

Study Board of Sociology



SEPTEMBER 2023

## MINUTES

**Forum** Study Board of Sociology

**Meeting held** 12 September 2023

**Place** Room 16.1.62

**Minutes taker** Troels Claus Baagland

### **Present**

Jonas Toubøl, Mengni Chen, Lasse Suonperä Liebst, Asmus Oliver Lewis, Dagmar Engelbrecht Henriksen, Mira Chatterji Rosen Sørensen, Freja Kromann Schiøler and Troels Baagland,

### **Guests**

Merlin Schaeffer, Hanne Kraak, Signe Staun Kelly and Nina Stenvang Holmsgaard

### **Absent**

None

### **Closed meeting**

Removed from agenda – no exemption cases.

### **Open Meeting**

#### **1) Welcome to Study Advisor Nina Stenvang Holmsgaard**

Merlin welcomed Nina.

#### **2) Approval of the agenda and Minutes from 7. June 2023.**

Approved

### 3) **Course Evaluation – The Study Boards Questions for the coming Year**

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The Study Board decided to continue with the same teaching evaluation questions for the coming year.

### 4) **Course Evaluation**

Mengni and Freja commented on the Bachelor programs 2nd semester. Among the comments they had noticed were that it is, by some students, considered too hard to follow the lectures in the course “*Basic Statistics*”, since it is considered difficult to know what you need to learn. The more practically oriented class sessions to some degree compensate for the difficult lectures. The newly admitted students are not yet familiar with English as teaching language, that is also, but some, considered as a challenge.

Jonas & Dagmar focused on the Bachelor Programs 4<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> semester and focused on the course “*New statistical and analytical strategies*”. The main challenge there was insufficient integration with the course “*Knowledge, Organization and Politics*”. The same problem was identified regarding the two courses at the 6th semester. The methods courses should fit better into the substance course.

#### *Developments in modern sociological theory*

Some students have expressed a need for a clear framing of the course, what the course is about, and what is expected by the students at the exam. It was discussed if some didactic moves could improve this. Some students also wondered why it is not possible to write the synopsis as a group. The Study Board emphasized that the course is still considered as important since it is one of the few possibilities they will have to engage with sociological theory. Some respondents asked why it is not possible to write synopsis in groups. The Study Board acknowledged this and will take the question up at the next study Board meeting.

#### *Applied Case Analysis*

Some students mentioned the need for better coordination and some also think that a better connection to Sociology in general is needed to improve the relevance of the course.

Jonas and Asmus commented on the “*BA-Project*”. Some students had mentioned that the groups are sometimes too large e.g., a group consisting of 9 people (3x3) is considered too large. In general, the evaluation frequency for the BA-Project was too low.

Megni & Asmus commented on master course evaluation – *Sociological project design*, where the study board concluded that there is a need for a structural change.

With regard to summer courses, the Study Board concluded that the evaluation frequency was too low.

*Internship.*

It was decided that Merlin and Lasse should formulate a question if the exam is aligned with the number of ECTS obtained. This will come on the agenda for the next meeting.

Overall, the A, B and C categorization made by the evaluation-system is accepted by the Study Board, there is no need to correct the outcome.

**5) Complaint in "Critical Readings and re-analysis"**

It was emphasized that the complaint didn't reflect the overall course evaluation result. However, the Study Board acknowledged that there were some problems since the course responsible took over the course from a colleague during the semester. Also, some of the problems mentioned in the complaint were repetitions from earlier versions of the course. The Study Board considered if the course should change status to an elective course instead of a compulsory course. This will come on the agenda for the next Study Board Meeting.

**6) Change in admission requirement/Merlin**

The Study board approved the following formulation:

*The academic level of the bachelor's program should to a significant extent correspond to the academic content of the bachelor's program in Sociology at the University of Copenhagen (KU). We expect documentation 30 ECTS method in total, including a minimum of 10 ECTS in quantitative methods and 10 ECTS in qualitative methods, sociological theories totaling 10 ECTS, and sociological topics totaling 30 ECTS<sup>1</sup>.*

**7) Digital mapping and advances in the programs/Lasse**

Lasse has sent out a survey with 5 questions, hereunder questions related to Chat-GPT. The item was postponed to the next Study Board Meeting.

**8) Chat-GPT /Lasse**

The following formulation was approved by the Study Board:

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<sup>1</sup> *Det faglige niveau af bacheloruddannelsen skal i væsentlig grad svare til det faglige indhold på bacheloruddannelsen i Sociologi på KU. Vi forventer dokumentation for undervisning i metoder svarende til i alt 30 ECTS, heraf minimum 10 ECTS kvantitativ metode og 10 ECTS kvalitativ metode, sociologiske teorier svarende til 10 ECTS og sociologiske temaer svarende til 30 ECTS.*

### ***Policy on the Use of Generative AI Software and Large Language Models in Exams***

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*The Department of Sociology prohibits the use of generative AI software and large language models (AI/LLMs), such as ChatGPT, for generating novel and creative content in written exams. However, students may use AI/LLMs to enhance the presentation of their own original work, such as text editing, argument validation, or improving statistical programming code. Students must disclose if and how AI/LLMs have been used in an appendix, which will not count toward the page limit of the exam. This policy is in place to ensure that students' written exams accurately reflect their own knowledge and understanding of the material.*

Lasse will flag this for the teachers, and the course catalogue will be updated with this information for all courses with written exam.

#### **9) Oral Exam Change Study Advisory/Lasse**

Lasse presented two formulations regarding aids for oral exams. Suggestion 2 was approved by the Study Board:

#### ***Policy on Aids for Oral Exams with Synopsis and Portfolio Exams with an Oral Defense***

*Students may bring a printed copy of their synopsis or assignment to the exam. During the initial presentation, students are allowed to use a presentation manuscript and slides. No other aids are permitted, except otherwise stated in the course description.*

However, extra material can be permitted by the examiner.

The formulation mentioned above will be added to all course's descriptions for courses with oral exams in the Course Catalogue and in the Study Curriculum.

#### **10) Information from advisory**

Nina informed us about the coming information seminars for students that are about to begin on the BA-Projects and Master Thesis. These seminars will take place in October before and after the fall break.

The Study Advisory has 6 appointment meeting slots every Thursday and Friday.

The advisory is closed in the fall break.

One or two students are needed for the Quota two committee. The admission meeting will take place in June 2024.

#### **11) Information from students**

Asmus mentioned the problems with students that thought they could change teams after semester started. They had been misinformed by the course responsible, who initially told they could.

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In conclusion, the students are urging the Study Board to find a more satisfactory solution henceforth, as this has caused significant stress and uncertainty among students who are eager for clear and reliable information.

**12) Information from Head of Studies/Head of Study Board**

Nothing

**13) Any Other Business**

TCB mentioned that the next Study Board Meeting will take place on 30. October