie

Conclusion

It was agreed that the teachers should investigate the possibility to reduce the number of different theories and to switch from a main book in English to one in Danish. It was agreed that there should be allocated teaching assistants to this course.

Metodologi og undersøgelsesdesign

Discussion

The students mentioned that the course took a lot of time and that many students don't like that the course ends in the middle of the semester. Jakob would like to keep it as a kind of block course – because there is a discussion going on at the university about either choosing block structure or semester structure.

Conclusion

The course is kept as it is.

b) Response rates

- Should any actions be taken to improve the response rates? At the Faculty of Social Sciences, the accepted rate of response is 50 %

Fagrådet will tell new students about the evaluations and how the Board of Studies work with the evaluations.

It was suggested that there could be a pop up when the students hand in their written exam papers: Have you filled out the evaluation?

Jakob will investigate this suggestion.

It was asked when the block course was evaluated – by the end of the semester or by the end of the block? (“Metodologi og undersøgelsesdesign” was evaluated by the end of the semester. Tea will make sure that the course next time will be evaluated when it ends).

c) The questions in the Course Evaluation Survey Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023

There is a mandatory set of questions at the faculty, the Board of Studies can decide to add more questions. The chair and vicechair suggest keeping the same questions next year. Does the Board of Studies agree?

The Board of Studies agreed to add a question about the expected workload. William will formulate the question.

4) Electives Autumn 2023, Spring 2024, and summer school courses 2023 and 2024

- Head of Studies has written principles for electives at Sociology, do the Board of Studies agree on these?

Because of cutbacks sociology reduced the number of electives. Sociology can offer more electives if we can attract students from other departments to our electives. We might attract more students if our electives are broader, for example the course Sociology of love could be broader by changing it to Sociology of emotions.

The Board of Studies argued that there should be at least one elective at BA-level in the Spring, for the sake of international students and for our students that have been delate. So, the electives at MA-level in the Spring was agreed reduced with one course, because the demand for these courses are low among the sociology students, as they seem to pick courses outside the department.

	Autumn 23	Spring 24	Summer 24
BA	4-5	1	0-1
MA	1-2	3-4	0-1

Jakob said that he has received a complaint that there were not enough method electives at MA-level. The Board of Studies agreed there should be some method electives at MA-level and would like this added to the principles for electives at Sociology.

Head of Studies will adjust the principles and ask the research groups to suggest electives.

- Head of Studies suggests one summer school course 2023: Consumption, Lifestyle, and the Climate (7,5 ECTS). Can the Board of Studies agree to this?

The Board of Studies agreed to offer this summer school course 2023, which was cancel this Spring. The Board of Studies have earlier approved this course description.

5) Briefing: Coding level

Head of Studies will on behalf of the Board of Studies ask the teaching team to reflect and discuss whether the coding level is too high. The teaching team will get back to the Board of Studies with their conclusion.

6) Briefing: Reduced double assessments

Sociology used to have double assessment on 20 % of the assessments

without external censorship. Head of Studies wish from now on to use these resources different. There will continue to be extra support allocated to new teachers' assessments.

Jakob said that sociology is the only programme at the faculty that have double assessment and that the double assessments rarely give any changes to the grades.

The Board of Studies agreed to stop double assessments, but there should continue to be support for new teachers when giving grades for the first time. Jakob will find out how the support for new teachers should be handled.

7) Briefing: Head of Studies will apply the faculty for support of more feedback

Head of Studies would like to apply for approximately 35.000 kr. to more feedback on the exams at:

- Sociologisk teori og faghistorie
- Køn, etnicitet og post-kolonialisme
- Kultur, livsstil, hverdagsliv + Videregående kvalitative metoder
- Velfærd, ulighed, mobilitet + Videregående kvantitative metoder
- Viden, Organisation og Politik + Nyere statistiske analysestrategier
- Advanced Culture, Lifestyle and Everyday Life
- Advanced Knowledge, Organization and Politics
- Advanced Welfare, Inequality and Mobility

It was suggested that “Grundlæggende Statistik” should be included at the list.

It was discussed if the feedback should be individual or general. It was also discussed if the feedback should be held online or at campus. It was suggested that the teachers can organize it as they like.

It was suggested that instead all students with a grading under 7 were offered feedback. It was mentioned that the students already have the possibility to get individual feedback by showing up in the office hours.

This item was postponed.

8) Briefing about the coming election

Students for the Board of Studies must be elected for the next period (February 2023 – February 2024) in November. Student members are elected every year. Academic staff are elected every three years (2021, 2024...).

Election timeline:

27 Oct.: Deadline for the announcement of candidates

21 Nov.: Voting begins

25 Nov.: Voting ends

30 Nov.: Election results published

How to run a candidate, please read here: [Nomination for university election - KUnet](#)

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9) Any other business
Nothing.

10) CLOSED POINT: Exemptions
No exemptions.