

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



23 MAY 2022

MINUTES

Forum Study Board of Sociology

Meeting held May 23 2022

Place Room 16.1.62

Minute taker Sofie Linthoe Haastrup

Present

Jakob Johan Demant, Mengni Chen, Merlin Schaeffer, Marie Petrine Nørgaard Kampmark, William Andreas Ransfort.

Guests

Sofie Trappaud Scholl (Guidance counsellor), Hanne Kraak (Teaching coordinator), Johan Klejs (Chair of Baumændende), Alberte Nissen (Chair of Kattens kammerater), Clara Bay Eriksen (Student coordinator at Forskningskollektivet), Sara Hagemann (Vice dean).

Absent

Sanja Jensenius, Sofus Vogel Bang.

Agenda

1) Approval of agenda /Jakob (9.30-9.35, 5 min.).

Approved.

Welcome to Hanne, the new Teaching coordinator at Sociology.

2) Discussion on how to use TAs /Jakob (9.35-10.00, 25 min.).

- a. Which courses should have TAs? Make a wish list.
- b. How do we recruit TAs? How do we make sure we get enough qualified candidates? (see annex 2.2).

- c. Should the use of TAs be written in the programme curricula?

Annex 2.1: Overview of programme structure in the BA and MSc

Annex 2.2: Job posting drafts

a.

New TA status:

A Fagcafé will start up next semester, using a model from Political Science. The Fagcafé will offer a possibility of getting extra help and training tasks.

Societal problems: Two TAs will help in-class to help with reaching the learning goals of the course.

Extra TA classes in Advanced quantitative methods.

Discussion: Which courses should have TAs?

- Courses with oral exams.
- Courses where you learn two things at once.
- Not just methods courses. It can give the impression that theoretical courses are less important. Some students struggle with theoretical courses. TA's can provide a deeper understanding, apply discussion to a concrete phenomenon and work with specific parts of a text.
- There should always be a clear vision of what the TA should do with the students and what the goals are of using a TA in a specific course.
- TAs should make teachers reflect about the course structure and workload. TAs can also add to the workload if there is less lecture time. TAs classes can also be extra.

Jakob presents the following suggestion for a change in the programme curriculum at BA-level:

2. semester	3. semester	4. semester
Sociologisk teori og faghistorie TA: 2H every other week	Kultur, livsstil og hverdagsliv	Sociologiske teoriudviklinger (15 ECTS) TA: 2H pr week

2. semester	3. semester	4. semester
Basic statistics TA: 2H every other week	Videregående kvalitative metoder TA: 2H pr week (NEW: Three classes instead of two)	
Videnskab og samfund	Velfærd, ulighed og mobilitet	Viden, organisation og politik
Køn, etnicitet og post-kolonialisme	Videregående kvantitative metoder TA: 2H pr week (NEW: the whole semester)	Nyere statistiske analysemetoder TA: 2H pr week (in-class)

Should *Sociologiske teoriudviklinger* be a 15-credit course?

- Would provide the programme with more solid theory.
- Gives an opportunity to rethink the course.
- Gives room for practicing being critical in the course.

Comments:

- It is not just the fourth semester that doesn't work, it's also the semesters before.
- A 15-credit course could be too much.
- Another option could be to turn re-analysis into an elective instead. This would give Erasmus students a chance to take electives at sociology.
- At 15-credits it should contain more practical theory than what is currently in the course.
- It could remain a 7,5-credit course and a course with more practical theory could replace the re-analysis course. Older and newer theory should not necessarily be combined in the same course.
- The name of the course is not fitting. Perhaps it should be changed to *Critical theory*.

HoS pursues the discussion around the Sociologiske Teoriudviklinger among the academic staff and present some further perspectives in the August meeting. HoS will further present an updated model for øvelsesundervisning (TA based classes) also in the August meeting.

3) Master's thesis defence /Sofie (10.00-10.10, 10 min.).

Proposal to specify in the MSc programme curriculum the weighted score between the written product and the oral defence in the master's thesis.

SAMF-uddannelse's law graduate (May-Britt Brændstrup) has suggested the following weighted score:

Written product: 2/3, oral defence: 1/3, and that the master's thesis cannot be passed if both parts are not passed individually.

Discussion:

- 1/3 could be too much, maybe 25% would be better. The written product weights more.
- Alignment with rest of the faculty makes sense.

Suggestion of 2/3 (written product) and 1/3 (oral defence) approved. The change will take effect from September 2022.

4) Briefing: External examiners' chairmanship's yearly report

/Jakob (10.10.-10.15, 5 min).

Annex 4: Årsberetning 2021 Censorkorpset for Sociologi

Agenda point was skipped due to time constraints. HoS will return on this aspect in a later meeting. The issues raised in the report has already now been addressed with relevant teachers.

5) Briefing: News from the Panel of employer representatives (aftagerpanel) /Jakob (10.15-10.20, 5 min).

Agenda point was skipped due to time constraints. HoS will return to this aspect in a later meeting.

6) Any other business (10:20-10:25, 5 min.).**7) Short break (10.25-10.30, 5 min.).****8) Briefing: Study environment survey 2021 /Jakob (10.30-10.35, 5 min.).**

Annex 8.1: 2021-rapport-læringsbarometer_BA_KA

Annex 8.2 2021-rapport-trivsel_BA_KA

Annex 8.3 2021-rapport-uddannelse_BA_KA

9) Open discussion about the study environment at sociology /Jakob (10.35-11.15, 40 min.).

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Visitors from:

- a. Forskningskollektivet
- b. Katten, kattens kammerater
- c. Baumændende (Festudvalget)

- What are the strengths and weaknesses in the study environment at Sociology?
- Which qualities do we want in our study environment?
- What do we need from the faculty to reach these goals?

Round of presentations.

Presentations of the student environment initiatives at Sociology:

- Forskningskollektivet: Has had a long break but is currently in the process of starting up again. Does academic/social events for sociology students. Is opening a discussion with the students about what they want Forskningskollektivet to be.
- Katten, kattens kammerater: Has only had a few events this semester, and the events has only been attended by anthropology students. Activities: Social activities, cleaning day, cooking events.
- Baumændende: A party planning committee. They plan a party every month. Popular among students. Fewer sociology students attend.
 - o Next semester, they want to test some new ideas. It should be a safer space. They have already taken new initiatives, like sober-guards and closing the events for non-university students.
 - o It could be a good idea to make a café or a fredagsbar just for students at sociology.

There are a lot of social initiatives, but they are not always accessible.

- Exchange students want to participate but they don't know how to get information about the events.
- Posters and visits at lectures are good ways to reach students.
- It can be hard to attend if you aren't part of a group.
- There should be a student association for sociology students, this could perhaps be kick-started by Forskningskollektivet.

We have some momentum right now with the restart fund. We have lost momentum during covid and see a lower attendance than before.

Students with ideas and initiatives can apply for funding through the restart fund by sending an email to the HoS.

10) SAMF Student Life Project (studielivsprojektet) /Vice Dean Sara Hagemann (11.15-12.00, 45 min.).

Introduction to the Student Life Project. The project has three areas of focus:

1. First year experiences: Introduction to programmes, helping students being better equipped for their studies. Introduction to collective learning. Parties are not part of the official programme.
2. Campus life: A focus on faculty and students meeting. Having a greener campus.
3. Academic student life: Emphasis on diversity and inclusion in teaching. SAMF as an internationally open-minded faculty.

Some projects are at the faculty level and others are at the institute level.

If anyone has suggestions or comments about the project, they are welcome to contact the vice-dean.

The faculty and institute can support student ideas and initiatives if they are in line with the areas of focus.

Documents about the project will be sent out and discussed later at a Study Board meeting.

Best regards,
Sofie Linthoe Haastrup